



2014 Think Tank Executive Summary

The National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan

Subject Matter/Methods of Analysis

This report provides a summary of the meeting of the 5th annual Think Tank of the National Partnership to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan (NPEIV), held September 6th, 2014, in San Diego, CA. The Action Teams from the NPEIV met to discuss the 6 areas of focus (public awareness, training and mentoring, practice, research, public policy, and dissemination/translation). Approximately 120 members attended the all-day Think Tank; additionally many stayed for 2-4 days of the 19th *International Conference & Summit on Violence, Abuse and Trauma*.

Goals

1. 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.
2. It is important to ensure that interpersonal violence reduction becomes a national priority, and that research, service, advocacy and policy are linked.

Priorities

1. Members shared how they have collaborated over the last year in the areas of research, training, practice, funding, policy and community action as it relates to Interpersonal Violence. NPEIV is concerned that the above are not addressed adequately and that there is increased risk of compassion fatigue among service providers; this has led to the Action Teams' undertaking to draft *The National Plan to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan*.
2. All members will review, provide feedback and contribute to researching and writing a portion of: *An Awesome Opportunity: The National Plan to End Interpersonal Violence across the Lifespan*. This plan encompasses the following recommendations and actions:

I. Education and training reform by improving training at the undergraduate and graduate level and in the field concerning all types of interpersonal violence and abuse;

II. Improving medical health, mental health, and spiritual care responses to instances of violence and abuse, including developing effective partnerships with faith communities;

III. Improving criminal justice and victim and perpetrator protection responses to instances of violence and abuse, including the collection of evidence and resolving cases more quickly from crime scene to trial, improving alternative or appropriate response systems, improving mandated reporting, training staff in trauma-informed approaches, and reducing vicarious trauma;

IV. Improving the development and delivery of prevention initiatives by expanding prevention initiatives throughout the lifespan, including youth serving organizations;

V. Improving public awareness, public policy and research by connecting research to the work of the front line professionals, creating public awareness and by linking public policy to research and practice;

VI. Sustaining the NPEIV as a social justice and public health approach, which includes an NPEIV development team, implementation planning, full financial transparency, and public progress reports as the movement goes forward in creating a national priority.

3. Action Teams will create a 2014-2015 timeline of monthly goals, topics and projects specific to their action team; they will develop a list of resources needed, they will designate specific roles/duties and tasks for each portion of the timeline, and lastly, they will identify other Action Teams to collaborate with on determined projects.

Findings

The first half of the Think Tank included several keynote speakers who presented on specific topics related to current issues in interpersonal violence prevention. Dr. Robert Geffner, *NPEIV Founding Co-chair and Executive Committee Board Member*, 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/bio-psychosocial 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, *Founding Co-Chair and Executive Committee Board Member*, spoke about the implications of the draft of *The National Plan*, with the goal of it being a guide to creating a social justice and public health movement. Dr. Barry Anton, President-Elect of the American Psychological Association (APA), welcomed all to the Think Tank that had its origins at an APA Summit but has moved well beyond just one organization, to representatives from over 250 organizations to date. He noted how far the NPEIV had come since his attendance at the first Think Tank and Summit, and how important it is to get our message to a wide audience, including increased use of social media.

Next were three presentations from leading experts in the fields of violence, abuse and trauma. Diane Elmore, PhD, MPH, with the National Child Traumatic Stress Network presented on *How Policy is Formed: The Process from Notion to Legislation*. She explained the need for the following in order to effectively form policy: organizational partnerships, science and anecdotes, policy champions, timing and grassroots activities. Dr. Elmore emphasized the importance of working with policy makers so that the process of creating national policies could be better understood, and that the process can be slow at times. Specifically, she led attendees through the National Child Traumatic Stress Network process which includes education and awareness, policy capacity building, consultation and mentoring, policy product and resource development and maintaining and expanding policy partnerships. Finally, Dr. Elmore discussed some of the key policies that have relevance to our goals, including the Child Abuse Prevention Act and the Violence against Women Act.

Jay Otto, MS, from the Center for Health and Safety Culture, presented on *Creating Positive Community Norms; Engaging and Empowering People to Action*. He emphasized how revealing the positive norms in our communities can help us to leverage our efforts to reduce violence, abuse and trauma, and the importance of hope in fostering change and transformation. Mr. Otto explained that promoting a positive message is much more successful for a public awareness campaign. He shared that to change norms we need to think about how culture influences the choices that individuals make and that we should "fix" the culture or environment first. Such environments include: our youth, families, schools, work places, communities and beyond. For the NPEIV, an example would be promoting healthy relationships in the family, schools, and in our communities as a positive message since people generally don't want to talk about sexual assault, domestic violence, or child abuse. Positive messages of bystander intervention and empathy are better for prevention.

Victor Vieth, JD, from Gundersen National Child Protection Training Center and Executive Committee Board Member, presented NPEIV's proposed draft of the National Plan. The plan includes 66 concrete recommendations which are divided into six categories: 1. Education and training, 2. Medical, mental health, spiritual care, 3. Criminal justice and victim protection 4. Prevention, 5. Public awareness, public policy & research, and 6. Developing an infrastructure to implement the plan. Mr. Vieth emphasized the need for a comprehensive approach to train students at all levels of professional disciplines across the lifespan in the dynamics of abuse and violence, appropriate intervention and prevention approaches, and trauma-informed systems of care. In addition to training, it is important to understand the latest research so that there is a scientific basis for our programs, and to integrate across the different types of violence to present a unified message to end interpersonal violence in the next 20 years.

Dr. Geffner then provided an overview of the agenda and goals for each group's afternoon breakout sessions. Once in separate Action Teams, members were to specifically address the formal roles that NPEIV should assume in executing the *National Plan*, to determine how their Action Team will contribute overall, and to suggest and assign Action Team members to work on specific sections of the plan (some Action Teams created organized subcommittees). Additionally, Action Teams mapped out the 2014-2015 timeline of monthly goals, topics and projects, created a list of resources needed (and who will help with those), designated specific roles/duties and specific tasks for each portion of the timeline and lastly, identified other Action Teams to collaborate with on determined projects. Their other action items for the year were also discussed. Once all of this was accomplished, Action Teams reconvened as a whole group and presented their upcoming goals and action steps for both The *National Plan* and their timeline of specific projects. The time dedicated to these afternoon reflection and closure presentations by each Action Team informed and engaged all members in discussion, and increased collaboration among Action Teams.

Other findings as reported in **Pre-Think Tank Attendee Evaluations** revealed that NPEIV has provided an opportunity for members to be more active on a national level, that NPEIV supports and disseminates the Child and Adult Advocacy Studies Training (CAAST) curricula, that members are motivated to take action because of their participation, that NPEIV provides an opportunity for systematic change, that NPEIV brings together like-minded persons who are committed to eradicating interpersonal violence, that NPEIV has the potential to be especially effective in policy change formulation, and finally, that NPEIV provides learning opportunities about current research that is being conducted. Overall, attendees felt that NPEIV successfully balances theory with practical application and presents a unique opportunity to be a change agent. From the **Post-Think Tank Attendee Evaluations**, it is evident that NPEIV has successfully set a clear agenda and mission for the 2014-2015 year, that there is a shared understanding of research, mentoring and training needs within Action Teams, that NPEIV should continue to provide more exposure to these topics, and that we need to continue to support all collaboration and to encourage the development of interdisciplinary cooperation.

Action Team Meetings

Action Team # 1: Public Awareness

Goals

The first goal of Action Team 1 is to enhance the public awareness messages across all demographics while remaining culturally relevant and sensitive. The second goal is to develop localized strategies which include: employing a public awareness kit, continuing community outreach, endorsing and encouraging multidisciplinary approaches and alliances, hosting and participating in town-hall meetings and utilizing technological tools. Additional long-term goals in the area of technology include the use of translation into multiple languages and the use of bumper sticker contests and art challenges via image-driven social media such as Instagram, Vine, and Tumbler. The third goal is to continue to publish 6 newsletters annually on the NPEIV website.

Recommendations/Next Steps

We will develop two panels, one of media experts and one of cultural experts (preferably comprised of both regional and local experts), who will specialize in community-level outreach efforts. Additionally in alignment with this first goal, we will seek grant funding for national and regional advertising campaigns, look into possible corporate partnerships for advertisements and create a press list and public relations volunteer network to enhance organized communication through media. Second, we plan to humanize the issues by focusing messages primarily on solutions; we will promote inclusiveness and community cohesion around issues, maintain balanced public awareness content by conveying one suggestion or empowering statement for every aversive or frightening statistic, phrase, and image, and we will promote hopeful and constructive media messages in the wake of publicized crimes, tragedies, and violent disasters. The awareness kit will contain information forms and resources of local public relations firms. For outreach, we plan to visit medical offices, mental health providers, behavioral health facilities, hospitals, non-profit agencies, resource centers, educational institutions, and faith-based organizations. We will participate in and host town-hall meetings and community forums to break the silence on a local scale. Finally, we will use social network sites, twitter, and free podcasts. We will engage prominent figures on social media and strategize in our use of “hashtags” (e.g. #Destigmatize, #RealityDV, #SeeSomethingDoSomething, #SolutionsFollowAwareness) to spark dialogue and internet activity.

Action Team # 2: Training and Mentoring

Goals

Action Team 2 has three subcommittees: 1) Child Advocacy Studies Training (CAST)/Child and Adult Advocacy Studies Training (CAAST)/ChildFirst training programs, 2) Training Resources and 3) Mentoring. Each of these subcommittees identified their goals for the next year. The CAST/CAAST and Child First subcommittee is the most longstanding one and thus the most highly developed. This subcommittee will continue to implement and expand CAST/CAAST at the graduate and undergraduate levels. The Training Resources subcommittee is new to Action Team 2 and set its mission as the identification and dissemination of training resources for practical application to end interpersonal violence. Its long term objective is to develop training resources across the lifespan for audiences outside of academia. The Mentoring subcommittee is new to Action Team 2 and has set the following goals: to consider and have dialogue about which groups and/or individuals (new advocates, therapists, young faculty members) would be invaluable members of NPEIV, to continuously share NPEIV with these potential members, and then to check in regularly and mentor these new recruits as they participate on Action Teams.

Recommendations/Next Steps

CAST/CAAST will be implemented in 100 universities over the next five years, including at least two existing CAST/CAAST universities within each state. During this same five year period, we will work to implement CAST/CAAST in 25% of medical schools, law schools, and seminaries (additionally, these accredited institutions will be encouraged to complete research regarding the effectiveness of CAST). At present, an outline for a one semester, three hour CAAST course, has been completed and implementation of this course will begin at the Indiana University of Pennsylvania. This CAAST course will serve as a model for other existing CAST universities. In order to raise money for CAST/CAAST dissemination, Action Team 2 will work with Piper Dellums (United Nations Commission on Status of Women and Piper Dellums Productions) to organize a film festival to raise money and awareness for the prevention of interpersonal violence. The short term objectives that support the Training Resources Subcommittee’s goal are: to work with IVAT IT to develop an infrastructure that would allow for the posting of training resources, to survey the membership of NPEIV for categories of resources to include as searchable on the website, to identify 25 training resources from the NPEIV membership (will highlight on the website by August 2015) and to identify gaps where more training resources are needed. We will then create programs to provide this training during September 2016-September 2017. The Mentoring subcommittee will provide guidance to the above groups and/or individuals in how to

utilize and implement the steps of the *National Plan* and/or any other NPEIV projects that would benefit agencies or programs.

Action Team #3: Practice

Goals

Action Team 3 covered the theoretical policy design and implementation of the *National Plan* during their designated meeting time. This Action Team developed the following goals: to include incorporating multidisciplinary and interdisciplinary trauma-informed practices for professionally advanced trainings (“best practices” need to be adapted to include evidence-based models, collaboration between practitioner and client(s), and interdisciplinary within the context of the Social Ecological Model, which addresses vulnerability, resiliency, and culture); expanding the definition of treatment and practice, and how to better inform communities and their specific social and organizational contexts and narratives; address economic exploitation, and policies that perpetuate the offenders’ power and control dynamics that suppress the ability for their victims to leave; improve emergency room response and mandated screening for Domestic Violence, and improving evidence collection and DNA testing analysis response; and enhancing representation among demographics for pragmatic implementation within the context of the Social Ecological Model.

Recommendations/Next Steps

We need to include the Social Ecological Model that considers both multiculturalism and socioeconomic manipulation and victimization, to consider the malleability for practitioners with clients’ individualized needs, and to develop and implement an outline for how practitioners and systems will provide continuing care for survivor’s needs (and how to address institutional pushback). The next steps identified are: (a) Guidelines for Best Practices will be finalized, (b) Reaching out and collaborating with existing Clearing Houses, (c) Improving technology for sharing and communicating with members within Action Team 3, and (d) Building an initial compilation of professionals for cross-state referrals based on their training and area(s) of specialty, including a subsection for multicultural and multilingual competent professionals.

Action Team # 4: Research

Goals

Action Team 4 started with an overview of the basis for the research team and introductions of new co-chairs. The team then went on to identify their goals, and created steps to increase their efficiency. This Action Team will move forward on utilizing special issues in journals to disseminate scholarly work in the area of interpersonal violence. We will also contribute to the expansion of the *National Plan*, and work with the Translation/Dissemination Action Team with their e-bulletin, *The Violence Digest*.

Recommendations/Next Steps

The Action Team will develop subcommittees, for example, one that explores secondary data analysis options and another one looking at special issues in journals, to help facilitate progress on the team’s goals. The team is moving forward on two special issues dealing with human trafficking and sexual exploitation, and will identify other areas of research that may be appropriate for a special issue such as multicultural issues in trauma prevention and intervention. The research team has identified members who will contribute resources and information from their relative areas of expertise to the *National Plan*. The following is a list of these areas: perpetrator issues and settings like probation and prison, gang violence and at-risk youth, sexual assault, teen dating violence, child maltreatment, children exposed to violence, human trafficking, cultural diversity and interpersonal violence, vicarious trauma, intergenerational trauma and military sexual assault and family violence.

Action Team # 5: Public Policy

Goals

Action Team 5 discussed accomplishments of the group that included development and dissemination of a policy statement on the Crisis in the Family Court and establishing a process for development and approval of public policy statements. There was discussion of the importance of linkages to other action teams to comprehensively address the public policy aspects of interpersonal violence. It is also the desire of the group to promote linkages to other organizations, especially those involving survivors and their families. Action Team 5 members discussed the most recent draft of the *National Plan* with the intention to expand the document and identify issues relevant to public policy. During this meeting, it was determined that the Public Policy section of the *National Plan* should be considered a working document with a vision to define best practice and address future policy needs. Short-term goals are: (1) To ensure that all members have an understanding of the *National Plan*; (2) To expand the public policy section of the *Plan* to include topics and issues that are missing from the current document; (3) To provide Congressional and Caucus briefings on Capitol Hill on various aspects of interpersonal violence as they relate to public policy; (4) To develop a position paper and public policy statement on corporal punishment and engage stakeholders to refine and disseminate it; (5) To develop a position paper and public policy statement on sexual assault and engage stakeholders to refine and disseminate it; and (6) To develop a position paper and public policy statement on gun violence and to engage stakeholders to refine and disseminate it.

Recommendations/Next Steps

Based on these short-term goals, the following action items include: (1) To plan, coordinate, and implement Congressional and Caucus forums on Capitol Hill in order to inform policymakers about interpersonal violence issues as identified in the *National Plan*; (2) To strengthen partnerships with survivors, including greater involvement in NPEIV of organizations with a large survivor representation; (3) To identify relevant research and advocacy materials to strengthen public policy issues that can be placed on the NPEIV Website, distributed to other action teams, and disseminated using existing NPEIV communication mechanisms; (4) To set up a working group, conduct a literature review, and draft a position paper and policy statement on corporal punishment; (5) To set up a working group, conduct a literature review, and draft a position paper and policy statement on sexual assault; and (6) To set up a working group, conduct a literature review, and draft a position paper and policy statement on gun violence.

Action Team # 6: Dissemination and Translation

Goals

Action Team 6 identified the following goals: (1) Finalizing the formatting of the online, open-access, peer-reviewed e-bulletin, *Violence Research Digest*; (2) Recruiting editorial board members and reviewers; (3) Recruiting additional writers to provide content for the first several issues of the *Violence Research Digest*; (4) Publishing the first issue of the *Violence Research Digest* by the first quarter of 2015; (5) Placing a call for submissions for the *Violence Research Digest*; and (6) Developing social media around the *Digest*. Goals for the *National Plan* include: (1) To add more focus on primary prevention; (2) To acquire more feedback from the many diverse, valuable voices within NPEIV; (3) To form subcommittees for each system (e.g., medical, family, faith-based, mental health, etc.); and (4) To propose and set a deadline for a final draft (e.g., before the end of the year).

Recommendations/Next Steps

The “formatting subcommittee” will assist in formatting the *Violence Research Digest*. Then once the demonstration issue is finalized and posted online, we will recruit more editorial board members and writers. With the assistance of the new part-time NPEIV editorial assistant funded by the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the first issue will be published by the first quarter of 2015. We will develop social media (e.g.,

blog and/or podcast) to accompany *Violence Research Digest* with assistance from the new “social media subcommittee.” We believe that the *National Plan* has a wide scope and with exception of child maltreatment, needs more depth in other forms of violence. Thus, additional information and research is needed for other areas of interpersonal violence in the national plan to make it more comprehensive.

The next face-to-face meeting of the annual Think Tank will take place August 22, 2015, just before the 20th *International Training & Summit on Violence, Abuse, & Trauma* in San Diego, CA. There, members will discuss the achievements, finalization of the *National Plan*, and next steps for implementing the *National Plan* and of the working action teams; additionally they will evaluate the progress and areas in need of support or of restructuring.