



Sacramento Youth Violence Prevention Collective

Value Statements

Background

The impact of COVID-19 pandemic set the stage for global pandemics of economic crisis, racism and mental health. During this uncertain time, the Youth Violence Prevention Collective has continued to meet monthly to discuss, share, and process these events. The focus of our meetings is to build relationships; integrate healing approaches to trauma and recognize that each participant brings a unique and valuable voice to the discussion table. At our June meeting, Collective members agreed to create a Values Statement that reaffirms our collective work, addressing violence and creating positive environments for youth to thrive.

Since the murder of George Floyd, the Collective is united in affirming our shared values and our commitment to the power of 'relational activism.' This form of activism is based on the notion that a commitment to building strong relationships across sectors as well as a desire to avoid being paralyzed by recalcitrant, complex social problems can compassionately change the systems we touch.

Collective Values

Building a Power Neutral Space where Engagement is not Based on Position or Title

- We seek to build a 'table' at which anyone can sit where all lives have inherent worth with none being more valuable than another.
- We seek to create, cultivate and share safe emotional and psychological spaces for traditionally conflicting power structures to find common ground around critical social justice and public safety issues.

Youth-Centered

- We are dedicated to healing-centered engagement that helps youth better cope with past trauma and become better collaborators in order to reduce violence perpetrated against, or by Sacramento Youth.

Dismantling Racism By Standing Together

- We agree that one of the strategies for dismantling systemic racism is coming together to build relationships in which people, who systemic racism often places at odds with each other, can learn each other's story and come to see and appreciate each other's humanity.
- We agree that violence in all forms cannot be substantially reduced without simultaneously dismantling historical and present-day systems of racism that affect communities of color.

Courageous Conversations

- We agree that we must, as a collective and as a community, acknowledge the racist and oppressive history of government services and have difficult, honest conversations about our personal experiences and strong solutions which will transform oppressive practices.
- We agree that our unique perspectives must be respected because our personal and professional growth depends on our ability to understand and value in all perspectives, particularly those with which we do not agree.

Residents Know the Solutions

- We believe that residents have the most accurate understanding of the sources of violence in their neighborhood and are best equipped to provide realistic solutions for reducing violence in the community.

About the Sacramento Youth Violence Prevention Collective

In the fall of 2014, the Health Education Council (HEC) was awarded a three-year grant from the Department of Health and Human Services Office of Minority Health (OMH) and the Department of Justice Office of Community Oriented Policing Services. The program was aimed at supporting innovative approaches in public health and violence prevention to increase access to public health services and reduce higher rates of minority youth violence for at-risk, minority male youth. The national initiative included six key outcomes:

Outcome 1 – Improved coordination, collaboration, and linkages among state and/ or local law enforcement, public health, social services and private entities to address youth violence and crime prevention.

Outcome 2 – Improved academic outcomes among MYVP participants.

Outcome 3 – Reduction in negative encounters with law enforcement.

Outcome 4 – Increased access to public health and/or social services.

Outcome 5 – Reduction in community violence and crimes perpetrated by minority youth.

Outcome 6 – Reduction in violent crimes against minority youth.

The Sacramento Minority Youth Violence Prevention Collective was formed from existing partnerships with Sacramento institutions and community-based organizations. HEC and partners developed a common agenda, which includes the mission and vision for a violence-free Sacramento. It was decided the group would use a Collective Impact approach to addressing violence perpetrated by, or against, youth. Health Education Council serves as the backbone organization behind the Collective Impact structure, and is responsible for the continuous communication among members through listserv of over 100 key partner contacts including: law enforcement; school districts; hospital systems; health

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departments; community-based organizations; faith organizations; universities and others. HEC is also responsible for organizing monthly convening and providing space for partners to share solutions, initiatives, and insight to help reduce violence in Sacramento.

In 2019, the name of the Collective changed Youth Violence Prevention Collective (YVPC), and after years of collaborating and engaging in mutually reinforcing activities the key outcomes were revised to include:

1. Improve coordination, collaboration, and linkages among agencies that serve minority youth and their families.
2. Support traumatized minority youth with direct care and case coordination.
3. Increase academic and career opportunities for minority youth to reduce crime and community violence.
4. Foster supportive, culturally competent learning environments.
5. Increase access to public health and/or social services for minority youth and their families.
6. Foster positive encounters between law enforcement and the communities they serve.

However, the YVPC mission remains the same as we are committed to developing a true web of support of violence prevention and intervention strategies that integrate law enforcement, education, public health, social services, and community-based organizations.

Name (Organization)

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