



Community Accountability for Safety: Building Capacity to Make Sexual and Domestic Violence a Community Responsibility

June 28, 2017

AKJ: Hi everyone! Thanks so much for joining us today. We will be getting started at the top of the hour.

CB: Good Morning from Victorville California. The weather is starting off in the 80's expecting upper 90's

AKJ: Please note -- if you are joining us on the telephone today we are using this number and passcode today: 1-888-619-1583, passcode 766 477#

MB: Slides for this session are available on <http://www.preventconnect.org/2017/05/community-accountability-for-safety-building-capacity-to-make-sexual-and-domestic-violence-a-community-responsibility/>

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AS: Check out the report: <http://www.preventconnect.org/2017/06/expanding-partnerships-linkages-key-directions-in-sexual-and-domestic-violence-prevention/>

PI: Healthy Masculinities web conference: <http://www.preventconnect.org/2017/05/healthy-masculinities-mobilizing-men-and-boys-to-foster-positive-gender-norms/>

PI: How are you promoting social cohesion, inclusion, strong social networks and community sanctions?

LCD: We are a trans group, and our meetings stress human commonalities

CM: trainings

KC: working with other agencies to continue to get our message out to our population during the summer

KC: approaching violence prevention through an intersectional lens

LR: One of our local partners has partnered with 21st Century Schools to establish Youth Empowerment Zones in Cranston, RI for youth.

RB: Through community advocacy. Eliminating barriers + cultural competency

TAT: I volunteer with survivors group, share info on local survivor and perpetrator services at a monthly network meeting of local counselors, and share community resources in my monthly aggression control workshop

KC: partnering with other agencies, I mean

LH: Implementing Green Dot bystander intervention training for students, faculty and staff and exploring restorative justice approaches to addressing sexual misconduct on college campuses

PAJ: Intersectional, anti-oppression approaches

NP: Inclusivity work in schools, reaching out to faith communities and civic groups, including team-building in our teen Advisory Committee work, educating the community about bystander intervention

LW: we focus on bystander intervention to promote pro-social cohesion and responsibility

DAT: promoting innovative prevention strategies

DAT: relationship skills classes

LD: Implementing Step Up!

AL: holding forum to educate

AV: providing community outreach and preventive presentations regarding DV and how to collaborate with the community members and agencies to advocate for victims.

DAT: community specific programming

RB: Please slow down with slides

DO: Awareness events, local community involvement, LE, SS, Court services, etc.

LR: Community building activities like cookouts and events as well as civic engagement activities.

MB: @Rocio- if it helps- the slides for this session are available on <http://www.preventconnect.org/2017/05/community-accountability-for-safety-building-capacity-to-make-sexual-and-domestic-violence-a-community-responsibility/>

AKJ: @Lucy I love those examples!

RB: Thank you

AKJ: Go Beach! :)

PI: What are your thoughts and feelings with regard to the story? How would you describe this intervention?

KC: communal involvement

JK: coming together in order to protect and heal

AC: Mimi, this story hurts in the most beautiful way. Thank you

ES: making me think of Territorio Cuerpo-Tierra
The connection of land and bodies a feminist approach to understanding all our relations...

HG: communal decision to end a cycle of violence

NB: community coming together to protect

NP: It takes courage to go against the grain and speak up to those close to us - but our children and other community members so need and deserve us to step up out of integrity and love

KG: coming together to protect a child

AL: so glad the community came together to help calm the violence threat

CM: it's great to see the community come together to break the cycle of violence

LW: I'm curious what the family phone conversations included to move towards this action

CC: "it takes a community to raise a child"

TAT: both sad for the history and yet inspired by the response of community to sweep in and make intentional change

PAJ: Thank you for some movingly demonstrate that intervention IS prevention - they are not separate things and our work cannot be siloes

TJ: I appreciate the connection of the varied forms of violence that have been passed down. I was reflecting on how we might tend to categorize or 'silo' these different experiences of violence, and not be inclusive in our approach to violence prevention.

SE: It was interesting to learn ways to help and assist quickly. Also, be quick to help those who are hurting and find ways to love and heal.

KC: This reminds me of stories my father told me about growing up in an abusive home. Except his stories did not have happy endings

NP: long-held beliefs that support violence CAN be changed!

LH: Resisting outside narratives of a particular group of people being inherently violent.

EH: A lot of bad things on the valley but more and more they are being named and resisted --- Knowledge is power. Coming out from under the environment of denial has begun the healing

BT: opportunity to acknowledge that consequences can be healthy ones; ones that builds bonds of understanding, learning, and accountability vs. disconnections and distrust of one generation of the other.

SN: I noticed how the abuse was passed down from generations

JD: Agree with words of NP

BE: vestiges of colonization

LD: Knowledge is its own end!

TJ: ^^ absolutely @Brittany

GM: Having grown up on a naïve reservation this story is inspirational. Today its hard to have a cultural change at this level.

MFA: takes someone to stand up to end violence

AL: yes and today we still see the violence passed down by generation, education needed

PAJ: We are enriched by many local stories like this from our large and diverse Native communities with whom we work closely. We built a bystander intervention outreach program using traditional stories and language

SN: working with a rural community, I often face those who believe spanking is the only way to teach a child. It has a lot to do with how they were taught. This story would be a great conversation piece.

JK: @Shannon Nevol: I agree! I was thinking this too!

CC: School to prison pipeline

SN: @Jen, Do you also work with a rural community utilizing a prevention program?

JK: @Shannon Nevol: yes! I'm in western Kentucky.

SN: @ Jen, my email address is snevol@bayareaturningpoint.com

GM: the relation is awareness and reporting options which includes Crime victims rights

LD: What about financial stability?

CC: Client autonomy

LW: I want real change - ending the seemingly never-ending cycle of violence

SS: The story acknowledges a shared consciousness among the people in the village past and present. We can choose to tap into that shared awareness in order to start down the path of healing.

CM: tools for keeping individuals safe while respecting their wishes

LH: More than one option to offer survivors -- "either engage with this adversarial, punitive system or we can't really do anything"

LH: Also, research-based, effective education and intervention programs for abusers/perpetrators that really change behavior

BE: Yes, @laura haave, we're giving survivors ultimatums, whether that's the intention or not

BE: We then act as abusive institutions in that way

NP: Overreliance on criminalization has led to utter neglect of victims' (including children's) safety needs by Family

NP: Courts in out state (Wisconsin)

MB: Check out this PreventConnect podcast with Priya Rai at API Chaya on Community Accountability for preventing sexual and domestic violence:
<http://www.preventconnect.org/2017/05/transformative-justice-and-community-accountability-in-preventing-sexual-and-domestic-violence-in-marginalized-communities/>

PI: How does what Mimi's sharing about community accountability relate to your work in prevention?

LW: it's interesting because while some of my colleagues are totally on board, others have a knee-jerk reaction to humanizing those who do harm

DAT: its all about imagining a better more liberated world- both prevention and tj

HG: Working towards re-crafting workshops to use those "liberatory means" even in how we convey materials about prevention (i.e. storytelling, creating accountable spaces, etc)

NP: It makes me think about how my agency tries to walk a "line" around not offending conservative people/donors in the community while still generally supporting social justice work...

BE: yes Nola!

KC: We are exploring how to shift our focus to holding perpetrators accountable and educating our students and community about root causes of violence as well as talking about healthy relationships and what consent is

HG: @Nola, yes absolutely. We deal with that too!

KC: start where the community is. work with what they have and what they know. Bring the community together and bridging a gap

Carmen Mendez: attentive listening in order to assists individuals experiencing domestic violence meet their needs

SER: In prevention work, we often talk about prevention being everyone's responsibility. This continues that same line of thinking, community accountability.

NP: Also, we don't have any local infrastructure really for supporting abusive folks in changing behavior/intervening on a community level

CC: Social justice issues are an obstacle to community unity and building. Gentrification is destroying communities and the positivity that can generate.

SN: Getting more parents involved

LW: when we do prevention education in youth detention and many other spaces, we are essentially offering non-judgmental intervention to those who have also harmed

CW: Knowing that there are children who are victims of domestic and sexual violence that end up homeless because of these situations - understanding there's no one person or group that can make an impact, but there's strength in unity

TAT: my work with court-mandated clients is often not that different from my work with survivors (both therapeutic & in support groups) - they often have similar and corresponding social, economic and mental health challenges - but Mimi is correct that the justice system impedes my work with DV perpetrators by requiring we focus only on accountability

BT: Still wrestle with how one re-shapes the abuser with patterns of abuse, including child molestation? How do we un-drink the Kool-Aid that suggests, that there is no fixing this type of offender.

Laura Haave: re-imagining our mission to recognize that sexual violence prevention is connected to anti-racism and anti-oppression work and that we must do this work to prevent violence

NP: @Heidi and @Brittany thanks for the solidarity! Feel free to private message if you have any ideas for navigating this! :)

MG: It's hard to really provide or even mobilize a 3-d prevention if we don't also work with abusers.

GERALD MEINEKE: We are focusing accountability and bystander intervention.

MG: sadly, our program flat out does not work with abusers, so we really are missing half the equation

PAJ: We have been working closely with those who provide treatment to those who batter which has been helpful in reframing

EH: I believe one of the major positive shifts in community accountability is doing away with the labels of perpetrators -- focusing on BEHAVIORS and not identifying a person as a VICTIM. This approach is more empowering for everyone.

KC: friends and family

BT: public chat box just went blank

AS: Yes for us too. Looks like it restarted

TAT: these networks are often shut out in cases of coercive isolation of the person being harmed

AKJ: We will make the text chat transcript available next week -- in case there were things you wanted to go back to!

DAT: @t. ann towler- yes. in the beginning of relationship before total social isolation survivors reach out to friends and family

HH: community education about dynamics of abuse may encourage informal social networks to reach out to survivors when they are more primed to notice abuse - just like they were saying, intervention as prevention

TAT: in the cases of second and third generation abuse, the survivors often don't reach out because they don't have any idea of it

SN: I never thought to consider parents and teachers as an informal social worker, i am so happy i have a legit term for the actions i always knew existed

TJ: Mimi: do you have thoughts on how resource/funding should be better distributed among those groups in order to address the issue, or is it not a question of funding per se?

LD: Mental Health Services is in critical need. Nationally, we need to change the stigma that exists so individuals will reach out to these services.

LW: @tamaso - that's my question!

KC: Get out into the community; work with them, volunteer with them. Get to know them, what they need and start there

KC: build a rapport, it will pay off

PAJ: It also happens that those who survive violence are isolated from groups such as "social justice groups" who cannot come to terms with knowing someone they trust can harm so they instead push out the person naming the harm

BE: we also need to develop the leadership of survivors - the professionalization of the movement is something to look at and restructure

TCC: Amen to that, Brittany!

LW: Yes Brittany

BE: over-reliance on whether someone has an MSW or is licensed or has a certificate, blah blah blah

TAT: the same could be said of perpetrators who have taken accountability and successfully moved to a non-violent orientation - it would help tremendously to reduce the shame inhibiting those who abuse from reaching out for help

BE: ^^ yes, I believe the same package that utilized the he korero it story does something similar

DT: Dolores, we preach on domestic violence in churches, now over 100, and form local church groups to raise awareness and work on prevention.

MB: The link to NW Network is here: <http://www.nwnetwork.org/>

TAT: I love that zombie poster - can we get that through the network?

DT: We have a large group of men who have abused their partners in a group in the church where they can grow personally. The group is unrelated to the criminal justice system.

TJ: NWN Relationship Skills Class is great!

MB: Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective: <https://batjc.wordpress.com/resources/>

AKJ: @Dolores I'd love to learn more about that, can I contact you via email?

AS: @T. Ann - you can try to contact NW Network!

LW: @Dolores that's awesome! I'm super interested to know more

DT: dtapia@stpiusvparish.org

AKJ: Thanks, Dolores! Will connect soon.

MB: Creative Interventions Toolkit: <http://www.creative-interventions.org/tools/toolkit/>

PI: How would models like these operating in your communities support your prevention work?

NP: I have actually had community members express interest in having a role in intervention...and we have not had a framework for doing that.

BE: I'm still unclear on how to create buy-in from leadership and those with decision-making power

TAT: it would revolutionize work our local therapists do, as well as support partnership between organizations working with survivors and those who do harm

BE: particularly when they are always worried about liability

KC: it will help us to connect on a personal level to our community. Sometimes, just knowing their names will get their attention

TN: We preemptively teach bystander intervention to any person or group who expresses interest or motivation to intervene

MB: In terms of words, I'm curious about the word "Ally" Ta-Nehisi Coates said in regard to white people supporting Black people: "one has to even abandon the phrase "ally" and

understand that you are not helping someone in a particular struggle; the fight is yours.”

LH: Communities on campus (social groups, teams, houses, etc.) will recognize that they struggle to hold abusers in their groups accountable and ask for help, but we can't do the work for them -- just bringing educators in to facilitate a workshop isn't going to remedy the issue. This framework provides a way for us to help them, but also empower them to do their own work.

BT: Community members can be part of the mentoring resources for young men and boys; and as bystanders who intervene for safety and change of social norms; and for peer-to-peer engagement

TN: Hey Elvira! GO FLDOH and Green Dot ;)

EH: It's Rhonda but yes!

AKJ: Thank you all for your insight and ideas that you are sharing.

KC: What about addressing the mental health issue?

EH: (I'm pinch hitting for Elvira :) I am really pleased with the depth of Green Dot

TAT: a huge challenge in our area is the financial resources to support implementation and education of these concepts

NP: Brittany, CCR is a great concept, but we seem to devolve from a partnership of decision-makers to passionate first-line staff, who have small voices in their agencies. Some of our prevention work suggests that having great survivor involvement may help reframe the liability concerns.

TJ: VOCA funds expansion recently may provide some new opportunities for community based TJ/RJ work

BE: yes, thanks Nolan

BE: I think base-building is really important

BE: hard not to get caught in the day-to-day "necessities" but definitely need to re-prioritize

CW: Thank you Mimi! The frameworks you are presenting are so helpful, very grateful for your work and analysis.

PI: Creative Interventions www.creative-interventions.org CI toolkit <http://www.creative-interventions.org/tools/toolkit/> Storytelling and Organizing Project <http://www.stopviolenceeveryday.org/> Living Bridges Project <http://livingbridgesproject.com/> Bay Area Transformative Justice Collective <https://batjc.wordpress.com/resources/> Philly Stands Up <http://www.phillystandsup.com/resources.html> Incite! <http://www.incite-national.org/> Challenging Male Supremacy <http://challengingmalesupremacy.org/resources/>

LW: this is the webinar I've been wanting for the last 15 years

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BT: Thank you -- wonderful ideas and interesting ways to address DV issues

PI: What else would you like to know about this topic?

DK: thank you. Very inspiring. Going to do it!

MC: very refreshing webinar. This kind of approach is part of what is needed for kids of domestic violence healing. This approach might have saved me in childhood and given me what I needed to stop the cycle.

PG: Wow! Great webinar. Thank you so much. Let's get to work.

TAT: Thank you for these resources and ideas - a little overwhelming. I feel like I have so much to follow up on before I can identify a direction to go in. It was great! Thanks!

MB: Thank you everyone again for sharing your insights and responses!

SF: thank you very interesting

NB: Great webinar! Thank you.

KC: Thank you so much for the resources

NR: I agree! This is a webinar I have been waiting for! I am 100% behind the shift!

HG: Thank you for making this both inspirational and also TANGIBLE. Ways to apply these ideas is so appreciated.