

WINONA COUNTY COMMUNITY HEALTH SERVICES SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRIMARY PREVENTION ACTION PLAN

IN COOPERATION WITH PRIMARY PARTNERS: WOMEN'S RESOURCE CENTER OF WINONA, BEYOND TOUGH GUISE, AND BIG BROTHERS BIG SISTERS OF GREATER WINONA

Background Information

Winona County citizens, when surveyed in February 2008 for Community Health Services Program Planning responded to the question "Do you support more community education of domestic and sexual violence? Yes or no?" Of those surveyed, 92% said yes, and 8% said no. The Minnesota Department of Health Publication "The Promise of Primary Prevention-A Five Year Plan to Prevent Sexual Violence and Exploitation in Minnesota, August 2008" notes in 2005, the State of Minnesota spent nearly eight billion dollars on sexual violence.

Mission Statement

The mission of this project is to apply the process of public health primary prevention in Winona County to reduce sexual and domestic/relationship violence throughout our community. While this initiative focuses on primary prevention of sexual and domestic violence, it is understood to be part of a broader collaborative effort to reduce all violence in Winona County.

Definitions

DOMESTIC VIOLENCE:

U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women

Domestic violence can be physical, sexual, emotional, economic, or psychological actions or threats of actions that influence another person. This includes any behaviors that intimidate, manipulate, humiliate, isolate, frighten, terrorize, coerce, threaten, blame, hurt, injure, or wound someone.

Domestic violence can be defined as a pattern of abusive behavior in any relationship that is used by one partner to gain or maintain power and control over another intimate partner.

SEXUAL VIOLENCE:

Minnesota Department of Health, General Definition

The use of sexual actions or words that are unwanted by and/or harmful to another person. It can include assault, rape, harassment, voyeurism, and other noncontact abuse.¹

ACTION PLAN

- 1. SUPPORT WINONA COUNTY COALITIONS AND FOSTER NETWORKS** (convening groups and individuals for broader goals and greater impact) for the primary prevention of sexual and domestic /relationship violence:
 - a. Work with and effectively support Sexual Assault Interagency Council, Crime Victim Services, WSU Sexual Violence Advisory Committee, Winona County Department of Human Services, St. Mary's University, Southeast Technical College, all County Schools (public, private, and parochial); through our primary partners, Women's Resource Center of Winona, Beyond Tough Guise, and Big Brothers Big Sisters of Greater Winona.
 - b. Consult with existing coalitions including The Minnesota Department of Health, The Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault, and Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, The Minnesota Indian Women's Sexual Coalition, The Association of Minnesota Counties, The Minnesota Men's Action Network Alliance to Prevent Sexual and Domestic Violence, The National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, and The National Association of Counties.
 - c. Work with all known County sexual, domestic, and/or relationship violence intervention and prevention efforts by networking with Winona County departments, Winona County Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Council, SEMCAC Family Planning, Sexual Abuse Task Force, WSU Sexual Violence Advisory Committee and other providers.
 - d. Share resources with local agencies.
 - e. Share the mission of primary partners and integrate their strategic plans into the community activities.
 - f. Share with community the vision to prevent all violence, and collaborate when appropriate with other community initiatives to prevent violence.

Evaluation criteria:

By January 2009, a community collaborating partnership list will be on board and agree to participation in selected areas of the action plan.

¹ *A Place To Start: A Resource Kit for Prevention Sexual Violence*, Minnesota Department of Health, 1999. Available at: <http://www.health.state.mn.us/injury/pub/kit/index.cfm>

2. CHANGE ORGANIZATIONAL PRACTICES (adopting regulations and shaping norms to improve health and safety):

- a. Build on what **Winona County departments** are already doing to strengthen and advance policies and practices which prevent sexual and domestic violence.
- b. Collaborate with community businesses, faith communities, organizations, institutions, and agencies to create/adapt policies and practices that support safe and equitable workplace/organizational environments and help promote a community social environment which encourages safe, respectful relationships, free of sexually exploitative or abusive behavior.

Evaluation of criteria: Document the number of organizational practices and policies which are created, adapted and/or reviewed.

3. INFLUENCE PUBLIC POLICY AND LEGISLATION (developing strategies to change ordinances, laws and policies to influence outcomes):

- a. Advocate at the local and state level for improved policies, laws and procedures supporting the primary prevention of sexual and domestic violence.
- b. Advocate for public and private funding for primary prevention at local and state levels.
- c. Identify and promote primary prevention model policies and practices for local government, business, faith communities, organizations, institutions, and agencies.
- d. Measure sexual and domestic violence data collected to continuously inform best practices for primary prevention, policy development, agency practices, and program evaluation.

Evaluation of criteria: Community partner agencies will have reviewed their internal policies that can be shared with policy makers and Legislators to influence legislation and public policy by November 2009.

4. PROMOTE COMMUNITY EDUCATION (reaching groups of people with information and resources to promote health and safety):

- a. Develop educational opportunities, related to the primary prevention of sexual and domestic violence, with and for community partners.
- b. Provide primary prevention resources to youth and adults.

- c. Educate community businesses, organizations and institutions and engage them in strategies to prevent sexual and domestic/relationship violence in all segments of the community.
- d. Promote primary partners' resources at educational and community activities.

Evaluation of criteria:

Document the number and type of education opportunities that have occurred throughout the year, i.e.; forums, number and type of audience.

5. EDUCATE PROVIDERS/PROFESSIONALS (informing providers who will transmit skills and knowledge to others):

- a. Provide primary prevention training to providers to assist them in integrating primary prevention practices and messages into their work.
- b. Promote the integration of primary prevention strategies into all aspects of community assistance, recreation, business, worship and education.
- c. Disseminate materials for men and boys which promote safe, respectful, responsible, and cooperative relationships.

Evaluation of criteria: Document the number and type of trainings that have occurred throughout the year.

6. STRENGTHEN INDIVIDUAL KNOWLEDGE AND SKILLS (enhancing an individual's capability of preventing injury or illness and promoting safety):

- a. Develop and implement a primary prevention **public education campaign**
- b. Identify and enhance resources to promote **new behavior** skills for males to reduce sexual and domestic violence.
- c. Identify and enhance resources to reduce vulnerability to victimization.

Evaluation of criteria: Document the number of individuals being reached through the public education campaign annually.

Action Plan adopted by the Winona County Community Health Board on September 9, 2008 and presented by Winona County Sexual and Domestic Violence Prevention Committee: Tamara Berg, Jenny Bushman, Chuck Derry, Andrea Essar, Polly Gower, Lisa Lundquist, Andrea Monk, Joe Morse, Lynn Theurer, and Lori Woodward.