

COLLABORATION BENEFITS

PURPOSES & BENEFITS

This tool outlines some of the general benefits to participating in a collaborative partnership and also provides some coaching tips.

HOW TO USE THIS TOOL

This tool can be used to help recruit prospective collaborative group members and readily identify benefits to participation.



RECRUITING COLLABORATIVE MEMBERS

The specific individuals you and your collaborative identify as stakeholders will vary depending on the issue(s) you select to work on. Not everyone you invite will be willing or able to participate. In order to maximize the effectiveness of your recruitment efforts, you need to explain to potential participants not only why the group's work is important, but also how they benefit by participating. For those of us who are passionate about the issues, the importance of participating may seem obvious – sexual and domestic violence affect all of us, in some way or fashion. For others, the decision to participate may be influenced by competing demands on their time, from work, family, other volunteer work or any other number of important life aspects. Don't assume that these individuals don't understand or care about the importance of addressing sexual and domestic violence. Often, we have more support than we realize in the community. It's simply a matter of helping them to assess the value of giving up time spent on other important tasks in order to help the group. At the same time, it's important that group members don't feel pressured to over-commit and make promises they can't keep. Remember, there are many roles for community members to play in the collaborative's efforts to create change.

Below, you will find some general talking points or ideas to consider in crafting your recruitment message. Be sure to tailor your message to the individual you are approaching as much as possible. Consider what things may be competing for their time and what messages might be most persuasive to them. Studies of volunteering suggest that a key factor in an individual's decision to volunteer is being personally asked, preferably by someone with whom they have a relationship. You might also consider if you have an ally who would be willing to approach the potential recruit.

If someone says no – don't be discouraged! Many others will say yes.

SEXUAL AND DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TALKING POINTS

You Know A Victim or Survivor

- One in 10 Kansas women are victims of domestic violence, which can include verbal, emotional, economic, sexual and physical abuse. *"Domestic Violence Victim Services: Awareness, Use and Satisfaction Project," Docketing Institute for Public Affairs and the Governor's Grants Programs, 2007.*
- An estimated 3,040 women and 962 men are raped each year in Kansas. *Sexual and Domestic Violence Advocacy Services in Kansas, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual & Domestic Violence, 2009.*
- Kansas averages 3,200 Protection from Stalking Order filings each year. *"A Report on Domestic Violence and Rape Statistics in Kansas, as Reported by Law Enforcement," Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 2008.*
- Kansas averages 7,700 Protection from Abuse Order filings each year. *"A Report on Domestic Violence and Rape Statistics in Kansas, as Reported by Law Enforcement," Kansas Bureau of Investigation, 2008.*
- On average, 22 adults and 9 children are murdered each year in Kansas as a result of domestic violence. *Kansas Bureau of Investigation, February 2010.*

Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence



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How Victims Impact Your Life & Your Community

Even when it is not obvious, you may be interacting with victims of sexual and domestic violence during your daily life — in your workplace, at your school, in your faith community, in your neighborhood, or maybe even in your inner circle. As victims work to heal from the physical and psychological trauma they've experienced, every aspect of their life is affected, and that ripple effect can be felt throughout your entire community. Join us to be part of the solution.

For Parents, Mentors & Educators

Teens and young adults are experiencing alarmingly high rates of dating abuse with serious consequences, including but not limited to doing poorly in school, binge drinking and using drugs, engaging in risky sexual behavior and unhealthy dieting behavior, attempting suicide, and initiating fights. *“Physical Dating Violence Among High School Students—United States,” Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2003.*

This violence is occurring at a time of critical development, a time when victims and perpetrators are learning about long-term relationships, and they may be learning to normalize these patterns of violence and carry them into their future relationships. *“A longitudinal perspective on dating violence among adolescent and college-age women,” Smith PH, White JW, Holland LJ, American Journal of Public Health, 2003.*

For Health Care Providers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, assaults are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries for females in the United States, and sexual assaults are the third leading cause of non-fatal injuries for females. For every victim who seeks medical treatment, there are countless others who don't.

A survivor may face a variety of health concerns as a result of her victimization, including gastrointestinal disorders, migraines and frequent headaches, and reproductive health issues. In addition, survivors are more likely to display behaviors that may present future health complications, including substance abuse, alcoholism, suicide attempts, and engaging in unhealthy dieting practices and high-risk sexual behavior. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, 2009.*

Mental Health Care Providers

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, assaults are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries for females in the United States, and sexual assaults are the third leading cause of non-fatal injuries for females. These assaults carry a range of mental health implications as well, and for every victim who seeks mental health treatment, there are countless others who don't.

Sexual and domestic violence victims can suffer from a variety of psychological disorders, including post traumatic stress disorder, and survivors are more likely to display behaviors that may present future mental health complications, including substance abuse, alcoholism, and engaging in unhealthy dieting practices and high-risk sexual behavior. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention website, 2009.*

For Employers & Employees

Even when it is not obvious, domestic violence exists in your workplace. In Kansas, one in 10 adult females report domestic violence victimization, which can carry into the workplace. The U.S. Department of Labor reports that 74 percent of employed battered women have been harassed by their partner while they were at work. Perpetrators are likely to use company time and resources to abuse their victims.

Productivity loss is not the only cost for a business when violence enters the workplace. According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, domestic violence costs nearly \$6 billion each year in aggregate costs, including more than \$4.1 billion in direct medical and mental health services and \$1.8 billion in productivity losses.

For Spiritual Leaders

In Kansas, one in 10 adult females report domestic violence victimization. Although it seems counter-intuitive, a recent survey of domestic violence advocacy organizations serving the Kansas City area revealed that less than one percent of emergency shelter referrals come from the clergy, and that many victims in the Kansas City area are reluctant to approach their clergy person for fear of not being believed (*Johnson County Community Violence Action Council survey*). These statistics illustrate two critical gaps for support and referrals within the faith community.

For Law Enforcement

The U.S. Department of Justice reports that domestic violence-related calls constitute the single largest category of calls received by the police, accounting for 15 to more than 50 percent of all calls to law enforcement nationwide. *"Crisis Intervention in Criminal Justice and Social Services," Hendricks, J., ed., Charles C Thomas Publishers, 1991; "Evaluating the Impact of a Specialized Domestic Violence Police Unit." Friday, P., V. Lord, M. Exum, and J. Hartman. Final report for National Institute of Justice, May 2006.*

The Department of Justice also reports that intimate partner homicides comprise 40-50 percent of all murders of women in the United States. *"Assessing Risk Factors for Intimate Partner Homicide," Campbell et al., NIJ Journal 250, November 2003.*

In addition, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that assaults are the leading cause of non-fatal injuries for females in the United States, and sexual assaults are the third leading cause of non-fatal injuries for females. Despite these statistics, the U.S. Department of Justice research indicates very low arrest rates for intimate-partner stalking and intimate-partner sexual assault, which are two offenses that increase the risk for homicide.

Law enforcement plays a critical role in holding perpetrators accountable for their use of violence. U.S. Department of Justice research suggests that perpetrator arrests can enhance the likelihood of successful prosecution and increase victim satisfaction and safety.

For Civic Groups

Sexual and domestic violence are issues that devastate every community in Kansas, regardless of the community's size or geographic location. Civic groups can play a pivotal role in raising community awareness for these issues and helping to create a community that's supportive of victims.

For Media

The media can play a pivotal role in raising community awareness of sexual and domestic violence-related issues, and reducing barriers for victims by publicizing information about services that are available in the community.

By utilizing the resources and expertise of sexual and domestic violence advocacy programs, the media can serve as a community catalyst for creating more support for victims and more accountability for batterers.

COLLABORATION BENEFITS

What benefits do members get from being a part of our collaborative group? – Some general examples include:

- Visibility for your contribution and/or organization
- Networking/building important working relationships
- Potential resources to help address problems that affect you
- Increased future funding opportunities for collaborative partners
- Sense of self-worth – giving back to your community
- Being a part of accomplishments
- Gain new knowledge and skills
- Increased sense of empowerment and ability to impact community issues

What happens if someone says they can't do something the collaborative group expects?

- Find ways to work in partnership that allow them to do whatever it is they can to support the work of the coalition even if they can't attend meetings, such as working behind the scenes for the collaborative group to accomplish its work. Put their talents and energy to work as they are able.
- Use the "What I Have to Contribute & How I Can Benefit from This Collaborative Group" tool to help flesh out the particulars. This way, they get to articulate their contributions and needs on their terms.