

National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence Across the Lifespan (NPEIV)

2013 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 7th, 2013, in San Diego, CA. The Action Teams met to discuss the 6 areas of focus (public awareness, training and mentoring, practice, research, public policy, and dissemination/translation). 90 members attended; additionally many stayed for 2-4 days at the 18th *International Conference & Summit on Violence, Abuse and Trauma*.

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, spoke to the history of the partnership, explaining 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 individual, relationship, community and societal levels. Dr. Geffner also discussed the need for continued focus on the integration across types of relationship violence; new perspectives on integrating research, practice, policy and advocacy; identifying needs to address interpersonal violence and abuse across the lifespan; and NPEIV's mission, vision, goals, guiding principles and strategies. Dr. Jacquelyn White, expressed her pleasure at being back to resume the position of co-chair of NPEIV after spending a year in Washington, DC as a congressional fellow. She spoke about the implications of her DC work for NPEIV, with the goal of being more effective in doing advocacy work. Dr. Dorothy Espelage, NPEIV co-chair, spoke on the importance of narrowing the research-practice gap. She reviewed the Violence Prevention Program at the University of Illinois, a federally funded project, as an example, and explained the theoretical framework behind the project.

Next were five presentations from five leading experts in the fields of violence, abuse and trauma. Dr. David Finkelhor, Director, Crimes Against Children Research Center & Co-Director, Family Research Lab, University of New Hampshire presented on the state of the research in interpersonal violence. He emphasized the importance of grafting violence research onto other fields, conducting comprehensive multi-objective preventions and interventions to evaluate efficacy, helping institutions that have not embraced evidence-based practice, and changing our evaluation priorities.

Dr. Viola Vaughan-Eden, President, American Professional Society on Abuse of Children, presented on the state of practice in interpersonal violence. She emphasized the utilization of the World Health Organization approach for interpersonal violence intervention, collaborating with researchers and advocates, more cooperation among practitioners with different perspectives, and improved interdisciplinary interaction to engage the clients.

Dr. Jacquelyn Campbell, Anna D. Wolf Chair and Professor, Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing, National Program Director, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation presented on the “*State of the Science: Advocacy for All Survivors/Victims to Facilitate Recovery and Healing.*” Her presentation focused on enhancing advocacy, collaborating with researchers and practitioners to obtain evidence-based practices, realizing the importance of dealing with physical, sexual and psychological abuse, and focusing on trauma-informed services in all systems of care.

Dr. Bea Hanson, Acting Director, Office of Violence Against Women, Department of Justice, presented on policy issues related to the current ways interpersonal violence is addressed at a federal level, and also spoke to how interpersonal violence will be addressed in the future, in relation to the reauthorization of VAWA and the Affordable Care Act.

Dr. David Corwin, President, Academy of Violence & Abuse, presented on the “*Prevention of Violence and Abuse Across the Lifespan: Present and Future.*” His presentation addressed the importance of an ecobiodevelopmental model, and he discussed promising trends for the prevention of interpersonal violence across the lifespan and future opportunities to better develop a national priority in this area.

Action Team Meetings

Once in separate Action Teams, members were updated on the progress of previously identified tasks from the September 2012 Think Tank and added the next steps to their blueprints for action to be achieved during the coming 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 Action Teams.

Action Team #1: Public Awareness: The identified goal is to develop a 2014 calendar matrix with actions and ownership ensuring all focus areas of NPEIV are covered in a Public Awareness Campaign. Considering each focus group, ask these questions: A.) Where are we today? B.) What do we want to see? C.) What message is needed to get us there? D.) What action do we take? Next steps were identified for each Focus Area.

Action Team #2: Training and Mentoring: The identified goals were to discuss strategies for adding elder abuse to the Child Advocacy Studies Training (CAST) curriculum, for expanding the CAST program to new schools, for accreditation of CAST in universities, 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 be a “Violence Across the Lifespan” course, or making the course semester long); 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 reporters of abuse is a key aspect of this program, as is training 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. 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: 1) compiling research for special issues for journals, 2) identify new topics for research, such as preventative factors to interpersonal violence and issues in criminology; and 3) re-engage action team members. The importance of actively consulting with the other Action Teams was highlighted.

Action Team #5: Public Policy: This action team will focus on getting information about the process for drafting, reviewing, and approval of policies that will be placed on the NPEIV website. For quality assurance and best practices, Action Team members indicated that it is important to document the elements and steps involved in approving a policy that is designed to influence others and is made public. The identified goals for 2014 for this Action Team are: 1) finalize the Policy Statement on the "Crisis in the Family Court," and clarify the process for next steps; 2) by engaging and consensus of other NPEIV action teams, review, revise (as appropriate) and draft a policy statement on "rape is rape"; 3) update the existing NPEIV gun control policy; and 4) with input from the full committee, develop a policy statement on the use of corporal punishment.

Action Team #6: Dissemination and Translation: Goals identified included: 1) Finalizing e-journal (Violence Research Digest) and developing a plan for dissemination; 2) Creating a training DVD for "difficult" conversations that professionals can use to talk to clients. 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) develop a demonstration DVD on difficult conversations. Additional action steps include: the development of an editorial board that has expertise in different areas composed of individuals from different areas such as federal agencies and IVAT journal editors in addition to Action Team members; 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 by 2014.

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 Board of Directors 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, money and improved communication between Think Tank meetings. 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 in attendance.

Recommendations/Next Steps

Action Team #1: Public Awareness: Next steps identified include the development of more "The Conversation" videos and the development of 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 “clearing house” 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) and begin compiling research for upcoming special articles while identifying other areas needing further research attention.

Action Team #5: Public Policy: Next step identified is to finalize policy statement on Family Court the draft and obtain approval for policy statements on rape, prevention of gun violence, and discipline/corporal punishment.

Action Team #6: Dissemination/Translation: Next steps identified include recruiting new members, contacting outside individuals to collect information on needs for forthcoming e-journal issues, develop measure of success for journal, and adopting a federal agency.

The next face-to-face meeting will take place September 6, 2014, at the 19th *International Conference and Summit on Violence, Abuse, & Trauma* in San Diego, CA. There, members will discuss the achievements and next steps of the working action teams in addition to evaluating the progress and areas in need of restructuring.