Violence Prevention Initiative (VPI)
Holton Youth and Family Center Collaborative (HYFCC)

$1,050,000 • 11/01/10 to 06/30/15

Goal: To decrease rates of violence in identified areas of Milwaukee and, possibly, greater Wisconsin and to strengthen community capacity to prevent future violence.

Progress: During this reporting period, HYFCC had continued deep investment of collaborative partners, hiring of all program staff, leveraging of numerous and diverse funding opportunities, realization of the operational design, continued development of supplemental initiatives, and numerous training opportunities for staff and collaborative members. Ongoing evaluation of the operational design, the Nurturing Parenting Program, was identified to include all youth 0-17 in place of a bifurcated implementation of Nurturing and Active Parenting. The Active Parenting Program will no longer be a part of the operational design. HYFCC staff were trained in the delivery of the Nurturing Parenting Program during the reporting period to prepare for program implementation. Partners were able to leverage the expertise of Parklawn Family Resource Center and their significant experience delivering the Nurturing Parenting Program. Center staff will be working in partnership as implementation begins in January of 2012. Partners will leverage in-kind program level funds such as: meals for families, incentives, a co-facilitator, and curriculum materials.

Girls' Night In and Brother to Brother (both focus on genders specific development topics) were part of the program schedule for the Primary and Preventive Health and Nutrition Program. At each of the community rollout events, health care providers and other health focused resources were present.

Partners have also held numerous community events and presentations ranging from individual meetings with local systems’ leaders and community members, to group presentations at local Neighborhood Associations, and large community connection events. The Collaborative has begun leveraging funds to enhance their work as well as generate innovative concepts for future implementation.

Two significant initiatives have developed through HYFCC: the Community House Project and the Diversion/DPA ( Deferred Prosecution Agreement) Project. The Community House Project is an initiative synergized by the HYFCC members around the need to improve the surrounding neighborhoods by rehabilitating abandoned and/or blighted homes. It is a multi-faceted project that will increase training and employment opportunities for low skilled, marginalized neighborhood residents, increase property values, diminish blighted and nuisance properties, and establishes a direct connection to the Center’s services to individual neighborhood blocks. The Diversion/DPA Project will reroute youth from destabilizing incarceration while holding them accountable within the community to give youth the message “we want you in the community if your behavior changes and if you take responsibility for your actions.” The Diversion/DPA Project will rely heavily on the mentoring aspects of the Universal Tier of programming at the Center as well as other programmatic elements, such as tutoring, on a more individualized basis.

HYFCC continues to build a platform that aligns with existing policy and advocacy activities that are rooted in juvenile and adult correctional alternative responsiveness to incarceration, individual accountability, maintaining public safety, and reducing criminal justice costs.