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Central Alberta Women's Emergency Shelter, Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT)

Theme: Cross-Sectoral Collaboration

An Interagency Case Assessment Team (ICAT) is a partnership of local agencies, including police, child welfare, health, social service, victim support, and other organizations. This group responds to referrals of complex domestic violence cases where there is risk to woman's safety, and involvement of multiple systems.

Critical Elements

- Women are involved and encouraged to be present at these discussions from the beginning. Information sharing barriers are addressed because women are present to consent to everything that is shared at the table.
- ICAT team members represent a diversity of professionals, including anyone involved with the family and whom family perceives as supportive (e.g., schools).
- Referrals to ICAT and seamless transitions are informed and supported by weekly team meetings involving the Intensive Case Manager, the woman and woman's family and informal supports.
- The effectiveness of the team depends, to a significant degree, on relationships that are developed at individual, rather than the formal levels.
- When the woman is present, shelter advocates can speak on her behalf and to the risk she is managing, ensure that Signs of Safety Framework is considered in the discussion, and support alignments among the professionals as they work to support the woman and her family.