

Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Violence Prevention: Training and Technical Assistance Capacity

Overview

Prevention Institute is a national center dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention. Primary prevention is defined as taking action to build resilience and prevent problems before they occur. Prevention Institute provides training, technical assistance, research, and evaluation for coalitions, community-based organizations, government agencies and private foundations to establish effective prevention programs and policies. In addition to working directly with communities and institutions across the US, Prevention Institute develops tools and other materials to support the crafting, implementation, and evaluation of comprehensive prevention initiatives and effective coalitions. Our work is characterized by a strong commitment to community participation and promotion of equitable health outcomes among all social and economic groups.

One major focus of Prevention Institute's work is on preventing violence, including intimate partner violence and sexual violence. Prevention Institute's approach to violence prevention is to address the complex and multiple root contributors to violence including poverty, unemployment, oppression, substance abuse, educational failure, fragmented families, witnessing or experiencing past violence, and feelings of powerlessness. Our approach builds on resilience in individuals, families, and communities, including supportive relationships, community empowerment, economic opportunities, and high quality services and institutions. Violence prevention efforts contribute to empowerment, educational and economic progress, and improved life management skills, while fostering healthy communities in which people can grow in dignity and safety. We also work with institutions to be more inclusive and receptive in responding to community needs. We seek to transform passive acceptance of violence into a social norm that says violence is neither acceptable nor inevitable.

Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Prevention Projects

1. *California Statewide Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women.* Under the lead of the California Department of Health Services, Prevention Institute facilitated planning meetings to inform and drafted the California Statewide Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women, a report submitted to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
2. *Building Partnerships Initiative to End Men's Violence.* Sponsored by Family Violence Prevention Fund in collaboration with Prevention Institute, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and others, the *Building Partnerships Initiative* is an online training series for practitioners, particularly those who work with men. The discussion series, consisting of papers and accompanying case studies, was moderated by experts and documents best practices. Prevention Institute developed case studies and moderated the project's listserv.

3. *A Lifetime Commitment to Violence Prevention in Alameda County*. Alameda County, California. Prevention Institute has facilitated the development of a county-wide plan to address all forms of violence, including dating violence, intimate partner violence and sexual violence. The Blueprint includes content recommendations and structural changes in local government to ensure accountability and coordination. Currently the Institute is facilitating the implementation.
4. *Sexual Assault Prevention: Improving Practice through Training*. National Online Resource Center. Prevention Institute is currently developing a ‘webinar’ training series on primary prevention of sexual violence for the National Online Resource Center, a project of the California Coalition Against Sexual Assault funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.
5. *National Sexual Violence Resource Center*. Prevention Institute is writing an article for the National Sexual Violence Resource Center on primary prevention of sexual violence using the *Spectrum of Prevention* framework and assisting with the development of a national, multidisciplinary Prevention Research Collaborative.
6. *Before It Could Ever Happen: The Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence*. Prevention Institute is currently writing the chapter on primary prevention for a forthcoming Oxford Press book on intimate partner violence entitled, *Intimate Partner Violence: A Bio-psycho-social Approach*.
7. *Training Health Care Professionals to Advance the Primary Prevention of Family Violence*. Prevention Institute provided testimony to the Institute of Medicine in March 2000 on training for healthcare providers on comprehensive prevention approaches to addressing family violence.

Consultation and Technical Assistance Highlights

Prevention Institute has provided consultation and facilitated strategy development on a range of health and social issues for local, county, state, and federal initiatives. Strategy is the key to maximizing discrete efforts and ensuring that they are well focused and build on one another. Strategy development leads to better outcomes by promoting approaches that are well coordinated, responsive to constituent needs and concerns, and build on existing strengths and best practices. Prevention Institute’s focus is on strategy development in all areas of violence prevention, and furthermore, translating what is known in other fields (e.g. tobacco prevention, nutrition, unintentional injury, resiliency research, youth development) to ensure that prevention efforts are more effective.

Selected Consultation and Technical Assistance Projects

THRIVE: Community Tool for Health and Resilience in Vulnerable Environments. Poor health outcomes across a number of health indicators are disproportionately high among low-income people and people of color in the United States. Fostering resilience in these communities can save lives and money and reduce suffering. Prevention Institute developed a community resilience assessment tool called THRIVE. The tool assesses community resilience factors linked to *Healthy People 2010 Leading Health Indicators*, to help communities identify ways in which they can eliminate health disparities and improve community health. (Funded by: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Office of Minority Health.)

Cultivating Peace in Salinas. Salinas, CA. Prevention Institute facilitated a six-month planning process in Salinas, California that engaged more than 100 stakeholders in the development of a community-wide prevention framework. The framework has served as the basis for infrastructure development, prioritizing ongoing activities, program implementation and grant development. The recommendations and strategy outlined in the *Cultivating Peace in Salinas* framework have become the criteria by which new city projects are judged.

Salinas Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative. Salinas, CA. Prevention Institute was also the local evaluator of the Salinas Safe Schools/Healthy Students (SS/HS) Initiative, a national effort devoted to promoting healthy and safe children and youth. As part of the local evaluation, Prevention Institute provided technical assistance to the initiative. One outcome was a strong sustainability/policy focus that culminated in the adoption of a prevention policy framework to support children and families. Local policymakers and leaders including the mayor, city council, county supervisors, the president and executive director of the chamber of commerce, and the CEO of a local foundation, ratified it. (Funded by: The David and Lucile Packard Foundation; Salinas Safe Schools/Healthy Students Initiative)

SafeUSA Focus Forums. Prevention Institute held a series of focus forums across the country to bring local and regional perspectives to a nationwide prevention strategy for a public-private partnership of more than 40 organizations, many of which represent federal departments and agencies. The information gathered from these focus forums was used to build prevention efforts and to mobilize action on key strategies. (Funded by: National Fire Protection Association/First Alert, National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), Children's Safety Network)

Children's Safety Network. Prevention Institute provided consultation, training, and technical assistance to the Federal Office of Maternal and Child Health (MCH) and MCH departments in the 50 states as part of Children's Safety Network. Efforts built the capacity of state MCH departments and service providers. The Institute also developed materials such as fact sheets, newsletter contributions, and published articles. (Funded by the Federal Office of Maternal and Child Health Bureau via Education Development Center, Inc.)

Steps to a Healthier US Initiative. Prevention Institute is currently providing training and technical assistance to a number of Steps to a Healthier US Initiatives that are funded by the US Department of Health and Human Services to help Americans live longer, better, and healthier lives. Prevention Institute has worked with the Washington State Department of Health, five county-wide initiatives in Washington State and the County of Monterey Department of Health to develop comprehensive prevention strategies focused on systems change and local policy development.

Training and Presentation Highlights

Effective training advances prevention practice and improves outcomes by fostering needed skills and promoting effective use of resources. Further, providers wield influence within their fields of expertise, and can create opportunities to motivate and teach patients, clients, students, and colleagues. It is essential, therefore, that practitioners receive good training to improve their own understanding of and skills in prevention. Prevention Institute staff presents and trains on a range of topics, including developing effective prevention strategy, violence prevention approaches, coalition building, and reducing health disparities. Presentations and trainings have been conducted for universities, community-based organizations, foundation staff, and government agencies, among others.

Selected Training and Presentations

Beginning the Dialog on Rape Prevention: From a Women's Problem to a Community Solution. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Rape Prevention and Education Grantees Conference. Opening Plenary. May 2003. Atlanta, GA. Prevention Institute conducted the keynote and facilitated subsequent skill-building sessions for CDC's Rape Prevention Conference for state directors and advisory board chairs.

A Public Health Approach to Sexual Violence Prevention: From a Women's Problem to a Community Solution. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention National Conference. May 2004. Los Angeles, CA. Prevention Institute conducted training on public health approaches to addressing sexual violence.

A Public Health Approach to Violence Prevention: Intimate Partner Violence and Sexual Assault. National Crime Prevention Council. December 2003. Washington, DC. Prevention Institute conducted training on public health approaches to addressing intimate partner violence and sexual assault for health, justice, education, and administration representatives from six states.

Promoting Effectiveness and Sustainability among Mental Health Prevention and Early Intervention Programs This training effort utilized distance learning techniques to train Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration Prevention/Early Intervention grantees on the use and application of three tools – the *Spectrum of Prevention*, *Collaboration Math*, and *Eight Steps to Effective Coalition Building*. The goal of the training effort was to promote effectiveness and sustainability among mental health early intervention and prevention programs for children and youth. Spring 2004.

Partnerships for Preventing Violence Satellite Training Series. In collaboration with Harvard University's School of Public Health and Education Development Center, Prevention Institute developed seven national training broadcasts featuring best and promising practices for youth and/or community violence prevention and dealing with trauma. The broadcasts trained more than 15,000 practitioners. In addition to the distance learning material, the project also emphasized leadership development through face to face training with community leaders.

Ensuring Effective Coalitions. Conducted regional sustainability workshops for the federal Safe Schools/Healthy Students grantees for the U.S. Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration. Fall 2001. Tampa, FL, Chicago, IL, and Columbus, OH.

Prevention Institute Key Staff Bios

Larry Cohen, MSW, Executive Director

Larry Cohen is founder and Executive Director of Prevention Institute. He trains and consults on health promotion, strategy and policy development, coalition building, and injury and violence prevention. Larry facilitated hearings for *Shifting the Focus: An Interdisciplinary Approach to Preventing Violence in California*, a state interagency partnership committed to reengineering State practices to better support local violence prevention efforts. He served on the Advisory Board and provided opening testimony to the Little Hoover Commission, California's

independent oversight committee on State government practice, which recommended that the *Shifting the Focus* approach be institutionalized in State government. He also led a series of Focus Forums across the country, gathering regional input to shape national injury and violence prevention strategy for *Safe USA*. Larry is a member of the Advisory Board of the PREVENT Institute, a national training initiative for injury and violence prevention and the California Alliance Against Domestic Violence's DELTA Project (Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancements and Leadership Through Alliances).

Larry developed the *Spectrum of Prevention*, a strategy tool that promotes a systematic approach for effective prevention, and *Eight Steps to Effective Coalition Building*, a guide to creating effective community coalitions. He was Senior Advisor on Violence Prevention to the Federal Office of Maternal and Child Health, Health and Human Services through the Children's Safety Network. He was co-principal investigator of *Partnerships for Preventing Violence*, the nation's largest training project on violence prevention, training thousands of multidisciplinary practitioners via satellite broadcast. He has presented at the Center for Disease Control and Prevention's National Conference on Preventing Violence Against Women. Mr. Cohen also developed and taught one of the nation's first courses on violence prevention as a public health issue at the University of California at Berkeley School of Public Health. He previously directed the Center for Injury and Violence Prevention at Education Development Center (EDC) in Massachusetts.

Rachel Davis, MSW, Managing Director

Rachel oversees the development and implementation of a range of primary prevention projects, particularly in the areas of violence prevention, health disparities, mental health, and children and youth. She develops tools for advancing primary prevention, provides consulting and training for various community and government organizations, and advances the conceptual work of the organization. Examples include facilitating a statewide interagency violence prevention partnership in California's state government, evaluating a community-wide violence prevention effort, writing state and county violence plans, and conducting training for federal violence prevention grantees.

Rachel has conducted training on intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention at the National Centers for Disease Control and Prevention's Rape Prevention and Education Grantees Conference and the National Crime Prevention Council. She is the project lead for Prevention Institute's current intimate partner violence and sexual violence prevention projects with the National Online Resource Center and the National Sexual Violence Resource Center as well as the county-wide effort to address all forms of violence in Alameda County, California. She was a co-author of the *California Statewide Action Plan for the Prevention of Violence Against Women*.

Rachel conducted Focus Forums across the country, gathering regional input to shape national injury and violence prevention strategy for Safe USA. Rachel co-taught a violence prevention graduate course in the School of Public Health at the University of California, Berkeley. In addition, she contributed to the *Partnerships for Preventing Violence* satellite training series through research, script development, facilitator training, and project management. Previously

she was an advisor on Violence Prevention to the Federal Office of Maternal and Child Health and the fifty states via Children's Safety Network/Education Development Center.

Lisa Fujie Parks, BA, Program Coordinator

Lisa supports Prevention Institute's work through program coordination, research, writing, and facilitation. Lisa has over 10 years of experience working at community-based and intermediary organizations. At Community United Against Violence, Lisa was the Domestic Violence Education Director, where she conducted community education on domestic violence within lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer communities and facilitated trainings for providers throughout the US. She secured funding and conducted a community assessment of dating violence among LGBTQ youth, including a youth advisory group, focus groups and a survey of over 300 youth in San Francisco and Alameda counties. She led the team of staff and youth advisors to develop the LOVE and JUSTICE Project, an LGBTQ youth dating violence prevention project.

Lisa also served as the Associate Director of Programs at San Francisco Women Against Rape, where she led a team of 8 staff and over 80 volunteers to provide crisis support services and prevention outreach and education to over 11,000 people per year. She also served as the Co-Chair of the San Francisco Adult Sexual Assault Task Force and the lead organizer for the San Francisco Adult Sexual Assault Response and Prevention Conference in 2001. Prior to joining Prevention Institute, she completed evaluations of five violence prevention community action teams for San Francisco Department of Public Health. Lisa educates and organizes with communities to end child sexual abuse as a volunteer with Generation Five.