



COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA
GOVERNOR TERRY MCAULIFFE'S TASK FORCE ON
COMBATING CAMPUS SEXUAL VIOLENCE
CHAIR ATTORNEY GENERAL MARK HERRING

PREVENTION SUBCOMMITTEE

Summary of Work to Date and Future Areas of Focus

Background:

Prevention Subcommittee Areas of Focus:

- Finding ways to create an open and supportive relationship among students, faculty, campus organizations, the administration, law enforcement, community based organizations, and the greater college/university community;
- Assess current prevention programs for faculty, students and staff to determine what training is currently being utilized, who are the recipients and their effectiveness;
- Research and review prevention programs for faculty, students and staff in Virginia, nationally and internationally to identify best practices; and
- Identify the best methods to encourage reporting by victims and anonymous reporting by witnesses.

Work to date:

The Prevention Subcommittee has held two meetings: one two-part meeting with numerous experts presenting to gather data and one meeting to determine areas of focus for action and further study. The subcommittee heard from nine speakers to understand the scope of prevention as well as primary prevention, secondary prevention and tertiary prevention efforts. The subcommittee learned about targeting programming to affinity groups, evidence based practices, and opportunities for improvement. After digesting this information, the subcommittee determined that it will focus its work in three areas encompassing the following topics:

1. Climate Surveys
Ángel Cabrera, Leah Cox, Fran Bradford
Staff: Kay Heidbreder
 - a. Social normalizing: What behaviors are normal and acceptable in our campus community as evidenced by climate surveys?
 - b. How to use Data: Can climate survey data be used to drive specific campaigns to specific groups?

- c. Statewide question set: Many campuses are doing climate surveys--could a set of common questions be helpful in directing prevention efforts? What sort of data might be gained by a consistent set of questions: A working group of those campus-based individuals responsible for those surveys is being formed to focus on this issue.
- d. What mobile applications are campuses using relative to prevention?

2. Evidence-based Prevention Strategies/Programs

Frank Shushok, Tom Kramer, Christopher Ndiritu, Dorothy Edwards

Staff: Secretary Holton, Lisa Furr

- a. Populations: Identify the sub-populations on a campus and how they might best be targeted for education. Also identify the type of students that might be reached through those groups.
- b. Timing of education: The "one and done" method of information sharing during Freshman year may not be sufficient. Determine the best times to deliver information to different populations during the school year.
- c. Specific outreach strategies: Identify outreach strategies proven to work with different groups and determine if they can be replicated or improved upon.
- d. Healthy relationships: Identify successful efforts that help individuals define and practice healthy behaviors within relationships over the life span.
- e. Applications being used for prevention: What computer or phone-based applications are being used and what is their efficacy?
- f. Bystander intervention: Investigate the success of these prevention efforts and identify those that can be easily replicated.

3. Intersectional Issues

Brandon Day, Kristi Van Audenhove, Emily Renda

Staff: Mary Vail Ware, Dr. Trent

- a. K-12: What existing prevention efforts in K-12 can be maximized to include information about healthy relationships and age-appropriate messages about sexual assault prevention?
- b. Alcohol: Investigate the role of alcohol and other substances as an enabler of sexual harassment and assault and model programs and efforts that address this issue.
- c. Hazing: Acknowledge that hazing can create an environment that accepts violence and violation of personal boundaries in an atmosphere that encourages secrecy. Identify hazing prevention programs that might be a natural fit to include sexual assault prevention activities.
- d. Healthy relationships: Identify characteristics of healthy relationships and how those messages are incorporated into all campus-based prevention programs.

- e. Gender roles: Acknowledge how notions of gender roles can influence the perpetration and acceptance of sexual harassment and sexual assault and identify successful institution and K-12 based efforts to open dialog on this issue.

SUMMARY:

The Prevention Subcommittee will hold a meeting to explore the intersection of alcohol and other substances with sexual assault and harassment. Additionally, the climate survey task group is convening a working group of individuals from institutions that have experience with development, administration, and data analysis relative to climate surveys. This work group will determine commonalities and best practices in developing survey instruments and using the data for prevention efforts. Each task group identified above will work on the identified issues to develop specific recommendations around the identified topics for the June 2015 Task Force report.