

Baking Activity: An Exercise About Collaboration

Purpose	Illustrate the importance of inter-agency collaboration when responding to abuse in later life.
Time Needed	About 5–10 minutes, depending on size of audience and follow-up discussion.
Target Audience	This exercise is designed for a multidisciplinary audience. It can be used with professionals from: domestic violence and sexual assault, elder abuse/adult protective services, aging services, social services, justice, health care and others.
Audience Size	Any size.
Pre-Training Preparation	Choose a baked goods recipe with several ingredients, for example, a banana muffin recipe that requires 10 ingredients. Create handouts listing four of the recipe's ingredients. Each handout should have a different set of ingredients. Strive to make each ingredient list as vague as possible, so there are many possibilities for the recipe.
Equipment Needed	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Handouts with ingredients.• Microphone for large group discussion
Room Arrangement	Any room arrangement works.

Facilitating the Activity

Divide the audience into several small groups, giving each group a list of four of the ingredients of the recipe.

In small groups: Tell each group to work together to determine what the recipe is for. Each group must agree on what the baked item is.

In the large group: Ask the audience what the recipe was for. Make a note of each response. Typically, you will have several different responses, as each group had a different list of the ingredients.

Debrief the Activity in the Large Group

You can see that each group came up with a different response based on the part of the recipe you were given. Each of you only had part of the picture, so you made your best guess based on what you knew. In a Coordinated Community Response (CCR), the same thing happens—each partner has a piece of the survivor’s situation. It’s only when we come together and share what we know that the full picture emerges.

Every agency—whether domestic violence services, APS, aging services, health care, or justice—brings its own “ingredients”: roles, policies, guidelines, limitations, and even terminology. On their own, these pieces don’t capture the whole story. But when we collaborate and bring our perspectives together, like combining all the ingredients in a recipe, we can respond more effectively. This kind of collaboration is essential to truly understand the complexities of abuse in later life and to support older survivors in meaningful ways.