

# Healthy Families – Family Health Action Team Weekly Meeting

## Meeting Minutes

Monday, April 25, 2022

Present: Kenneth Fowlkes, Mary O’Dowd, Tim Woody, John Nardi, Theresa Daniels, Kathryn Corpuz, Maria Baron  
Guests: Chiara Sabina, Gabrielle Gault, Julia Cusano, Sarah McMahon  
Next meeting: Monday, May 2, 2022

### 1. Summary

- During this meeting, we had guest participants join us from Rutgers Center for Research on Ending Violence.
- Sarah McMahon noted that their work includes conducting research on issues related to interpersonal violence and conducting education and training on these issues. Some of this work is specific to NJ and some is beyond the scope of NJ.
- Domestic violence mitigations can be delivered to varying audiences (e.g., survivors, people who committed these offences) and it can have different focuses (e.g., prevention).
- There are arrest policies for domestic violence – varies per state. One thing to consider is if these policies affect people in equitable ways.
- For NJ’s context, there are progressive laws about gun violence.
- There are several unintended consequences with impacts on certain groups. So, there needs to be an understanding that addressing issues about domestic violence needs to be nuanced and there should be an intersectionality approach to get a better sense of how different groups are affected by policies.
- Dr. Sabina described her work:
  - Her focus is on Latinx populations. She has also conducted 3 national studies that assessed the level of violence and victimization within this population. She also looked at the immigrant impact on these experiences and how to implement culturally appropriate interventions.
  - Other topic areas and questions that her work seeks to address:
    - Help-seeking responses
    - Access to formal services
    - Language access
    - Improve understanding of different cultures and bringing different audiences into the service delivery model
    - For programs that are focused more on the individual level, how can these be adapted to work for the wider population?
    - How can we include community members in starting a dialogue around these issues and having support within their local communities?
    - Where are points of intervention? How can we get people to come to these services? What about retention into these programs?

- There needs to be an understanding that there are also differences between immigrants vs. non-immigrants, home countries, documentation/immigration status, SES related issues, etc. It is important that we not assume one intervention or program will work for all groups.
- People's race, identity, and other identifiers affect their response to services. Therefore, we need to:
  - Work with and talk/engage with communities
  - Determine what has been effective when it comes to prevention and response (with considering race, geography, norms within communities, etc.)
- Gabrielle Gault described her work: focus is on a needs assessment for survivors of domestic violence who have disabilities
  - Conducting interviews and focus groups – spoken to survivors, clients at disability agencies, providers working with persons with disabilities (PWD)
  - There are not a lot of prevention efforts for PWDs, especially when it comes to primary prevention
  - Important to understand where there are gaps in services/programs and what are barriers for access. Additionally, there is not a one size fits all approach to programming.
- Sarah McMahon also described that there are opportunities for prevention education.
  - For example, one opportunity for meaningful integration of prevention education can be through dating violence. There is a missed opportunity to discuss prevention and response to this and related issues in high schools.
  - Sarah also mentioned a statute within the Department of Education. She'll send us more information about this.
  - We can consider a recommendation for the Department of Education to promulgate specific areas as defined by what the research tells us is lacking with current laws/statutes related to domestic violence. From there, we should consider recommending operationalization of what that statute/law means and have a policy or program focused on prevention and response.
  - Considerations for bystander and community-based/education-based interventions
  - We should also consider development of a common message or language within the education when talking about domestic violence related issues.
    - Additionally, there needs to be education – about prevention, response, and resources – for people or groups that are recognized as community resources (e.g., churches)
  - Example program – 100+ Men Against Domestic Violence
    - Has worked with places of worship to train them about what is a healthy relationship
  - When we focus on the topic of healthy relationships, there should be considerations about how to tailor it to be culturally relevant and adaptable for underserved/minority populations, LGBTQIA+ populations, etc.
- Julia Cusano also spoke about campus climate surveys.
  - One of the issues is that even though peers want to help out, at times they do not have the knowledge of how to help their peers.
  - One of the starting points is to talk about what defines healthy relationships. Seeking services also does not mean that this will initiate a report. It is important to

relay this information to students through frequent conversations. Peers should also become more aware that they don't have to be considered as the primary means for support. They can help peers by connecting them with others who are in a position to help and direct them to services/programs. This needs to also happen even for those younger than college age.

- Tailoring programs is an important consideration and ensuring it is relevant to the audiences you are targeting. To do this, start from the ground up with specific communities.
- For trainings, there is an importance to talk about patience as well. Telling victims of domestic violence to leave their partners does not lead to this actually happening. This is a process.
- Consider working with domestic violence and sexual violence coalitions in NJ

**2. Next Steps**

- Action items:

Action Item	Responsible	Timeline
Prepare notes from the meeting on 4/25/2022	Kathryna Corpuz	To be shared by next meeting on 5/2/2022
Share notes from the meeting on 4/25/22 with the team	Tim Woody	To be shared by next meeting on 5/2/2022
For follow-up with Sarah McMahon (*noted during the meeting that she can send us this information): <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Statute mentioned from the Department of Education.</li> <li>• Evidence-based curricula on healthy relationships.</li> </ul>	---	---