

Step 1

Disability Provider

Step 1: Is this person being abused?

Your first task is to find out if the individual is experiencing (or has experienced in the past) abuse/violence.

Step 1

Victim Service Provider

Step 1: Does this person have a disability?

Your first task is to find out if the person has a disability. This can be done during intake or phone calls by stating “Our agency provides accommodations for people with disabilities as required by the Americans with Disabilities Act, if you need any accommodations to receive services from our agency you can request those now or when you talk with...”

Step 2

Disability and Victim Service Provider

Step 2: Does the person want assistance from D.A.R.T.?

Whenever violence/abuse/neglect is disclosed to staff at a disability agency, or if a disability is disclosed to staff at a victim service provider, the staff should find out:: 1) Does the person want the help of D.A.R.T.? 2) Are the person's disability/victim related needs more than my agency can handle alone?

Step 2 Continued

If yes:

1. Individual signs the D.A.R.T. Permission Form
2. D.A.R.T. members are contact and a meeting is held within **72 hours** (or as soon as a team can be brought together).
3. The individual with a disability is given the choice on whether or not they attend the D.A.R.T.meeting and whether they want additional agencies or people added to the meeting group.

Step 2 Continued

If no, referring agency should bring case up at the monthly D.A.R.T. review

*Although a meeting may not occur immediately, emergency services (i.e. shelter, police or medical intervention) should ***occur immediately***, with the understanding that D.A.R.T. will provide wrap-around assistance within **72 hours** (or as soon as a team can be brought together).

Step 3

Disability and Victim Service Provider

Step 3: Does the client/consumer need/want Adult Protective Service intervention?

Is the individual a vulnerable adult*?

*"Vulnerable adult" means a person 18 years of age or older who, because of physical or mental impairment, is unable to meet the person's own needs or to seek help without assistance.

Step 3 Continued

Does the vulnerable adult suffer from (1)abandonment, (2)exploitation, (3)abuse, (4)neglect, or (5)self-neglect?

- (1) **"Abandonment"** means desertion of a vulnerable adult by a caregiver

- (2) **"Exploitation"** means unjust or improper use of another person or another person's resources for one's own profit or advantage

(3) "**Abuse**" means:

- The willful, intentional, or reckless non-accidental, and non-therapeutic infliction of physical pain, injury, or mental distress; or
- Sexual assault under AS 11.41.410 or 11.41.420

(4) "**Neglect**" means the intentional failure by a caregiver to provide essential care or services necessary to maintain the physical and mental health of the vulnerable adult

(5) "**Self-neglect**" means an act or omission by a vulnerable adult that results, or could result in the deprivation of essential services necessary to maintain minimal mental, emotional, or physical health and safety

Alaska Protective Services

Reporting to Adult Protective Services-AS 47.24.010- Reports of Harm

The following persons who, in the performance of their professional duties, have reasonable cause to believe that a vulnerable adult suffers from abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or self-neglect shall report the belief to the Department of Health and Social Services at (800) 478-9996, within 24 hours:

- ✓ Physician or other licensed health care provider
- ✓ Mental health professional as defined in AS 47.30.915 (11) and including a marital and family therapist licensed under AS 08.63
- ✓ Pharmacist
- ✓ Administrator of a nursing home, residential care or health care facility
- ✓ Guardian or conservator
- ✓ Police officer

- ✓ Village public safety officer
- ✓ Village health aide
- ✓ Social worker
- ✓ Member of the clergy
- ✓ Staff employee of a project funded by the Department of Administration for the provision of services to older Alaskans, the Department of Health and Social Services, or the Council on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- ✓ Employee of a personal care or home health aide program
- ✓ Emergency medical technician or a mobile intensive care paramedic
- ✓ Caregiver* of the vulnerable adult
- ✓ Certified nurse aide.

*"Caregiver" means a person who is providing care to a vulnerable adult as a result of a family relationship, or who has assumed responsibility for the care of a vulnerable adult voluntarily, by contract, or by court order; or an employee of an out-of-home care facility who provides care to one or more vulnerable adults

Anyone, regardless of whether or not they fit into one of the categories above, may report cases of abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or self-neglect of vulnerable adults.

Reports may include the name and address of the reporting person and must include the name and address of the vulnerable adult; information relating to the nature and extent of the abandonment, exploitation, abuse, neglect, or self-neglect; any other information that the reporting person believes might be helpful in an investigation of the case or in providing protection for the vulnerable adult.

If the person fits the criteria for Adult Protective Service intervention, then you should contact them with the client/consumer at (800) 478-9996

Step 4

Disability Provider

Step 4: Was the client/consumer sexually assaulted? Does the client/consumer want intervention?

Contact the agency in your area.

Step 5

Disability Provider

Step 5: Is the person is in danger from their abuser? Does the client/consumer want intervention?

In an emergency, call 911 with the client/consumer. An emergency involves danger to a person's safety or property. Use the non-emergency number only if there is no danger at that time, or have client/consumer go to the nearest law enforcement agency to make report in person

Step 6

Disability Provider

Step 6: Is the person injured? Does the client/consumer want intervention?

Call 911 or local police with the client/consumer

Find out if the client/consumer wants/needs to go to the hospital or his/her own doctor.
Makes contacts as needed.

Step 7

Disability Provider

Step 7: Does the client/consumer have a safe place to go? Does the client/consumer want intervention?

Safety is a priority and while it may not seem fair that the client/consumer should have to leave their home because of what their abuser has done, sometimes it is the only way the person can be safe.

Step 7 Continued

Can the client/consumer:

- Stay with a friend or relatives? (A woman should not stay with a man unless he is a relative).
- Go to battered women's shelter? (Staff can help the client/consumer get legal and financial help as well as provide counseling and emotional support for the woman and her children).

Step 8

Disability Provider

Step 8: Does the person need a restraining order? Does the client/consumer want intervention?

Contact the local agency that provides restraining order services.

Step 9

Disability Provider

Step 9: Help the client/consumer develop a safety plan

Safety plans should be tailored to the individuals abilities and if the consumer is staying with their abuser also look at what the abuser does for him/her, to insure safety in all possible situations.

Sample plans from SafePlace are included in the appendix of the protocol.

Conclusion

The D.A.R.T. idea has been very popular and has been put in place in Oregon, Maryland, Montana, Texas and Vermont.

The protocol you have in your conference materials was adapted for Alaska and is based on what we do in Milwaukee.

You can feel free to adopt or adapt it to fit the needs of your community. My hope is that from this training and the material covered you will find a better way to serve victims with disabilities. This work is much easier when it is done in collaboration, together as a community.