



Violence Free West Allis Newsletter

November 2018

Issue #4

Thank you to all the stakeholders of West Allis and West Milwaukee who are passionate about being engaged and involved in the Cardiff Model translation. The purpose of this newsletter is to continue to update you on our progress.

Next Meeting December 13, 2018!

The next meeting of the Violence Free West Allis Collaborative (VFWAC) will be held on **Thursday**, December 13th. The meeting will be held in the Constitution Room of the West Allis Public Library, 7421 W. National Avenue, West Allis, WI. Hopefully the construction on National Avenue will be done and access will be easier. The meeting will begin promptly at 1:00 pm and last approximately two hours. At this meeting, we will review discussions on domestic violence from the October meeting, share the results of assault-related data for October and November, continue to discuss the Cardiff Model translation in the City of West Allis, and work on the development of an action plan for the project moving forward.

October Meeting Group Discussion Summary

At the October meeting we had a large group discussion on domestic violence in West Allis, current resources and services available and what gaps are there that we need to explore and work on. Below is a summary of the group discussion from October 12, 2018.

What resources and services are currently available?

- West Allis Health Department
- West Allis Police Department
- Faith-based Organizations
- Schools
- Workplaces
- Businesses
- Healthcare Systems
- Social Services
- Housing

Are there any gaps or needs to address in our Action Plan?

- Healthcare Systems
 - New JACCHO requirement to ask “Are you safe at home?”
 - Staff education and practice on how to ask the question and assure people don’t think it is referencing neighborhood safety.

- Develop resource list and referral guidelines so they know what to do if people say no.
- Business involvement
 - Workplace policy if an employee is not safe at home, what happens if it spills into the workplace
 - How to respond if a customer asks for help
 - Educational materials to increase awareness and resources available
- Schools/Education
 - Making sure kids in these situations are safe in school and can get assistance
 - Add healthy relationships to health curriculum
 - Add dating violence to curriculum
 - Education materials to increase awareness of dating violence and resources.
- Employment/Financial Resources – many do not have the financial ability to leave.
- Housing/shelter
 - Shelter in/near West Allis
 - Policies that give housing priority to individuals that are leaving a domestic violence situation

Other thoughts

- Devote a small part of each agenda to learn about some innovative efforts to reduce violence
- Identified additional members to reach out to.

Community Determinants Associated with DV

- People
 - Harmful norms and culture
 - Norms that support gender inequalities in relationships
 - Norms supportive of violence to assert dominance and address conflict
 - Norms of non-intervention in family matters – private matters
 - Weak social networks and trust – distrust & social isolation restricts sharing of non-DV norms and culture
 - Low participation and low willingness to act for community – lack of opportunities for community involvement and action leads to weak community sanctions against DV (collective accountability for and implicit enabling of DV)
- Places
 - Harmful media – frequent pornography use linked to increased sexual aggression
 - Harmful product promotion – ads that treat women as commodities can be linked to sexual victimization
 - High alcohol outlet density and availability
 - DV and heavy alcohol use is linked
 - High density associated with communities of color with low average household incomes
 - CA study: each additional off-premise alcohol outlet in a neighborhood was associated with ~4% increase in DV police calls and 3% increase in

DV crime reports

- Housing insecurity: high-quality, safe and affordable housing, difficulty paying rent, mortgage or bills, frequent moves and overcrowded living conditions
 - Housing insecurity increases changes of women experiencing DV in the previous year
 - Constant fear of loss of security, emotion regulation, positive social skills and safe relationships.
 - Conditions impact DV: study showed higher rates of DV in neighborhoods with higher rates of trash vs. better trash management
 - Lower open/green space decrease changes of social interaction and reinforce weak social networks and trust
- Lack of living wages and local wealth: economic insecurity (unemployment, concentrated poverty, neighborhood disadvantage) associated with DV

Relevant sectors to bring to the planning table:

- **Residents:** homeowners, renters, representative of the neighborhoods
- **Housing:** stable affordable housing
- **Community development:** community infrastructure and economic development: public facilities, community centers, housing rehabilitation, etc.
- **Planning:** approving land and development that maximizes public benefit
- **Zoning:** alcohol outlet density, housing density, mix of businesses and residential
- **Business/Workplaces:** employment, investment in prevention
 - Training from top down and policies to protect against violence
 - Work norms could impact norms within communities
- **Workforce development:** job services and training
- **Sports:** sports, clubs, programs offered through schools, parks & rec and community orgs
 - promote positive norms;
 - broaden social networks
- **Entertainment:** private businesses that provide entertainment media and advertise
 - Media campaigns
- **Faith:** community and connection to teachings, practices and belief systems
 - promote positive norms and discourage DV;
 - promote or host education or other programming;
 - broaden social networks and provide opportunities to give back to community
- **Healthcare:** hospitals, urgent cares, clinics, offices
 - Screening and resources,
 - neighborhood investment,
 - engaging in prevention discussions
- **Social services:** services to improve well-being
 - Job training
 - Resource referrals

Awesome News!

On September 30th we were notified that we were awarded a three year BJA grant to continue our work. In addition to the work on violence we will be pulling in additional data on substance abuse and analyzing to see the linkages with community violence.



Partner Organizations

- Antigua Mexican and Latin Restaurant
- Apostle Presbyterian Church
- Aurora St. Luke's Hospital
- Aurora West Allis Memorial Hospital
- Children's Hospital of Wisconsin
- Community Advocates Public Policy Institute
- Downtown West Allis Business Improvement District (BID)
- Froedtert Hospital & the Medical College of Wisconsin
- Comprehensive Injury Center
- Mayor's Office of West Allis
- Milwaukee County Office of Emergency Management
- Milwaukee Police Department
- Rogers Behavioral Health
- Safe and Sound
- Tavern League of Wisconsin
- University of Wisconsin- Milwaukee
- West Allis Information Technology
- West Allis Fire Department
- West Allis Health Department
- West Allis Police Department
- West Allis-West Milwaukee Community Coalition
- West Allis-West Milwaukee Family Resource Center
- West Allis-West Milwaukee School District
- West Milwaukee Police Department



Next Steps

We will continue working to improve data procedures and quality in our four partnering hospitals. These important activities will hopefully increase the usefulness of the data for you, our stakeholders. We will look at some additional ways to breakdown the data based on partner feedback and will begin to look at some additional data sets to add to the maps. We plan to continue to meet every other month to discuss assault-related information collected at and violence prevention initiatives in detail.

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