**Disrupting the Pathway to Violence | Lexington Stakeholder Meeting**

**November 9, 2018 | Lexington Opportunity Center | 10 AM – 11:30 AM**

*Attendees:**Ryan Lowery (UNL Public Policy Center), Melanie Gomez (Parent and Child Center), Kristi O’Meara (Lexington Public Schools), Cody Samuelson (TRPHD), Katie Mulligan (TRPHD), Laura Steele (TRPHD)*

1. **Introduction**

Cody Samuelson, of Two Rivers Public Health Department, provided an introduction of the program. Two Rivers Public Health Department is working with the UNL Public Policy Center to address barriers to reporting signs of violence by utilizing a community based, public health approach. Lexington Stakeholders met in March and July to discuss an appropriate way to implement violence prevention strategies in the community. The purpose of this stakeholder meeting is to create an action plan to help guide activities going forward.

1. **Review of Barriers to Reporting Potential Signs of Violence**

Ryan Lowry, of the UNL Public Policy Center, reviewed results from the Lexington survey on barriers to reporting. The Lexington community reported that the potential barriers to reporting violence included:

1. Fear of repercussions associated with reporting potential violence
   1. In Lexington, individuals may be afraid to divulge personal information
   2. Previous experience with law enforcement may influence trust level
   3. Solution 🡪 Need to ensure that the reporting mechanism is anonymous, and that all reports will be followed-up in a safe, confidential manner
2. How to report potential signs of violence
   1. Confusion about where to report potential violence
   2. Need to better understand the signs of violence
   3. Solution 🡪 Education and awareness in the community on the signs of violence, and where to report
3. Understanding where to report
   1. The stakeholders discussed how each agency had a unique focus, but what if an individual had concerns that spanned across the expertise of multiple agencies?
      1. For example, if an individual has financial, employment, mental health barriers that may be exacerbating their situation
   2. Solution 🡪 Multiagency effort to provide support for individuals in a crisis
4. **Seeking Solutions to Barriers Exercise**

Ryan Lowry facilitated a group discussion on potential solutions to reducing the barriers to reporting. The stakeholders discussed solutions to the barriers identified above, and then started to formulate an action plan, which follows below.

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| **Action Plan** | | |
| ***Goal*** | ***Purpose*** | ***Action Steps*** |
| **Violence Prevention Team Formation (Care Coalition)** | Multiagency coalition that meets to help manage cases of individuals in crisis. The ultimate goal in managing a case is to provide interventions that help steer individuals away from violence, by surrounding them with support. | The stakeholders discussed nominating individuals/entities to be asked to join a multiagency coalition around violence prevention. Potential representatives that were discussed include:   * Tyson Representative * Region 2 Representative * Counselor * High School and Middle School Counselor * Law Enforcement * School Resource Officer * YMCA Representative * Somali Community Representative * Faith Community Representatives * Parent Child Center |
| TRPHD will reach out to each agency with an invitation (delivered in person) to join the team during the months of November and December. |
| TRPHD will schedule the next meeting to be in mid-January. This will be the first meeting for the care coalition (violence prevention team). The meeting will be held at the Lexington Opportunity Center, with a virtual connection available for anyone who would like to join via webinar. |
| **Education and Outreach** | Discussion included utilizing educational materials such as handouts and Train-the-Trainer packets to increase awareness in the community about the new reporting mechanism. The material would also serve to educate the community on the signs of potential violence. | TRPHD will work with the UNL Public Policy Center to prepare the Train the Trainer packets and handouts for educational and outreach activities. This will be available for review to the violence prevention team. |
| TRPHD will start schedule outreach and educational events. The stakeholder group discussed the following as potential venues:   * Parent Teacher Conferences * Presentation to Faith Leaders |