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# STRATEGIZING THE LINK

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## *National Town Meeting*

### **Conference Update**

**7/1/08**

What a great two days we all had together! Beautiful weather, beautiful company, and a tremendous exchange of ideas and high energy -- what could be better? On behalf of the Conference Planning Committee and the sponsors, we thank you for supporting this very important work. While the full conference proceedings are under development, we wanted to give you all a quick summary of where we all are now and what you might expect in the future.

The feedback throughout the first two days of the conference (the Town Meeting portion) all contributed to a better understanding of some of the issues facing states, practitioners and professions. Some of these themes included how to get other professions engaged, confidentiality, treatment, training, funding, community coalitions and much more. Attached you will find the flip chart notes (in unedited form). These will be expanded upon in the final conference proceedings document, which you will all receive. (Note: More detailed proceedings will be forthcoming. Speakers will be asked to review this before it goes to press.)

On Tuesday June 10<sup>th</sup> experts from national organizations along with a few representatives from community and statewide coalitions met in a Summit to set forth a pathway to advance the link agenda. With outside facilitators guiding the way, a draft vision was developed along with 5 strategic goal areas. These are also included in the following pages. In addition a so-called "Gang of Ten" volunteered to meet to shepherd the work further. The list of that group is also included.

Finally we all want to find mechanisms for keeping everyone up-to-date. For now updates will be posted on the Linkage Project website ([www.linkageproject.org](http://www.linkageproject.org)). You may want to periodically check in there to get updates.

Would you also please let me know via e-mail if you do NOT want to receive updates via e-mail?

Please stay in touch!

Linda Jariz on behalf of the Conference Planning Committee

### **Notes from Sunday Town Meeting**

#### **What Works**

Funding -      Stress long term cost savings  
                    Go in with strong coalition – multidisciplinary  
                    Animal abuse is a human issue  
                    Utilize data – hard facts vs. emotion  
                    Target your message to donors / know your potential funders

Strong coalitions are based on those who play well together

Look to community foundations as a potential source of money

Utilize animal practice lawyers with expertise

Tap into Health departments – i.e. dog bite statistics

Reach out to spiritual communities HALO(E)S

“Go to the tables” of other coalitions

Connect with Review boards (Homicide / Child death / DV)

Children’s Justice Task Forces

Citizen Review panels

Court Improvement Groups

Talk to Social Service people about their own pets

Bring food if you want to get in the door! Or go out to lunch

Reach out to other preventative-based groups

Family resource / support centers

Ethnic community based organizations

Military support organizations

“Talk the Language” of social service agencies  
of animal welfare organizations

Have a spokesperson who has lived the issues

Target “new & Improved” social workers

### **What Works (con’t) – Sunday Town Meeting**

Reach out to state commissioners – Agriculture, Health & Human Services, Public Safety, etc.

Educate the courts – mandated continuing education

Educate guardians ad litem

Criminal Justice Academy, Police Chiefs

Emotional literacy education

Reach out to teacher / education groups

Base coalition out of strong agency in area i.e. DV, child protective, animal shelter

Some financial support? / staff / fundraising

Utilize a specific project as a means to create your coalition

Be flexible!

Utilize grassroots efforts to push agenda

Audio-visual aids

Utilize a training to identify interested players

Anicare

Groups using animals in healing i.e. animal-assisted therapy

Celebrate the human / animal bond

### **What Doesn't Work & Challenges – Sunday Town Meeting**

Funders to accept trying to save both animals & people

Need more data (dog bite data, how much does community spend on animal welfare?)

Lack of cooperation among agencies (animal welfare) / differences of philosophy

Temporary placement for victims' animals

Attracting human services groups

See animal cruelty issues as symptom rather than seeing animals as victims

Funding core of continuing project / coalition

Organizations not having time to join coalition

Data may not be local

### **Monday Town Meeting**

#### **Practice**

Flexibility to change

Push confidentiality with respect to considering animals as “others” (precedent) – expect hard challenges here

Does confidentiality promote violence?

Inter-agency sharing of info is limited by confidentiality in Fed agencies

Re: intervention – remember to act in best interest of the client

Expand public education re: the Link and options for victims (PFA, pet shelters)

Schmooze local reporters, media outlets

Think outside the box when face with animal shelter overcrowding (+ DV, homeless challenges) – i.e. help from Vets, LE . . .

Danger to victims of DV and their pets elevated by presence of firearms

Expect an acceptable standard of care for animals everywhere

Involve large federal agencies in creating solutions, i.e. CDC . . .

### **Research & Policy**

Just introducing topic can create change

Safety of client trumps confidentiality – extend to other areas

“At risk to others” includes animals

Go after both legislative and codes of ethics

With veterinarians confidentiality falls mostly under code of ethics

Must find a way for agencies to share information, including professionals such as vets

Animals as property presents challenges in relation to “others”

Legislatively add professions for cross reporting (such as ACOs)

Educate public on policies such as protection orders and the importance of animals to victims

Non mandated reporters are usually not liable if report is made in good faith

Involve media – both stories and asking to make presentations

Getting animals seen as therapy animals in order to help with housing (forms or letters from medical providers)

Rural homes & firearms: increase of victims’ fear for pets and livestock

Using correctional facilities for foster homes for victims’ pets or evidence animals

### **Top Policy Changes**

Taking status of animals out of “property” - however, some protection of animals come from this status as property

Statewide coalition building

Data collecting

Review teams for animal deaths

Expand animals as “property” to “sentient property”

“Basic care everywhere” set standard of care for everyone to gauge / follow

Raise awareness to CDC & Child Abuse & neglect so that issue can be raised to the level it needs to be

## **Tuesday Experts Summit**

### **Draft Vision Statement**

**It is understood that there is a link between violence against humans and violence against animals. Through the recognition and integration of this understanding into policies and practices nationwide, people and animals are measurably safer.**

#### **Critical Issues Identified**

1. Building Public Awareness: Marketing, Messaging, Communication (21 votes)
2. Fragmentation & Network Building (lack of cohesiveness, national network) (19 votes)
3. Education & Training for Professionals (cultural attitudes, lack of awareness) (16 votes)
4. Addressing the root cause: prevention, intervention, prosecution (15 votes)
5. Academics, Research, Data Collection (9 votes)
6. Sustainability (workforce, workload, sustainable coalitions) (7 votes)
7. Funding (5 votes)
8. Professional Buy-In (stakeholders, professionals) (4 votes)

The top 5 were determined to be the most pressing.

#### **Critical Issues Prioritized**

**(Names appearing under each Critical Issue are the people who have committed to work on the issue)**

##### **Critical Issue #1: Building Public Awareness**

Marie Wheatley  
Norma Worley  
Katie Lisnil  
Lesley Ashworth  
Kathi Brock  
Judy Johns  
Marie McCabe  
Linda Jariz  
Sarah Johnson

Use social marketing to promote consistent language and branded version of the vision statement

Develop umbrella organizational identity

##### **Critical Issue #2: Fragmentation & Network Building**

Monica McLaughlin  
Kath Schoen  
Hugh & Mary Tebault  
Norma Worley  
Marie Wheatley  
Gretchen Ziemer  
Randy Lockwood  
Katie Lisnik  
Tracy Coppola  
Lesley Ashworth  
Phil Arkow  
Bernard Unti  
Howard Davidson  
Mark Kumpf  
Marie McCabe  
Linda Jariz  
Myles Edwards

Entity to house

Inventory of existing programs – directory, bibliography, repository collection of news stories

Enhancing communications

- E Newsletter / print

- Wiki

- Chatroom / Live Electronic meeting

- Glossary of terms

- Website and links to organizations

- Tool kit – MOU (sample documents)

Missions, process and outcomes

Outreach and identify potential audiences, and barriers and opportunities

### **Critical Issue #3: Education & Training for Professionals**

Chris Risley-Curtiss  
Allie Phillips  
Allison Turkel  
Hugh & Mary Tebault  
Maya Gupta  
Lila Miller  
Norma Worley  
Katie Lisnik  
Randy Lockwood  
Bernard Unti

Lesley Ashworth  
Frank Ascione  
Howard Davidson  
Mark Kumpf  
Ken Shapiro  
Lorna Grande  
Anne Jordan

1. ID appropriate post secondary programs and incorporate training and education on the Link into their curriculum.
2. ID appropriate professional associations to incorporate training and education on the link into their curriculum.
3. Identify appropriate professional networks and groups to incorporate training and education on the Link into their programming.
4. Develop appropriate models for interdisciplinary programs at post secondary institutions
5. Research, identify and connect with accreditation bodies to incorporate Link training
6. Develop content based experts on the Link within the various professions who will then present educational programs
7. Develop readily accessible content based presentation materials geared towards various professional groups

#### **Critical Issue #4: Addressing the Root Cause: Prevention, Intervention, Prosecution**

Tracy Coppola  
Chris Risley-Curtiss  
Allie Phillips  
Allison Turkel  
Ken Shapiro  
Andrea Paul  
Kathy Savesky  
Jane Hunt  
Norma Worley  
Gretchen Ziemer  
Randy Lockwood  
Marie Wheatley  
Lesley Ashworth  
David Gies  
Mark Kumpf

Address Root Cause of Violence

Consider Using Pre-Existing Initiatives in safer communities / child, etc. as framework for integration of Link issues

Prevention at all points

Strategy

Integrate Link into Pre Existing Initiatives

Assess – Identify (where gaps)

Create model for communities on how to

Resource Center - Clearinghouse for Technical Assistance on  
Best Practices, Models, Statutes – Legislative

Create Bench book

Get Judiciary members as stakeholders in Link initiative and integration

Prosecutor / L.E.

Training / TA / Evid. Best Pract./Identify / Support

Creation / Intervention

Professionals Link

When you raise awareness – Need response

APA – CDC (Delta Projects), NIH, HHS, OVW-DOJ

Information / education of funders

### **Critical Issue #5: Academics, Research, Data Collection**

Maya Gupta

Emily Patterson-Kane

Chris Risley-Curtiss

Lorna Grande

Marie McCabe

Sonja

1. Basic research on Link, including meta-analysis of existing research
2. Assist practitioners from various disciplines and settings, collect relevant data  
ACTION PLAN – Protocols (intakes) include questions on pets
3. Develop guest lectures, minors, majors, and programs related to Link
4. Publication and dissemination of findings to all stakeholders and public
5. Networking within research community

ACTION PLAN – distribute info of existing biblios / listservs to conference attendees

6. Evaluation research on existing programs
7. Focus groups to gather data on attitudes to animals, violence and the Link

## **Mechanisms (for sustaining this agenda)**

Keep issues focused  
Nominated Steering Cmte (volunteer)  
Be independent (not part of other national organizations)  
Coordinators, “ad hoc” (not necessarily housed)  
Issues as subcommittee to coalition  
Need “major players” attached  
Need players / workers from the trenches  
Need people, not necessarily a “home”  
Groups assign representation  
Interest groups based on critical issues (names)  
Conference List Serv

Process conference  
Identify next steps  
Sketch

## **The “Gang of Ten” Steering Committee**

Hugh Tebault – Latham Foundation  
Monica McLaughlin (National Network to End Domestic Violence)  
Randy – ASPCA  
Leslie – Ohio Dem VN  
Linda – Linkage Project  
Phil – American Humane/Latham Foundation  
Mark – NACA  
Jane Hunt – Partners for Violence Prevention  
Marie McCabe – American Humane (also a vet)  
Maya Gupta – American Psychological Assn