

The Anti-Violence Partnership: A Community Collaboration at the University of Vermont



Eighth Annual Report

June 2009 – May 2010

Mission:

The Anti-Violence Partnership supports and sustains unified approaches within the community and the world to understand and change the existence and acceptance of violence and works toward its prevention and elimination. The Partnership promotes, protects and enhances the quality of life of those victimized by a culture of violence.

Philosophy:

The Partnership subscribes to the belief that safety is a fundamental human right and that violence is a violation of this right. This philosophy is translated into action through the current and potential links between the scholars and staff at UVM, local and state agencies, and the global human rights and anti-violence community.

The Anti-Violence Partnership is a University/Multi-Agency collaboration established to:

- Support existing partnerships and develop new community collaboratives aimed at promoting sustainable conditions of safety and security
- Work to bring about social, political, and cultural change
- Advocate for public policies and community awareness
- Serve as an educational resource
- Conduct relevant research and evaluation on the etiology and effect of violence
- Develop effective methodologies to reduce or eliminate violence

The Partnership does this work by:

- Conducting assessment, research and evaluation activities through facilitating dialogue between anti-violence researchers and practitioners
- Sharing information, including educational materials, best practices, resources, conducting training and other activities
- Providing technical assistance in anti-violence collaboration and coalition-building; policy review and development; training and workshop delivery; funding strategies; curriculum development; student internships; and program development, implementation and evaluation

HIGHLIGHTS/ACCOMPLISHMENTS 2009-2010

FY10 Anti-Violence Partnership Goals

- I. Broaden the Anti-Violence Partnership to include specific statewide outreach to peacemaking, social justice and economic justice projects in Vermont communities, agencies and institutions of higher education.
- II. Expand the AVP's contributions to collaboration among researchers, funders and practitioners that addresses the intersections between all forms of violence and oppression in Vermont.
- III. Foster and support collaborative efforts in violence prevention and peace promotion through building relationships and engaging voices linked across issues in all communities.
- IV. Increase and sustain the capacity for accountable, collaborative, effective statewide leadership of comprehensive, coordinated sexual violence prevention efforts in Vermont.

• June 2009 - January 2010

- Received a fourth year (FY10) of state funds (\$65,000) for the on-going implementation of *The Vermont Approach*, a five year strategic plan for sexual violence prevention
- Held August 2009 Steering Committee retreat to review goals, objectives and activities for the coming year.
- Revised the AVP guidance standards for collaborative projects
- Continued the monthly meetings of the Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force responding to an amended mandate and timeline to accelerate the schools resource guideline based on Act 1 of 2009
- Maintained the AVP webpage on the UVM portal, the AVP listserv and launched an AVP Facebook page
- Began planning the concept of a region by region approach to AVP outreach, education and collaboration across the state
- Participated on the planning committee for the September 2009 Our House Vermont Sexual Violence Summit

• February 2010 – May 2010

- Received \$20,000 amendment to the FY10 state funding for the Vermont Approach
- Began working with organizations in the St. Johnsbury area to plan and hold a regional educational event on the topic of engaging men and boys in the community to prevent violence
- Submitted grants for the Vermont Approach to the National Institute of Justice (understanding teen concepts of consent and teen dating violence), Ford Foundation (engaging teens and adults as active bystanders), Jane's Trust (civic engagement and sexual violence prevention) and the U.S. Office on Women's Health, Region I (refugee women and girls listening project)
- Co-sponsored an April launch event for Safer Society Press' new anthology of survivor writings "*The Journey of Healing*"
- The Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force submitted draft of the Technical Assistance Resource Guide to the Vermont Departments of Children and Families and Education for approval

PARTNERSHIP 2009-2010 PROJECTS

Vermont Sexual Violence Prevention Plan

The Vermont Approach: A Strategic Plan for Comprehensive, Collaborative Sexual Violence Prevention in Vermont completed its fourth year under the AVP umbrella, providing a conceptual framework for defining sexual violence prevention statewide. It reflects and builds upon existing prevention efforts. The Leadership Forum of the Vermont Approach is the direct advisory committee whose members have stewardship over the on-going vision and implementation for the seven strategies in the strategic plan. The AVP administers the state funding for the Vermont Approach, housed in the University of Vermont, Department of Social Work. Contact Anne Liske at 802-656-1200 or anne.liske@uvm.edu for more information. To see the current Vermont Approach 2009 annual report to the Legislature and other recent activities, go to the webpage at: <http://www.uvm.edu/~socwork/antiviolence/?Page=projects.html>.

Partnership Membership and Governance

Participating members may be from the university, or public or private statewide or local community agencies, or individual stakeholders. Governance functions are carried out by the Steering Committee. The Steering Committee is selected by the membership and represents the desired diversity of the membership at large. A University member and Agency member share the leadership of the Steering Committee.

2009-2010 Steering Committee

University Co-Chair: Currently vacant
Agency Co-Chair: Judy Rex, Executive Director, VT Center for Crime Victim Services
Coordinator: Anne Liske, Sexual Violence Prevention Coordinator, The Vermont Approach
Members: Ann Atkins, Director, SafeSpace
David Battick, Spectrum Youth and Family Services' Violence and Intervention and Prevention Services
Nika Graci, Executive Director, Safeline
Ed Paquin, Executive Director, Disability Rights Vermont
John Pierce, Retired Assistant Director, former VT Division of Mental Health
Karen Tronsgard-Scott, Executive Director, VT Network Against Domestic and

Sexual Violence

A Special Acknowledgement to Sharon Lamb, Ed.D., former Steering Committee Co-Chair who stepped down in order to assume new teaching duties at UMass–Boston, and to Deborah Major, Ph.D., M.S.S.W., UVM Dept. Of Social Work who is taking a professional leave of absence. Their contributions will be missed!

For more information about AVP, how to collaborate with AVP, current\past AVP projects, AVP member/partner organizations and

past annual reports, go the AVP webpage at:
<http://www.uvm.edu/~socwork/antiviolence/>
AVP also has a Facebook page.

Financial Statement

The Anti-Violence Partnership estimates that approximately \$100,000 was received and spent for Partnership committee time, staffing, project activities, materials and semi-annual meetings in the past year. Sources include local, state and federal monetary support and in-kind time and effort.