THE HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS SAFE COMMUNITIES PROJECT:
A TEEN DATING VIOLENCE PREVENTION PROGRAM:
A GRANT PROPOSAL

By: Kellisa Myers, MSW
California State University, Long Beach
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Introduction

- Teen dating violence (TDV) is a widespread problem that can create serious mental health problems for adolescents and public health concerns for the community (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013).
- TDV defines a pattern of physical, emotional, sexual, or psychological abuse that occurs between adolescents in a dating relationship (Bonomi, et al., 2012).
- Approximately 10% of adolescents experience TDV victimization each year (Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2013).
- Exposure to family or community violence contributes to an increased risk of experiencing TDV perpetration or victimization (Garrido & Taussig, 2013).

Goals of the Project

- To educate school teachers and counselors at Pioneer High School in the Whittier Union High School District on teen dating violence (TDV) prevention and awareness
- To educate parents on parent-child communication in relation to TDV.
- To utilize the evidence based curriculum Safe Dates to provide students with on-campus workshops to equip them with skills to develop healthy relationships.
As stated in the NASW Code of Ethics, social workers value the importance of human relationships and continually work toward maintaining and strengthening the bond between individuals, families, and communities (NASW, 2008).

It is important for social workers to help families to understand the negative implications that teen dating violence has on adolescents, their families, and the community.

Social workers play a vital role in educating adolescents, families, and communities on the environmental risk factors and social, emotional, and physical distress that can result from teen dating violence.

Social workers addressing healthy relationships and effective communication skills at the school level, assists in creating a safe and supportive school climate and impacts the surrounding community as well.
Cross-Cultural Relevance

- Pioneer High School has approximately 1,400 students, 96% of students identified as Hispanic/Latino, 2% White, 1% Black, and 1% Asian American/Pacific Islander, with 82% of the families indicating low-income (Pioneer High School Accountability Report Card 2012-2013).
- Fifteen percent of the students identified as English learners and 100% of those students speak Spanish at home (Pioneer High School Accountability Report Card 2012-2013).
- Latino adolescents may experience higher rates of teen dating violence victimization due to cultural expectations, gender roles, or acculturation (Hokoda, et al., 2007; Lopez, et al., 2012).
- Stress from acculturation was reported by adolescents who identified being victims or perpetrators of teen dating violence, suggesting that adolescents who are trying to fit into dominant American culture may be more tolerant of aggressive or violent behaviors (Hokoda, et al., 2007).
Methods

Target Population

- Teachers, counselors, parents, and 9th and 10th grade students of Pioneer High School.
- Whittier, California has an estimated population of 87,000

Strategies Used to Identify Funding Source

- Key search terms included: “domestic violence grants,” “federal grants,” “teen dating violence grants,” and “education grants.”
- Two potential funders identified were The Joseph Drown Foundation and the Dwight Stuart Youth Fund.

Funding Source Identified: The Joseph Drown Foundation

- The Joseph Drown Foundation provides funding for educational based programs, medical and scientific research, and community, health, and social services within Los Angeles.
- The foundation is invested in programs that emphasize removing barriers that prevent individuals from achieving learning and growth (Joseph Drown Foundation, 2014)
Methods

Sources Used for the Needs Assessment
- Personal communication with the Whittier Union High School District and Pioneer High School administration
- A comprehensive review of the literature to gain insight on the topic.
- The California Healthy Kids Survey was utilized to establish the average prevalence of dating violence within the state.
- Databases used included California Department of Education and United States Census.

Projected Budget Range
- The proposed budget of the program will be $109,696. The total amount requested from the funder will be $84,696

Projected Budget Categories
- The categories that the budget includes are:
  - Personal: Program Supervisor, Two MSW level Interns
  - Operations and Expenses
  - In-Kind Resources
Program Summary and Description

- The purpose of this grant proposal is to implement a teen dating violence prevention and awareness program for students, staff, and parents of Pioneer High School.

- The program will provide school staff, parents, and adolescents with knowledge and skills needed to reduce the incidence of teen dating violence victimization and perpetration through implementing on-site trainings for staff and parents, and on-campus workshops for students utilizing the evidence based curriculum Safe Dates.

- The program is designed to address three key components in adolescents’ lives, school, home, and peers, and work toward creating a positive school climate.

Population Served

- The program will benefit approximately 1,900 students, parents and school staff members over a 12-month period. Student participants will be adolescents’ ages 14-16 years.
**Grant Proposal**

**Sustainability**
- The Joseph Drown Foundation will be considered for continuation of funds.
- During the grant period, additional funding sources will be explored to sustain and expand the program at Pioneer High School.

**Program Objectives**
- Teachers and counselors will attend five, one hour long, trainings with open-ended discussions on teen dating violence and creating a positive campus climate.
- Parents will participate in a 2-hour monthly workshop on how to effectively communicate with teenagers regarding teen dating violence.
- Students in the 9th and 10th grade will participate in on-campus workshops utilizing the Safe Dates curriculum.

**Program Evaluation**
- The program will be evaluated at multiple levels through an outside evaluator.
- Parents and staff will complete post surveys
- Students will complete pre and post surveys provided by Safe Dates
Lessons Learned & Implications for Social Work

Lessons Learned

• The importance of grant writing to implement and sustain necessary programs within communities.

• The challenging process of identifying a funding source that would accept applications from a public school district.

Implications for Social Work

• Social workers need to be involved in teen dating violence prevention, as they can continually strive to maintain and strengthen the bond between individuals, families, and communities (NASW, 2008).

• Social workers understand the importance of collaborative relationships, a goal that is essential to preventing teen dating violence.

• School social workers can collaborate with schools and agencies working with youth to create prevention programs to provide adolescents the skills and knowledge necessary to have healthy relationships, and provide support to peers in abusive relationships.


