



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **The Blueprint for Safety Coordinates Response to Domestic Violence**

(MANKATO, MN) – In response to the recent violent domestic assault-suicide in Mankato, the Blueprint for Safety project in Blue Earth County remains vigilant in its efforts to create a joint collaboration between system partners to enhance the safety of victims of domestic violence in the community.

“We take domestic violence very seriously, and we are continually working to implement best practices in every part of the criminal justice system,” said Jason Mack, a CADA Community Liaison and Blueprint Collaborator. “The Blueprint for Safety is a highly specialized form of a coordinated community response that is centered on evidence-based best practices.”

Created in 2012 after a program in St. Paul, Blueprint involves the collaboration of the organizations that work with both the victims and offenders of domestic abuse: Mankato Department of Public Safety, Blue Earth County Attorney’s Office, Blue Earth County Community Corrections, Blue Earth County Court Administration and the Bench, Blue Earth County Emergency Communications and Dispatch, Southern Minnesota Regional Legal Services, Minnesota State University Mankato Security, CADA, and the Sheriff’s Department.

“The Blue Earth County Blueprint for Safety works to link criminal justice agencies together in a coherent, philosophically sound domestic violence intervention model,” added Mack. “Our primary goals are to keep victims safe and hold offenders accountable. We meet regularly to share resources and discuss ways that we can do our best to achieve these goals. We have an ongoing commitment to the community to continue to do this work to the best of our ability.”

Blueprint consists of six guiding principles:

1. Adhere to an **interagency approach and collective intervention goals**.
2. Build attention to the **context and severity** of abuse into each intervention.
3. Recognize that most domestic violence is a **patterned crime requiring continuing engagement with victims and offenders**.
4. Ensure **sure and swift** consequences for continued abuse.
5. Use the power of the criminal justice system to **send messages of help and accountability**.
6. Act in ways that **reduce the unintended consequences and the disparity of impact** on victims and offenders.

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