

Safety Through Connection Program Activities, Outcomes, Evaluation, Milestones

November 2018 to October 2019

Overview

Safe relationships are supported by strong and healthy connections between individuals and among families and communities, and prevention of partner violence is connected to many other community issues. We can achieve more to prevent partner violence and support safety in relationships, families, and communities by breaking down issue silos and taking a holistic approach to addressing the interconnected factors that shape health, safety, and wellbeing. With this understanding, five collaboratives in California that are advancing of strategies to promote community conditions for health, safety, and wellbeing will engage in dialogue, planning, and capacity building to integrate community-level¹ partner violence² prevention into their local work. The five collaboratives are: The Center at McKinleyville (McKinleyville), Department of Violence Prevention Steering Committee (Oakland), REACH Coalition (Fresno), LA Worker Center Network (Los Angeles), and the East African Men and Boys Collaborative (San Diego).

Activities

Each collaborative will:

- Cultivate shared understanding of the extent, nature, and dynamics of partner violence as a relationship and community issue.
- Identify community-level factors associated with partner violence (e.g., norms that support gender inequities in relationships, lack of community sanctions against partner violence, harmful media and marketing practices, etc.), and community-level factors associated with safe relationships (e.g., norms that support engagement in family matters, social inclusion and cohesion, housing and economic security, etc.).
- Recruit new partners and/or strengthen existing partnerships and develop or update work plans to include new prevention strategies, and/or integrate new components into existing strategies.
- Work together with the other four collaboratives and with Prevention Institute to support learning and growth across collaboratives as a community of practice.

Outcomes

While specific activities may vary among the five collaboratives given different community strengths, challenges, and opportunities, the intended outcomes for all collaboratives are that, by the end of the program period:

- Collaborative partners will have a greater shared understanding of the extent, nature, and dynamics of partner violence as a relationship and community issue.
- New partners will be recruited, and/or current partnerships will be strengthened to reduce community-level risks and enhance community-level resilience to prevent partner violence.

¹ **Community-level prevention:** Efforts that engage community members, culturally-rooted organizations committed to racial and gender equity, and various sectors such as family support, public health, community development, businesses/work places, etc. in strategies that increase community-level resilience factors associated with safe relationships and decrease community-level risk factors associated with partner violence, and thereby systematically work to reduce rates of partner violence and inequities in rates of partner violence at a neighborhood, community, or population level.

² **Partner violence,** also known as partner violence or intimate partner violence: physical violence, sexual violence, stalking, and psychological aggression, including coercive acts, by a current or former intimate partner.

- Promotion of safe relationships and prevention of partner violence from a community-level perspective will be adopted as ongoing collaborative priorities.
- Collaborative capacity and protocol will be developed and/or enhanced to address disclosures of past or current partner violence that arise within the context of the collaborative's work.
- Workplans will be developed or updated to include new, community-level partner violence prevention strategies and/or to integrate community-level partner violence prevention components into existing strategies.
- Lessons learned and suggestions for how to approach this work will be reflected upon and shared with the community of practice.

Collectively, the community of practice will identify lessons and implications to inform future multisector partner violence prevention efforts in California. This program will: cultivate broad understanding of how partner violence interrelates with other community priorities; help to break down issue siloes; and, facilitate a holistic, integrated, and sustainable approach to community health, safety, and wellbeing.

Overarching Questions and Evaluation Activities

The program evaluation will capture lessons and reflections throughout. We will tell the story about “what happened” as each collaborative embarked on this new area, including challenges and successes and recommendations for future efforts. The following set of overarching questions will guide the evaluation activities:

- What is the value proposition for collaborating to prevent partner violence, specifically among organizations and leaders that have not deeply prioritized partner violence prevention in their collaborative work in the past?
- What are the successes, challenges, benefits, and trade-offs involved with different leaders and organizations coming together to prevent partner violence, e.g. shared and differential power, voices, needs, etc. What brings people to the table? What keeps them there?
- What do individual members of the collaborative perceive are the benefits of this work in the short and long term?
- What capacity building is needed for the collaboratives to be successful in implementing, evaluating, and sustaining community-level partner violence prevention?
- What technical assistance and inter-collaborative activities were most helpful?

Evaluation activities include:

- Collaboratives will track progress and insights through local documentation efforts (meeting minutes, stories, and other written documentation, photos and other visual documentation), and reports submitted to Prevention Institute (an interim report and a final report).
- Each collaborative will complete a retrospective post-program survey (to be administered October 2019), designed by Prevention Institute.
- Prevention Institute will track progress and insights discussed on technical assistance calls and web conferences, and during community of practice meetings.

Collaboratives may be invited to submit a proposal for funding to the Blue Shield of California Foundation during Quarter 4 (August-October 2019). Prevention Institute will provide technical assistance and host community of practice discussions related to evaluation design for implementation proposals.

Phased Work & Milestones

To honor and acknowledge that the five collaboratives will pursue program outcomes in a variety of ways, and yet to design a program that builds toward outcomes and enables sharing and learning, we have divided the year and identified themes and corresponding milestones for each quarter.

Phase	Theme	Examples of Milestones
Q1: Nov – Jan 2018	Get connected and grounded within your collaborative, and to the program and the learning community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Participate in community building, coaching, and learning community activities with Prevention Institute and other collaboratives to deeply understand the intent and design of the program ◆ Launch local efforts, including community building and learning activities within your collaborative ◆ Welcome and onboard new collaborative members, consultants, etc. to participate in and support efforts ◆ Strengthen understanding of collaborative assets, needs, opportunities, and challenges for community-level partner violence prevention ◆ Develop a 12-month work plan for the program ◆ Develop and/or strengthen referral processes, as needed
Q2: Feb – April 2019	Understand and prioritize community assets and needs , including community-level factors that contribute to partner violence and to safe relationships	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue local community building and onboarding ◆ Gather and review data, including qualitative data, to understand the nature and dynamics of partner violence and safe relationships within the community ◆ Explore community-level factors that contribute to partner violence and to safe relationships in your community, including cultural and community-specific nuances ◆ Prioritize the community-level factors to focus on and learn about evidence-informed strategies to influence them, e.g., changing policies, practices, power dynamics, and resource flows, etc.
Q3: May – July 2019	Explore and prioritize strategies for collaborative action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Explore and prioritize shorter-term and longer-term strategies to bolster the prioritized community-level factors that support safe relationships and reduce community-level factors that contribute to partner violence ◆ Re-assess collaborative assets, needs, opportunities, and challenges for implementing the prioritized strategies
Q4: Aug – Oct 2019	Integrate community-level partner violence prevention into the ongoing structure of the collaborative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Develop/update the collaborative’s theory of change and work plan to include the prioritized short- and long-term strategies ◆ Formalize adoption of partner violence prevention as an ongoing collaborative priority, e.g., revise mission/priority statement, bylaws, etc. ◆ Submit a proposal for funding to the Blue Shield of California Foundation, if funding is available and if invited
Ongoing:		
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◆ Continue local community building, learning, and onboarding to recruit new partners and strengthen existing partnerships ◆ Participate in community building, coaching, and learning community activities with Prevention Institute and other collaboratives ◆ Reflect, learn, and adjust the work plan 		