

PISC

PARTNERS
IN
SOCIAL
CHANGE

A Publication of the
**Sexual Assault
Prevention Resource
Center**, dedicated to
providing technical
assistance to those
engaged in sexual
violence prevention
in Washington State

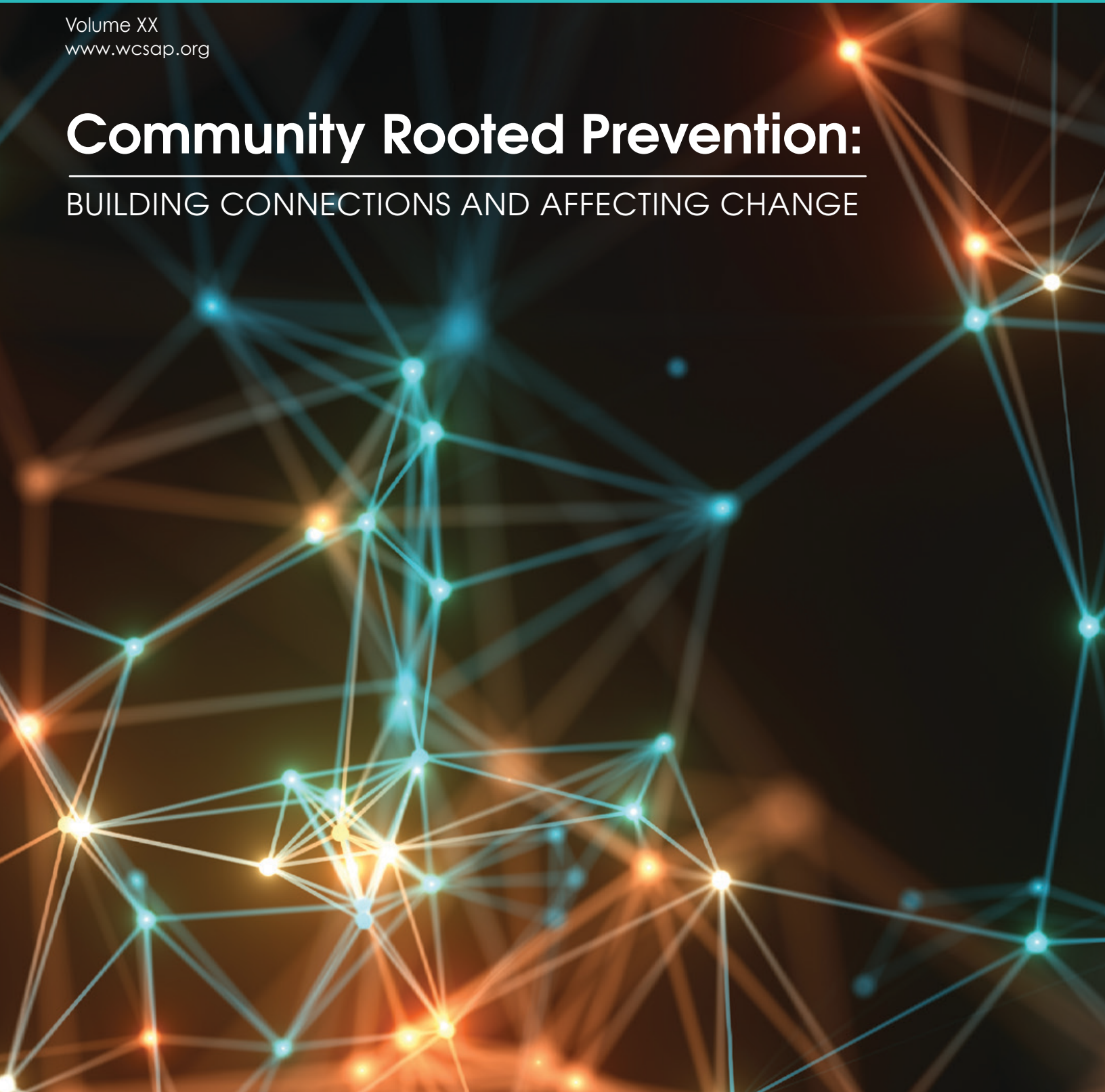
WASHINGTON COALITION OF SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS

SUMMER 2017

Volume XX
www.wcsap.org

Community Rooted Prevention:

BUILDING CONNECTIONS AND AFFECTING CHANGE



PLANT THE SEED FOR
COMMUNITY CHANGE



We're exploring what it looks like to center individuals and communities in our vision of prevention. Often the work to do this begins long before a structured prevention program ever begins – and it doesn't always end in one either. It often involves identifying stakeholders and champions, strategic planning, a long-term vision, making lots of adjustments along the way, and putting community members and community well-being at the forefront. It isn't the easiest work, but it can lead to meaningful and long-lasting relationships in the community and plant the seed for community change.

The articles in this issue of PISC provide several examples of programming that is driven by those in the community. While the programs utilize slightly different approaches and activities, there is a central theme of flexibility in the way these programs have worked with stakeholders. Some of the stories you will read are about groups just beginning their journey of social change while others describe more long-standing community approaches. Some stories describe the use of specific models, such as Community Development or Community Mobilizing, and others showcase building unique approaches to meet the needs of those they work with.

This issue of PISC begins with two different approaches, one here in Washington state and another in North Carolina, that both focus on developing leadership skills of young people. These projects challenge the idea that adult professionals have all of the answers, and instead provide training and support to young people to design the way to social change. Our next article highlights another Washington-based program that has developed several community organizing efforts that are working to ensure culturally relevant services and create social justice allies throughout the entire community. Next we jump over to Missouri and look at a birds-eye view of starting to strategically plan city-wide prevention efforts to ensure that community voices and program resources are maximized. Finally, we close this issue with Question and Answer sections to further conversations on these topics in your work.

We hope this issue will provide you with some new ideas to use in your prevention work. We welcome feedback at prevention@wcsap.org.

Cordially,

Kat Monusky, Prevention Program Coordinator
WCSAP, Prevention Resource Center



WCSAP
Washington Coalition of
Sexual Assault Programs



Volume XX
Community Rooted Prevention:
Building Connections and Affecting Change

The mission of the Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs is to unite agencies engaged in the elimination of sexual violence through education, advocacy, victim services, and social change.

The Prevention Resource Center is a project of WCSAP, designed to provide support and technical assistance to individuals, communities, and agencies engaged in sexual violence prevention within Washington State.

Partners in Social Change
is published by the WCSAP Prevention Resource Center from its office in Olympia, Washington. The focus of this publication is to present information and resources for the prevention of sexual violence, with a special emphasis on social change.

For membership information, visit www.wcsap.org.

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SUMMER 2017

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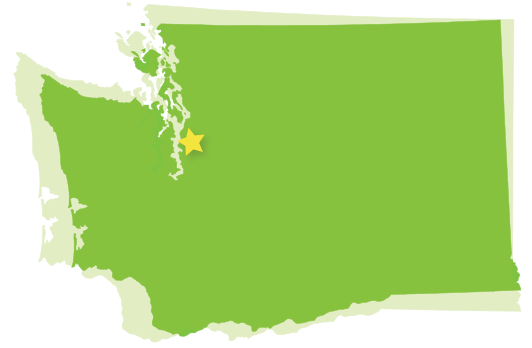
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UW Medicine

HARBORVIEW
MEDICAL CENTER

YOUTH MOBILIZED

To Prevent Sexual Violence

Rebecca Milliman
Prevention & Education Coordinator
Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress



2012, the Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress (HCSATS) received a Community Development grant from the State's Office of Crime Victims Advocacy to implement a sexual assault prevention project at Two Rivers School. Two Rivers School is a School of Choice in the Snoqualmie Valley (eastern King County, WA) serving 100 students in grades 6-12. Harborview staff initially met the faculty and principal, and after seeing the benefit of this project for the school, they allowed the project to be implemented during the school day. Students were recruited to join the leadership class, which I co-facilitated with the Two Rivers leadership teacher, Laurie Weinkauf.

Community Development is a process that transfers ownership of prevention work to the community. The process starts with gathering key stakeholders: in this case, a group of 10-15 students and a few faculty. The next step is to engage the stakeholders in a process where they identify the root, or underlying, causes of sexual violence in their community, as well as their vision for a community free of sexual violence. The community stakeholders then come up with a prevention plan, considering the needs, assets, and vision for the future of their community. They make a plan for how to measure the progress and impact of their prevention initiatives, and carry out the prevention plan. The prevention educator's role is to train stakeholders on the issue and the best practices in prevention, to help guide the process and to provide access, resources, and tools to help execute their plan.

photo caption / right
Two Rivers High School Student Muriel Woods performs her poem
'That Steals Their Innocence,' deconstructing traditional gender roles.





A series of paintings entitled 'Be the Solution' created by students to describe the social norms of their school.

Students Making Change

Over the next three years, leadership students assessed the scope of sexual harassment, bullying, and sexual assault amongst their peers and the protective factors in the community that were already in place. They administered an all-school survey to learn more about the issue. Students worked to prevent violence by raising awareness and changing attitudes, beliefs, and norms among peers and adults. The students' goal for the project and vision for Two Rivers was to create safe, respectful, and supportive relationships, and a welcoming school.

Students identified one of the underlying issues was the negative reputation that their school had in the community. Several students reported that Two Rivers was often used as a "threat" for kids if they were "being bad." Students thought that sometimes people might not feel totally safe when they first come to the school. New students might be scared, and might try to be tough and act out, because they have heard that is how kids act there. Another underlying issue was some students' attitudes that made excuses for sexual assault and a general lack of understanding of how to intervene or prevent it.

As a response, stakeholders created comprehensive initiatives to address these issues, including:

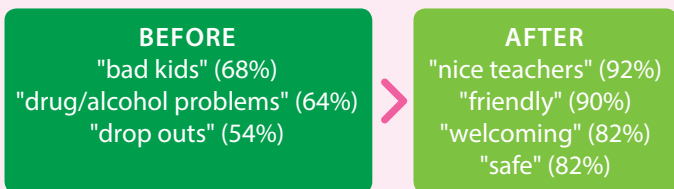
- ✓ **Creation of a mentorship program** for incoming students. Each new student who enters is offered student mentors to help them get adjusted and learn the great things about the school. Ninety-one percent of new students reported their mentor was helpful in making them feel safe and welcome at the school.
- ✓ **Production of a short documentary** called "Welcome to Two Rivers." This video has over 1900 views on YouTube, and another 2500 at community events and broadcasts. View it here: <http://bit.ly/1Kjy14V>.
- ✓ **Student presentations** at Parent Nights, Exhibitions, School Board Meetings, Local Middle Schools, and two "Be the Change" conferences for Snoqualmie Valley School District.
- ✓ **Implementation of a welcome campaign** throughout the school aimed at helping new students feel safe and welcome.
- ✓ **Production of five scenario-based videos** focused on "Harassment, Intimidation, and Bullying" using creative media including Claymation. You can the video series here: <http://bit.ly/1Mjeb5G>. The students also wrote a corresponding lesson plan which can be used in any middle school or high school. These videos have a combined 1200 views on YouTube (and many more in classroom settings) and have been used in other schools beyond Two Rivers to educate students on how to recognize and help prevent sexual assault.
- ✓ **Coordination of three large scale, all-school events** focused on sexual assault prevention: 1) a multi-media event to raise awareness of sexual assault (including live music, poetry, spoken word, and art), 2) an all-school meeting to premiere the five "Harassment, Intimidation and Bullying" videos; which will now be required for all incoming students, and lastly, 3) a culminating event to share outcomes, celebrate successes, and recognize stakeholders.

Students Seeing Change

Leadership students conducted comprehensive evaluation activities to measure the impact of the project. Some of the findings are included below to help illustrate the community-wide changes that occurred.

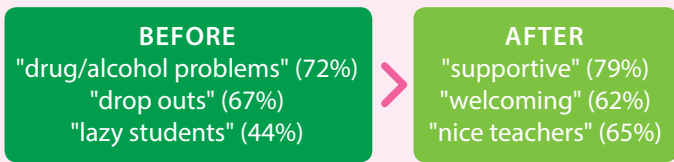
On a post-survey conducted with the student body (n=56), Two Rivers students were asked about their perceptions of the school before coming and about their opinions of the school now. These social norms undoubtedly influence the way students think about their school, talk about their school, and treat each other at the school.

Students Perceptions of the School



As discussed earlier, one of the underlying causes of sexual violence in the community identified by stakeholders was the negative perception of the school. To measure these perceptions, an online survey was given to key community members, including parents, administrators and teachers at neighboring schools, administrators and staff at the district office, school board members, and service providers (n=74). The change in the community's perception of the school indicates a significant positive shift.

Community Perceptions of the School



These perceptions likely indicate the way the community talks about the school, thus influencing the ways that prospective and new students expect the school to be.



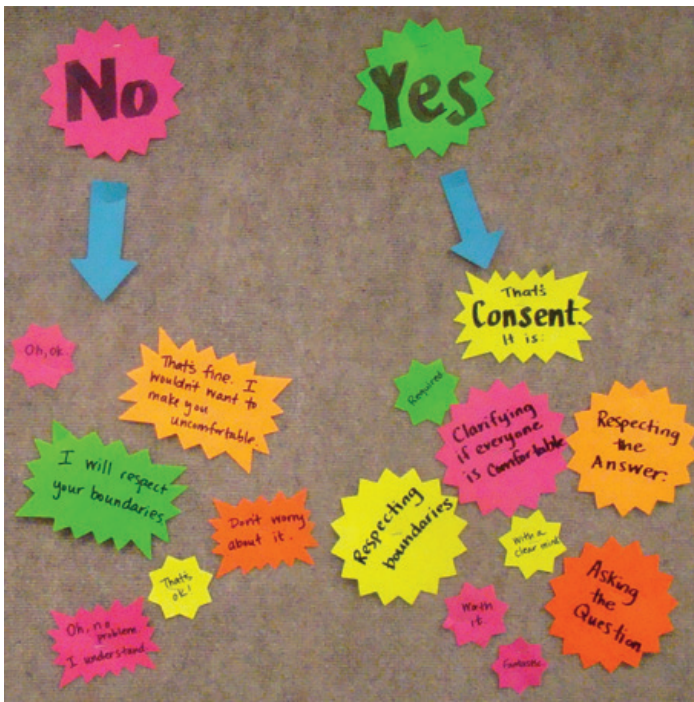
One of many posters created by leadership students to show 'how it really is' at their school.

Reflections and Lasting Effects

Aside from having a lot of fun at my job, I learned so much from my role as an advisor on this project. I learned first-hand the significant capacity of youth to generate effective prevention plans, much more than adults could come up with. I had to check my own biases at the door, especially related to my own internalized adultism and my own stereotypes about "kids in alternative school." The students I worked with were some of the most brilliant, creative, and respectful students I have ever encountered in my years of working with young people, and I was amazed at how much they were able to accomplish in three years.



That is the magic of community development with young people, creating sustainable and relevant social change.



A flow chart and script written by Two Rivers High School Student Pandora which breaks down the concept of consent in a way that is easy to understand.

Of course, working in an alternative school has its challenges. Several of the students I worked with had significant life challenges and obstacles. I found that sometimes we needed to take a step back, and address some of the barriers that they faced to attend school, which included basic needs. Another challenge was turnover amongst student stakeholders. The school had an annual 8-term system (rather than 2 semesters) and thus we would have new students join the project on a regular basis. We had to build in time every month for team building and basic training to make sure the group members were cohesive as a team, and that they were up to speed on the project.

Over the course of the project, the leadership students were empowered to propose new ideas and see themselves as leaders in the community. One student reported, "I feel like I can speak up... before being in leadership I thought that saying something wouldn't make a difference, but now I realize it does." Another leadership student stated, "Being in this project made me realize I can change my community for the better."

“ ”

I feel like I can speak up...before being in leadership I thought that saying something wouldn't make a difference, but now I realize it does.

Being in this project made me realize I can change my community for the better.

LEADERSHIP STUDENTS

The school administration and staff also saw the importance of including youth voice in decision making for the school. Although the grant project officially came to an end in June 2015, many of the new programs and initiatives at Two Rivers have continued, under the leadership of Laurie Weinkauff and the leadership students at Two Rivers School. That is the magic of community development with young people, creating sustainable and relevant social change.



Bio

Rebecca Milliman received her B.A. in Sociology from the University of Virginia and her Master of Social Work from the University of Washington. She is the Prevention and Education Coordinator at the Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress in Seattle, WA. Rebecca works with youth and adults to prevent sexual assault, promote healthy relationships, and create safer communities. She has led several successful community mobilization projects. Rebecca is a co-founder of the Violence Prevention Coalition and co-author of the F.L.A.S.H. (Family Life and Sexual Health) curriculum.



THE YOUNG ADVOCATES INSTITUTE:
**A Summer Camp
for Social Change**

Tracy Wright, Resource Sharing Project
Technical Assistance Provider/WOC Leadership
North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

The North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) is a nonprofit organization that serves as the sole statewide expertise and alliance working to end sexual assault and human trafficking through education, advocacy, and legislation. NCCASA provides prevention education, intervention resources, and public policy to end all forms of sexual assault. Our dedicated staff works with over 80 rape crisis centers across the state in addition to the military, law enforcement, college campuses, attorneys, and allied professions to create a coordinated response to sexual assault.

The Young Advocates Institute

Launched in 2012, the Young Advocates Institute is a social justice summer camp that empowers and trains 200 youth, ages 13-17, from across North Carolina during a weekend of prevention and intervention education, advocacy, and leadership development seminars. Hosted at a local university, the Institute features national speakers, peer-to-peer education, campus tours, and team building activities.

The purpose of the Young Advocates Institute is to give youth a voice, the opportunity to share their experiences regarding social justice issues, and to help them become an integral part of the solutions. Not only do young people from across North Carolina, who represent our state's rich diversity, have access to learning about violence prevention, healthy behaviors, and leadership, but they also build relationships with peers and carve out their niche in creating safer communities.

The Texas Association Against Sexual Assault had a similar statewide offering that I got to join in 2004. NCCASA hosted an exploratory one day offering in 2006 called "I AM U.S.A" (Understanding Sexual Assault) Outreach Awareness Day. The idea for the current framework of the institute lay dormant for five years until its official launch in 2012.



The connectedness to community is simple: plant the seeds for active citizenship and awareness for future leaders.

Deep Roots and Unique Approaches

Initially it was a self-act to establish the Institute, as I am a survivor of child sexual abuse and wanted to create an avenue for young people to know that their experiences were violations of a human right and also that they have access to resources and space to talk about issues impacting them and their communities. The moment the first kid stepped on the campus of North Carolina Central University in July of 2012, I transformed, and centered the young people in a way that has forever had infinite bearing on my life. They changed me and I am eternally grateful for that!

It was never by design, but the participants who have showed up for the past five years have been 95% children of color. In years 2012-2014, about 70% of those children were imbedded in some system (juvenile delinquency, child mental health agencies, and social services). The institute is rooted in exposure and creating community in two-and-a-half days. The connectedness to community is simple: plant the seeds for active citizenship and awareness for future leaders.

All content to date, has been created through a hip hop and pop culture framework. For example, you would never see a traditional workshop offering of "Sexual Assault 101." Instead you would find "Netflix and Chill," a code that identifies a date with an undertone of sexual interaction.

These unique approaches have yielded exciting results. Through the use of both pre-tests and post-tests, participants increased their understanding of sexual assault, human trafficking, and skill-set development by 80%.

The biggest struggle is the cost; it's about a \$50,000 project with only half coming from grant funds, requiring a lot of community collaboration. Our marketing budget has consistently been nothing. We are grassroots viral, meaning we send an email to anybody who works in any capacity with young people. It's been fascinating to see the interest and participation from over 3,000 community members.

Young Advocates In Action

To date, the Institute has trained 1,000 students through 60 course offerings of social justice issues and leadership development themed content. An additional 300 students and staff at youth serving organizations have been trained outside of the Institute. The Institute also creates a pipeline of participants who are transitioning to the advisory council, interns, and volunteer camp counselors

Some of the highlights of what has developed from the Institutes include:

- ◆ Fifty participants became published authors in NCCASA's first book "Who Am I?"
- ◆ Students have created assessment tools, hosted focus groups and surveyed over 150 of their peers. This qualitative research has served as the framework for the coursework of the Young Advocates Institute.
- ◆ In 2016, the Young Advocates Institute was invited and presented at the first White House State of Women Summit.
- ◆ Beginning in 2017, the Young Advocates Institute-South, a byproduct of the NCCASA's Young Advocates Institute, will launch in Jackson, Mississippi.

The impacts of the Institute are being recognized in local communities, across the state, and even nationally. But what makes a really big impression is hearing from the families involved in the Institute:

"My children have been greatly impacted by the Institute. Recently, my daughter gave a speech on her thoughts around the movie Selma. She talked about the impact of racism, civil rights and how she wanted to be a leader for her generation. These are things that I know were instilled in her during the three years she has been an Institute participant."

Our greatest next steps are to continue with a bold offering that prepares our participants for the world before them whether good or bad.

Bio



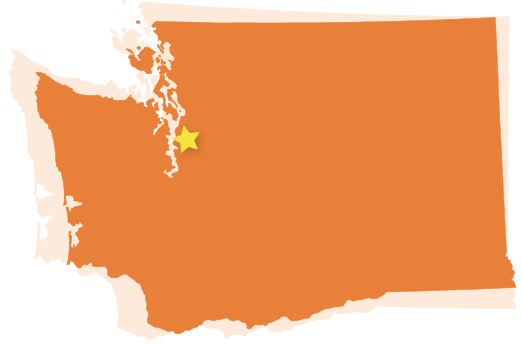
Tracy Wright is the Technical Assistance Provider and Women of Color Leadership Project Coordinator with the North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA) for the National Resource Sharing Project. Her current work provides technical assistance and training to 16 state and territorial sexual assault coalitions. In this capacity, Tracy works with national entities to create a coordinated response to ending sexual violence, addresses emerging issues and carves out initiatives specifically for women of color in the anti-sexual violence movement.

Ms. Wright holds a BA in Mass Communications from Shaw University and a Masters of Science in Print Journalism from Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University. She was also a graduate of the North Carolina Center for Women in Public Service Summer Institute and in 2010 participated in the America's Leaders of Change Development Initiative, a competitive cohort of nonprofit leaders across the country sponsored by National Urban Fellows and Walmart Foundation.

Most recently, Ms. Wright was invited to the White House by the Office of the Vice President and the White House Council on Women and Girls, to be a part of a high-level strategy meeting on domestic violence and sexual assault with varied corporations.

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API Chaya

Supporting Survivors,
Strengthening Communities

BUILDING POWER:

Community Organizing within an API Framework

Angeli Bhatt
Community Organizer, Anti-Sexual Assault Advocate, Prevention Specialist
API Chaya



API Chaya we work to build power primarily in Asian, South Asian, and Asian Pacific Islander communities that have been impacted by domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. We lead with a rooted understanding of challenges survivors face in seeking services, and a deeply held belief that our communities are key partners in building a world free of violence and oppression.



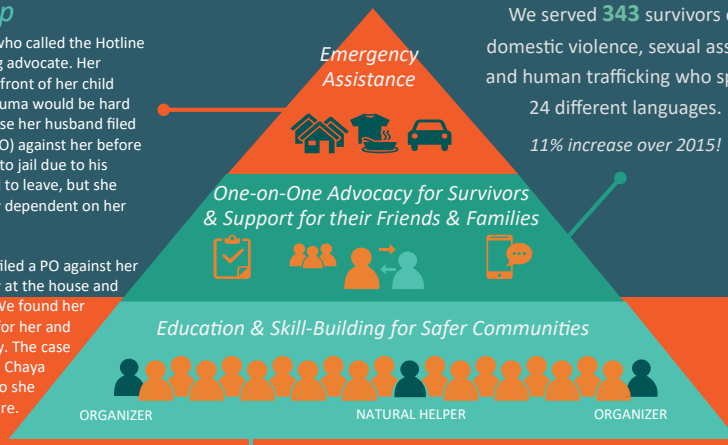
A Story of Survivorship

Last year, API Chaya helped a woman who called the Hotline requesting an Urdu or Punjabi speaking advocate. Her husband had violently assaulted her in front of her child three days before. Dealing with the trauma would be hard enough, but she was also scared because her husband filed a police report and protection order (PO) against her before she could file, in fear that he would go to jail due to his criminal history. The PO stated she had to leave, but she had no resources as she was financially dependent on her husband.

The next day, her API Chaya advocate filed a PO against her husband requesting she be able to stay at the house and keep their car—and it was approved! We found her community resources to provide food for her and her child as well as a pro-bono attorney. The case was dismissed against her and now API Chaya is helping her enroll in English classes so she can get a job and put her child in daycare. Now, she has increased safety and confidence to work on creating a better life for herself and her child.



2016 Snapshot



We served **343** survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking who speak 24 different languages.
11% increase over 2015!

In 2016 we reached more than **9,800** community members through our Community Organizing programs and events.
9% increase from 2015!

Community Organizing to End Violence

API Chaya was founded in community organizing. Mainstream organizations didn't serve the needs of immigrant survivors, and going to the police wasn't a viable option for many. As such, resources were built by and for the people most impacted.

Community organizing isn't just about educating people, or protesting in and of itself. It's really about shifting the conditions that make violence and oppression possible in the first place. Community organizing also allows us to quickly respond to emergent needs, as our landscape is ever evolving and changing. This work can look a lot of different ways. Some examples from our work are highlighted on the following page.



It's really about shifting the conditions that make violence and oppression possible in the first place. Community organizing also allows us to quickly respond to emergent needs, as our landscape is ever evolving and changing.





Natural Helpers Trainings

We recognize that in times of crisis folks are more likely to turn to the people around them (such as friends, family, faith leader, hairdresser), than they would to call an anti-violence agency. Couple this with coming from marginalized identities, and it can be all the harder to reach out to someone who you don't know or trust. The Natural Helper Training was created with the intention of linking bilingual community members who are connected to those surviving violence, to our services. In return, we provide folks with a basic framework on domestic violence, sexual assault, human trafficking, and community organizing. We hold these monthly trainings, now known as the "Community Education Series" the fourth Wednesday of every month. For folks who have gone through all four trainings, we invite them to become a "Natural Helper," which involves more individualized leadership development and support. Through training community members, we are able to reach out to people we otherwise wouldn't, and cultivate long term strategies that can live beyond our organization.



Peaceful Families Taskforce

The Peaceful Families Taskforce came out of a need from community members and volunteers to address domestic violence more deeply within Muslim communities. The Peaceful Families Taskforce continues to engage and partner with local organizations such as the Muslim Association of Puget Sound (MAPS) through developing workshops and materials that speak specifically to the Muslim community, trainings for imams on how to respond to incidents of domestic violence, and collaborating with partner agencies to hold legal clinics and other related events.



Through training community members, we are able to reach out to people we otherwise wouldn't, and cultivate long term strategies that can live beyond our organization.



Bonds of Kinship: Strengthening Intergenerational Communication

Many youth that we have worked with identified feeling affirmed and supported through our programs. However, this is often tempered by feelings of disconnection from their parents, especially as they enter high school. Some challenges youth expressed came from different expectations and norms for young people and older generations, parents and elders working long hours and not being able to connect with the young people in their lives, and trauma experienced from migrating to the United States. Youth expressed a strong desire to be able to connect with elders, but were at a loss on how to do that.

We are in the process of launching classes aimed at strengthening intergenerational relationships so that parents, caregivers, and mentors feel adequately supported to be a resource to the young person they're connected to, and so that young people feel like they can reach out to them especially when they need it. We will be partnering once again with MAPS, as well as Beacon United Methodist Church to put on these classes in the fall. Receiving feedback from young people throughout piloting and developing curriculum has and will continue to be imperative.



Supporting Survivors of Sexual Assault: RISE!

Many survivors of sexual assault and abuse have expressed that one of the most profound spaces of healing and transformation for them have been through connecting with other survivors who have gone through similar challenges, finding their voice, and speaking out.

In 2014 survivors from the Creative Arts Healing Group, a support group for survivors of sexual assault and abuse, and community members from Dish, a group for API women who get together to talk about sex and sexuality on their terms, put on a mixed media showcase highlighting narratives of survivorship from sexual violence. The performance was entitled “RISE: The Power to Speak the Unspeakable.” Community members and performers alike expressed a strong desire to continue to build with one another, and create art.

Since then survivors meet regularly to host at their homes, facilitate an activity and share food. It is our hope to possibly put on another mixed media showcase, publish a zine, and/or continue to develop leadership from and for survivors.

Trusting the Community

As providers, our goal is not to tell survivors what to do, but rather meet them where they are at, and support them in making decisions for themselves. Community organizing takes this fundamental idea and expands it.

- ◆ What are the things the community you serve wants and needs?
- ◆ How can you build alliances with them for shared goals?

As providers it is important that we leverage our power to not only make services more accessible, but to also support folks in becoming self-advocates. Through these steps, together, we can move closer to a just and equitable world free of violence and oppression.



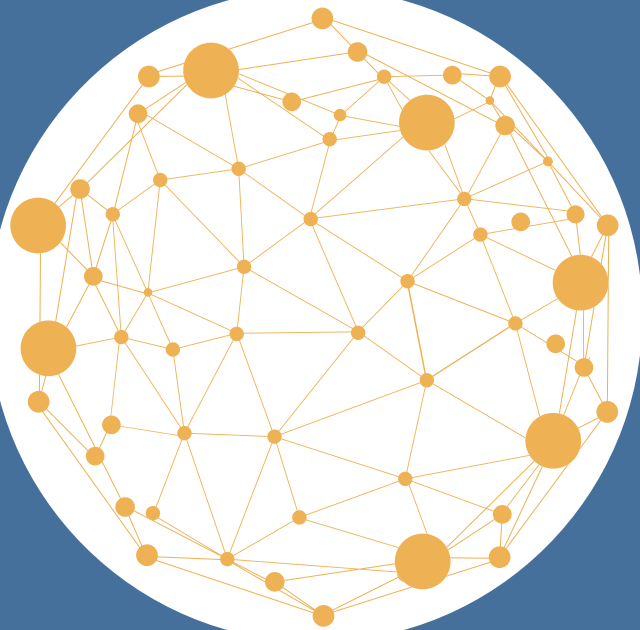
Together, we can move closer to a just and equitable world free of violence and oppression.

Bio



Angeli Bhatt is a queer and disabled community organizer and anti-sexual assault advocate with API Chaya. They have been working and organizing in the anti-violence movement for almost two decades. They enjoy playing tabla (drums) with friends, reading, and eating all of the Nutella.

To learn more about the Community Organizing at API Chaya please visit: <https://www.apichaya.org/community-organizing-and-education/>



WHAT'S PUBLIC HEALTH Got to Do With It?

Matthew Huffman
Prevention Director
Missouri Coalition Against Domestic Sexual Violence

Communities are healthier and stronger when they work together. That's why communities are vital in the development of prevention strategies. The public health approach to sexual violence prevention encourages community-centered approaches, taking the onus off individuals and breaking down organizational silos. Recently a group of prevention specialists, advocates, and educators met in Kansas City to discuss the role public health plays in sexual violence prevention.



Communities are healthier and stronger when they work together. That's why communities are vital in the development of prevention strategies.



The Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence (MCADSV), a sister coalition to WCSAP, has a mission to unite Missourians around a shared value that rape and abuse must end. We advance this mission through our core services: research, education, alliance, and public policy. One example of how MCADSV incorporates these services into work with our member programs is at regional meetings. Regional meetings provide an opportunity for MCADSV staff and members to meet and learn from one another. Information from a regional survey indicated that programs in Kansas City wanted more education on prevention—but what exactly did that mean?

Much of the current violence prevention language, models, and research come from the public health community. If you aren't a public health nerd, complicated models and jargon-heavy research briefs can be off-putting and muddle the role public health plays in preventing violence. Staff at MCADSV work hard to translate the best available research into practical and manageable tools that can help support local efforts. This was the core objective MCADSV staff used to frame the discussion at the Kansas City regional meeting. Melanie

Austin, Director of Education at the Metropolitan Organization to Counter Sexual Assault (MOCSA) in Kansas City, reiterated this as she provided insight for the meeting, "Following public health principles is important to providing effective programming, identifying gaps in service, and affecting change on both the individual and community level."

We began the conversation by acknowledging that work to prevent sexual violence has been built on a strong foundation of survivor-centered support services and community awareness of the scope of the problem. We also acknowledged that no single person, organization, or sector can do this work on its own. By involving multiple partners and working across sectors, comprehensive prevention approaches can reach more people than education alone. It is public health, in fact, that gives us the tools to explore the conditions that create an environment where sexual violence occurs. Grounding our work to prevent violence in a survivor-centered approach, better allows us to honor social change work of the past while we continue to move forward in preventing violence from occurring in the first place.

Mapping Prevention

Kansas City is the largest city in Missouri, so developing comprehensive, community-centered prevention plans can seem overwhelming. Even the word "community" can be defined differently based on the person you ask. For the purposes of this regional meeting, we decided to let participating organizations define community for themselves based on their targeted populations and the geographic areas they serve. Participants from five organizations engaging in prevention and education work across the greater Kansas City area began sharing their current efforts.

Organizations already know what prevention strategy is going to be the best fit for their desired program. Prevention staff can often feel siloed though, so potential allies might know the broad strokes, but miss the details of what others are doing. This conversation intentionally included how these efforts incorporate the Nine Principles of Prevention, highlighting when efforts pay close attention to principles like varied teaching methods, developmentally appropriate activities, and sufficient dosage. We listed each organization's prevention efforts on flip chart paper, and lined the walls so each organization could see what others are doing and where.

What we found is that programs were overlapping in their prevention programming, often without knowing they're working with the same organization or school. After listing everyone's current prevention efforts we used the spectrum of prevention to determine where each organization's prevention activities fall. By using the spectrum of prevention as a tool for strategic planning, we were able to efficiently evaluate if there is an abundance of interventions at certain levels while there are gaps at other levels.

Putting It All Together

So what does this mean for the decision making process on the ground? As staff from MOCSA pointed out, "We currently run a community-based coalition that is looking at creating a violence prevention plan for the community and also looking at how to incorporate environmental changes to prevent violence in the community. Utilizing the Public Health Approach can enhance efforts between community partners because it allows us to identify shared risk and protective factors to prevent violence. It also allows us to identify gaps in service and encourages future collaboration efforts over identified needs." Using these public health tools to map prevention efforts across Kansas City gave participants specific takeaways— by knowing one another's efforts, organizations can better implement their own strategies by reinforcing consistent messages across programs. Just as important, organizations could identify community stakeholders who also needed to be at the table informing these efforts.

Similar to doing a community assessment, the process of mapping prevention efforts and evaluating areas for growth is a process that can easily allow coordinated efforts to be more robust—similar to a coordinated community response, but for prevention. A key takeaway for others interested in this process is to maintain communication. This meeting was intended to be the beginning of a conversation. Breaking down organizational silos and maximizing prevention efforts takes commitment and patience. Varying schedules and workloads, along with staff turnover are common barriers to collaboration. Even sharing information between community partners via a shared Google Calendar and Doc is an easy way to make sure these efforts are more sustainable and unified.

Bio



Matthew Huffman is the Prevention Director at the Missouri Coalition Against Domestic & Sexual Violence. He joined the staff in 2012 as a Program Development Specialist with a focus on prevention programming. Matthew has experience in community organizing and education, policy, and program development. He has developed programs on engaging men in prevention efforts, Title IX implementation, and sexual health promotion. He gained valuable experience at True North in Columbia, first as a shelter advocate and then as a youth outreach coordinator.

QUESTION OPPRESSION



Exploring the Connections Between Sexual Violence & Oppression

Use these questions to explore the connections between sexual violence and oppression with staff, volunteers, or board members. Try discussing one or more at a staff meeting, in-service, volunteer training, or board retreat.

How can your program build relationships with diverse members of the community to engage them as important partners, not just recipients, in prevention?

Who in your community may be left out of traditionally structured prevention programs? Are there ways to change the programs or is it better to create new programs with those communities?

So much of our prevention work focuses on youth. How do we challenge internalized adultism or ageist practices in order to facilitate truly youth-driven prevention initiatives? How do we intentionally let go of power and trust a youth-led process?

PREVENTION RESOURCES



WCSAP members have access to check out our library materials through the mail. Browse the catalog online! Questions can be directed to library@wcsap.org.



The Community Toolbox

<http://ctb.ku.edu/en>

The Community Tool Box is a free, online resource for those working to build healthier communities and bring about social change. It offers resources about community assessment, planning, intervention, evaluation, advocacy, and other aspects of community practice.



Community Development

<http://www.wcsap.org/community-development>

The community development process emphasizes the importance of engaging community stakeholders in the work to end sexual violence. WCSAP has several resources that provide information and give examples about this approach to prevention. Including web pages, magazines, and an online course.



**WASHINGTON COALITION OF
SEXUAL ASSAULT PROGRAMS**

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End Sexual Violence in our Communities

PISC is *your* magazine.
We'd love to
hear from you!

PISC
is *your* magazine.

We invite guest authors to submit pieces on a variety of topics, and welcome your submissions on prevention approaches, media reviews, and creative work like original art or poetry.

We would also like to feature highlights of your agency and the prevention work you are doing.

Direct submissions to
prevention@wcsap.org