



The CARE Model (Connect, Acknowledge, Respond, Evaluate) is a relationship based, holistic, proactive model of providing services to domestic violence survivors developed by the Ohio Domestic Violence Network. CARE was designed around working with survivors who have experienced struggles with their mental health or have been hit in the head or strangled. However, the model can be used in a variety of different service provision settings with addressing the many different inter-connected and unique needs of domestic violence survivors. After an extensive needs assessment with domestic violence program staff and in-depth interviews with domestic violence survivors accessing services, the CARE model was developed. CARE focuses on **connecting** with survivors, **acknowledging** issues (including mental health, brain injury, substance use, suicide and other challenges) **responding** in a trauma-informed manner and providing accommodations for any challenges survivors have, and **evaluating** responses to ensure survivors are getting their needs met. Five local domestic violence programs are currently piloting the model as a part of an IRB approved research study being evaluated by The Ohio State University.

