



CHANGING SYSTEMS  
TRANSFORMING LIVES



**REIMAGINING CCR**

NATIONAL CENTER ON REIMAGINING  
COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE

# REIMAGINE COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE WITH BWJP

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# BWJP



**Coordinated Community Response – or “CCR” – is the most replicated model for responding to domestic violence used around the world.**

BWJP is a well-known teacher of CCR, providing expertise and training to support its implementation across the country. We have seen firsthand the accomplishments of CCR, but we have also seen that CCR is still not working for many survivors, especially survivors from marginalized communities.

**At BWJP, we believe that continuing our efforts within the existing model of CCR will not move the needle. Instead, the model itself must change to meaningfully impact and support all survivors.**

# LESSON ONE

## Understanding the Past Coordinated “System” Response

**An important first step to “reimagining” social justice work is to analyze and embrace its historical context and past learning.**

The CCR model was developed in the 1980s to bolster systems’ responses to domestic violence. Domestic violence advocates, police, prosecutors, criminal courts, probation, civil courts, and service providers learned and worked together to improve and coordinate their responses. Their *coordinated response* involved arrests, criminal charges, jail time, probation and court ordered treatment groups for offenders, increased use of civil protection orders, and systems connecting survivors to advocates. For the last 40 years, BWJP and other leaders in our field have dedicated significant efforts, funding, and resources towards strengthening this model of CCR (see Figure 1).

The *coordination* of system-based *responses* with domestic violence advocacy has been a strength of the coordinated community response. However, there is an important limitation in this model...*Where is the community?* Beginning in the 1980’s, advocates from marginalized communities raised concerns that CCR’s emphasis on the criminal legal system would further harm their communities. These concerns were and continue to be valid. Marginalized survivors from communities of color, Indigenous, immigrant, LGBTQ, disability, and low-income communities have been negatively impacted by the system’s response. The assumption that survivors from these communities would benefit from well-coordinated systems is not only illogical, but also dangerous. Community-based support systems formally and informally exist in all communities, naturally reflecting their identities, cultural beliefs, practices, and languages. For years, advocates and organizers in marginalized communities have developed community-based responses that offer their survivors safer, culturally affirming alternatives. BWJP is invested in a CCR that centers diverse communities and responses to meet the needs of all survivors.

All survivors have the right to access equitable and affirming system responses. And mainstream domestic violence advocacy will continue to be an important resource for many survivors. But we also know that complex problems in our society deserve robust, multifaceted solutions.



Figure 1: Traditional CCR

**Survivors deserve a CCR that is an innovative space for new solutions and possibilities. Rather than limiting CCR outcomes to only improve systems’ responses, the Reimagined CCR taps into community assets and strengths to improve the lives of all survivors and their families.**

# LESSON TWO

## Building the Future: The New, Reimagined CCR for All Survivors & All Communities

**At the National Center on Reimagining Coordinated Community Response, we envision a future of CCR that is survivor centered, inclusive of all communities that survivors belong to, and coordinates all sources of community-based and system-based support.**

Our new model for Reimagined CCR (RCCR) reflects the assumptions and tenants of the evidence-based socio ecological model. This model has long standing implementation in many fields and is often used in prevention work, but not in the gender-based violence space<sup>1</sup>

RCCR centers all survivors’ needs and experiences at the core of its work to improve and coordinate community and system responses. RCCR expands partnerships to include representatives of all community-based entities that support survivors, such as places of worship, spiritual groups, health clinics, community centers, social networks, elders, and other trusted leaders. RCCR works with survivors and their communities to identify a variety of ways to respond to domestic violence that reflect the diversity of survivors’ identities, cultures, and community-based sources of support. This includes exploring community-based approaches to accountability and stopping violence. RCCR works to build the capacity of community-based sources of support, which includes strengthening their existing resources and developing new resources to provide survivors with what they need when they need it. RCCR continues to improve the criminal legal system’s responses, but more attention is given to other systems such as the family courts, child welfare, immigration, and public health systems.

With this expanded model (see Figure 2), a truly coordinated community response will emerge. The coordination skills that CCRs have honed over the last four decades will be applied across communities and systems. Survivors and their partners will have access to a wide array of options for safety and help. Marginalized communities will receive the attention and investments they have historically lacked. System responses will be strengthened by increased access to community-based resources. And diverse community representatives will be involved in efforts to make systems more equitable and affirming for all communities.

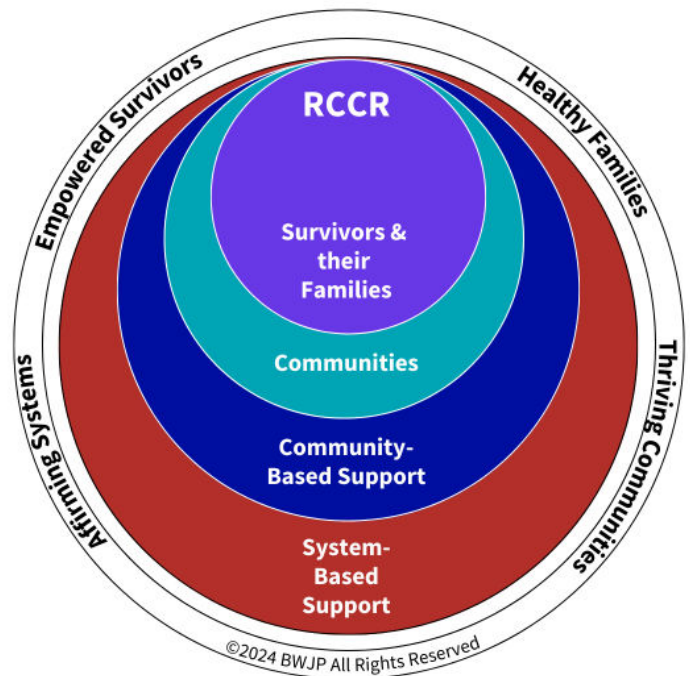


Figure 2: Reimagined CCR

## LESSON THREE

### Intellectual and Financial Investment is Needed

**One key factor in developing and sustaining the RCCR approach is funding.**

Survivors need to be compensated for their time when they inform and work with RCCRs. Community leaders and organizations need funding to support their time working with RCCRs. Community-based sources of support need funding for advocacy and capacity-building to ensure they can provide sustainable support to address the complex issues resulting from domestic violence such as housing insecurity, un/underemployment, chemical dependency, PTSD and other mental health issues. People within systems need basic and advanced training and technical assistance about multiple issues so that system processes and protocols “do no harm” and are effective for everyone they serve.

We can make RCCR work for all survivors. Making real and sustainable change is challenging, but it is necessary, and it is possible if we do it together. BWJP has the vision, mission, expertise, and belief in the power of community needed to lead the way.

**Reimagined Coordinated Community Response: A partnership of all entities responding to domestic violence, led by survivors and their communities, to innovate for empowered individuals, healthy families, thriving communities, and affirming systems.**



<sup>[1]</sup> According to the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Division of Violence Prevention at the Centers for Disease Control, “This model [socio ecological] considers the complex interplay between individual, relationship, community, and societal factors. It allows us to understand the range of factors that put people at risk for violence or protect them from experiencing or perpetrating violence. The overlapping rings in the model illustrate how factors at one level influence factors at another level. Besides helping to clarify these factors, the model also suggests that in order to prevent violence, it is necessary to act across multiple levels of the model at the same time. This approach is more likely to sustain prevention efforts over time and achieve population-level impact.” (2023).



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