



March 2, 2023: In October 2022, the Broomfield Police Department began partnering with the 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office and several local service providers to create a high-risk domestic violence team (DVHRT).

The collaborative, multidisciplinary team provides an enhanced response to situations involving domestic violence to better ensure individuals are not just cared for, but also offered the appropriate resources.

Now that this team is in place, when Broomfield Officers respond to a scene involving domestic violence, they’re required to fill out an additional, scorable assessment form for each victim to determine their risk level for future incidents. That individual is then referred to DVHRT for more advanced support and access to wrap-around services, such as temporary housing, legal assistance, mental health treatment and more.

The 17th Judicial District Attorney’s Office says the goal is to remove the silos that law enforcement, non-profits, and other government agencies sometimes operate within so information can be shared for the sake of the survivor’s safety.

The team is funded by \$2 million in federal appropriations that were obtained by United States Congressmen Ed Perlmutter, Joe Neguse, and Jason Crow in 2022.

“Domestic Violence continues to be a pressing issue for communities across the Denver Metro Area in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic,” Broomfield Police Department Victim Services Coordinator Linda Sidenstick said. “If a victim is assessed as high-risk, it’s imperative that they and their children receive the support and services necessary to protect them from future relationship violence.”

Every Broomfield Police officer, detective, and victim advocate has been trained on the program and its corresponding assessment form. Members of DVHRT meet weekly to ensure survivors are receiving the care they need in a timely manner.

“Being able to roundtable with other agencies and community resources has definitely pushed everyone to think outside the box,” Sidenstick said. “It’s great knowing that if we happen to miss something, our collaborators are able to catch it and address it immediately.”