
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

FINAL REPORT

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National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women**

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FINAL REPORT

JUNE 2012



Office of the Attorney General
Washington, D. C. 20530

October 15, 2012

Dear National Advisory Committee Members:

Thank you for the remarkable dedication you have displayed over the last two years as members of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women. You have accomplished tremendous work and I – along with many grateful partner offices within the Department of Justice and the Department of Health and Human Services – appreciate the thoughtful recommendations you have submitted for our consideration.

When Attorney General Janet Reno established the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women in 1995, her interest was in gathering practical policy advice concerning the implementation of the landmark Violence Against Women Act. My intention when I re-chartered the advisory committee in March, 2010 was to convene leaders in the field to solicit recommendations about how to improve the nation's response to violence against women, with a specific focus on successful interventions with children and teens who witness or are victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, and sexual assault.

Your commitment, collaboration, and the resulting recommendations have raised the bar for federal advisory committees and stand out as a testament to their value. Each one of you – advocates, researchers, and criminal justice professionals – lent your voice to an exchange of pioneering ideas and offered practical solutions. Your voices will be heard and your input truly matters to this Administration.

You know as well as I do that prevention and successful interventions with children and teens will help break the cycle of violence that afflicts our nation. There is an unmistakable relationship between young people who witness or are victims of violence and the overall public safety of communities across the country. With your help and support, I hope we can end this destructive violence and offer safety, security, and hope to our children.

Thank you for your generous leadership and participation in the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women.

Sincerely,

Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General



THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20201

November 1, 2012

Dear National Advisory Committee Members:

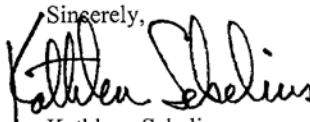
On behalf of the Department of Health and Human Services, I want to extend my deepest gratitude to you for your work as members of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women. It has been my privilege to meet with you and learn from you over the last two years. I was honored that each of you, renowned in your fields, brought your personal and professional experience to the National Advisory Committee.

I am pleased to report that my Department already has undertaken work on many of the issues raised by this report. The Administration for Children and Families (ACF) has as one of its top priorities the social and emotional well-being of children and youth who have witnessed or been victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. By infusing trauma-informed approaches across programs, fostering positive youth development and resiliency, and developing evidence-based frameworks that improve the capacity of communities to offer proven solutions, ACF is addressing the social and emotional aspects of well-being that can significantly improve outcomes for children who have experienced trauma.

We also work across the Department to prevent and end violence against women. Among our proudest achievements this year is that, as of August 1, 2012, new private health plans are required to offer eight additional preventive health benefits for adolescent and adult women at no extra charge, including screening and counseling for domestic violence.

The recommendations in this report will be examined closely. By taking the time to make your voices heard at the national level, you have spoken for victims, and their voices will influence our policy decisions. Children and youth exposed to violence are too often silenced, but thanks to you, their voices ring loud and clear across the federal government.

Thank you for your service as members of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women and the life-saving work you do every day.

Sincerely,

Kathleen Sebelius

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Section One: Introduction and Background

In 1995, then-Attorney General Janet Reno established the National Advisory Committee (NAC) on Violence Against Women for the purpose of providing the Attorney General and the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) with practical and general policy advice concerning implementation of the Violence Against Women Act. Since 1995, the NAC has been renewed and new members have been appointed several times.¹

The NAC was rechartered on March 3, 2010, by Attorney General Eric Holder to provide advice and recommendations to the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) and HHS on how to improve the Nation's response to violence against women, with a specific focus on successful interventions with children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault. The Director of the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) served as the Designated Federal Official for the NAC.

The Attorney General's goal for the NAC was to bring experts, advocates, researchers, and criminal justice professionals together for the exchange of innovative ideas and the development of practical solutions to help address and prevent these serious problems. Working to end violence in families and in communities remains one of the Attorney General's highest priorities. Every year, millions of children and adolescents in the United States are victimized and exposed to violence in their

homes and communities. Children and youth who are victims of, or witnesses to, violence often suffer severe long-term emotional and physical consequences. When these problems remain unaddressed, children are at higher risk for school failure, substance abuse, repeat victimization, and perhaps most tragically, perpetrating violent behavior later in their own lives.

As stated in the charter,² the NAC was formed to provide the Attorney General and the Secretary of HHS with practical and general policy advice concerning:

- Improvements to the nation's responses to violence against women — including domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking — with a specific focus on successful interventions with children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by intimate partner and sexual violence.
- The cooperation of various agencies on responses to violence against women — judicial agencies, law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, physical and mental health service providers, social service agencies, victim service providers, child welfare agencies, schools, businesses, community-based organizations, and federal, state, local, and tribal governments. These responses include identifying and developing:

¹ The NAC is subject to the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (FACA). Pursuant to FACA, federal advisory committees expire two years from establishment unless they are renewed.

² See Appendix One for the full NAC charter.

- Successful interventions with children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by intimate partner and sexual violence.
- An understanding that the safety and well-being of these children and teens is inextricably linked with that of their mothers.
- The relationship between children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by intimate partner and sexual violence and the public safety of communities across the country.

NAC Membership

The 15 NAC members were appointed by Attorney General Holder on the basis of recommendations from OVW. OVW solicited recommendations for membership from other DOJ components and Administration officials, and consulted with HHS to assemble the list of 15 potential members. Individuals were recommended for service on the NAC on the basis of their expertise and experience working in the fields of prevention, intervention, or research on violence against women and/or childhood exposure to interpersonal violence. Collectively, the members possess a broad and varied knowledge of the complexities of violence against women — including teen dating violence and children exposed to violence — that is consistent with the requirements of the Federal Advisory Committee Act and related regulations.

Section Two: Recommendations of the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women

Overview

This section represents the work product of the NAC. The recommendations were initially developed and drafted independently by three subcommittees (Prevention and Social Change, Trauma-Informed Resiliency and Positive Youth Development, and Evidence Building and Knowledge Exchange). Each subcommittee addressed a specific set of topics and issues related to the NAC's focus on child and youth exposure to violence against women:

The Prevention and Social Change Subcommittee was formed in recognition of the pre-eminence of prevention in addressing the impact of exposure to violence against women on children and teens. Recommendations developed by this subcommittee reflect key primary and universal prevention strategies throughout the life span and target a broad range of community, organizational, and system stakeholders.

The Trauma-Informed Resiliency and Positive Youth Development Subcommittee recognized the impact of trauma on children and adolescents, and the links between these experiences and experiences of victimization and/or perpetration of violent and/or abusive behavior in adulthood. The subcommittee focused on promoting resiliency through the development and promotion of trauma-informed systems of care, prevention and intervention strategies, and policies.

The Evidence Building and Knowledge Exchange Subcommittee was formed to address a growing recognition that scarce resources and ethical practice require that efforts to prevent and intervene in violence

against women and children be developed while using the most currently available evidence.

In addition to the recommendations, this section contains:

- **Guiding Principles**, which form the framework for the recommendations and highlight some of the most critical issues that the recommendations address.
- **Knowledge Bases**, which encompass key concepts, terms, and definitions that served as the foundation for the work of the NAC during its charter period.

The recommendations are divided into two main parts:

Part One: Recommendations for Increasing Knowledge and Skills to Address Child and Youth Exposure to Violence reflect the common frameworks of public health and trauma-informed approaches. They target a broad range of audiences and are based on a central message of healing for those exposed to violence against women, and collective responsibility for a violence-free society.

Part Two: Recommendations for Increasing and Improving Evidence Bases on Violence Against Women and the Exposure to Violence of Children and Youth articulate the need to:

- Commit more resources to developing a broad base of evidence that accurately reflects victimization and exposure for all groups.
- Consider the context, multiple victimizations, and the range of oppressions to

which marginalized and vulnerable communities are subjected.

- Promote and support collaboration and partnerships among researchers and practitioners in the field.

Guiding Principles

PRINCIPLES FOR PREVENTING AND INTERVENING IN CHILD AND YOUTH EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

Exposure of children and youth to violence against women is both a public health and a public safety issue. Exposure to violence affects children of all ages, from infancy to late adolescence. Children and youth exposed to violence against women in their homes and communities populate the mental health, juvenile delinquency, and criminal justice systems. This is true for both boys and girls. There is evidence that the connection between early exposure to family violence and later delinquency is particularly strong for girls. Research shows that late adolescence is a developmental and neurological stage marked by impulsivity, vulnerability to peer pressure, and developing personality traits. Thus, prevention and intervention efforts must not end at middle school. Rather, they must target older and system-involved youth to influence their responses to early and continuing exposure to violence. These efforts must also target systems — such as law enforcement and the rest of the criminal justice system — that are likely to interact with them.

The well-being of a child is linked to the well-being of adults. Achieving well-being for children is often linked to the well-being of the primary caregivers in that

child's life as well as the presence of other protective adults. Of particular importance are those programs that specifically address the vulnerability of the nonoffending parent (usually the mother) and children in child protection and family court systems. Studies have shown that a child's well-being may also be strongly affected by the presence of other caring adults in his or her life. Thus, supporting the presence of caring adults in a child's life is of critical importance to both positive short- and long-term child development.

A positive, strengths-based framework is critical to prevention, intervention, and policy addressing the impact of violence against women on children and teens.

Much of the response to violence against women and its impact on children and teens is framed in deficit language that focuses on trauma, negative youth behavior, and harm to families and communities. Consequently, the research on trauma has focused more on describing the pathology than on identifying and promoting the factors in individuals, families, and communities that protect against a traumatic response and that help children and youth cope with traumatic experiences. The deficit frame shortchanges youth and labels them in unhealthy ways that they may carry into adulthood. Advancing this positive approach will also enhance research on protective factors and positive youth development.

Exposure to domestic violence or victimization by sexual assault is likely to be a traumatic stressor for children and teens, resulting in a range of behavioral and physiological effects. However, the specific responses or behaviors that result from these experiences may differ in boys and girls and may change with age and developmental stage. In addition, not all children and teens are equally affected

by traumatic experiences. Prevention and intervention efforts must acknowledge the range of individual responses, building on resilience and positive coping skills.

Providing violence-prevention education in multiple and various media outlets is critical to changing social norms and preventing violence. It is imperative to educate the public on the safety and health issues, particularly for children and youth, that are created by violence. In addition to increasing and strengthening knowledge, skills, and tools to prevent violence, public education must also help to connect the dots among the types of violence that children and youth see every day (e.g., violent films and music videos, and violent acts in their home and community). Youth are exposed on a daily basis to violence through film and television programs that glamorize depictions of violence. This leads youth to learn or adopt aggressive behaviors, become desensitized to the impacts of violence on people, and accept violent behavior as a way of life. It is critical that the public understand how violence can create fear, anxiety, and low self-esteem in children and be a factor in poor grades and lower cognitive functioning. It can also cause long-term problems such as depression and acceptance and perpetuation of violence in their own families when they become adults.

It is important to develop age-appropriate strategies for responding to and preventing child and adolescent exposure to domestic violence and teen dating violence and to focus these efforts at key developmental stages. A child's age and developmental stage at the time of exposure to violence are major determinants of her or his response and ability to manage the stress. Prevention and intervention efforts must, therefore, be age- and developmentally appropriate. An effective

intervention for a toddler will be different and may involve different systems and responders than a universal school-based intervention for a middle-schooler. Each is necessary but requires different players and different systems and supports. Support for children must also continue as they grow older.

Early childhood and early adolescence are particularly important developmental times for mitigating harm and preventing violence. Brain research shows that what happens to a young child can change that child's body and mind for life. What a toddler sees or experiences may affect the child's reactions to stress or confrontation throughout childhood. School readiness is also profoundly affected by a child's exposure to violence, adding urgency to the call to identify and help young children and their families.

PRINCIPLES FOR ENGAGING YOUTH LEADERSHIP

Youth engagement is central to preventing violence against women. Youth are well-positioned to inform efforts to prevent teen dating and sexual violence and abuse; creating opportunities for them offers lasting benefits and is consistent with the literature on positive youth development.¹ Youth are both a key target and a key resource for prevention efforts. Youth must be engaged as leaders to develop successful prevention strategies that will resonate and be effective with their peers. The experience of youth engagement, and shaping antiviolence and healthy-relationship initiatives, can turn youth into dedicated activists who have an enduring commitment to this work and who can become credible messengers for younger teens, creating a cadre of positive "up-standers."

PRINCIPLES FOR TRAUMA-INFORMED INTERVENTIONS

Trauma affects child and adolescent victims and perpetrators of violence. In the course of their development, children and adolescents may have been victims of domestic violence, teen dating violence, or sexual assault and may have been perpetrators of these types of violence against others. For some individuals, the status of victim and perpetrator is fluid. Both victims and perpetrators can benefit from interventions that are healing and trauma-sensitive and stress accountability for youth who engage in violent behaviors.

A trauma-informed framework is foundational for all interventions and policies. A trauma-informed framework at the level of systems, organizations, and individual providers is critical to fostering healing and resiliency in children, youth, and families who have experienced violence and/or abuse. A trauma-informed, healing perspective creates a common culture of knowledge about trauma and its consequences, and a common language across systems and within organizations. It places high value on respect and empowerment of participants in the system and, at a minimum, ensures that interventions are not retraumatizing for the individual who receives services. A trauma-informed, healing response holds client safety as the basic standard, emphasizes individual needs, provides clear expectations for both clients and providers, and regards clients as active partners in determining services and interventions. Because violence and healing both occur in a context, trauma-informed programs respect and include culturally specific practices and healing modalities. Transformative change is achieved through training and

systemic changes in policies, protocols, and physical environments, with the goal of creating more welcoming and trauma-informed responses to children and youth. Responsibility for these changes is embraced and shared equally by all involved, from top management to direct service providers. A trauma-informed system also recognizes that staff working with traumatized individuals may have their own histories of trauma and are vulnerable to the secondary effects of trauma as they work with a highly stressed population.

PRINCIPLES FOR ADDRESSING GENDER, CULTURE, AND INTERSECTIONALITY

The promotion of gender equality is central to addressing and preventing violence against women and its impact on children and youth. According to the World Health Organization, “Intimate partner and sexual violence affect a large proportion of the population — with the majority of those directly experiencing such violence being women and the majority perpetrating it being men.”² Understanding the impact of domestic and dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking on the lives of children and youth must include an understanding of how cultural definitions of gender promote gender inequality and violence. Expectations based on gender regarding behavior, beliefs, abilities, and appearance form the basis for gender roles or stereotypes within a culture and define what is considered “normal.”³ Adherence to a rigid definition of gender limits the choices, experiences, and expectations for children and youth, and contributes to a society where sexism, homophobia, and violence against women are a part of everyday life. Challenging definitions of what is masculine or feminine by encouraging boys to express feelings and engage in nurturing behavior,

or helping girls develop athletic prowess or mathematical skills, will increase the likelihood that all children can reach their full potential as human beings.

Prevention and intervention approaches must consider intersectionality. Coined by Crenshaw (1991),⁴ the word “intersectionality” attempts to explain how various forms of oppressions — in particular, those of race and gender — interact in people’s lives. Intersectionality examines the unique experiences that are produced when various forms of discrimination or oppression intersect with each other. It allows us to link specific identities to historical, social, economic, political, and legal contexts that interconnect to produce the structures of oppression and privilege that specifically impact women and children experiencing violence.

Intersectionality is a concept as well as a way of thinking, analyzing, and examining how biological and social categories (e.g., gender, race, class, and other axes of identity) interact at multiple and often simultaneous levels and contribute to systemic and systematic inequality. It holds that various forms of oppression such as racism, sexism, homophobia, transphobia, ableism, xenophobia, and classism do not operate independently. Rather, they form part of a matrix of domination(s), with components that cannot be examined separately from one another.

Intersectionality helps to avoid separating social problems into discrete issues facing specific groups. It recognizes that all of us have multiple identities, that people live layered lives derived from social relations, history, and the operations of power structures, and that each of us may belong to more than one group. As a result, one may experience both oppression and privilege. Research, service provision, and policy

development and implementation, as well as accessibility to and response from systems, should expose the full range of vulnerabilities and empower individuals and communities appropriately.

Tailored approaches must be developed for “invisible” communities. Intersectional analysis and responses also reveal the dearth of information, analyses, research, and service provision to vulnerable and marginalized communities that render them “invisible,” including those who are LGBTQ, elderly, Native American, and/or undocumented. These communities are often forced to apply analyses and research derived from that conducted on more dominant groups. More intense focus should be placed on research and analysis with “invisible” groups to develop more nuanced, holistic, and differentiated results that will lead to security, health, and well-being for women and children in the community.

Recognize the contradictory nature of communities. Intersectional analysis informs our understanding of culture as created within the overall structures of power — both within and outside specific communities. In examining and attempting to understand differences, it is critical to remember that all cultures are contradictory. They have values that are nurturing and provide strength, cohesion, resources, networks, and ways of communicating. They also have values that are oppressive and detrimental to many members of those groups. Hence, it is imperative that the contradictory nature of groups be taken into consideration in order to provide a more holistic understanding.

Both individuals and communities may experience polyvictimization and multiple traumas. There is often an intersection of child witnessing of domestic violence,

dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. For certain populations, these experiences add a layer to community and systemic victimization. Recognizing the multi-layered impact of traumatic experiences is critical to addressing the complex needs of children and teens receiving services and is a central tenet of trauma-informed care.

PRINCIPLE FOR RESEARCH AND EVIDENCE-BASED APPROACHES

Evidence is broadly defined. Its definition must be based on more than replicated, randomized clinical trials. In this report, evidence and evidence-based practice are defined, more broadly, as inclusive of a wide range of information generated through both research and practice. Gilgun (2005, p. 52),⁵ for example, suggests that evidence-based practice rests on multiple sources of information, including:

- Research and theory.
- Practice wisdom, or what we and other professionals have learned from our clients, which also includes professional value.
- The person of the practitioner, or our personal assumptions, values, biases, and world views.
- What clients bring to practice situations.

Adoption of a broad definition of evidence that includes practice and client wisdom is recommended.

Recommendations

Part 1: Recommendations for Increasing Knowledge and Skills to Address Child and Youth Exposure to Violence

1-A. EDUCATING THE PUBLIC ABOUT THE IMPACT OF EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE ON CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1-A1. Undertake social norms change through a public health approach that considers individual, family, community, organizations, systems, and societal levels.

A public health model should be used to frame prevention policy, develop strategies, and consider risk and protective factors that reach across each level of the social ecology. In June 2011, the National Prevention Council, chaired by Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., M.B.A., released the National Prevention Strategy.⁶ This document provides strategic directions and priorities on subjects, including violence-free living, reproductive and sexual health, and mental and emotional well-being. It provides a path to preventing lifetime exposure to violence and abuse.

The continuum of prevention can incorporate these six strategies that build on the public health model:

- Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skill.
- Promoting Community Education.
- Educating Providers.

- Changing Organizational Practices.
- Fostering Coalitions and Networks.
- Influencing Policies and Legislation.

1-A2. The federal government should promote and encourage public/private and non-governmental organization partnerships by using universal and targeted messaging in media — including social media — to better engage youth and young adults.

Media coverage of sexual and domestic violence with a focus on underlying causes and solutions should be fostered.⁷ This includes devoting additional resources to public education campaigns and public service announcements that target youth, parents, boys, and men and which impact how communities respond to sexual assault and teen dating violence. Examples of these approaches include Vice President Biden’s “1 is 2 Many”⁸ campaign, and the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)-funded “That’s Not Cool”⁹ initiative. Creative campaigns using print media, television, radio, and the Internet are needed to target both youth and college-age students. There is also a need for targeted campaigns and public education programs specific to at-risk communities, such as those experiencing the highest rates of sexual assault. Media efforts (e.g., print, television, radio, online and social media) can help individuals locate assistance in their communities. Men are a critical constituency for training and education about the impact of domestic violence and sexual assault on children and youth, and are essential to effective media and social media campaigns to raise awareness and build support for a violence-free society. Any effort to stop teen dating violence and sexual abuse and violence, and to promote

healthy relationships, must help youth learn to use online and mobile communication responsibly, and must use them to disseminate powerful prevention messages.

1-B. PROTECTING AND SUPPORTING CRITICAL NETWORKS AND RELATIONSHIPS FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH

1-B1. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) should support programs that enhance parenting skills, strengthen the connections between children and their non-offending and protective parent, and encourage policies that recognize that a strong connection between parent and child is a strategy for healing and resilience.

Positive, trusting, and safe relationships with caring adults build resilience in children and youth and help them heal from traumatic experiences. Therefore, prevention, intervention, and policy initiatives should:

- Recognize that the best place for children and adolescents to thrive is in families that keep them safe and nurture their development.
- Acknowledge the critical role of the non-abusive and protective parent and extended kin for children who are affected by domestic violence and provide appropriate resources and support.
- Address trauma among parents and caregivers, as well as child trauma, through holistic services that recognize child well-being as inextricably linked to the well-being of parents and caregivers.

Developing nurturing and caretaking as a value and skill among all family members,

without regard to gender, is a key prevention strategy. HHS should provide support to help families raise girls **and** boys who are nurturing and nonviolent. Two types of programs are particularly important for this:

- Programs that link children and their non-offending parent to support and services using a trauma-informed approach to promote healing and resiliency.
- Programs that provide support for new parents, recognizing the possible impact of the parent's trauma history on parenting their own children.

Parent support programs should address the qualities of a mutually respectful, healthy relationship, as well as parenting skills, while also teaching a range of life management skills. Programs should target fathers as well as mothers. Prenatal parenting classes and home visiting programs are examples of programs that can incorporate and share this information.

1-B2. The federal government should promote the role of youth influencers with a particular focus on parents and caregivers, men, mentors, teachers, coaches, older teens, and young adults.

Relationships with safe, predictable, and caring adults build resilience in children and help them heal from traumatic experiences. Service delivery systems, including schools, should be designed and supported to maximize the power of individual relationships with children and adolescents. There is extensive research literature that identifies the presence of a consistent adult relationship as a key youth resilience factor. Parents, mentors, teachers, coaches, older teens, young

adults, and others have untapped capacity to be role models and mentors for children at all developmental stages. These influencers have the power to promote healthy relationships and steer youth and teens away from unhealthy ones. They should be provided with training and resources to help them fulfill this role.

Engaging men in primary prevention is critical to advance the public's understanding that violence against women is wrong. Men's voices are particularly effective in influencing young men. Young boys and girls need to hear from men that violence against women and girls is wrong and that respect and healthy relationships are worthy goals for all men.

1-C. EQUIPPING SYSTEMS TO IDENTIFY AND IMPLEMENT EFFECTIVE STRATEGIES FOR ADDRESSING CHILD AND YOUTH EXPOSURE TO VIOLENCE AND ITS TRAUMATIC EFFECTS

1-C1. Trauma-informed prevention and intervention efforts should include age-appropriate strategies for the general population of youth and children exposed to violence against women, and enhanced strategies for those children and youth who are at highest risk (very young children, foster children, youth in the juvenile justice system, youth aging out of foster care, runaway and homeless youth, teen parents, and youth on college campuses). Efforts in these areas should be multi-pronged.

Universal prevention efforts are needed at key developmental stages to reach the general population of children and youth, while more targeted efforts should be aimed at those in higher risk communities. For children and youth who have already been exposed to trauma and violence,

enhanced and targeted secondary prevention initiatives should be employed.

Youth often enter foster care or juvenile facilities due to behavior linked to exposure to family violence or other trauma, and they are frequently ill-prepared to live safely and independently in the community once they leave those systems. Runaway and homeless youth are particularly vulnerable to sexual exploitation and other significant health risks, and are likely to enter the child welfare and juvenile justice systems. Nongovernmental organizations and systems encountering these youth have a unique opportunity to provide education that can assist them in living more safely in their communities.¹⁰

1-C2. The U.S. Department of Education (ED) should support efforts to reduce the use of sanctions through programs and school policies that reflect a greater understanding of the impact of trauma on youth behavior and which promote prevention and healthy relationships.

A growing body of evidence suggests that a positive school climate — including strong student–teacher relationships, and programs to engage parents and caregivers — can have a dramatic impact on building healthy relationships and reducing a variety of adolescent risk behaviors, while promoting academic success. Schools are recommended as anchor institutions and partners for delivering parent education in contexts such as PTA meetings and parent-teacher conferences and in back-to-school and transition-to-middle-school programs. These efforts can have added impact by giving parents a clear message about the violence-free legacy they can pass to their children.

Federal policy should support interagency funding that brings ED into initiatives that are focused upon victimization and trauma-sensitive responses. These programs can recognize and highlight the critical roles of teachers in students’ lives and the parts that schools and early childhood care can play in identifying and responding to children affected by trauma.

There is also a need for federal policy to support education on healthy relationships for all middle and high school students. The content should include information on gender roles and beliefs, forms of oppression, respectful and effective communication skills, media influence on cultural values, and social norms regarding violence and gender. In order to facilitate the implementation of school-wide approaches to promoting healthy teen relationships, policies that address prevention and responses to adolescent dating abuse should be linked to other forms of peer-to-peer violence — bullying, cyberbullying, and sexual harassment, in particular. ED should also encourage the development of policies that maximize opportunities for children and adolescents to have reliable, ongoing access to adults who can support and mentor them.

1-C3. The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) should:
(1) strengthen the health care and public health systems’ identification, assessment, and response to domestic violence and sexual assault, including a focus on adolescent health, reproductive health, and home visitation; and (2) create policies and promote research that place a high priority on the health impact of trauma on children and on the identification and early intervention of young children affected by trauma and violence.

Enhanced provider training is needed for pediatric and adolescent health care providers, family practitioners, and reproductive health providers on how to promote healthy relationships; the health impacts of childhood exposure to trauma, teen dating, and domestic and sexual violence; and on reproductive coercion and pregnancy pressure.

The HHS guidelines that were issued on August 1, 2011, under the authority of the Affordable Care Act, ensure that women and adolescents will receive preventive health services at no additional cost to them. Among the eight new preventive health services covered by this guidance are interpersonal and domestic violence screening and counseling.¹¹ HHS can continue to lead on this issue in several ways:

- Develop a standardized best practices toolkit or guide that can be shared with HHS staff and grantees.
- Develop benchmarks that improve knowledge, measure violence assessment rates, and promote referral and collaboration with domestic violence advocates.
- Integrate mandatory training and education on assessing and managing care for victims of violence, in conjunction with credentialing agencies.
- Require that grantees providing direct services to women develop policies on preventing and addressing interpersonal and domestic violence and forming partnerships with violence prevention advocates.
- Convert the recommendations into practice for women's public health programs. HHS can provide administrative guidance to clarify for providers and

consumers what is covered by "screening and counseling" along with how it fits within a comprehensive system.¹²

Additionally, HHS can advocate for women's preventive services to be included as an Essential Health Benefit. This is critically important for ensuring that women enrolled in the Medicaid expansion program or a Basic Health Plan will not face barriers when accessing women's preventive services.¹³

HHS and the National Institutes of Health (NIH) should promote policies and funding to encourage:

- Screening in pediatric and family medicine settings for early childhood trauma and integration of trauma-focused mental health, and support services.
- Research to explore the links between trauma exposure and adverse health outcomes in children and youth, including obesity.

1-C4. U.S Department of Justice (DOJ) and HHS should support efforts that promote healing and understanding of the contexts of trauma — especially exposure to domestic violence and sexual assault — as they relate to state civil legal and criminal justice systems, and human services systems.

The contexts of domestic violence and sexual assault underlying families' involvement in the human services, civil legal, and criminal justice systems are often ignored because of inadequate investigation and knowledge of the role of trauma in the families. It is essential to respect individual and family privacy and protect against unnecessary entry of families or

youth into these state systems. At the same time, provisions must be made to educate these systems and expand trauma-informed resources that promote healing.

Agency policy goals should include:

- Training to create a trauma-sensitive culture, and responses within agencies that work with children and families.
- Screening and referral of children to healing services by social service, health, and education sectors.
- Promoting evidence-based or evidence-informed, culturally based, and trauma-sensitive mental health services for children and adolescents affected by domestic violence, teen dating violence, and sexual assault.

1-C5. DOJ and HHS should support efforts to promote trauma-informed strategies that enable staff to recognize that many adolescents have experiences of both victimization and perpetration of violence, and that there are strong links between trauma and delinquent behavior.

Research has demonstrated that children and adolescents with histories of trauma, especially child physical and sexual abuse and exposure to domestic violence, are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems. In addition, the connections between commercial sexual exploitation of youth and exposure to domestic violence and sexual assault are well established.¹⁴ Therefore, prevention, intervention, and policy must recognize that trauma affects both child and adolescent victims, and children and adolescents who perpetrate violence. Many youth in the juvenile justice system have been victims of domestic violence,

teen dating violence, and sexual assault and have perpetrated these types of violence on others. Services for both victims and perpetrators must incorporate trauma-focused treatment and responses. It is crucial to develop and evaluate interventions that combine trauma-focused mental health services and also hold perpetrators accountable for the violence or abuse.

Trauma-informed approaches and policies should be used in all components of the civil legal and criminal justice systems, with a goal of reducing criminalization of these youth. Within the criminal justice system, trauma-informed approaches should be woven into training, programs, and policies for law enforcement, prosecution, defense counsel, probation, court personnel, and the judiciary.

1-C6. Through grant solicitations and policies, DOJ, HHS, and ED should foster coalitions and networks of agencies, groups, and individuals linked with domestic violence and sexual assault research, prevention, and intervention to coordinate responses and promote coherence and broader impact.

Research indicates that there are a number of connections among domestic violence, sexual assault and other areas of youth policy that are not currently recognized by many states and localities.¹⁵ At the local and federal levels, governmental agencies and the civil legal and criminal justice systems operate in silos, often missing the ways in which youth exposure to domestic violence and sexual assault cuts across youth risk behaviors. Federal agencies' identification of those connections and modeling of collaboration would facilitate a more complete response to children and youth affected by violence against women.

DOJ, HHS, and ED should also offer funding to develop and support cross-system collaboratives that implement trauma-informed systems of care for children and families.

Among the systems, agencies, and issues that should be connected with services for children and youth exposed to domestic violence and sexual assault are:

- Juvenile justice, particularly those addressing girls in the juvenile justice system.
- Services and local responders to domestic trafficking of youth.
- Health care providers, including adolescent health and reproductive health.
- Housing resources for young women re-entering the community after juvenile justice or criminal justice system involvement.
- Sexual Assault Response Teams (SARTs) in Indian Country.
- Foster care for teens and youth who are aging out of foster care.
- Obesity response and education.
- Schools and educators.
- Bullying and in-school harassment responses.

In addition, prevention and intervention efforts aimed at restructuring federal, state, and local government responses to child exposure to domestic violence and sexual assault would benefit from research that tracks youth throughout the systems. This would assist in developing a better understanding of the range of entry points for youth who are exposed to domestic

violence and sexual assault, and the impact of entry points on outcomes for youth and families.

Examples of this type of broad, cross-cutting funding are the initiative between HHS and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF) to create trauma-informed child welfare systems and the DOJ Defending Childhood Initiative. The ACF initiative infuses a trauma-informed approach across child-protection systems at the state level while improving access to evidence-based, trauma-focused mental health services for children and adolescents in the child protection system. The DOJ Defending Childhood Initiative is an example of a collaborative federal initiative bringing together federal components with different missions in the service of youth experiencing domestic violence, child abuse, sexual assault, and community violence.

1-C7. DOJ, HHS, and ED should identify, evaluate, and respond to unintended consequences of federal and state laws and policies that address youth violence and misbehavior, and promote laws and policies that will support healthy community norms and a violence-free society.

In developing positions on federal and state legislation and policies, DOJ, HHS, and ED should identify and assess the unintended consequences that certain laws create for youth exposed to domestic violence and sexual assault. Examples include the following:

- Zero-tolerance policies often penalize youth who are exposed to violence in their homes and are inconsistent with healing and trauma-informed approaches that are supported by this report.

- Bullying and cyberbullying laws are proliferating and warrant close analysis to determine their impact on youth who are or have been exposed to family violence.
- The Tribal Law and Order Act provides for the enhancement of prosecution in Indian Country by U.S. Attorneys for violent crimes, including sexual assault.¹⁶

Part 2: Recommendations for Increasing and Improving Evidence Bases on Violence Against Women, and Child and Youth Exposure to This Violence

2-A. PROMOTING AND SUPPORTING COLLABORATION AMONG RESEARCHERS AND PRACTITIONERS

2-A1. The White House Advisor on Violence Against Women should convene an interagency task force to initiate efforts aimed at developing greater collaborative, evidence-building capacity among researchers and local practitioners in a variety of settings.

To date, the expectation for evidence-based practice has been an *unfunded mandate*, and support has not been adequately available to build capacity in this area. The result has been the development of a few evidence-based practices that are most often therapeutic in nature, and tested with limited populations in narrow contexts. These tested strategies are a promising beginning but are inadequate for a field that intervenes at all levels of the social ecology.

To achieve such a goal, an interagency task force that includes representatives of OVW, the National Institute of Justice (NIJ),

HHS ACF, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), and NIH, among others, should be convened to design support for the three stages of evidence-based development listed here:

1. **Build evidence for a wide range of practices**, including advocacy and systems change, that reflects outcomes measured over time — both proximal and distal — and in multiple contexts.
2. **Develop a funded collaborative process** of sharing the most currently available evidence to inform practices in the field among researchers and for government policymaking.
3. **Support strategies to adjust policies and practices** and re-evaluate these adaptations, particularly in multiple contexts.

These three stages of evidence development should be continuous and ongoing. As such, adaptations studied in stage 3, above, become new evidence that contributes to stage 1.

2-A2. The DOJ OVW and the HHS Family Violence Prevention and Services Program Office (FVPSPO) should collaborate with the National Resource Centers to develop a national strategy to develop capacity for evidence-building partnerships between practitioners and researchers.

The development of evidence-informed practice requires close partnerships between researchers, practitioners, and policymakers. Evidence for practice should focus on supporting local programs to gain a better understanding of what works, when, for whom, and in what context. This

may be as simple as setting realistic outcome goals and systematically measuring and reporting progress toward these goals. This and more formal evaluations require support for a wide range of adaptations and ongoing evaluation strategies. Greater effort is needed to create research and evaluation projects that are truly engaged and participatory in nature, that reflect the reality of local communities, and that bring concrete benefits to them.

OVW and FVPSPO should, with the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence, the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and other such national organizations, engage both the research and practice communities in a systematic effort to build capacity for evidence-gathering and dissemination. The recent *Sexual Violence Roundtable*, convened by NIJ and OVW in September 2011, and the Institute of Medicine's *Workshop on Preventing Violence Against Women and Children*, held in January 2011, are examples of the federal role in briefly connecting researchers and practitioners to identify priority research and evaluation issues and strategies. More such efforts and ones that are ongoing in nature are needed.

2-B. BUILDING A COMPREHENSIVE BODY OF EVIDENCE ON THE PREVALENCE OF VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN AND ITS IMPACT ON CHILDREN, YOUTH, AND ADULTS

2-B1. Prevention, intervention, and policy efforts should include: (1) developing and testing innovative and promising strategies to prevent and address injuries and violence; (2) providing individuals and families with the knowledge, skills, and tools to prevent and address violence; and (3) promoting and disseminating best practices and tools to prevent

and address domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking.

Prevention, intervention, and policy efforts at all ecological levels can include the core elements of this recommendation. Ongoing evaluation should be utilized to measure outcomes and the processes of implementation and change. Research should focus on protective factors that have a meaningful and positive impact on the lives of young people. Broad and ongoing evidence generation is central to a proactive public health strategy.

2-B2. Federal funding should be expanded to support an evidence-building agenda to stop violence against women and its impact on children, youth, and adults.

The funding devoted to research on the impact of violence against women on children, youth, and adults and efforts to address this violence is far smaller than that devoted to social issues of similar magnitude. Funding for evidence building in this domain should be expanded.

2-B3. Adopt a broad definition of evidence that will inform practice.

Allow a variety of sources of information to inform evidence-based practices. These include research findings, theory, values, and practitioner and client wisdom and are consistent with the origins of the evidence-based practice movement.

2-B4. Support a range of research studies from exploratory and qualitative to randomized clinical trials, including studies that adopt mixed methods to answer research questions.

Many issues of concern are not yet understood to the degree that they might benefit from large-scale, randomized clinical trials. Exploratory, qualitative, and participatory action studies that inform larger scale tests of interventions are critical to the knowledge-building process and should be encouraged. Longitudinal studies that study the pathways of children through multiple forms of intervention are also needed.

2-B5. The CDC should be supported to continue the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS), collecting and reporting accurate data at the state and federal levels on violence against women.

The CDC's National Center for Injury Prevention and Control has engaged in a decade-long effort to develop state-level surveillance of violence against women. Support should continue for ongoing data collection on violence against women using the NISVS, which provides state-level estimates.¹⁷ Examination of NISVS data through a lens of intersectionality should be expanded. However, funds appropriated for local evaluation of programs should not be diverted to other purposes such as surveillance.

2-C. CONDUCTING RESEARCH THAT IS ATTUNED TO CONTEXT AND MULTIPLE INEQUALITIES AND VICTIMIZATIONS

2-C1. Support research policies and initiatives that take account of intersectionality.

As our understanding of intersectionality evolves, a contextualized approach to discrimination that recognizes the connections between oppression(s) and privilege

is necessary. Research policies and initiatives should be reviewed through the lens of intersectionality that critically examines the impact of structural and institutionalized “-isms” upon communities and individuals. Inequalities are not equivalent because identities are connected to inequalities in different ways, and they are reproduced in different structures in different ways. An intersectional evaluation should examine the possibilities and the potential pitfalls of any initiative. Detailed explanations of possible intended and unintended consequences of an initiative — particularly on marginalized and vulnerable communities — should be included. Remedies for unintended consequences should be outlined and adopted by working collaboratively with communities on whom the impact is the greatest. Critical to the task of addressing inequalities and enhancing empowerment will be the use of research methods that take account of intersectionality.

2-C2. Research and evaluation projects must include sources of evidence that are inclusive and attend to the intersection of multiple inequalities.

Aggregate data analyses too often miss the differences between communities and the impact of multiple inequalities on individuals, families, and communities. Data collection must be disaggregated by race, class, gender, and other identities in order to assess the magnitude of specific challenges for specific populations. In addition, analyses should be encouraged that use disaggregated data to analyze and document impacts within the context of a convergence of multiple systems of oppression and privilege.

2-C3. Research studies are contextual and the underlying assumptions of a study’s measures and methods must be made explicit.

What becomes defined as “best” practice is often the result of policy and funding decisions at the federal level. To date, explicit descriptions of the underlying assumptions of researchers and evaluators in how hypotheses are constructed, what variables are chosen for study, how they are measured, and which populations are included for study — as well as decisions about what is supported or not by federal research agencies — have not been adequately documented and discussed. The field would benefit from an open examination of these underlying assumptions.

Knowledge Bases

The NAC built upon the following knowledge bases in developing its recommendations:

- **Violence against women (VAW).** The NAC relied upon a definition of violence against women that is consistent with international documents on this topic, and defined VAW as “any act of gender-based violence that results in, or is likely to result in, physical, sexual or psychological harm or suffering to women, including threats of such acts, coercion or arbitrary deprivation of liberty, whether occurring in public or in private life.”¹⁸ This internationally accepted definition of VAW is commonly expanded to include VAW between same-sex partners, regardless of gender. The Violence Against Women Act (VAWA) operationalizes VAW as one of four crimes against women: domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and dating violence.
- **Coercion.** The NAC specifically includes the term *coercion* in the definition of violence against women. Coercion is defined by Stark (2007) as entailing “the use of force or threats to compel or dispel a particular response. In addition to causing immediate pain, injury, fear, or death, coercion can have long-term physical, behavioral, or psychological consequences” (p. 228).¹⁹
- **Exposure to violence.** Exposure to VAW has been defined as a child seeing, hearing, being involved in, or used by the perpetrator in an incident of VAW, or being the direct victim of sexual assault or teen dating violence. It also includes experiencing events leading up to and following an incident, such as police intervention or seeking safe shelter.²⁰ The NAC has therefore focused on the exposure of children and youth to any one or combination of the four crimes of violence against women.
- **A public health approach to violence against women.** Violence against women and its impact on youth is a public health issue, incorporating public health strategies for social change. These strategies include primary prevention, use of a scientific approach, multidisciplinary and multisectoral approaches, and services for victims.²¹ A public health approach to eradicating violence against women is proactive rather than reactive and is community-based. This approach has been endorsed nationally and internationally and is the approach that the NAC supports.
- **Primary and universal prevention.** A proactive public health approach focuses on changing the factors that give rise

to violence against women. Successful prevention relies on a full understanding of the causes of behavior and so is grounded in research. An ecological approach to prevention — operating simultaneously on the individual, family, community, and societal levels — has been effective and is the approach that the NAC endorses.²²

- **Healing informed practice.** Service provision should support, assist, and guide children, families, and communities towards healing and well-being. This approach respects and supports the incorporation of resiliency, self-care, and self-healing processes that are indigenous to people from various cultural and ethnic backgrounds and experiences. It recognizes the importance of respecting any trauma experienced as a step in the total process of individual, family, and community healing.²³
- **Resilience and protective factors.** Resilience is the process of adapting well in the face of adversity, trauma, tragedy, threats, or significant stress. Protective factors are those characteristics of the individual, family, community, or culture that enhance children's and adolescents' abilities to overcome adversity.
- **Positive youth development.** An intentional, prosocial approach that engages youth within their communities, schools, organizations, peer groups, and families in a manner that is productive and constructive; recognizes, utilizes, and enhances young people's strengths; and promotes positive outcomes for youth by providing opportunities, fostering positive relationships, and furnishing the support needed to build on their leadership strengths.²⁴
- **Trauma.** Trauma occurs when an external threat overwhelms a person's coping resources. It evokes intense fear and helplessness. Children respond to traumatic events in a range of ways, depending upon their age and developmental stage. Trauma — particularly chronic traumatic stress or toxic stress — may result in prolonged activation of children's stress response systems, which affects the development of the brain and neurologic system. Children's responses to traumatic stress may include changes in behavior, changes in abilities to focus or succeed in school, and impaired social skills. Abuse and violence in relationships, sexual assault, stalking, child abuse and neglect, and child witnessing of domestic violence are common experiences that may result in trauma. Research shows that children and adolescents with histories of trauma, especially child physical and sexual abuse and exposure to domestic violence, are disproportionately represented in the juvenile justice and child welfare systems.

Trauma may also be considered at the community or cultural level: historical trauma, trauma associated with racism, sexism, homophobia or other oppression, terrorism, wars, immigration, and institutional trauma. For individuals and populations who live in environments of ongoing traumatic stress at the community or cultural level, the effects of individual trauma may be compounded.

Findings from the Adverse Childhood Experience (ACE) Study²⁵ yield important information about how traumatic stressors in childhood affect physical health and well-being for the lifetime of the child. This study has linked traumatic experiences —

including sexual abuse, exposure to domestic violence, child abuse, and neglect — with the leading causes of disease and death in adults, including cardiac disease, liver disease, alcoholism, sexually transmitted diseases, depression, and other chronic health problems. The study also found a strong correlation between the numbers of adverse experiences children had suffered and the likelihood of adult chronic disease. These findings create an imperative for preventing child exposure to trauma and increasing capacities of individuals, families, and service systems to identify and respond to children’s needs as early in their lives as possible.

- **From trauma to trauma-informed care.**²⁶ Most, if not all, agencies and service providers are already serving people with trauma histories, whether they know it or not. For those working with particularly vulnerable populations, the numbers are even higher. Staff members themselves may be trauma survivors, and their needs are often unrecognized and unaddressed.

For both individuals and organizations, being aware of the pervasive impact of trauma on children, adolescents, and their families is the first step toward becoming “trauma-informed.” All too often, service providers may re-traumatize those seeking services by failing to recognize the impact of trauma on the lives of the individuals they serve. Integrating knowledge about trauma and recovery into all aspects of organizational culture, including staff training and development, the physical environment, and policies and procedures can result in a fundamental shift toward trauma-informed care.

Human service providers are increasingly making the distinction between “trauma-specific” services, which are behavioral

health interventions designed to treat the specific symptoms of trauma, and “trauma-informed” practices, which can be implemented anywhere, including educational settings, job programs and workplaces, housing, law enforcement, religious settings, advocacy programs, and health and behavioral health settings. In a trauma-informed program, everyone — including management, clinical staff, support staff, and clients — are educated about trauma and its consequences. Trained individuals become alert for ways to make their environments more “healing-informed” and avoid re-traumatizing clients and staff.

People working in a trauma-informed setting understand that when a child or adolescent has been traumatized, having access to safe and reliable adults and regaining control over the environment are top priorities. Trauma-informed services support resilience, self-care, and self-healing. Because violence and healing both occur in a context, trauma-informed programs respect and include culturally specific healing modalities.

Endnotes

1. See, e.g., Richard M. Lerner, National Research Council, *Promoting Positive Youth Development: Theoretical and Empirical Bases*, White Paper (2005).
2. Christopher Mikton, Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence, *Injury Prevention* 16:359 (2010).
3. The NAC recognizes that the formation of gender is historically and geographically specific, with broad generalities worldwide; the information here is illustrative for the United States only. Additionally, new information from the field of biology

is beginning to shed more light on the complexities of gender formation and the layering that forms adult gender identity. See, e.g., Anne Fausto-Sterling, *Sex/Gender: Biology in a Social World*, 4-7 (especially Figure 2.2) (2012).

4. Kimberlé W.Crenshaw, Mapping the Margins: Intersectionality, Identity Politics, and Violence Against Women of Color, *Stanford Law Review* 43(6):1241-1299 (1991).

5. J.F. Gilgun, The Four Cornerstones of Evidence-Based Practice in Social Work. *Research on Social Work Practice* 15(1): 52-61 (2005).

6. National Prevention Council, Office of the Surgeon General, National Prevention Strategy, America's Plan for Better Health and Wellness (2011).

7. Educational awareness campaigns can be extremely effective in changing behaviors, as evidenced by several highly visible and recognizable examples: the American Cancer Society's anti-smoking campaigns; MADD (Mothers Against Drunk Driving) campaigns; and the more recent, "If You See Something, Say Something"TM campaign.

8. For more information, go to <http://www.whitehouse.gov/lis2many> (last visited May 4, 2012).

9. For more information about the initiative, go to <http://www.thatnotcool.com/> (last visited May 4, 2012).

10. Recent research has revealed that 15 percent of youth in the juvenile justice system identify as LGBTQ, and their entry into the justice system often begins when they run away from home as a result of their LGBTQ identity. Laura Garnette et al., Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, and Transgender

(LGBT) Youth and the Juvenile Justice System, in *Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy and Practice* (Francine T. Sherman and Francine H. Jacobs eds., 2011, p. 156).

11. HHS Secretary Sebelius based the decision to include this measure on recommendations contained in the Institute of Medicine's Clinical Preventive Services for Women: Closing the Gaps (2011), available at <http://www.iom.edu/Reports/2011/Clinical-Preventive-Services-for-Women-Closing-the-Gaps.aspx> (last visited May 6, 2012). The report recommends cost-sharing-free coverage (i.e., without co-payments or deductibles) for women and adolescent girls to be screened and counseled for interpersonal and domestic violence. Non-grandfathered plans and issuers are required to provide coverage without cost-sharing, pursuant to the guidelines, in the first plan year that begins on or after August 1, 2012.

12. At minimum, in order to be effective and prevent interpersonal and domestic violence, meaningful coverage must meet the guidelines outlined in the Futures Without Violence report, National Consensus Guidelines on Identifying and Responding to Domestic Violence Victimization in Health Care Settings (rev. 2004), available at <http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/userfiles/file/Consensus.pdf> (last visited September 25, 2012).

13. Although not contemplated in this report, the Secretary should use future guidance on Medicaid and the Essential Health Benefits to clarify that the requirements of § 2713 apply to traditional Medicaid plans. Requiring Medicaid plans to comply with § 2713 would ensure that all women in traditional Medicaid plans have access to screening and counseling of domestic violence annually.

14. Francine T. Sherman and Lisa Goldblatt Grace, *The System Response to the Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Girls*, in *Juvenile Justice: Advancing Research, Policy and Practice* (Francine T. Sherman and Francine H. Jacobs eds., 2011).

15. See generally, the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, <http://www.cdc.gov/ace/index.htm> (last visited May 6, 2012).

16. However, Congress has not yet restored tribal courts' jurisdiction over non-Indian defendants — jurisdiction that is critical because only the federal government has the authority to investigate and prosecute violent crimes against non-Indians, and approximately 60-70 percent of crimes by non-Indians are not prosecuted because of declination by U.S. Attorneys. The U.S. Department of Justice submitted a letter to the Senate Indian Affairs Committee recommending that the jurisdiction of tribal courts be restored to promote the safety of Native women and girls and to promote overall safety in the community. The NAC encourages this effort to restore jurisdiction over non-Indians to tribal courts.

17. For more information on state-level data may be found at the CDC website on the NISVS at <http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/nisvs/> (last visited May 6, 2012).

18. Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women, G.A. Res. 48/104, at 3, U.N. GAOR, 85th Plenary Meeting, U.N. Document A/RES/48/104 (December 20, 1993). The NAC purposefully chose the internationally accepted definition of violence against women as an effort to align its work with that of many other countries. Two National Research Council panels and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control

and Prevention have also attempted to find a common definition. See the Panel on Research on Violence Against Women, National Research Council, *Understanding Violence Against Women* (Nancy A. Crowell and Ann W. Burgess eds., 1996); Steering Committee for the Workshop on Issues in Research on Violence Against Women, National Research Council, *Advancing the Federal Research Agenda on Violence Against Women* (Candace Kruttschnitt, Brenda L. McLaughlin, and Carol V. Petrie eds., 2004); National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, *Understanding Intimate Partner Violence (Fact Sheet)*, available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pdf/ipv-factsheet-a.pdf> (last visited May 8, 2012).

19. Evan Stark, *Coercive Control: The Entrapment of Women in Personal Life* (New York: Oxford University Press, 2007, p. 228).

20. Ernest N. Jouriles et al., Domestic Violence and Child Adjustment, in *Interparental Conflict and Child Development: Theory, Research, and Application* (J.H. Grych and F.D. Fincham eds., 2001, p. 315).

21. Etienne G. Krug et al., World Report on Violence and Health, *The Lancet*, 360 (2002).

22. See generally for prevention and public health approaches to violence against women, David S. Lee et al., Sexual Violence Prevention, *The Prevention Researcher* 2:15 (2007), available at <http://preventconnect.org/wp-content/uploads/2009/04/lee-2007-Sexual-Violence-Prevention.pdf> (last visited May 8, 2012); World Health Organization, *World Report on Violence and Health* (Etienne G. Krug et al. eds., 2002),

available at http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/ (last visited May 8, 2012); World Health Organization, Preventing Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Against Women: Taking Action and Generating Evidence (2010), available at http://www.who.int/entity/violence_injury_prevention/publications/violence/9789241564007_eng.pdf (last visited May 8, 2012); Kim Webster, Victorian Health Promotion Foundation, Preventing Violence Before It Occurs: A Framework and Background Paper to Guide the Primary Prevention of Violence Against Women in Victoria (2007), available at <http://www.vichealth.vic.gov.au/preventingviolence/> (last visited May 8, 2012); Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Principles of Prevention (POP), online learning units, <http://www.vetoviolence.org/education-pop.html> (last visited May 8, 2012); Rachel Davis et al. and National Sexual Violence Resource Center, Sexual Violence and the Spectrum of Prevention: Towards a Community Solution (2006), available at http://www.nsvrc.org/sites/default/files/file/Projects_RPE_NSVRC-spectrum.pdf (last visited May 8, 2012); Centers for Disease Control and

Prevention, Sexual Violence Prevention: Beginning the Dialogue (2004), available at <http://www.cdc.gov/ViolencePrevention/pub/SVPrevention.html> (last visited May 8, 2012).

23. Jerry T. Tello, National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute, Beyond Trauma Informed to Healing Informed (White Paper, 2012).

24. For more information on this approach, go to www.findyouthinfo.gov.

25. Vincent J. Fellitti et al., Relationship of Childhood Abuse and Household Dysfunction to Many of the Leading Causes of Death in Adults: The Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study, *American Journal of Preventive Medicine* 14:245 (1998).

26. Excerpted from Andy Blanch, From Trauma to Trauma-Informed Care, presentation at the Federal Partners Roundtable on Women and Trauma, April 29, 2010. For the full Report of the Federal Partners Committee on Women and Trauma (2011), go to http://www.vawnet.org/summary.php?doc_id=2795&find_type=web_desc_GC (last visited May 7, 2012).

Section Three: National Advisory Committee Activities

The OVW Director convened four meetings of the NAC during the charter period.¹ The meetings were held on the following dates, in Washington, D.C.:

Meeting 1: January 28, 2011

Meeting 2: June 2-3, 2011

Meeting 3: September 13-14, 2011

Meeting 4: February 27-28, 2012

Notices of the meetings were published in the *Federal Register*² prior to each meeting.

See Appendix Two for NAC Meeting Agendas, Executive Summaries, and Webinars.

³ The Office on Violence Against Women engaged the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO), located in Chicago, Ill., to facilitate and assist with coordination of NAC meetings 2-4, and to coordinate and oversee the completion of the report on the NAC, including the final recommendations. Key staff and consultants working on NAC activities were: Lori Crowder, M.S.; Jenna Musselman-Palles, L.C.S.W.; Mary Malefyt Seighman, J.D.; and Carlee Taggart.

⁴ See Meeting Notices at: *Federal Register* 76:1629 (Jan. 11, 2011); 76 *Federal Register* 76:27664 (May 12, 2011); *Federal Register* 76:52971 (Aug. 24, 2011); and *Federal Register* 77:8275 (Feb. 14, 2012), <http://www.federalregister.gov>.

Appendix One

- Charter for the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women
- National Advisory Committee Subcommittee Assignments

CHARTER FOR THE
NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON
VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

1. OFFICIAL DESIGNATION

This Charter relates to the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women, herein referred to as the "Committee."

2. AUTHORITY

Authority for the Committee is found in the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended) and Executive Order No. 12838, pursuant to which the Attorney General established the National Advisory Council on Violence Against Women for the purpose of providing the Attorney General and Secretary of Health and Human Services practical and general policy advice concerning the implementation of the Violence Against Women Act.

3. COMMITTEE OBJECTIVE AND SCOPE OF ACTIVITIES

The Committee will have the following objectives and scope of activities:

(A) To provide the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services practical and general policy advice concerning improvements to the Nation's response to violence against women, including domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking, with a specific focus on successful interventions with children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by intimate partner and sexual violence.

(B) To provide the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services practical and general policy advice concerning the cooperation of judicial agencies, law enforcement and prosecutorial agencies, physical and mental health service providers, social service providers, victim service providers, child welfare agencies, schools, businesses, community based organizations and federal, state, local and tribal governments on responding to issues of violence against women including the identification and development of:

- (1) successful interventions with children and teens who witness and/or are victimized by intimate partner and sexual violence;
- (2) an understanding that the safety and well-being of these children and teens is inextricably linked to the safety and well-being of their mothers; and
- (3) the relationship between children and teens who witness and/or are

victimized by intimate partner and sexual violence and the overall public safety of communities across the country.

4. DURATION

The duration for the Committee is continuing.

5. REPORTING RELATIONSHIP

The Committee shall report to the Attorney General of the United States and to the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

6. AGENCY RESPONSIBLE FOR SUPPORTING COMMITTEE

The U.S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, will provide all necessary support services for the Committee.

7. DESCRIPTION OF DUTIES

The Committee shall have duties that are advisory only. In addition, the Committee will carry out the objectives listed in Section 3 above, Committee Objective and Scope of Activities, and shall report to the Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services the results of all deliberations, together with any recommendations.

8. SUBCOMMITTEES

The Department of Justice shall be authorized to establish subcommittees, as necessary and consistent with its mission, and these subcommittees or working groups shall operate under the provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act of 1972 (5 U.S.C., Appendix, as amended), the Sunshine in Government Act of 1976 (5 U.S.C. 552b, as amended), and other appropriate Federal regulations.

Such subcommittees or working groups shall not work independently of the chartered Committee, and shall report all their recommendations and advice to the Committee for full deliberation and discussion. Subcommittees or working groups have no authority to make decisions on behalf of the chartered Committee nor can they report directly to the Department of Justice or the Department of Health and Human Services.

9. ESTIMATED ANNUAL OPERATING COSTS AND STAFF

The estimated annual operating cost for the Committee is \$200,000. It is further estimated that this committee will be supported by one Federal staff support year.

10. MEETINGS

The Committee will meet at the call of the Committee's Designated Federal Officer approximately twice a year to carry out the duties identified in this Charter and otherwise as required.

11. DESIGNATED FEDERAL OFFICER

The Designated Federal Officer shall be the Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, a full-time employee appointed in accordance with agency procedures. The Designated Federal Officer and/or Alternate Designated Federal Officer shall attend all Committee meetings. The Designated Federal Officer will call all of the Committee meetings, prepare and approve all meeting agendas, attend all Committee meetings, adjourn any meeting when the Designated Federal Officer determines adjournment to be in the public interest, and chair meetings when directed to do so by the official to whom the Committee reports.

12. NOMINATION OF MEMBERS AND MEMBERSHIP

The Department of Justice will collaborate with the Department of Health and Human Services in submitting member nominations for the Attorney General's approval.

The Committee shall be composed of not more than fifteen distinguished members, whose diverse experience and background enable them to provide fairly balanced points of view with regard to advising on the issues outlined in Section 3 above. Those members, who are not full-time Federal officers and employees, shall serve as representative members who express the views and interests of the organizations or constituency which they represent and/or special government employees.

Committee members, with the exception of travel and per diem for official travel, shall serve without compensation.

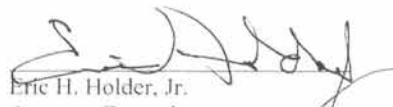
13. RECORDKEEPING

The records of the Committee and its subcommittees shall be handled according to General Records Schedule 26, Item 2, and appropriate Department of Justice policies and procedures. These records shall be available for public inspection and copying, subject to the Freedom of Information Act, 5 U.S.C. 552, as amended.

14. TERMINATION DATE

This Charter expires two (2) years after its effective date, but is subject to renewal.

FILING DATE: March 3, 2010


Eric H. Holder, Jr.
Attorney General

National Advisory Committee Subcommittee Assignments

Prevention and Social Change

Federal staff: Latinisha Lewis, OVW

Francine Sherman, J.D.*

Amber Rose Johnson

Debbie Lee

The Honorable Melvin Stoof

Joe Torre

Trauma-Informed Resiliency and Positive Youth Development

Federal staff: Marylouise Kelley, HHS

Betsy McAlister Groves*

Maria Jose Fletcher, J.D.

Neil Irvin

Carol Post

Jerry Tello

Evidence Building and Translation

Federal staff: Darlene Johnson, OVW

Jeffrey Edleson, Ph.D.*

Monika Johnson Hostler

Chief Susan Manheimer

Gabrielle Union

Sujata Warriar, Ph.D.

* Denotes subcommittee chair

Appendix Two

- NAC Meeting Agendas, Executive Summaries, and Webinars

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE
OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

INITIAL MEETING

**U.S. Department of Justice
Friday, January 28, 2011
8:15 a.m.-5:00 p.m.**

AGENDA

- 8:15-8:30 a.m. **Photos** with Attorney General Holder and HHS Secretary Sebelius
- 8:30-9:00 a.m. **Welcome**
Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
Eric Holder, Attorney General
Kathleen Sebelius, Secretary, Dept. of Health and Human Services (HHS)
Karol Mason, Deputy Associate Attorney General
- 9:00-10:00 a.m. **NAC Member Introductions**
Facilitated by OVW Director Carbon
“In accepting this role on the NAC, what expertise do you hope to share?”
- 10:00-10:15 a.m. **Break**
- 10:15-10:25 a.m. **The White House**
Lynn Rosenthal, Advisor on Violence Against Women
- 10:25-10:55 a.m. **Federal Efforts**
“The Defending Childhood Initiative”
Karol Mason, Deputy Associate Attorney General
Melodee Hanes, Special Counsel to the Administrator, Child Protection Division, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)
Catherine Pierce, Associate Administrator, Child Protection Division, OJJDP
Anna Martinez, Senior Policy Advisor, OVW
- 10:55-11:10 a.m. **Office of Justice Programs (OJP)**
Mary Lou Leary, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General
- 11:10-11:15 a.m. **National Institute of Justice (NIJ)**
Carrie Mulford, Social Science Analyst
- 11:15-11:25 a.m. **Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS)**
Dr. Sandra Webb, Deputy Director

11:25-11:35 a.m.	<p>Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) <i>Dr. Rodney Hammond, Director, Division of Violence Prevention</i></p>
11:35-11:50 a.m.	<p>Department of Education <i>Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary of Education</i> <i>Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools</i></p>
11:50 a.m.-12:00	<p>Overview of the Role of Federal Advisory Committees <i>Cathy Poston, Attorney Advisor, OVW</i></p>
12:00-12:15 p.m.	Public Comment
12:15-12:30 p.m.	Break
12:30-1:15 p.m.	<p>Working Lunch</p> <p>Health and Human Services (HHS) <i>Bryan Samuels, Commissioner</i> <i>Administration on Children Youth and Families</i></p> <p>NAC Charge <i>Susan B. Carbon, Director, OVW</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Focus on Children Exposed to Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) and Teen Dating Violence (TDV) • Practical and General Policy Advice • Successful Interventions • Link Between Well-Being of Children and Mothers • Public Safety
1:15-1:30 p.m.	Break
1:30-2:00 p.m.	<p>Small-Group Discussions</p> <p>“What are the major or emerging issues on domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and stalking?”</p>
2:00-3:00 p.m.	<p>Small-Group Reports/Full-Group Discussion</p> <p>“What are the major or emerging issues on domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence and stalking?”</p> <p>“What is missing from this discussion and these conclusions?”</p>
3:00-3:15 p.m.	Break

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- 3:15-3:45 p.m. **Continued Full-Group Discussion**
“What is the role of the federal government in addressing these issues?”
“How do you think the NAC can help us respond to these issues?”
- 3:45-4:05 p.m. **Small-Group Discussions**
“What are the next steps we should take?”
- 4:05-4:30 p.m. **Full-Group Discussion**
“What are the next steps we should take?”
- 4:35-4:50 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 4:50-5:00 p.m. **Conclusion**
- 5:00 p.m. **Adjournment**

Executive Summary

National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women

INAUGURAL MEETING

U.S. Department of Justice
Robert F. Kennedy Main Justice Building
January 28, 2011

Committee Members in Attendance

Dr. Jeffrey L. Edleson, Professor and Director of Research, University of Minnesota School of Social Work

Maria Jose Fletcher, Esquire, Florida Immigrant Advocacy Center

Betsy McAlister Groves, Director, Child Witness to Violence Project, Department of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

Neil Irvin, Executive Director, Men Can Stop Rape

Amber Johnson, Youth Advocate

Monika Johnson-Hostler, Executive Director, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Debbie Lee, Senior Vice President, Family Violence Prevention Fund

Susan Manheimer, Chief of Police, San Mateo (Calif.) Police Department

Carol Post, Executive Director, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Francine Sherman, Esquire, Clinical Professor, Boston College Law School

The Honorable Melvin Stoof, Associate Judge, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court

Joe Torre, Chairman, The Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Dr. Sujata Warriar, Director, New York City Program of the New York Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

Discussion

1. **Susan B. Carbon**, Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, welcomed the newly rechartered National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women to its initial meeting. Director Carbon, the Designated Federal Official for the meeting, explained that the focus of this NAC would be to provide guidance and recommendations to the Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services on ways to reduce violence against children and youth. The committee will focus on the issues of domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking as they relate to the nation's young people. Director Carbon said that Attorney General Eric Holder had convened the group because he is profoundly concerned with this issue.

2. **Attorney General Holder** addressed the committee members about the importance of the panel's work, telling the committee that the Department was "committed to engaging a broad spectrum of community partners to help stem teen dating violence and safeguard our children."

3. **Director Carbon** asked the NAC members to introduce themselves and to answer this question: “In accepting this role on the NAC, what expertise do you hope to share?” Federal employees within the Departments of Justice, Health and Human Services, and Education also were introduced. Two committee members — **Jerry Tello**, with the National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute, and director of Sacred Circles; and **Gabrielle Union**, an advocate from Beverly Hills, Calif. — were unable to attend today’s meeting.

4. The committee heard presentations from various federal representatives:

Lynn Rosenthal, Advisor on Violence Against Women in the White House, spoke of the committee’s work as part of an “unprecedented effort of coordination and cooperation across the federal government” to end violence against women and children.

Karol Mason, Deputy Associate Attorney General; **Melodee Hanes**, Special Counselor to the Administrator and Acting Deputy Administrator for Policy, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP); and **Catherine Pierce**, Associate Administrator, OJJDP Child Protection Division, presented an overview of the Defending Childhood initiative. The Attorney General created the initiative to harness resources for the prevention of children’s exposure to violence, to mitigate the negative impact of that exposure when it EDs occur, and to develop knowledge and spread awareness about the exposure. A central component of the initiative is funding for eight demonstration sites.

Mary Lou Leary, Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General, spoke about OJP initiatives, including Safe Start, a program using evidence-based strategies to reduce

children’s exposure to violence. She spoke of the statistic that 10 percent of adolescents report having been the victims of physical abuse by a romantic partner within the last year, and discussed the need for researchers to not “treat teens as miniature adults” in addressing teen dating violence.

Carrie Mulford, a Social Science Analyst with the National Institute of Justice, spoke about research into teen dating violence, juvenile justice, and child abuse. In teen relationships, she said, when one partner reports perpetuating violence, more often than not, the other partner reports perpetrating violence.

Sandra Webb, Deputy Director of the Community Oriented Policing Services (COPS) office at DOJ, talked about the office’s current emphasis on partnerships, problem solving, and organizational transformation. The Office is trying to maximize the delivery of law enforcement services and apply it to the problem at hand. In addition to awarding grants targeted to specific community problems, COPS offers publications and tools such as the Community Policing Assessment Tool.

Rodney Hammond, Director of the Division of Violence Prevention Director at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), gave an overview of CDC’s role and some of its activities relating to violence prevention. He spoke about CDC’s EMPOWER (Enhancing and Making Programs and Outcomes Work to End Rape) program and its forthcoming teen dating violence intervention, “Dating Matters.”

Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Safe and Drug-Free Schools at the Department of Education, told the panel that his office’s work is important

because students cannot learn if they do not feel safe. The Office of Safe and Drug-Free Schools has been part of a large interagency task force on teen dating violence. Grants have been awarded through Safe Schools/Healthy Students program, a collaboration of the Departments of Education, Justice, and Health and Human Services.

Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families at the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS), pointed out overlaps among low test scores, poor attendance, suspensions, and overall community violence within the city of Chicago. Mr. Samuels, previously chief of staff for the Chicago Public Schools and director of the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, noted that more rural school districts in Illinois saw similar overlaps, and these parallels were not simply a phenomenon of urban school systems.

Cathy Poston, Attorney and Advisor at OVW, gave an overview of the role of federal advisory committees. Federal advisory committees, such as the NAC, are chartered for 2-year periods and, unless rechartered, the charters are automatically terminated under the sunset provisions of the Federal Advisory Committee Act.

Director Carbon presented an overview of OVW's work and the history of the Violence Against Women Act. VAWA, which has been reauthorized twice, emerged from the efforts of a grassroots coalition of advocates and survivors and was born out of the need for a national solution to crimes against women. In 2009, OVW launched a year-long campaign to commemorate the 15th anniversary of the signing of VAWA into law.

The objectives of the campaign:

- Raise public awareness about issues around violence against women.
 - Build and renew coalitions among federal, state, local, and tribal law enforcement as well as victim services communities.
 - End stalking, sexual assault, and domestic and dating violence for men, women, and children across the country.
5. The committee heard comments from members of the public:
- **Daniel Carter**, Director of Public Policy, Security on Campus, talked about his organization's Safe on Campus Peer Education Program, and the Sexual Violence Elimination Act, which is expected to be reintroduced in the 112th Congress.
 - **Sue Else**, Executive Director of the National Network to End Domestic Violence, spoke about serving children who witness or experience domestic and/or sexual violence. She noted that her organization had been selected to host the 2nd World Conference of Women's Shelters, February 27-March 1, 2012, in Washington, D.C.
 - **Stanley Green**, Director of Intimate Partner Violence Prevention for the Men's Health Network, spoke to the panel about the need to be inclusive in outreach to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, and teen dating violence, noting that men and boys can also be victims of these crimes.
 - **Deborah Rosenbloom**, Director of Programs at Jewish Women International, addressed the role the

faith community plays in the prevention of teen dating violence and youth exposure to domestic violence.

- **Rachel Natelson**, a staff attorney at the National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty, addressed the special needs of children whose homelessness is a result of family violence, and particularly in the area of education access.
- **Kim Gandy**, Vice President and General Counsel, Feminist Majority Foundation, asked the committee to consider making recommendations on what she said is the undercounting of rape in the Uniform Crime Report and the National Crime Victimization Survey.

6. **Director Carbon** said that it would be up to the committee members to decide how they would like to give DOJ policy guidance and practical recommendations to improve the lives of children and youth. She asked the full committee to break into three groups to discuss:

- The major or emerging issues on domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and stalking within the context of the charter.
- The best use of time at the committee's next meeting and what topics should be addressed at that meeting. Afterwards, the full group reconvened.

The following were among the topics discussed:

- The definition of sexual assault is much broader now than in the past.
- It has been easier to dispel myths around the issue of domestic violence than myths around sexual assault. More public awareness about sexual assault needs to be raised.

- Immigrant populations are especially vulnerable to sexual assault and sexual harassment in the workplace, and to commercial sexual exploitation.
- Sexualization of children in the media is occurring at younger and younger ages, and this needs to be a focus of conversation.
- Adults should speak to teens using teens' language. The term "dating" is not widely used among teenagers today.
- Outreach to parents and peers is needed to discuss how they can talk to children — before those children start romantic relationships.
- Custody is a big issue. How is it defined and implemented across different states?
- Engaging the faith community is a challenge.
- Concerns regarding mandatory reporting when teens are sexually assaulted.
- How technology can be leveraged in outreach to teens (e.g., the use of Tumblr, a Web microblogging platform, to reach a wide audience of young people).
- Partnering with the U.S. Department of State.

7. The panel agreed that the next meeting should last for two days; they tentatively scheduled the meeting for May 31-June 1, 2011. Director Carbon thanked the committee, the speakers, and her staff.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
June 2-3, 2011

AGENDA

Thursday, June 2, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

- | | |
|------------------|---|
| 8:30-9:00 a.m. | Continental Breakfast |
| 9:00-9:30 a.m. | Welcoming Remarks
<i>Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women</i>
Introduction of New Members
<i>Jerry Tello and Gabrielle Union</i>

Introduction of Facilitator
<i>Lori Crowder, Director, Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO)</i> |
| 9:30-10:30 a.m. | Youth Panel Presentation
<i>The National Crittenton Foundation</i> |
| 10:30-10:45 a.m. | Break |
| 10:45-11:30 a.m. | Small-Group Discussions
"Shaping Solutions" |
| 11:30-11:45 a.m. | Group Report-Out |
| 11:45 a.m.-12:00 | Facilitated Discussion
<i>Jeannette Pai-Espinosa, President, The National Crittenton Foundation</i> |
| 12:00-12:45 p.m. | Working Lunch: Vice President's Youth Violence Initiative
<i>Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women</i> |
| 12:45-1:00 p.m. | Break |
| 1:00-2:00 p.m. | Understanding Children's Exposure to Violence: Research-Based Strategies for Prevention and Intervention
<i>David Wolfe, Ph.D., R.B.C. Chair in Children's Mental Health, Centre for Addiction and Mental Health</i> |

- 2:00-2:45 p.m. **Q&A with Dr. Wolfe**
- 2:45-3:00 p.m. **Break**
- 3:00-4:30 p.m. **Stalking, Cyberstalking, and Technology**
Michelle Garcia, Director, Stalking Resource Center
Cindy Southworth, Vice President of Development and Innovation,
National Network to End Domestic Violence
- 4:30 p.m.-4:45 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 4:45 p.m.-5:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Closing**

Friday, June 3, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:05 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**
Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women
- 9:05-10:30 a.m. **Federal Panel: The Administration's Continuing Efforts**
- U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) — The Defending Childhood Initiative**
Karol Mason, Deputy Associate Attorney General
Office of the Associate Attorney General
- Phelan Wyrick, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General*
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice
- Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) — Protective Parent Roundtable**
Ginger Baran, Program Specialist, OVW
- Office of Justice Programs (OJP) — Youth Violence Summit**
Thomas Abt, Chief of Staff to the Assistant Attorney General, OJP
- U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS)**
Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children,
Youth and Families
- Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC)**
Jim Mercy, Acting Director, Division of Violence Prevention
National Center for Injury Prevention and Control
- U.S. Department of Education (ED)**
Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Safe and Drug-Free Schools

10:30-10:45 a.m.	Break
10:45-12:00 noon	Facilitated Small-Group Discussions “Teen Dating Violence” “Children Exposed to Violence”
12:00-1:00 p.m.	Working Lunch “Effective Public Service Announcements and Prevention Efforts”
1:00-1:15 p.m.	Break
1:15-2:50 p.m.	Facilitated Full-Group Discussion “Teen Dating Violence” “Children Exposed to Violence”
2:50-3:00 p.m.	Break
3:00-4:30 p.m.	Facilitated Full-Group Discussion (continued) “What do you think the federal government could or should do to address children and youth who are exposed to or directly victimized by violence?” “What are our goals and methods for communicating policy guidance and practical recommendations to the federal government?”
4:30-4:45 p.m.	Public Comment
4:45-5:00 p.m.	Wrap-Up and Adjournment

Next Meeting Dates: September 13-14, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

Executive Summary

National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women

The Fairfax at Embassy Row
Washington, D.C.
June 2-3, 2011

Committee Members in Attendance

Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, Professor and Director of Research, University of Minnesota School of Social Work

Maria Jose Fletcher, Esquire, VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

Betsy McAlister Groves, Director, Child Witness to Violence Project, Department of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

Neil Irvin, Executive Director, Men Can Stop Rape

Amber Rose Johnson, Youth Advocate

Monika Johnson-Hostler, Executive Director, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Debbie Lee, Senior Vice President, Family Violence Prevention Fund

Susan Manheimer, Chief of Police, San Mateo (Calif.) Police Department

Carol Post, Executive Director, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Francine Sherman, J.D., Clinical Professor, Boston College Law School

The Honorable Melvin Stoof, Associate Judge, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court

Jerry Tello, Director, Sacred Circles; National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute

Joe Torre, Chairman, The Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Gabrielle Union, Social Services Analyst, National Institute of Justice, and Victims Advocate

Dr. Sujata Warriar, Director, New York City Program of the New York Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

June 2nd Discussion

1. **Susan B. Carbon**, Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, welcomed the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women to its second meeting. Director Carbon, the Designated Federal Official for the meeting, explained that the National Advisory Committee (NAC) was a Federal Advisory Committee charged with providing guidance and recommendations to the U.S. Departments of Justice and Health and Human Services on how to improve the country's response to youth who witness violence and/or who are victimized by domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, or stalking.

2. The committee heard from **Tina Tchen**, Assistant to the President, Chief of Staff to First Lady Michelle Obama, and Executive Director of the White House Council on Women and Girls. She spoke of the President's creation of the Council of Women and Girls in 2009 and the Administration's cross-Agency commitment to

paying attention to the needs of women and girls.

3. Director Carbon asked the NAC members to introduce themselves, also requesting that **Jerry Tello** and **Gabrielle Union**, the two members unable to attend the first meeting, to share why they made the commitment to serve on the panel. Mr. Tello is a family violence expert, and Ms. Union is an actress and Ambassador for the Susan G. Komen Foundation.

Director Carbon also asked the committee members to consider a scenario in which they were in an elevator with the Attorney General and only had 30 seconds to talk to him: What would each member want the Attorney General to know about the issue of children exposed to violence?

Next, Director Carbon introduced the OVW staff as well as **Lori Crowder** and **Carlee Taggart**, from the Alliance of Local Services Organizations (ALSO). Ms. Crowder, the Director of ALSO, leads the facilitated discussion of the NAC members later in the meeting.

4. Six young women, former and current clients of the **National Crittenton Foundation**, told their stories of overcoming violence and abuse, and learning to lead positive and productive lives. **Jeannette Pai-Espinosa**, Crittenton's director, explained that the Foundation is an umbrella organization of 26 agencies, with offices in 31 states and the District of Columbia.

The majority of girls and young women who are assisted by the Foundation are survivors of child sexual, physical, and emotional abuse or persistent neglect.

- **Danielle Deland**, 35, told the panel about living with her physically and

emotionally abusive father, falling into a state of depression, and dealing with a series of self-defeating behaviors, including school truancy. In 1991, she was placed in the Florence Crittenton Services Home in Jackson, Miss., and her life turned around. She spoke of the importance of resiliency, determination, and a positive attitude.

- **Lisette Orellana** spoke about becoming pregnant at age 15 and about her transformation from a happy, outgoing girl to an unhappy, voiceless teen mother living with an abusive boyfriend. She felt no one had faith in her. Her second child's birth and the support from Crittenton, however, sparked a sense of empowerment in her, and she is once again happy. She is now pursuing a master's degree.
- **Catherine Kamara**, 21, a refugee from Sierra Leone, told of her experiences of suffering through the ravages of war in her native country at age 3, fleeing to America, and the death of her parents when she was 11. She described a negligent stepmother, who left her and her siblings alone in a house without running water or electricity. Soon after Ms. Kamara gave birth to her son, she was placed in foster care with Crittenton, where she was taught skills in child care, budgeting, and balancing work, school, and the challenges of being a single mother.
- **Breauna Heater**, 17, said she became a methamphetamine addict at age 13. She experienced unhealthy relationships with both parents and became pregnant at 14. Ms. Heater started getting into fights and wound up in the juvenile justice system. She was placed in a Crittenton Home in Wheeling, W.V., where the staff made her feel comfortable; she started

opening up to people and working on her problems. She left Crittenton, and she moved to Florida with her young son, where she is studying to be a Certified Medical Assistant Technician.

- **Ashley Ellis**, 17, spoke of her father’s physical and sexual abuse, and her past problems with drugs and alcohol. Ms. Ellis said her life changed for the better when she spent 10 months in a Crittenton residential facility. She is now sober and is pursuing an associate degree. Like Ms. Heater, she spoke of girls and young women at the margins — “invisible” or “hidden” to their communities and society.
- **Shannon Williams**, 17, told of her difficulties in growing up with a father who sexually abused her and physically abused her mother. She said the sexual abuse went on for 10 years. She began running away from home and later had an abusive boyfriend. Now pregnant, Ms. Williams said she does not want her child to have to go through anything she had suffered through. She rebounded after her participation with Crittenton’s Inwood House, where she now holds an internship on the facility’s advisory board.

5. NAC members separated into three small groups, each with two of the six young women from the Crittenton Foundation panel. In those groups, NAC members asked questions of the young women and, on the basis of conversations with the women, began to shape solutions to problems relating to youth exposed to violence. The whole panel reconvened to talk about what they had taken away from the discussions.

The following were among the observations:

- The quality of the relationships with staff members at residential facilities is a major factor in how well girls and young women do there. A suggestion was made to survey residents of a facility to try to gauge staff members who either took a special interest in helping the residents or who might need more training.
- The justice system needs to be comforting and supportive of young women who go through the system.
- Young women want to be more personally involved in their treatment planning.
- Young women and girls want to feel empowered. It helps for them to have concrete goals and something to inspire them.
- Mandatory reporting can be problematic. For example, it may give women and girls pause before confiding in clergy or a teacher.

6. **Lynn Rosenthal**, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women, addressed the panel on White House initiatives on violence against women. Ms. Rosenthal had spoken at the NAC’s first meeting in January, and today, she focused her remarks on efforts undertaken since that meeting. These efforts included a trip by Vice President Joe Biden and Department of Education (ED) Secretary Arne Duncan to the University of New Hampshire to announce the first guidance issued by the Department of Education to schools and universities about their responsibilities under Title IX: to help intervene in and prevent sexual assault on college campuses and in schools K-12. She also addressed the issue of high rates of sexual and dating violence among women of ages 16-24.

7. David Wolfe, Ph.D., R.B.C. Chair in Mental Health at the Centre for Addiction and Mental Health, talked with the NAC about research-based strategies for prevention of, and intervention in, children's exposure to violence. His topics ranged from the role of media in promoting violence to interventions such as trauma-based cognitive-behavioral therapy. He detailed factors that enhance the resilience of youth, such as a strong relationship with a caring adult and community safe havens. Dr. Wolfe said that child abuse and neglect were relationship problems, with contributing causes stemming from childhood.

8. **Michelle Garcia**, Director, Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, and **Cindy Southworth**, Vice President of Development and Innovation, National Network to End Domestic Violence, addressed how technology has changed the crime of stalking, particularly among teenagers. They cited statistics that 1 in 5 teens reported that a partner has used the Internet or a cell phone to spread rumors about them, and that 1 in 3 teens report that a boyfriend/girlfriend has texted them 10-30 times per hour, asking where they were and who they were with. Ms. Garcia and Ms. Southworth spoke about how technology can facilitate stalking among teens, including through such methods as call and text message spoofing.

9. The committee heard comments from members of the public:

- **Teri Stoddard**, Program Director, Stop Abusive and Violent Environments, shared the comments of men and women she said had been falsely accused of domestic violence.

- **Alison Kiss**, Executive Director of Security on Campus, Inc., asked the NAC to continue to support proactive and educational initiatives targeting sexual violence, domestic violence, dating violence, and stalking on high school and college campuses.
- **Stanley Green**, Director of Intimate Partner Violence Prevention for the Men's Health Network, spoke to the panel about the need to use inclusive language in outreach to survivors of domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking and teen dating violence. He said that men and boys can also be victims of these crimes.

10. **Director Carbon** thanked the committee for its work — and the young women from the Crittenton Foundation for their courage in sharing their stories with the panel. The meeting adjourned for the day.

June 3rd Discussion

1. **Director Carbon** welcomed the NAC back to the second day of the meeting. She challenged committee members "to do the hard work because that is what is going to make a change" in the lives of youth exposed to violence.

2. **Lori Crowder** facilitated the morning's panel discussion. The NAC heard from, and asked questions of, representatives of various federal agencies. Representatives from each agency, except DOJ's Office of Justice Programs (OJP), had addressed the NAC at its first meeting. So, today's presentations, with the exception of OJP's, were updates of agency initiatives since that first meeting.

Karol Mason, Deputy Attorney General in the Office of the Associate Attorney

General, and **Phelan Wyrick**, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, updated the panel on the Defending Childhood initiative. Attorney General Holder created the initiative to harness resources for the prevention of children's exposure to violence, to mitigate the negative impact of that exposure when it occurs, and to develop knowledge and spread awareness about the exposure. The initiative covers ages 0-17. Mr. Wyrick outlined the prevention and intervention components of the Defending Childhood initiative and spoke of the use of evidence-based strategies by the initiative's eight demonstration sites.

Ginger Baran, a Program Specialist at OVW, talked about the Office's work involving protective parents. These parents are typically battered mothers, many of whom lose custody of their children through family court proceedings. In March, OVW, along with the National Coalition Against Domestic Violence and the Domestic Violence Legal Empowerment and Appeals Project, convened a roundtable in which seven protective mothers and one teen survivor spoke about their experiences. Ms. Baran shared comments from these mothers. One mother said, "Everything I tried to say to protect my child was used against me." Another commented, "The judge was upset that I had [legal] representation."

Thomas Abt, Chief of Staff to the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Justice Programs, gave an overview of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention, a multiagency, multidisciplinary initiative to prevent youth violence. The initiative focuses on addressing youth violence in Boston, Chicago, Detroit, Memphis, and San Jose and Salinas in California. A goal of the Forum is building a national conversation around youth

violence. Localities are struggling with this issue in isolation, Mr. Abt said; they tend to not be aware of the common challenges they face around the country. Therefore, they often do not share solutions.

Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children, Youth and Families at HHS, updated the panel on ACYF efforts. ACYF has moved ahead on an initiative that aims to push child welfare agencies to anticipate, understand, and address trauma symptoms. Other efforts include funding programming to help young people build a set of skills allowing them to be competent and engaged, and a summit that will bring together state child welfare administrators, Department of Education state-level administrators, and family court personnel to develop strategies for supporting school stability for children in foster care.

James Mercy, Acting Director of the Division of Violence Prevention in the National Center for Injury Prevention and Control at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), talked about the CDC's role in addressing child maltreatment and teen dating violence. The agency's Positive Parenting Program has been implemented in nine South Carolina counties and over 600 providers have been trained. The program has shown reductions in child maltreatment, out-of-home-placements, and child hospitalizations related to maltreatment injuries. Dating Matters is a CDC teen dating prevention program that includes evidence-based student and parent programs, educator training, local policy development and enhancement, and communication strategies such as social networking.

Kevin Jennings, Assistant Deputy Secretary for Safe and Drug-Free Schools at ED, provided the NAC with information

on April's Gender-Based Violence Summit. Discussion focused on children exposed to domestic violence; sexual harassment; sexual assault; and teen dating violence. More than 150 nongovernmental organizations (NGOs), educators, researchers, federal partners, and state and local leaders gathered to share their expertise.

Overarching themes of the summit:

1. Gender-violence prevention groups and schools must collaborate to tackle the various forms of gender violence among youth.
2. The K-12 and higher education communities should work to make gender violence curriculums and resources more available to students.
3. Young people must be included in finding solutions to such violence.

A wide-ranging discussion among NAC members followed. Lori Crowder asked the panel members to think deeply about what specific problems they hoped to solve by, for example, recommending training for service providers. What concrete steps should the federal government take to solve these problems?

The following were among the suggestions and observations:

- The Administration is spearheading efforts to work collaboratively across agencies and disciplines to solve problems.
- Often, organizations submit grant applications to address areas for which federal agencies have funding; instead, agencies should use funding to address the problems communities actually have.

- There is a need for an agenda of evidence building, and technical assistance for evidence building, within the various domains of violence against women work.
- It is important to “name the violence” and to speak openly about the issue of sexual violence.
- Serious change requires youth involvement during every step of the process.
- RCTs (randomized clinical trials) may not really be the “gold standard.”
- It would be wise to look to the international community for models regarding research.
- The federal government should consider the mandating of training for grant recipients to ensure that those organizations providing services to a community on issues involving children exposed to violence are properly sensitized to working with young victims.
- The intersection between youth running away from home and family violence should be explored further.
- A forum could be created to help articulate what “empowerment” and “healing” actually mean so that agencies can move together toward objective measures of success.
- Universities could be encouraged to establish courses in domestic violence and sexual assault prevention within existing programs.
- Prevention is as important as intervention in confronting teen dating violence.

3. **Lori Crowder and Darlene Johnson**, Associate Director at OVW, introduced a DVD — funded by the Office's STOP

Violence Against Women Formula Grants — that highlights success stories from the STOP program. The NAC viewed one of the three segments on the DVD, showcasing the work of a fatality review team for the state of Montana. In the DVD, the team discusses two cases, both involving children witnessing abuse and the murder of children.

The first case involves a 12-year-old homicide victim; the second involves a girl and a boy of ages 6 and 7. In both cases, the children were either used by the father to gain power over the mother or children stepped in to protect their mother and grandmother. For the surviving youth in the first case, no services have been provided. Nor have services been given in either case to other living relatives.

4. Next, **Tom Perrelli, Associate Attorney General**, met with the NAC, asking members what the Department could be doing about the issue of children exposed to violence that it is not currently doing. How else can it help underserved communities find the right model for *them* in addressing this problem? How can the government, and its partners, reach youth more effectively? Mr. Perrelli challenged the committee to “think big.”

The following were among the topics addressed during this discussion:

- Solutions look different in different communities.
- U.S. Attorneys should act as community leaders more and be engaged with community members on a broad range of violence issues.
- A working group of tribal prosecutors and Assistant U.S. Attorneys is trying to develop best practices for federal and

tribal prosecutors working together on sexual assault and domestic violence cases.

5. **Lori Crowder** asked the NAC members to each answer a series of questions. Has the conversation over the past two days caused their views prior to the meeting to shift? How? Has their “elevator speech” to the Attorney General changed? What should be the next steps for the NAC? For example, would the committee like to meet for a half-day, or perhaps a full-day, intensive conversation solely among themselves? How should recommendations get communicated to the federal government? Do NAC members have a recommendation about the content, or process for, the panel’s next meeting on September 13-14?

After the panel members responded, **Director Carbon** said that, in addition to the September meeting, it might be possible for NAC members to discuss matters further in a webinar or conference call, depending on whether this was permitted under Federal Advisory Committee Act regulations. Although some topics might be appropriate for discussion via a conference call, others would probably only be suitable for a face-to-face meeting.

6. The committee heard three more public comments:

- **Carl Starling**, a member of SAVE — Stop Abusive and Violent Environments — expressed concern about false accusations of domestic violence and said that most false accusation cases are not prosecuted.
- **Gordon Smith**, a member of SAVE, echoed Mr. Starling’s comments and asked for officials to consider educating young women about the effect of

false accusations on the person being accused of sexual assault or domestic violence.

- **Stanley Green**, of Intimate Partner Violence Prevention for the Men's Health Network, addressed the panel

again, stressing the importance of using inclusive language in outreach to survivors of violence.

7. Director Carbon thanked the committee, the speakers, and her staff for their work.

NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
September 13-14, 2011

AGENDA

Day 1, Tuesday, September 13, 2011, 8:30 a.m.-5:00 p.m.

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:45 a.m. **Welcoming Remarks**
Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW)
James Cole, Deputy Attorney General
Thomas Perrelli, Associate Attorney General
Lynn Rosenthal, White House Advisor on Violence Against Women
- Agenda Overview**
Director Carbon
- NAC Role and Charge**
Director Carbon
- 9:45-12:00 noon **NAC Members Discussion**
The National Crittenton Foundation
- 12:00-12:15 p.m. **Lunch Break**
- 12:15-1:30 p.m. **Working Lunch: Trauma-Informed Practice**
Betsy McAllister Groves, NAC Member and Representative,
Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMHSA)
- 1:30-1:40 p.m. **Break**
- 1:40-2:55 p.m. **Culturally Based Practice: Presentation & Discussion**
Jerry Tello and Sujata Warriar, NAC Members
- 2:55-3:05 p.m. **Refreshment Break**
- 3:05-4:00 p.m. **“Continuum of Evidence of Effectiveness”**
Richard Puddy, PhD, MPH, Program Implementation and Dissemination
Branch, Division of Violence Prevention, Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

- 4:00-4:15 p.m. **Remarks by Attorney General Eric Holder**
- 4:15- 4:30 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 4:30-5:00 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Closing**

Day 2, Wednesday, September 14th, 8:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

- 8:30-9:00 a.m. **Continental Breakfast**
- 9:00-9:05 a.m. **Welcome Remarks**
Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women
- 9:05-9:10 a.m. **Performance**
Amber Johnson, NAC Member, Poetry Out Loud National Champion
- 9:10-10:30 a.m. **“Evidence-Informed Practice”**
Follow-up Conversation

*Bryan Samuels, Commissioner of the Administration on Children,
Youth and Families, HHS*
Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, NAC Member
*Phelan Wyrick, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General,
Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice*
- 10:30-10:45 a.m. **Refreshment Break**
- 10:45-11:30 a.m. **General Discussion Among NAC Members**
- 11:30-12:00 noon **Next Steps**
- 12:00-12:15 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 12:15-12:30 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Next Meeting Dates: December 5-6 or 6-7, 2011, in Washington, D.C.

Executive Summary

National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women

Hilton Garden Inn
Washington, D.C.
September 13-14, 2011

Committee Members in Attendance

Dr. Jeffrey Edleson, Professor and Director of Research, University of Minnesota School of Social Work

Maria Jose Fletcher, Esquire, VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

Betsy McAlister Groves, Director, Child Witness to Violence Project, Department of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

Amber Rose Johnson, Youth Advocate

Monika Johnson-Hostler, Executive Director, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Debbie Lee, Senior Vice President, Futures Without Violence

Susan Manheimer, Chief of Police, San Mateo (CA) Police Department

Carol Post, Executive Director, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Francine Sherman, J.D., Clinical Professor, Boston College Law School

The Honorable Melvin Stoof, Associate Judge, Pascua Yaqui Tribal Court

Jerry Tello, Director, Sacred Circles National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute

Joe Torre, Chairman, The Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Gabrielle Union, Social Services Analyst, National Institute of Justice, and Victims Advocate

Dr. Sujata Warriar, Director, New York City Program of the New York Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

September 13th Discussion

1. **Susan B. Carbon**, Director of the Office of Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, welcomed the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women (NAC) to its third meeting, held on the 17th anniversary of the signing into law of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994. Director Carbon told the NAC that today also marks an opportunity for advocates and others to redouble efforts to improve conditions for women, men and, especially, children, who continue to fall victim to abuse and exploitation. OVW is asking the NAC for help in identifying needs and navigating the challenges ahead in the Office's work in preventing sexual assault, domestic violence, teen dating violence and stalking.

2. **Deputy Attorney General James Cole** spoke to the NAC about the charge of the committee.

He asked committee members to focus on the important work under the NAC's charter: how to improve the country's response to children and teens who witness or experience intimate partner and sexual violence. Although prosecution is a necessary part of the response to these issues, he said, the criminal justice system is ill-suited to address their root causes. Mr. Cole asked the NAC members to keep the following questions in mind:

- How do we prevent domestic violence and sexual assault?
- How can we better serve survivors and their families, particularly children and youth who witness or are victims of these crimes?
- How EDs exposure to domestic violence, dating violence, or sexual assault affect how children and youth relate to their communities?
- How do we know what works, scientifically, and how then can we share that knowledge with practitioners in the field?

3. **Lynn Rosenthal** is the Advisor on Violence Against Women at the White House. Ms. Rosenthal spoke with the NAC at its previous two meetings. Today, she updated the panel on White House initiatives since the NAC's June 2011 meeting. These efforts included a Cabinet-level meeting on violence against women, with an emphasis on women of ages 16-24. The White House and HHS Secretary Sebelius have also announced the Apps Against Abuse challenge, a national competition among technology innovators to develop a software application for mobile devices that will help keep students safe on campus.

4. **Director Carbon** reminded the committee that its charge was to provide advice and recommendations to DOJ and HHS on how to improve the nation's response to violence against women, especially children who are victims of, or witness to, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault, and stalking. She asked the NAC to consider seven core principles:

- Start services when children are young.
- Intervene early and often.
- Consider intervention and treatment, but focus on prevention first.
- All developmental stages must be considered; the impact is different at each developmental age.
- Consider both universal and specific strategies for different age groups.
- Services should be culturally relevant.
- Look at the multiple entry points.

5. **Lori Crowder**, Director of the Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO), facilitated discussion among the NAC members. She asked the members to state their hopes and expectations for the meeting. Among the common themes that emerged from the NAC:

- More discussion is needed about trauma-informed practice and culturally informed practice.
- There should be a focus on evidence-informed practice, especially given that it can be a lengthy, expensive process, and discussion on the capacity to inform and generate evidence in the field.
- The need to develop a fine focus. Where could the NAC's greatest impact

be — given the existing resources — focusing on awareness and training?

- Thinking about concrete, cross-cutting areas in which the government can have an impact through stimulating intentional, intersecting, knowledge-generating efforts. An example: the justice system’s interaction with teenage mothers, and runaway and homeless teens.
- Using standard media, social media, and blogs to build connections and trust with youth and children.
- Which problems EDs the NAC have the capacity to address?
- How EDs the NAC prioritize issues?
- How EDs the committee develop a roadmap to get to its recommendations?
- How can the panel take broad policies and refine them, focusing on major topics it agrees upon?
- How can the committee make sure the recommendations are concrete and useful?

Reviewing the NAC’s comments, Ms. Crowder outlined three broad areas of focus regarding the panel’s recommendations: the format of the recommendations, the process by which they would be made, and whether the federal government has the capacity to carry out the recommendations.

The NAC engaged in a lengthy discussion. Topics included:

- The issue of social norms change.
- How to effectively reach all targeted audiences with the recommendations.

- Who are the key stakeholders and decision-makers? Should the focus be on federal or community-level decision makers?
- The ACE Study, a study of the relationship between multiple categories of childhood trauma (ACEs) and health and behavioral outcomes later in life.
- Support for keeping recommendations holistic and complex.
- Ensuring that the recommendations are rooted in the expressed needs of the community.
- Focusing on all people, in all communities.
- The need to consider all developmental stages.
- The tension between policy and practice, between prevention and intervention, and between systems and populations.
- What are the expectations for the recommendations, and what is the NAC’s capacity to deliver on them?

6. Each NAC member was asked to craft a statement about an issue that they felt was most important to address. The 14 statements were as follows:

- Social change will require more community education on sexual assault, teen violence, stalking and the impact of violence on children. Both universal prevention and targeted prevention strategies must be developed.
- Focus on women and children in culturally specific communities and on how to measure and evaluate gender-based violence over the lifetime.

- Influence decision-makers to understand and respond to the roles of domestic violence, sexual assault, teen dating violence, and stalking in teen misbehavior.
 - Focus on resources that should be allocated in an integrated manner, accounting for context in addressing gender-based violence generally and violence in general, especially focused on cultural communities and immigration.
 - A multifaceted approach to changing the social norm paradigm by expanding local practices and programs to the national level.
 - Promote ACEs across disciplines. Multiple adverse experiences of children and youth require a cross-sectorial effort to integrate responses.
 - Promote messages to and about kids that they are not to blame and they are not alone. Help them connect the dots (self-understanding and validation).
 - Establish of a multidisciplinary assessment tool for practitioners dealing with troubled youth to improve assessment and response (systems, and mandated reports).
 - Understand the importance of race, language, and culture in effectively addressing prevention, intervention, and treatment.
 - Integrate, into all policies and programs, a multigenerational, culturally based focus on trauma and healing in addressing violence.
 - Bring a trauma-informed perspective and practice to all systems that work with children and youth, focusing on the capacity to identify and respond to them.
 - Develop and implement policies and programs (multigenerational and cultural) with a historical perspective and that are relevant to youth in the general public.
 - Call upon providers of pediatric and adolescent services to promote education on healthy relationship education; and teen dating violence and bullying prevention (through anticipatory guidance, HPV visits and American Academy of Pediatrics guidelines).
 - Promote trauma-informed advocacy and practice across systems that are focused on meeting the needs of individuals and communities where they are.
7. The NAC heard a panel presentation on trauma-informed practice. The participants were: **Ken Curl**, Public Health Advisor and Government Project Officer, Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, U.S. Department of Health and Human Services; **Susan Ley**, Executive Director of the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing; and NAC member **Betsy McAlister Groves**.
- Mr. Curl** provided an overview of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network (NCTSN). NCTSN is a Congressional initiative intended to bring about widespread and lasting improvement in the lives of traumatized children and their families across the U.S. The NCTSN supports the development and broad adoption of evidence-based interventions to increase the standard of care and provides a means to transform services through sustained collaboration among Network clinical, academic, and community service centers.
- Susan Ley** and **Betsy McAlister Groves** spoke about trauma-informed practice

with children and adolescents at their respective organizations, the Wendt Center for Loss and Healing in Washington, D.C., and the Child Witness to Violence Project (CWVP). Ms. Groves said the literature on trauma-informed systems highlights three essential components:

- Systems must be knowledgeable about trauma.
- They should offer services that will maximize a child’s sense of safety and control.
- It is important to recognize and manage trauma and vicarious stress in the workplace.

8. NAC members **Sujata Warriar** and **Jerry Tello** gave a presentation on culturally based practice. Ms. Warriar presented an overview of what culture is and the challenges that exist for advocates working with culturally specific organizations and communities. Mr. Tello spoke about cultural norms and how values within a culture can act as checks and balances.

September 14th Discussion

1. **Director Carbon** welcomed the NAC back to the second day of the meeting. The committee viewed a video message released the day before by Vice President Biden on the anniversary of the signing of the Violence Against Women Act. The Vice President called on high school and college students to share their ideas for how to prevent dating violence and sexual assault at their schools and on their college campuses.

2. NAC member **Amber Johnson**, who is the 2010 Poetry Out Loud National Champion, read her poem “House” to the committee. Ms. Johnson is establishing

an open-microphone program for young people to perform poems about healthy relationships and domestic violence.

3. A presentation and discussion on the issue of evidence-informed practice followed. Presenting were **Bryan Samuels**, Commissioner, Administration on Children, Youth and Families, HHS; **Phelan Wyrick**, Senior Advisor to the Assistant Attorney General, Office of Justice Programs; and NAC member **Jeffrey Edleson**.

Commissioner Samuels said that whether the field in question was intimate partner violence, child welfare, or homeless and runaway youth programs, a key question is: How do we define success? Evidence-based practice, he said, is a way of defining success.

Mr. Edleson called the evidence-based practice movement an outgrowth of evidence-based medicine, which can be defined as “the integration of best research evidence with clinical expertise and patient values.” He talked about going beyond activity, and satisfaction with services, to also consider outcomes. A question to keep in mind: What are the appropriate outcome measures for violence against women? What are the proximal outcomes, and what are the distal outcomes? Mr. Edleson said that if there were an expectation or mandate for evidence-based practice, then there must also be support for capacity building.

Phelan Wyrick talked about a new OJP website for practitioners and policymakers, CrimeSolutions.gov. The site is an online resource providing information about evidence-based practice in juvenile justice, criminal justice, and victim services.

Several NAC members expressed concern about evidence-informed practice — that

it could amount to an unfunded mandate. **Commissioner Samuels** said the challenge for practitioners is to be able to ensure that their clients are satisfied while demonstrating to Congress that their programs are making a meaningful contribution.

4. The committee continued discussion of the 14 statements crafted the previous day. Last night, **Ms. Crowder** had done a preliminary consolidation of statements where there was overlap, and organized them under five thematic categories: social change; trauma-informed practice; cultural, multi-generational, and community considerations; evidence-informed practice, measurement, and evaluation; and cross-sector initiatives. The NAC reviewed the consolidated comments and categories, and made suggestions.

Among the topics discussed: defining key terms, forming subcommittees to address each of the thematic categories, and creating overarching frameworks that each subgroup would follow.

The committee chose three topics for the subcommittees and decided which members would serve in each group:

- **Evidence Building and Translation:** Jeffrey Edleson, Sujata Warriar, Monika Johnson-Hostler, Gabrielle Union, and Susan Manheimer
- **Prevention and Social Change:** Amber Johnson, Joe Torre, Francine Sherman, Debbie Lee, and Melvin Stoof)
- **Trauma-Informed Resiliency:** Betsy McAlister Groves, Maria Jose Fletcher, Carol Post, Jerry Tello, and Neil Irvin.

Mr. Edleson, Ms. Groves, and Ms. Sherman volunteered to be the organizers and points of contact for their respective subcommittees.

5. Director Carbon and Lori Crowder thanked the committee members for their work. The meeting adjourned.

**NATIONAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE MEETING
OFFICE ON VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN**

**U.S. DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE
Washington, D.C.**

February 27-28, 2012

AGENDA

Monday, February 27th, 9:00 a.m.-5:30 p.m.

- 9:00- 9:20 a.m. **Welcome Remarks, Agenda Overview, NAC Role and NAC Charge**
Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women
- 9:20-9:45 a.m. **Meeting Structure and Goals**
Lori Crowder, Facilitator, Alliance of Local Service Organizations
- 9:45-10:45 a.m. **Subcommittee Working Groups**
Group One: "Evidence Building and Translation"
Group Two: "Prevention and Social Change"
Group Three: "Trauma-Informed Resiliency & Positive Youth Development"
- 10:45-11:00 a.m. **Break**
- 11:00-12:00 noon **Large-Group Discussion**
Subcommittee Report-Out

Group One: "Evidence Building and Translation"
- 12:00-1:00 p.m. **Working Lunch: Large-Group Discussion (continued)**
Discussion of Group One Recommendations
- 1:00-2:30 p.m. **Large-Group Discussion**
Subcommittee Report-Out

Group Two/Large-Group Discussion
"Prevention and Social Change"
- 2:30-4:00 p.m. **Large-Group Discussion**
Subcommittee Report-Out

Group Three/Large-Group Discussion
"Trauma-Informed Resiliency & Positive Youth Development"

- 4:00-4:15 p.m. **Break**
- 4:15-4:45 p.m. **Large-Group Discussion**
Day 2 Objectives and Processes for Moving Forward
- 4:45-5:15 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 5:30 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Tuesday, February 28th, 1:00 p.m.-5:30 p.m.

- 1:00-1:05 p.m. **Welcome Remarks**
Susan B. Carbon, Director, Office on Violence Against Women
- 1:05-1:15 p.m. **Review of Work, Meeting Goals, and Structure**
Lori Crowder, Facilitator, Alliance of Local Service Organizations
- 1:15-2:15 p.m. **Subcommittee Working Groups**
Group One: “Evidence Building and Translation”
Group Two: “Prevention and Social Change”
Group Three: “Trauma-Informed Resiliency & Positive Youth Development”
- 2:15-2:30 p.m. **Break**
- 2:30-4:00 p.m. **Large-Group Discussion**
Subcommittee Final Recommendations
Presentations (30 minutes each)
- 4:00-4:30 p.m. **Public Comment**
- 4:30-5:30 p.m. **Wrap-Up and Adjournment**

Executive Summary

National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women

Washington, D.C.
February 27-28, 2012

Committee Members in Attendance

Jeffrey Edleson, Professor and Director of Research, University of Minnesota School of Social Work

Maria Jose Fletcher, Esquire, VIDA Legal Assistance, Inc.

Betsy McAlister Groves, Director, Child Witness to Violence Project, Department of Pediatrics, Boston Medical Center

Monika Johnson-Hostler, Executive Director, North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault

Neil Irvin, Executive Director, Men Can Stop Rape

Amber Rose Johnson, Youth Advocate

Debbie Lee, Senior Vice President, Family Violence Prevention Fund

Susan Manheimer, Chief of Police, San Mateo (Calif.) Police Department

Carol Post, Executive Director, Delaware Coalition Against Domestic Violence

Francine Sherman, J.D., Clinical Professor, Boston College Law School

Jerry Tello, Director, Sacred Circles National Latino Fatherhood and Family Institute

Joe Torre, Chairman, The Joe Torre Safe at Home Foundation

Gabrielle Union, Social Sciences Analyst, National Institute of Justice, and Victims Advocate

Sujata Warriar, Director, New York City Program of the New York Office for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

February 27th Discussion

1. **Susan B. Carbon**, Director of the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, welcomed the National Advisory Committee on Violence Against Women (NAC) to its final meeting. Today and tomorrow, she said, the NAC will move toward reaching consensus and concluding its work on the recommendations to Attorney General Holder and HHS Secretary Sebelius on improving the federal government's response to children who have been victimized by or exposed to violence.

Secretary Sebelius and Attorney General Holder addressed the NAC through video recordings, telling the committee it would be playing a key role in helping the government develop solutions. The NAC, they said, should consider what tools are needed to better reach underserved populations, and how the government can make the most of limited resources.

2. **Director Carbon** said the NAC's advice should focus in particular on interventions with children who witness, or are victimized by, violence, including dating

violence, domestic violence and sexual assault. The NAC is also charged with helping DOJ and HHS understand the relationship between the impact of that violence and the public safety.

As the NAC develops its recommendations, it should keep in mind seven core principles:

- Start when children are young.
- Intervene early and often.
- Consider intervention and treatment, but focus on prevention first.
- Consider all developmental stages; the impact is different at each stage.
- Consider both universal and specific strategies for different age groups.
- Services should be culturally relevant.
- Look at multiple entry points into the system.

At the NAC's last meeting in September, the committee decided to form three subcommittees:

- **Evidence Building and Translation**, chaired by Jeffrey Edleson.
- **Prevention and Social Change**, chaired by Francine Sherman.
- **Trauma-Informed Resiliency and Positive Youth Development**, chaired by Betsy McAlister Groves.

These three subcommittees have been holding discussions via conference calls and e-mails and have been working to develop recommendations. At this meeting, the committee will continue its discussion and refine the recommendations, hopefully reaching consensus.

3. Meeting facilitator **Lori Crowder**, Senior Program Director, Alliance of Local Service Organizations (ALSO), reviewed the goals and structure of the meeting. She noted that the NAC had been provided with a template outlining a suggested structure for subcommittee draft recommendations. That structure includes background information; core values and principles of the subcommittee; and subcommittee recommendations. It was explained that the content of the recommendations would be determined solely by the NAC members, although **Mary Malefyt Seighman**, a consultant to ALSO who is writing the final report, would be providing minor word-smithing. The NAC discussed format issues for the report, such as whether to use bullet points or a narrative text, or a combination. **Director Carbon** stressed the need for the document to be readable and the recommendations concise.

4. After the NAC split into its three subgroups for discussion of the subcommittee drafts, the entire NAC reconvened, and each subcommittee, in turn, gave a presentation to the NAC followed by comments from the whole committee. **Jeffrey Edleson** explained that the Evidence Building and Translation subcommittee would be removing the word "translation" in its title and replacing it with something more appropriate, such as "knowledge exchange." Dr. Edleson addressed the definitions of "exposure" and "evidence" as well as the issues of intersectionality and violence against women.

Among the subcommittee's recommendations:

- Adopt a broad definition of evidence that will inform practice.
- Support a range of research studies from exploratory and qualitative to

randomized clinical trials, including studies that adopt mixed methods to answer research questions.

- The White House Advisor on Violence Against Women should assemble an interagency task force to initiate efforts aimed at developing greater collaborative evidence-building capacity among researchers and local practitioners in a variety of settings.
- Support research policies and initiatives that take account of intersectionality.

NAC members talked about adding language to the recommendations stating that research be tied to a concrete and immediate benefit for the community being studied, and that all research should involve practitioners from within that community.

Francine Sherman gave the Prevention and Social Change subcommittee's presentation. In its draft, the subgroup plans to provide a definition of the term "gender" and talk about the intersections of gender, race, and culture. Integral to the subcommittee's draft is a public health approach to the framing of recommendations. A core principle is that exposure of children to violence is both a public health and public safety problem.

Among the subcommittee's recommendations:

- The federal government should focus primary prevention efforts at key developmental stages while supporting secondary prevention initiatives that support youth exposed to trauma and violence.
- The federal government should target the training and education of community stakeholders to support changes in social norms.
- The federal government should use media and social media to raise awareness and build support for a violent-free society.

NAC members suggested adding language to the subcommittee's draft about engaging youth in primary prevention efforts. Other issues were raised by members: Culture has dual aspects (both helpful and harmful); there can be a link between trauma and physical health problems; education should continue through the life span; and certain groups, such as the disabled and LGBTQ persons, were more vulnerable to violence.

Betsy McAlister Groves spoke about the Trauma-Informed Resiliency subgroup's work. The group focused on definitions of trauma, trauma-informed care, resilience and protective factors, and positive youth development.

Among the subcommittee's recommendations:

- Provide education on healthy relationships for all middle and high school students that includes information on gender roles and norms, stereotypes, domestic violence and sexual assault, oppression and media messaging about violence and gender.
- Support protective parents and provide resources to strengthen families and parent-child relationships.
- There is a need for programs that link children and their non-offending parent for support and services.
- Policies should be put in place that recognize the dual experiences of many adolescents and children who may be victims and perpetrators at different points in their development.

NAC members discussed the issue of accountability in re-incorporating a perpetrator back into society, and the notion of an empowerment model that recognizes those receiving services as partners in a common goal. A general comment was that the final report should reflect the current reality on the ground and be relevant culturally, and to communities.

5. NAC members discussed gaps in the report and tried to identify those threads from each subcommittee's draft they wanted to pull out as shared priorities. These shared priorities included: a trauma-informed framework; youth engagement and leadership; gender and gender roles; domestic and international custody issues; a life span framework for prevention and trauma/intervention; and a connection between trauma and health problems.

Other suggestions were:

- Developing a call for a research agenda.
- Targeting recommendations toward the National Institutes of Health.
- Advocating funding for tracking youths in the criminal justice and juvenile justice systems — back to their entry points into the system — to identify prevention opportunities.

Lori Crowder said that OVW/ALSO would provide an outline for the report to NAC members tomorrow to aid the panel in its further discussions.

February 28th Discussion

1. After **Lori Crowder** reviewed the proposed structure for the rest of the meeting, the NAC was provided with two documents:

The Draft National Advisory Committee Report Outline

The outline, created by **Mary Malefyt Seighman**, was divided into four sections:

- **Introduction and Background** was proposed to include information on the creation of the NAC, the statutory authority for the committee; how it was created; its purpose, charge, and the scope of the panel; the NAC's duration; and its membership.
- **National Advisory Committee Activities** would include information on the NAC's four meetings, the formation of subcommittees, and its two webinars.
- **The NAC Recommendations** would be the body of the report, as proposed by the outline. This section would include key terminology and definitions; text explaining that the recommendations address prevention, intervention, and policy and research; core principles that cover all three of the subcommittee topic areas; and overarching recommendations that cut across the topic areas.
- **Subcommittee Recommendations** from all three subcommittees would follow, including the knowledge bases each subcommittee relied upon, core values and principles, and the recommendations themselves.
- The Bibliography of recommended resources would be the last section of the report.

“Issues to Be Addressed — Day Two”

This document was culled from notes taken at yesterday's meeting and was

divided into four categories: cross-cutting themes and shared priorities, core principles, individual subcommittee recommendations, and formatting recommendations. The bulk of the discussion focused on the first two categories and, for example, the differences between a shared priority and a core principle. The NAC agreed that each core principle should be accompanied by a related recommendation.

Under **Cross-Cutting Themes and Shared Priorities**, proposed issues included:

- Youth engagement and leadership.
- The connection between trauma and health (e.g., obesity, diabetes, and reproductive health);
- Establishing a trauma framework.
- Using a life-span framework to discuss prevention, trauma, and intervention.
- Gender and gender roles (LGBTQ).
- Domestic and international custody.

Under **Core Principles**, proposed issues included:

- Highlighting the need for attention to vulnerable populations (e.g., women from Indian Country, undocumented immigrants, LGBTQ, children in foster care, LEP).
- Providing attention to the constellation of caring adults that support children in foster care.
- Understanding the intersectionalities of the various oppressions.
- Emphasizing trauma and trauma assessment to prevent the criminalization or labeling of traumatized children as perpetrators.

- Recognizing the dual aspect of culture (what helps and what harms).
- The well-being of the caregiver is linked to the well-being of the child.
- Differentiating culturally specific organizations and communities.
- Supporting extended kinship and caring adult systems for both children and adults.
- Considering age developmental stages, and the implications for the protective parent-child link.

The NAC discussed each shared priority and core principle, in turn, and decided whether to keep each topic separate, merge it with another topic, and/or move it into another category.

3. After the NAC members split into subgroups to discuss the individual subcommittees' draft reports, the whole NAC reconvened and talked about a new document:

Draft Guiding Principles and Additional Subcommittee Recommendations

This latest document reflected the Committee's conversation earlier in the day, and the new document followed a similar structure to the document, "Issues to Be Addressed — Day Two." The main difference was that the original document focused on two separate categories: Cross-Cutting Themes and Shared Priorities, and Core Principles. In the new document, those two categories have been merged into one, as **Guiding Principles**, with their accompanying **Recommendations**). Director Carbon explained that the Guiding Principles would be a way to embrace

both the core principles and the shared priorities and, for those reading the document, they would highlight the most important recommendations.

The Guiding Principles, with writing assignments for each of the principles:

- The need for attention to “invisible populations” (women from Indian Country, the undocumented, LGBTQ, children in foster care, and LEP); supporting foster care and the constellation of caring adults who provide it — *Sujata Warrior*
- Intersectionalities of oppressions — *Sujata Warrior*
- Recognizing dual aspects of culture (what helps and what harms) — *Sujata Warrior*
- The well-being of the caregiver is linked to the well-being of the child — *Jeffrey Edleson*
- Supporting extended kinship and caring adult systems for children and adults — *Jeffrey Edleson*
- Gender and gender roles (LGBTQ); all children are at risk because of definitions of masculinity and femininity — *Carol Post and Francine Sherman*
- Youth engagement and leadership — *Neil Irvin and Amber Rose Johnson*
- A trauma-informed, healing framework and differentiation — *Betsy McAlister Groves, Carol Post, and Jerry Tello*

- A life-span framework for prevention, trauma, and intervention discussions; and age/developmental stage implications for the protective parent-child link — *Debbie Lee*
- Evidence: the need to be broadly inclusive — *Jeffrey Edleson*
- Public education and media messages — *Joe Torre*

The NAC discussed a timeline and procedure for the remainder of its work. The committee decided that the final subcommittee drafts would be provided to Mary Malefyt Seighman by April 16, 2012, with the bulk of the work done in March and the opportunity for some revisions in April.

There was some discussion about whether the NAC could meet another time in person. It was tentatively decided that, for now, the panel would continue its work through conference calls and emails. One possibility was that some, or all, of the NAC could be brought back to Washington, D.C., when the final report is officially unveiled. Director Carbon suggested that the dissemination of the report could occur in conjunction with the June 4-6, 2012, meeting of the Defending Childhood initiative, in Washington, D.C.

WEBINARS

Two issue-specific webinars were held during the NAC charter period in response to NAC members' expressed interest in the subject matter.

Webinar One: Evidence-Based Interventions

The first webinar was held on August 22, 2011, on evidence-based interventions; it featured presentations by ACF Commissioner **Bryan Samuels** and NAC member **Betsy McAllister Groves**. Commissioner Samuels provided an introduction to evidence-based interventions, including an examination of the current context, what is "evidence-based" practice, and what are evidence-based interventions. Commissioner Samuels also offered the example of the Maternal, Infant & Early Childhood Home Visiting Program (HVP) under the Affordable Care Act, and evidence-based practices for addressing the needs of children exposed to violence, including Kids Club and Moms Empowerment, trauma-focused cognitive behavioral therapy, and child-parent psychotherapy. He acknowledged a number of challenges that members noted about evidence-based interventions.

Ms. Groves, NAC member and Director of the Child Witness to Violence Project at Boston Medical Center, presented on evidence-based interventions for children and youth affected by domestic violence and shared reflections from the field. She offered an overview of the evolution of

child-parent psychotherapy (CPP), lessons learned, and adapting the model for broader use. She also discussed what is currently known about evidence-based interventions for survivors of domestic violence, and how to define successful advocacy and support interventions and outcomes.

Webinar Two: Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children

The second webinar, titled "Child Trafficking and Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children: Emerging Issues," was held on September 7, 2011, with **Francey Hakes**, National Coordinator for Child Exploitation and Interdiction, Office of the Deputy Attorney General, and **Bradley Myles**, Executive Director and CEO of the Polaris Project (<http://www.polarisproject.org>), serving as faculty. Using a U.S. map graphic, Ms. Hakes showed locations of high-intensity child prostitution areas (HICPA), provided statistics regarding missing children reports involving prostitution and ethnic breakdown, profiles of targeted victims, how it happens, where children are recruited, and how children are transported. Ms. Hakey also enlightened participants on challenges to investigating child prostitution and provided information about the Innocence Lost National Initiative (ILNI), which has been in operation since 2003. It targets organizations involved in child prostitution, using the enterprise theory of investigation and Operation Cross Country V.

