

Substance Abuse and Violence Intervention Office (SAVI) Proposal

LFUCG Council Work Session

February 17, 2015

Department of Social Services

Background

- From 2011-2014, there were 19 homicides in Lexington where the victim was between the ages of 15 and 25.*
 - 2011-4 homicides
 - 2012-4 homicides
 - 2013-6 homicides
 - 2014-5 homicides

*source: Commander Gregg Jones, Lexington Division of Police



Background

- From 2013 through today, Lexington has seen a dramatic increase in heroin overdose deaths*.
 - 2013-44 heroin overdose deaths
 - 2014-54 heroin overdose deaths
 - 4 are unclassified pending toxicology reports
 - 2015-3 heroin overdose deaths
 - 7 are unclassified pending toxicology reports

*source: Lt. Dean Marcum, Lexington Division of Police



Inaugural Meeting

- November 21, 2014
 - 70 advocates & professionals met to continue the dialogue of how to eliminate violent deaths and combat drug addiction and overdoses in Lexington.
 - Those who have lost loved ones to violence and overdose.
 - Those in recovery from addiction.
 - Others



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*source: Lt. Dean Marcum, Lexington Police Department



Inaugural Meeting

- Many important issues were identified
 - How to increase the capacity to provide violence prevention programming to youth?
 - How does a person find substance abuse treatment?
 - Where does a person go to detox? After detox?
 - How to increase parental involvement with youth?
 - How to best utilize current resources to reach the maximum number of youth?
 - How to reduce misconception and barriers?
 - How to increase the number of substance abuse treatment options?



Inaugural Meeting

- Attendees identified needs and resources related to following areas:
 - Violence Prevention
 - Substance Abuse Prevention
 - Substance Abuse Treatment
 - Justice
 - Victims Services
- Formed committees
 - Identified co-chairs and continue to meet and further define short-term, mid-range and long-term goals.



Committees

■ Justice Committee

- Explore alternatives to detention for youth (SB 200).
- Research best practices regarding those who are incarcerated and addicted.
- Work with local re-entry task force to identify housing and labor options for those leaving incarceration.
- Identify substance abuse treatment referral options for those in need of services.



Committees

■ Substance Abuse Committee

- Develop a web-based, user-friendly directory of substance abuse treatment options and information.
- Advocate for expanded access to substance abuse treatment and detoxification services.
- Advocate for greater access to life-saving overdose prevention medication (Narcan).
- Form a clearinghouse for substance abuse information.
- Promote extensive public education to address the stigma of substance abuse.



Committees

■ Violence Prevention Committee

- Increase parental involvement and engagement through existing community action centers.
- Enhance activities at existing community centers and explore re-opening closed parks and community centers.
- Increase engagement with youth through relationship building.
- Reduce misconceptions and barriers that contribute to police and community mistrust.



Committees

■ Victims Services Committee

- Work with victims' advocates to develop a protocol to reach out to victims of violent crime.
- Work with hospital chaplains to develop a coordinated response when working with a victim of violent crime.
- Develop a mentoring program consisting of those who have lost loved ones to violent crime to support those going through the legal system.



Community Partners

- Bluegrass.org
- The University of Kentucky
- The Ridge
- Department of Juvenile Justice
- Sisters and Supporters Against Gun Violence
- Stop the Violence
- Helping to Heal
- The Hope Center
- The Chrysalis House
- Fayette County Attorney's Office
- Commonwealth Attorney's Office
- Kentucky One Health
- Counseling Associates of Lexington
- Fayette County Public Schools
- Fayette County Health Department
- Kentucky Refugee Ministries
- Southland Christian Church
- The Nest
- Crossroads Christian Church
- Adult Probation and Parole
- KVC
- Numerous advocates and activists who are not a part of any specific group but work tirelessly to make an impact on substance abuse and violence prevention throughout Lexington



Community Partners

- **Community-wide effort**
 - Countless agencies and individuals committed to be a part of the solution.
 - Long-term, sustainable change will take time.



Next Steps

- Council approval of the Substance Abuse and Violence Intervention Office as a full-time, permanent office.
 - 1 full-time Substance Abuse Program Coordinator
 - 1 full-time Violence Prevention Program Specialist
 - Training costs, operating expenses, meeting and travel costs
- An ordinance establishing the Substance Abuse and Violence Intervention Policy Board.
- The Youth Violence Prevention Conference September 2015 expanded to a full day to include violence, substance abuse, mental health, bullying and suicide.



Questions?