

# **National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan (NPEIV)**

## **2012 September Think Tank Executive Summary**

### **Subject Matter/Methods of Analysis**

This report provides a summary of the meeting of the Think Tank of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV), held September 8<sup>th</sup>, 2012, in San Diego, CA. The Action Teams met to discuss the 7 areas of focus (public awareness, training and mentoring, practice, research, public policy, dissemination/translation, and networking/public relations). Over 75 members attended and many stayed for 2-4 days at the 17<sup>th</sup> *International Conference on Violence, Abuse and Trauma*. Seven representatives of four federal agencies were in attendance.

### **Goals and Priorities**

- The development of a large-scale partnership of all think tank representative organizations and coalitions is necessary to provide a single, unified voice to influence policy makers while remaining politically neutral.
- It is important to ensure that interpersonal violence reduction becomes a national priority, and that research, service, advocacy, and policy are linked.
- There was a consensus that interpersonal violence as a field has fallen behind in research, training, practice, funding, policy, and community action, with numerous negative consequences, including increased risk of compassion fatigue among service providers.

### **Findings**

The first half of the day included several keynote speakers who presented on specific topics related to current issues in interpersonal violence prevention. Dr. Robert Geffner, NPEIV co-chair, began the morning and spoke to the history of the partnership and described that it began as collaboration between researchers, practitioners, advocates and agencies who had separately been working on interpersonal violence issues. He described the socio-ecological/biopsychosocial model used by the partnership to address violence at many stages of society and he explained: the integration across types of relationship violence; new perspectives on integrating research, practice, policy and advocacy; the needs identified to address interpersonal violence an abuse across the lifespan; and NPEIV's mission, vision, goals, guiding principles and strategies. Dr. Dorothy Espelage, NPEIV co-chair, spoke on the importance of narrowing the research-practice gap, reviewing the Violence Prevention Program at the University of Illinois, a federally funded project, as an example, and the theoretical framework behind the project.

Dr. Linda Degutis, Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), presented on the CDC's role in preventing violence. She discussed the Injury Center's mission and vision to prevent injuries and violence and reduce their consequences so people can live to their full potential and to put injury and violence prevention on the map as the premier public health achievement of the decade. She indicated unintentional injury, homicide and suicide are the leading causes of death for ages 1 – 44. She discussed: prevalence rates of violence against children and youth; impact of violence on early brain development; consequences of childhood exposure to violence; relationships between types of violence, including teen dating violence; health consequences associated with victimization; and influencing factors. She also discussed the current CDC prevention programs in place.

Dr. Elaine Alpert, University of British Columbia, presented on: 1) the case for interprofessional collaboration (IPC); 2) interprofessional education (IPE), the foundation of IPC; 3) an example, and 4) scaling to real life situations. She discussed: the importance of and difference between cooperation, coordination and collaboration; types of coordinated community responses; key elements of high performing teams; barriers to collaborative practice; IPE overview and course breakdown; the good, bad and ugly of IPE; and building capacity for IPC. She also shared some feedback from former students on IPE, focusing on strengths, team functioning, handling emotions, online versus live training, and critical reflections.

Bryan Samuels, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, presented on responding to trauma across the lifespan. Commissioner Samuels discussed prevalence rates of mother's risk factors for children involved with child welfare, intimate partner violence (IPV) and substantiated/indicated findings, recency of IPV and risk factors, disciplinary practices and experience with IPV, and re-reports to the child welfare system. He also discussed: the path of maltreatment's impact on relationships throughout life; the biological/physical, emotional, self-concept/identity, attachment/relational, behavioral, and cognitive impacts from exposure to trauma and violence; supportive housing and child welfare collaborations to improve well-being; regional partnership grants to increase the well-being of, and to improve the permanency outcomes for, children affected by substance abuse; and increasing screening, assessment, and effective treatment for trauma.

As part of the joint effort between the Stop Abuse Campaign and the NPEIV, three separate strategies were identified. Prior to the division of action teams into their respective groups, action teams were divided according to the strategy they are most aligned with to identify goals and action steps for their strategy groups.

**Strategy Team #1: Educating Public/Prevention Strategy Meeting:** Andrew Willis, CEO Stop Abuse Campaign, led this Strategy Team: The goal is to engage millions of people in the discussion to end abuse ("Education is why we are here"). Also, if everyone had a safety plan and creates an environment about safety (i.e., understanding enough about abuse to make sure kids are not abused/don't abuse), the world would be safer. There are 200 million people that we want to deliver education to: 1) Keep in mind that we are not only aiming to stop abuse, we also want to create a sense of safety; and 2) As part of education, create standards of practice for organizations, families, couples, etc. in order to stay safe. Once we have people engaged, what do we tell them? This goal was divided into two timeframes: What do we do today and what do we do tomorrow? Action steps include the creation of posters to increase awareness/inspire communities, global Public Service Announcements and then under it have the more specific types of violence they want to target, model dissemination of ideas like in the Obama campaign.

**Strategy Team #2: Intervention/Advocacy:** The following are the main themes/action steps that arose during the meeting, led by Dorothy Espelage: 1) Determining how to gain access to abused populations for the purpose of conducting research/testing interventions; 2) To continue funding, government agencies need to be able to show effectiveness (using research); therefore, research demonstrating the efficacy/effectiveness of various interventions is necessary; 3) How to effectively implement and sustain an intervention model; 4) Development of a standardized definition of maltreatment (as well as levels of severity) is needed to bridge the gap between research and practice and could foster cooperation between researchers and practitioners; 5) It is important to address diversity in problems with reporting and implementing interventions; and 6) Focus on environmental factors (e.g., stressors) and how they relate to abuse.

**Strategy Team #3: Victim's Rights/Mandated Reporting/Training/Effective Systems:** The Training and Mentoring Action Team has established as its goal putting an interdisciplinary minor in 500 universities by 2018. The minor will address maltreatment across the lifespan. The curriculum, currently called Child Advocacy Studies Training (CAST), is up and running in 29 universities or colleges in 15 states. Approximately 70 universities are currently working on the reform. The curriculum includes several courses on child abuse and also has a course on interpersonal violence. We are working with the National Committee on Elder Abuse and Indiana University of Pennsylvania to add a course on elder abuse. We would then call the curriculum and program CAAST (Child and Adult Advocacy Studies Training). Seven members of congress have introduced legislation to spread this concept across the country and the Department of Justice has issued a document supporting the reformation of undergraduate and graduate programming on family violence. All of the above is designed to train future professionals to more effectively handle reporting of abuse. In addition, we are developing training centers across the country that will also develop ongoing training for mandated reporters in the field to create more effective systems of care.

### **Action Team Meetings**

Once in separate Action Teams, members were updated on the progress of previously identified tasks from the September 2011 Think Tank and added the next steps to their blueprints for action to be achieved during the upcoming year. Upcoming goals and action steps were then presented at the end of the Think Tank to inform and engage all members in discussion and increase collaboration between groups.

**Action Team #1: Public Awareness:** An identified goal was to raise public awareness about all forms of abuse as well as the negative consequences of abuse, specifically, how to convey the idea that hurting others is harmful to everyone in society, not just the victim. Smaller goals included: how to raise public awareness of issues we've discussed today; what we need to do to get others to be aware that hurting other people has short and long term implications; who should the audience be; and what is needed to accomplish the above. The group also discussed the need to identify its target audience before creating a message, which would be intended to move individuals to action to end abuse in their communities. Next, the group decided that they wanted to convey the message, "We live in an abuse-free community," with the goal being to eradicate abuse in all communities in the United States. To convey this message, it was decided that "Abuse Stops Here" would be the slogan. The following settings were identified as important segments of the community to target: workplace, schools, families/homes, childcare, religion, military, community events, organizations, transportation, and cyberspace. Action steps include the development of vignettes, which could be aired on YouTube as a way to depict the various forms of abuse (i.e., define abuse) and employ comedy and story-telling to teach individuals about abuse and its many negative consequences. Another action step includes the development of webinars which would teach individuals about abuse and its consequences, and the use of music was also recommended as a way to reach a wide range of individuals. Social media, such as live chats with experts on Facebook, Twitter chats, and LinkedIn, was also discussed as a way to spread the campaign's message. Several specific objectives for the campaign were specified. It was also determined that the campaign should be clear in describing the multiple forms abuse can take. Specifically, the group would like to identify appropriate research that can help in working towards ending abuse, and the group would like to translate this existing knowledge (i.e., research) into action.

**Action Team #2: Training and Mentoring:** The goals of the meeting were to discuss strategies for adding elder abuse to the Child Advocacy Studies Training (CAST) curriculum, for expanding the CAST program to new schools, and for researching CAST's effectiveness. Action steps to achieve this goal include: 1) the addition of elder abuse curriculum (adding a second A for "adult" to CAST making it CAAST, having the first course a "Violence Across the Lifespan" course, or making the course a semester long course); 2) Expansion of curriculum to other schools and addition of CAAST workshop to existing conferences; 3) Continue research and program evaluation of CAAST. Training all mandated reports of abuse is a key aspect of this program, as is the next generation of service providers and practitioners.

**Action Team #3: Practice:** The identified goals were: 1) to discuss the creation of a "clearing house" through the NPEIV website listing best practices for a variety of professionals working with victims and perpetrators of interpersonal violence and abuse; 2) identify how these practices are implemented; 3) outreach to groups who can provide best practices and guidelines; and 4) identify where guidelines need to be developed. The main purpose is to have a website in which professionals can have convenient access to information about these best practices, and standards of care. Through this project, information can be incorporated across the three identified NPEIV Strategies, including: public education and prevention, intervention and advocacy, and training. Action steps identified include: 1) attempting to develop/establish *new* best practices through this project by identifying current practices already available and in use and establishing a list of best practices with a summary of information about each; 2) We will start by collecting and providing access to a general list of best practices for professionals including mental health treatment providers, nurses, lawyers, judges, law enforcement, clergy, and victims' advocates; and 3) Through this project we also hope to identify areas in which current best practices are needed.

**Action Team #4: Research:** Five goals were identified to be achieved over the course of three years: 1) list relevant research clearinghouses, 2) list research about disclosure rates, family courts, statute of limitations, corporal punishment in schools, outcome measures and safety plans; 3) re-engage action team members; and 4) consult with other action teams to develop a how-to navigate research brief, identify what research they need and help with evaluations/measurements in the planning stages; and 5) identify gaps and strengths in research. The group wants to actively consult with other action teams in these goals. Three goals were identified to be initiated in Year 1: 1) reactivate team (networking throughout team); 2) list clearinghouses by topic; and 3) set up communication system for Action Team; Year 2: compile research lists and data bases by research topic; and Year 3: identify gaps in literature.

**Action Team #5: Public Policy:** The key focus this year was on the Family Court Crisis as a major policy issue. Goals identified were made into the form of seven questions: 1) How do we stop judges from awarding custody to abusers (i.e., how to stop harm)?; 2) How can we design a system to address the issues when there is an adversarial system for finding out the truth when there is not a balance in power?; 3) Can there be a standardized report format for entering facts/data regarding domestic violence, mental health, law enforcement, child abuse, criminal history, firearm ownership, legality assessments, restraining orders, substance abuse, risk endangerment, etc.?; 4) Are current training curricula on abuse across the lifespan effective?; 5) Can we bring these training materials to judges and mental health professionals?; 6) Can we require a lethality assessment whenever a victim reports IPV?; and 7) Can we find a way to get family courts to incorporate trauma informed knowledge and practice and utilize the results of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) studies? Action steps identified include: 1) Introduce the ACE Study to family

court judges as well as all involved systems; 2) Promote the “Green Book” project results so that they can be implemented; 3) Develop a fact sheet; and 4) Compile current efforts that have been successful, and update current practice. Policies and tasks associated with the other strategies will also be developed (e.g., statute of limitation, corporal punishments, etc.).

**Action Team #6: Dissemination and Translation:** Goals identified included: 1) Make violence research accessible to non-researchers; 2) Research to inform practice and practice to inform research; and 3) Create executive summaries of conference presentations. All three goals were combined into one over-riding project: “*The Science to Service Violence Digest*”. Action steps identified include: 1) The development of a prototype (a one page executive summary of current published articles and discuss clinical implications of research reviews); 2) Establish a team of people to review interpersonal violence-related material, and each month select articles that are empirically rigorous and do a one page executive summary; and 3) Clarify whether it would be an open link from the NPEIV website or stand-alone (and if we would charge). Additional action steps include: the development of an editorial board that has expertise in different areas composed of two members from each NPEIV Action Team; develop a selection process for articles and selection criteria; and develop a list of reviewers composed of graduate students and faculty as well as in-house. This digest would be produced quarterly, beginning in 2013.

**Action Team #7: Networking and Public Relations:** Six goals were identified: 1) Get site search engine optimized, possibly membership driven (more/different content available for members, similar to HuffPost, Reddit, etc.) and need to establish a budget; 2) Engaging existing members (this group and all NPEIV through a newsletter); 3) Some type of Media Guide (offering ongoing training) and media expert; 4) Ask the expert column; 5) Engagement campaign with schools (an essay idea); and 6) Establish 2<sup>nd</sup> Tuesday of the month as regular meeting date. Action steps identified include: publish protocol on website concerning “how to contact media” (including how to write a press release and more); increase networking and messaging by including bios on the website, and have experts available ready to chat, email; retain and recruit as well as engage members; create youth movement to engage on Interpersonal Violence, steps taken with the “essay idea”; reach out to youth groups etc. (establish National Youth Board as a possibility); get someone like Facebook to sponsor the “essay contest”; create a press kit; identify media contacts among members to create media blast list; and create community bulletins that show what people are doing. It is important to engage new organizations and members to join NPEIV, and to assign the action team members to help in this process.

## Conclusions

The priorities for the National Partnership are to continue building on the momentum of the success of this Think Tank. This includes continued monthly conference call meetings for the Executive Committee and the implementation of monthly or quarterly conference call meetings for each Action Team. Many members reported networking or building a sense of community among action team members, increased motivation, appreciation for the mission and vision of NPEIV, confirmation of ideas, revised perspective on action steps and agendas, further appreciation for the complexity/need for collaboration, and encouragement from the Think Tank. Barriers identified included time and money. Overall, members left the Think Tank with concrete projects and identified products to complete over the course of the next year. Enthusiasm and energy to work on the global mission of the NPEIV seemed to be shared by those attending.

## **Recommendations/Next Steps**

**Action Team #1: Public Awareness:** Next steps identified include the development of vignettes and webinars which would teach individuals about abuse and its consequences.

**Action Team #2: Training and Mentoring:** Next steps identified include adding elder abuse to the curriculum and continuing to implement CAST at additional universities.

**Action Team #3: Practice:** Next step identified includes the creation of a “clearinghouse” through the NPEIV website listing best practices for a variety of professionals working with victims and perpetrators of interpersonal violence and abuse.

**Action Team #4: Research:** Next steps identified include reactivate team (networking throughout team and solicit research), separate clearinghouses by topics and set up yammer or Google group for internal communication.

**Action Team #5: Public Policy:** Next steps include develop a list serve by December 31, 2012, and a webpage by June 30, 2013 to showcase the policies and issues of focus.

**Action Team #6: Dissemination/Translation:** Next steps identified include sending a letter to NPEIV members soliciting reviewers/digesters, posting information on NPEIV website link (if available), approval of Science to Service Violence Digest (SSVD) site design, submissions for first wave of summary reviewers, co-chairs select board members/reviewers and digesters, and create a back-log of 5-6 summaries ready for posting.

**Action Team #7: Networking/Public Relations:** Next steps identified include publishing protocol on website concerning “how to contact media” (including how to write a press release and more), increase networking and messaging by including bios on the website and have experts available ready to chat or email, get someone like Facebook to sponsor the “essay contest”, create a press kit, identify media contacts among members to create media blast list, and create community bulletins that show what people are doing.

The next face-to-face meeting will take place September 7, 2013, at the *International Conference and Summit on Violence, Abuse and Trauma* in San Diego, CA. There, members will discuss the achievements and next steps of the working action teams and evaluate the progress and areas in need of restructuring.