



Macomb County Domestic Violence Prevention Plan

A product of the Macomb Community Domestic
Violence Council

Our partners: Turning Point, Beaumont Hospitals and The
Macomb Intermediate School District

10/23/2009

A vision without a task is a dream. A task without a dream is drudgery. But a vision with a task can change the world.

- Attributed to Black Elk

The Vision

Imagine a world without domestic violence. In early 2009, three of us sat in a room with the bold idea that Macomb County was ready to imagine a world without domestic violence. We began to dream and to invite others to join us along the way. As our vision became reality through the completion of tasks and the companionship of like-minded community members, we realized that Macomb County is brave enough and capable enough to change the world. *A Day to End Domestic Violence: The Macomb County Prevention Summit* was born.

By the summer of 2009, our vision had presenting agencies (Turning Point and The Macomb Community Domestic Violence Council), a sponsor (Beaumont Hospitals), administrative support (The Macomb Intermediate School District) and an expert keynote speaker (Rebecca Cline of the Ohio Domestic Violence Network). As our vision gained momentum and credibility, we knew we needed more help to produce an event worthy of our dream. We put out a call for partners, and got a resounding answer from our community.

Our cadre of Prevention Advisory Partners dug into their rolodexes and used their social capital to bring more people to our table. The Macomb County Prevention Plan needed buy-in from all sectors – government, healthcare, social services, education, criminal justice and the general community. The Prevention Advisory Partners made it possible for us to reach people representing all of these groups and gave the planning committee essential input to the creation of our workshops and promotional materials. We knew that *A Day to End Domestic Violence: The Macomb County Prevention Summit* would only be as successful as the passion in the people present. Through our Prevention Advisory Partners we reached deeply into our community to recruit a diverse, committed and knowledgeable set of individuals ready to bring a prevention paradigm shift to Macomb County.

A Day to End Domestic Violence: The Macomb County Prevention Summit

On October 23, 125 community members from Macomb County and surrounding areas gathered to change the state of domestic violence in Macomb County. Rebecca Cline, Prevention Programs Director at the Ohio Domestic Violence Network gave us a primer in Prevention Science. Through her work, we came to some common understandings from which we created our domestic violence prevention plan.

Common Understandings

- Domestic violence is: “a **pattern of behavior** in which one intimate partner uses physical violence, coercion, threats, intimidation, isolation and emotional, sexual or economic abuse to control and change the behavior of the other partner” -- *Mary Ann Dutton, psychologist, law school professor, expert in domestic violence*
- Prevention can be **Tertiary long-term responses** *after* sexual or intimate partner violence has occurred to deal with the lasting consequences of violence with indicated populations; **Secondary immediate responses** *after* sexual or intimate partner violence has occurred to deal with the short-term consequences with indicated populations; or **Primary approaches** that take place *before* sexual or intimate partner violence has occurred to prevent initial perpetration or victimization with universal or selected populations.
- Prevention can be delivered through **Universal Approaches:** *are applied to everyone within the population without regard to their differences in the risk of becoming a victim or perpetrator of violence* or **Selected Approaches:** *are applied only to individuals and groups at enhanced risk of violence.*
- Our prevention work must aim to end the perpetration of domestic violence. For every victim there is a perpetrator. Unless we work to end perpetration of domestic violence we will never end victimization
- Successful prevention work either reduces risk factors for perpetration or increases protective factors against perpetration. Some **risk factors for perpetration of domestic violence** include *a need for power and control in relationships; exposure to violence (all types across the social ecological model and across the lifespan); peer norms related to aggression and dominance; general tolerance of abuse and violence; and lack of strong sanctions for perpetrators of sexual and intimate partner violence.* Some **protective factors against perpetration of domestic violence** include *personal belief in the positive value of, and commitment to, caring, equality, and social justice; presence of skills to experience healthy sexuality and engage in healthy relationships; parents, adult authority figures, and peers of diverse backgrounds model and teach positive interpersonal relationships across diverse populations; diverse people are engaged within their communities in activities promoting healthy relationships and healthy sexuality; and ensuring accountability and expectations of people to interact respectfully is a fundamental part of life.*
- Prevention programs should be: population based, comprehensive, multi-leveled or layered, saturate rather than sprinkle; and use the principles of effective prevention

Disciplinary Visioning

We broke into disciplinary groups to brainstorm ideas of what a world without domestic violence could look like, and what kind of efforts we could make within our fields towards that end.

- Peaceful communities are not an accident; they are born from purposeful community involvement to promote relationships of equality and respect for all people in all ways.
- Responses to domestic violence from the criminal justice system should be uniform, swift and firm. Victimless prosecution should be utilized and the MCDVC Domestic Violence Protocol for Law Enforcement should be implemented county-wide.
- Domestic violence education should start early and continue throughout the lifetime with a consistent model/curriculum. Starting in early childhood education and continuing through post divorce and parenting classes, provide consistent information about healthy relationships based on equality and respect.
- Educational institutions should utilize the expertise and relationships at all levels to communicate messages of equality and respect (administrators, teachers, counselors, peers, hall monitors, bus drivers, food service workers, parents, etc.) and to create a response/crisis team that includes a wide range of support from inside and outside of the school.
- Increased parent involvement in schools as a way to model healthy relationships and teach others to take a stand (ex: model after Men Of Strength Clubs).
- Healthcare can model healthy relationships by treating patients with respect, be in the moment with patient, implementing patients into their plan of care with ongoing consent.
- Healthcare settings should screen for perpetration of domestic violence as well as victimization; and consistently utilize appropriate interventions.
- All disciplines can communicate that healthy relationships are a choice; healthy choices lead to healthy consequences, healthy relationships can be created through small, attainable choices.

Interdisciplinary Planning

Utilizing the *Spectrum of Prevention* created by the Prevention Institute, we divided from our disciplinary groups to create prevention goals that utilized interdisciplinary knowledge and approaches. The *Spectrum of Prevention* guided our sessions by anchoring each group to one level of planning or social change. The levels include: influencing policy and legislation; changing organizational practices; fostering coalitions and networks; educating providers; promoting community education; and strengthening individual knowledge and skills.

Each group made a final goal to be included in the Macomb County Prevention Plan. Their brainstorming efforts and general ideas are included here:

- Teaching professionals and community members skills for having and role modeling healthy intergenerational relationships, appropriate relationship boundaries, speaking out against domestic violence and positive peer relationships.
- Creating a community will, respect and courage to promote interventions that can end domestic violence.
- Collaborate across departments and organizations to minimize gaps and promote the coordination of referrals. Example: Courts and schools could set up a relationship to respond to children with batterers as parents.
- Offer media literacy training for kids and parents.
- Engage men.
- Include domestic violence, healthy relationships and more in the continuing education for all professionals. Send the message to professionals that see survivors: “This is my job, but it is her life.”
- Perform a grassroots evaluation of what survivors need via a formal evaluation form that includes alternate phone and contact and permission to release.

The Tasks that Will Change the World

The Macomb County Prevention Plan

In the end, each interdisciplinary group chose one or two goals to support and offer to the larger group as their plank of The Macomb County Domestic Violence Prevention Plan. The groups placed these ideas in a SMART (Specific, Measurable, Achievable, Realistic and Time-based format) so that we are able to measure our success at meeting these goals.

- Influencing policy and Legislation
 - Reach out to all prevention coalitions by the end of 2010 for the purpose of working together in collaboration building capacity and leveraging resources.
 - By the end of 2010, build capacity inside District Courts to develop connectivity between district courts at all levels of law enforcement, prosecution, probation, and the judiciary with the 85% of all district courts reporting an increased understanding of other district court’s internal policies and protocols.
- Changing Organizational Practices

- By June 2010, the MCDVC will create a planning taskforce for a Macomb County Domestic Violence Response Team. The intent of the DVRT is to provide survivors with the support of an advocate during her/his criminal justice experience for access to resources, safety planning and ensure proper documentation at the scene
- Fostering Coalitions and Networks
 - By October 2010, we will offer a pilot program to one middle school including
 - 1 session per week for 6 weeks for all students to identify the symptoms of power and control in their relationships as they grow; followed by
 - 6 weeks for high risk students with self-control problems with male facilitated mentoring and small groups.
 - By October 2010, we will have a roundtable discussion with members of the Macomb County faith community
 - By October 2010, the MCDVC will bring the “dating play” group back to Macomb County
- Educating Providers
 - By October 2011, the Prevention Committee of the MCDVC will work with existing CEU training providers for nurses, doctors, teachers and social workers to include a curriculum on intervention and role modeling healthy relationships.
 - By October 2011, the Prevention Committee of the MCDVC will develop a curriculum model on intervention and role modeling healthy relationships and offer to Macomb County higher education providers.
- Promoting Community Education
 - We will distribute healthy relationship posters to churches, schools and community centers in 5 districts of Macomb County by Dec 2010
- Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills
 - By October, 2010, we will train 20 persons representing 20 professions (from fields such as teachers, students, CPS workers, judges, police officers, hair stylists, food service workers, and child care workers) to be peer ambassadors with knowledge in domestic violence awareness and available resources to advocate within their professions on domestic violence awareness and resources.

What's Next?

Now that we have a plan to end domestic violence in Macomb County, the MCDVC will work with our partners to implement the plan, and to keep building our community capacity for domestic violence prevention. This work will be done through the Prevention subcommittee of the MCDVC, and you are encouraged to join our work.

For more information about this report, domestic violence prevention or the Macomb Community Domestic Violence Council, please contact:

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Appendix A: Prevention Advisory Partners

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Sue Coats, Turning Point

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Judy Hartwell, Office of Representative Sandy
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Irene Kepler, Macomb County Commissioner

Debra Langkam, L'Anse Creuse Public Schools

Elizabeth Lenhard, Warren Woods Public
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Tim Wiley, New Baltimore Police
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Monique Williams, MDOC Circuit
Probation

Lynette Wright, Department of Human
Services

Barbara Zimmer, North Macomb Vicariate

* *Planning committee member*

Appendix B: Further Reading

- <http://www.vawnet.org> click on “prevention and education” under Domestic Violence and follow the links to browse or read (recommended reading: *A Prevention Primer for Domestic Violence: Terminology, Tools, and the Public Health Approach*)
- [Http://www.preventconnect.org](http://www.preventconnect.org)
- <http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secProjects/prevention.html> Virginia’s Guidelines for the Primary Prevention of Sexual Violence & Intimate Partner Violence is published by the Virginia Sexual & Domestic Violence Action Alliance.
- *What Works in Prevention: Principles of Effective Prevention Programs* by Maury Nation in *American Psychologist* 449 June/July 2003. Vol. 58, No. 6/7, 449–456