

The National ACE News

Newsletter for the Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

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Director's Update



Gregory Mark, D. Crim., Director, National ACE Coordinating Center

Welcome to the sixth edition of *The National ACE News*, the official newsletter of the Academic Centers of Excellence (ACE) Coordinating Center (CC). I would like to thank all of you who contributed to this newsletter issue, especially Dr.

Jane Onoye. Under Dr. Onoye's tutelage the newsletter has developed into an important tool for ACE communication and dissemination. In its electronic version, *The National ACE News* is one of the most accessed links on our website.

This issue highlights some of the important work from the Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention, the Virginia Commonwealth University Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development, the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth

Violence Prevention Center, the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention, and the ACE Coordinating Center. I am proud that we have so many ACE contributors to this newsletter issue.

The CC and the ACE Steering Committee look forward to seeing many of you in Atlanta at our March 2nd reverse-site visit and other related events.

Aloha, Greg Mark

Highlighting the ACEs: Southern California Academic Center of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention

By Roxie Alcaraz & Jane Onoye

This is the sixth in a series of newsletters that will highlight the National Academic Centers of Excellence on Youth Violence Prevention, funded by the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC).

The Southern California Academic Center of Excellence (ACE-UCR) at the University of California at Riverside is committed to the development, implementation, evaluation, and dissemination of youth violence prevention programs and strategies that acknowledge the diversity of causes and solutions to preventing youth violence.

Dr. Nancy Guerra, the Principal Investigator (PI), Center Director, and UCR Professor of Psychology, works with Co-PIs Dr. Kirk Williams, Dr. Robert Nash Parker, Dr. Lyndee Knox, and a team of multidisciplinary

faculty and staff to develop and evaluate a comprehensive strategy to prevent youth violence among low-income Latino and immigrant youth in three service areas in Southern California.

Grounded in a developmental-ecological framework, four main objectives guide the work of ACE-UCR: (1) community mobilization and support; (2) youth and parent education and training; (3) theory development and testing, and (4) knowledge transfer and dissemination.

The Center, which has been in existence since 2000, works to enhance its activities focused on youth violence prevention by expanding community mobilization efforts by directing intensive focus in three communities: Santa Ana, Riverside/Arlanza, and Perris, California. ACE-UCR also works to expand infrastruc-

ture to support additional surveillance of youth violence.

Of particular interest is increasing understanding of issues facing low-income ethnic minority and immigrant populations, particularly Latinos, through community mobilization and work with their Community Committee.

Among the various research projects that ACE-UCR is conducting is the core project for an effectiveness trial of the Families and Schools Together (FAST) intervention with Latino families in Santa Ana. The FAST intervention has been completed and is currently in the data analysis phase. Other projects include developing and evaluating the Child Development Parent Training (CDPT) program for dissemination by

(Continued on page 2)

Writing for Health: An Expressive Writing Intervention for Middle School Youth

by Nikola Zaharakis & Sally Mays

Principal Investigator Dr. Wendy Kliewer's Writing for Health study tests an expressive writing intervention for middle school students. Funded by the National Institute of Mental Health (NIMH), this study is being conducted over a 3-year period with 7th grade students in both urban Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, and suburban Chesterfield County, Virginia, with faculty and students from Temple University and Virginia Commonwealth University's (VCU) Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development. A pilot study of the intervention was funded as part of the ACE grant awarded to VCU.

Writing for Health is built on the idea that expressive writing (writing about your deepest thoughts and feelings

related to stress) promotes health relative to writing about non-emotional topics. There is ample evidence to support this notion in studies with adults, but few published studies with youth.

Expressive writing is thought to work by helping individuals 1) become less bothered by intrusive thoughts about the stress they are experiencing, and 2) develop new insights about their self or the stressful experience. These changes in turn help individuals regulate their emotions more effectively and increase their working memory capacity, ultimately leading to lower stress and improved social, emotional, behavioral, cognitive, and health outcomes.

Data collection for the study began in November 2008.

Computer-assisted personal interviews were conducted with 7th grade students to obtain baseline measures of internalizing and externalizing behaviors, peer victimization, peer deviance, and beliefs about aggression and fighting. Teacher reports of student adjustment were also obtained. Approximately 400 students will participate in the intervention this year.

Expressive writing facilitators and process monitors are now being trained to deliver the intervention and to observe and record treatment fidelity, respectively. The school-based intervention, set to begin at the end of January, asks students to write "expressively" about their deepest thoughts and feelings for 20 minutes, once a week for six weeks. Students will be instructed either to

write about different aspects of violence and aggression they have witnessed or experienced, or to write about a (standards of learning) SOL-based health-related topic (control group).

In the fall, at the beginning of the 8th grade, the same cohort will have the opportunity to participate in two more expressive writing sessions as well as a final assessment. In addition, a second cohort of 7th grade students will begin the intervention and will be followed for two years.

The research group is excited to be working with the schools and looks forward to comparing their new results with the successful results of a pilot trial conducted by VCU's site.

Highlighting the ACEs: UC Riverside *continued from page 1*



Nancy Guerra, Ed.D.,
Principal Investigator,
Southern California Academic
Center of Excellence on Youth
Violence Prevention

lay community health workers, and developing and piloting the Positive Life Choices (PLC) positive youth development program for at-risk adolescents in the target communities and the California Youth Authority.

As part of the Center's training component, graduate students in youth violence prevention across the country who have gone through a selection process are invited to participate in a Summer Institute. ACE-UCR hosted the third Summer Institute in 2008 in collaboration with the Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention (University of California at Berkeley ACE). Training, technical assistance, and mentoring opportunities are also organized for students, faculty, staff, and community members through various workshops, conferences, and authors'

meetings to develop joint publications and edited books.

The Center's mission includes dissemination of knowledge about youth violence prevention to researchers, service providers, and policymakers. The broad range of dissemination and knowledge transfer has included conducting an Agency Dissemination Survey to determine barriers to adoption and implementation of evidence-based practices, as well as many peer-reviewed publications and products.

Efforts to inform policymakers about the problem of youth violence have resulted in a successful partnership with local agencies and policymakers to fund the expansion of needs assessment surveys in the city of Perris. The parent needs assessment was used to determine the extent to which par-

ents and families were aware of and utilized social services and programs within the city, as well as to learn what parents believed were vital programs for their children.

Additionally, a recent Memorandum of Understanding has been created with the city of Riverside to implement the Neighborhood Assessment Program. This will give the city an in-depth picture of each of its 26 neighborhoods on a number of indicators of the quality of life including neighborhood identity, physical infrastructure, public safety, social and economic conditions, health and mental health, transportation, cultural capital, and faith-based assets.

For more information on ACE-UCR, please visit www.stopyouthviolence.ucr.edu. For links to the other ACEs visit www.nacecc.org.

APIYVPC Community Advisory Board Discusses Sustainability *by Katie Kinkade & Tai-An Miao*

The Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) hosted the 2009 Community Advisory Board (CAB) Meeting on January 22nd, 2009, at the Waimānalo Hawaiian Homestead Association Halau.

In trying to improve upon the model of the CAB, this year the board was expanded to include leaders of youth-serving community organizations as well as the principals of both elementary schools in Waimānalo.

The state-level expertise offered by the original board members combined with the grassroots involvement of new members generated insightful conversations and valuable guidance for the work of the

APIYVPC in the upcoming year. The Board members and all APIYVPC staff had the opportunity to get to know each other better through the culture-sharing activity called "Culture in a Bag."

Board members were updated by Dr. Gregory Mark on the Coordinating Center's efforts to advocate for youth violence prevention with policy-makers. Ms. Tai-An Miao, Director of Community Empowerment, presented a slideshow on the past year of Community Partnership, and Dr. Karen Umemoto, Director of Training, led an activity to get input from Board members on identifying the resources that are available or needed in the community, schools, and

government to address youth violence.

The activity spurred a discussion about the sustainability of current partnerships and collaborative efforts in the Waimānalo community. Board members brainstormed possible solutions, such as forming an inclusive community leadership council and creating a resource directory to strengthen connections among community members and increase public knowledge of services available.

After lunch, Ms. Jane Chung -Do presented updates on the Core project and asked for feedback regarding the leadership component of Kailua High School's

"Personal Transitional Plan and Leadership" (PTPL) course. Some ideas included researching a community problem and presenting possible solutions to the community members, or designing an activity like the popular SIMS video game where the students could envision what their world would look like in 30 years.

The meeting was concluded with a presentation by Ms. Fa'apisa Soli summarizing the Kailua and Waimānalo Household Community Survey. Board members agreed that the Technical Report from the data will be helpful to the community.

Voices from the Community: The Boston Peace Party and Policy Panel

By Ariel Matos, South Boston Youth Ambassadors, & LeSette Wright

Upon waking it seemed to be your average Saturday, and then I remembered I had committed to spend my day as a volunteer at the Boston Peace Party and Policy Panel. What was I thinking? I only get two days to chill after being in school all week!

What the heck is a peace party and policy panel anyway? All I knew was that the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center would be giving people awards for preventing violence in their communities. So, off I went to the University of Massachusetts (UMASS) Boston Campus to spend my day as a volunteer.

When I arrived, people were excited! There were teens and adults decorating, putting stars and balloons everywhere. I soon met with the volunteer coordinator and learned that I was one of a few youth assigned to report on



Community Star Award recipients (left to right): James Foley III, Moss Lynch, Theresa Orsini, Shamia Chaparro, Lee Anne McDonough, LeSette Wright, & Connie Robinson (photo by Roland Smart)

the event. So, after introducing ourselves, off we went with our notepads and volunteer assignments.

After chowing down on some tasty pastries, the folks from Harvard and UMASS Bos-

ton welcomed everybody. We thought this was kind of neat that the two universities were working together. Most times schools compete with each other.

After the welcomes, the

keynote address was given by Dr. Clementina Chery from the Louis D. Brown Peace Institute. Dr. Chery founded the Peace Institute after her son Louis was murdered on the way to a meeting of a group called *Teens Against Gang Violence*.

Dr. Chery taught us that *Peace is Possible* with seven principles: *Love, Unity, Faith, Hope, Courage, Justice and Forgiveness*. We really admire her strength. If she can forgive after someone murdered her son, then none of us should have any excuse to hate one another.

After Dr. Chery spoke we had a brief break while the panelist took their seats. The panel included Dr. Rodney Hammond from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Senator Elect Sonia Chang-Diaz, Carlene Pavlos

(Continued on page 6)

Surveillance Lessons Learned from the Chicago ACE *by David Henry*

The purpose of the Surveillance Group at the Chicago Center for Youth Violence Prevention is to “develop a reliable, unified, and spatially detailed youth violence surveillance system by drawing on the data, expertise, and resources of a number of agencies and stakeholders in Chicago.”

Consistent with that purpose we gathered stakeholders in the youth violence problem, examined and explored numerous measures related to youth violence, including the violent death index, school disciplinary records, police records at the station house level, hospital incident reports, ambulance runs, and even logs from the Mayor’s “Graffiti-Blasters” crews.

Examination of these various sources of information in two years of meetings with stakeholders from Chicago Police,

Chicago Public Schools, Cook County Juvenile Court, Children’s Memorial Hospital, CeaseFire, and the Illinois Department of Corrections led us to several conclusions:

Stakeholders saw the value of youth violence surveillance and were willing to cooperate in producing a combined measure of youth violence.

Our original aim, to combine existing measures of youth violence into a composite measure using advanced measurement modeling techniques, did not appear able to produce a measure that would be accurate, timely, predictive of outbreaks of serious violence, and useful for prevention efforts, as we originally stipulated.

We needed to find a way to assess community youth violence nearer its inception, i.e., by assessing minor violent acts, such as bullying, fighting, and

vandalism, that may precede more serious outbreaks.

Youth violence is a scattered phenomenon geographically and temporally. Because youth violence may appear in one part of a community but not in another, we needed to find a way to assess community youth violence from multiple community informants. Informants within any single agency or community institution may be aware of violence of which others are unaware. Potential community informants include school staff and staff of school playgrounds, staff of Chicago Park District playgrounds, ministers, youth workers, YMCA staff, Boys and Girls Club staff, block club members, political workers, Streets and Sanitation workers, and Chicago Alternative Policing Strategy (CAPS) community representatives.

Surveillance useful for pre-

vention must be timely. It must be able to track changes and provoke responses. Thus it should be collected regularly and repeatedly. We suggested weekly assessments.

In order to achieve compliance with weekly surveys, the instrument must be brief and able to be completed with information easily accessible to the respondents.

Compliance may be enhanced by providing respondents with incentives such as payment for completing the surveys or a gift for long-term participation.

These conclusions helped to develop our proposal for surveillance of the youth violence problem. A valuable lesson was learned in emphasizing the importance of initial formative meetings with stakeholders to best approach surveillance work within communities.

Surveillance Lessons Learned from the Hawai‘i ACE *by Jane Onoye*

One of the core objectives of the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center’s (APIYVPC) is to build on existing surveillance systems and mechanisms to enhance their Surveillance Data Management, Analysis, and Dissemination Plan (SDMADP).

Data for the SDMADP come from multiple secondary sources such as the Hawai‘i State Departments of Health (assaults e-codes from hospital emergency rooms), Education (suspensions, absences, truancy, campus arrest, demographic information), and the Juvenile Justice system (juvenile arrests/convictions by community). Primary sources of data are also obtained from school-wide and community surveys (youth violence measures and risk-protective factors). Over the years, there

were some apparent challenges in trying to do this type of surveillance work.

Access: While in some cases, data were publicly and conveniently available (e.g., internet), more often the process was quite lengthy and involved (months to a year). Multiple meetings with data committees or state agencies were typically needed to acquire approvals. In one situation, data were obtained, with generous assistance from one of the Scientific Advisory Board members, which otherwise would have been unlikely.

Primary Data Collection: As with much of survey research, the use of incentives, response rates, and cost-benefit analysis have been the most challenging and have directly impacted how surveillance methods are tested

and modified. As a result, the household survey has taken on a more methodological approach in order to pilot what will work best in the community rather than full-scale implementation.

Use of the Data: Even when data were available, issues such as confidentiality required exploring alternative methods to link data other than originally proposed. In addition, as a condition of access, an agreement was established such that APIYVPC would provide results from the surveillance data back to schools and the state central office upon request.

Although some of these factors may be in part unique to a local level, the lessons learned are likely common in community surveillance work: 1) Much of the process re-

volves around relationship-building. Try to involve key informants from the data sources as stakeholders, such as an advisory board member. 2) Problem solving & perseverance are necessary. Resourcefulness, such as obtaining data through the internet when possible, may circumvent potential obstacles. Be flexible and plan accordingly for delays, and continue to follow up, even at unexpected opportunities; 3) Give back. The importance of utilizing the surveillance data for the benefit of the community expeditiously is key in balancing against the need for academic products, which often are at a much slower pace. Whenever possible, dissemination that can impact the community and other stakeholders should be done on a timely basis.

Publications, Presentations, and Products

- Barrett, S., Bradshaw, C.P., & Lewis-Palmer, T. (2008). Maryland state-wide PBIS initiative: systems, evaluations, and next steps. *Journal of Positive Behavior Interventions*, 10, 105-114.
- Bradshaw, C.P., Koth, C.W., Thornton, L.A., & Leaf, P.J. (2008). Altering school climate through school-wide positive behavioral interventions and supports: findings from a group-randomized effectiveness trial. *Prevention Science*, e-pub ahead of print.
- Brady, S.S., Tschann, J.M., Pasch, L.A., Flores, E., & Ozer, E.J. (2008). Violence involvement, substance use, and sexual activity among Mexican-American and European-American adolescents. *Journal of Adolescent Health*, 43(3), 285-295.
- Fry, D., Davidson, L., Rickert, V., & Lessel, H. (2008). [Partners and Peers: Sexual and Dating Violence Among NYC Youth: a research report by the New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault and the Columbia Center for Youth Violence Prevention, Columbia University](#). New York City Alliance Against Sexual Assault: New York.
- Guerra, N. G., & Bradshaw, C. P. (2008). Linking the prevention of problem behaviors and positive youth development: Core competencies for positive youth development and risk prevention. In N. G. Guerra & C. P. Bradshaw (Eds.), *Core competencies to prevent problem behaviors and promote positive youth development*. *New Directions for Child and Adolescent Development*, 122, 1–17.
- Hoge, R., Guerra, N., & Boxer, P. (Eds) (2008). *Treating the Juvenile Offender*. Guilford Press: New York.

Calendar of Events

FEB 2009	MAR 2009	APR 2009	MAY 2009	JUN 2009	JUL 2009
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Feb 11-14 Preventive Medicine 2009 Conference Los Angeles, CA www.preventivemedicine2009.org/ • Feb 20-21 1st National Conference on What Works in Education Partnerships Phoenix, AZ educationpartnership.asu.edu/conference • Feb 21-25 Association of Maternal and Child Health Programs (AMCHP) 2009 Annual Conference Washington DC www.amchp.org/events/Pages/default.aspx • Feb 23-24 23rd Annual Conference on the Prevention of Child Abuse Corpus Christi, TX www.preventchildabussetexas.org/nextconference.html?id=uqkrlzir 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mar 2 National ACE Meeting Atlanta, GA • Mar 1-4 Conference Track on Community-Based System of Care Development 22nd Annual Research Conference Tampa, FL rtckids.fmhi.usf.edu/ • Mar 6-9 3rd International Meeting on Indigenous Child Health Albuquerque, NM www.cps.ca/English/ProEdu/IMICH.htm • Mar 11-14 National Conference on Juvenile Justice Orlando, FL www.ncjfcj.org/content/view/1150/347/ • Mar 30-Apr 4 17th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect: Focusing on the Future: Strengthening Families and Communities Atlanta, GA For questions, email 17conf@pal-tech.com or contact by phone at (703) 528-0435 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Apr 2-4 Society for Research in Child Development Biennial Meeting Denver, CO www.srccd.org • Apr 19-22 20th National Youth Crime Prevention Conference and International Forum Orlando, FL ycwa.orlandomeetinginfo.com/ • Apr 22 3:00-4:30pm EST Webinar: Cyberbullying hosted by the Stop Bullying Now! Campaign www.stopbullyingnow.hrsa.gov/index.asp?area=main • Apr 29-May 2 Community-Campus Partnerships for Health's 11th Conference "Creating the Future We Want to Be: Transformation Through Partnerships" Milwaukee, WI www.ccpf.info/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • May 5-8 National Smart Start Conference Greensboro, NC www.smartstart-nc.org/conference/2008/rfp09.html# • May 6 AASA Leadership Matters Virtual Seminar—Leading School Systems into the 21st Century www.aasa.org/leadership/content.cfm?ItemNumber=7696 • May 22-25 Association for Psychological Science 21st Annual Convention San Francisco, CA www.psychologicalscience.org/convention/ • May 26-29 Society for Prevention Research 17th Annual Meeting Washington, D.C. www.preventionresearch.org/ 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jun 10-13 Mental Health America Centennial Conference Washington, D.C. mentalhealthamerica.net/ • Jun 18-21 Society for Community Research and Action Biennial Meeting Monclair, NJ www.scra27.org/biennialme • Jun 24 PBIS Western Region Returning Team Meeting www.pbismaryland.org • Jun 22 Portland National Youth Summit Portland, OR mentalhealthamerica.net/ • Jun 22-24 National Center for Victims of Crime Conference Washington, D.C. www.ncvc.org/ncvc/main.aspx?dbID=DB_Training_Institute1160 • Jun 29-Jul 3 19th Annual NASRO Conference Baltimore, MD www.nasro.org/home.asp 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Jul 7-9 Promoting Safe and Civil Schools: creating the foundation for positive youth development and student achievement in K-12 education New York, NY www.csee.net • Jul 8-11 Shifting Education and the Economy into High Gear Nashville, TN ecs.org/ecsmain.asp?page=/html/meetings.asp?am=3 • Jul 13-16 Summer Seminars 2009 for Afterschool Professionals Boston, MA www.niost.org/summerseminars • Jul 19-25 National Youth Leadership Training Mound, MN www.nylc.org/pages/newsevents-events-2009_National_Youth_Leadership_Training?oid=6793

For a more comprehensive and updated list of upcoming events, conferences, training opportunities, we recommend linking to <http://www.jhsph.edu/preventyouthviolence> and subscribing to the Johns Hopkins Center for the Prevention of Youth Violence Items of Interest newsletter.

Boston Peace Party *continued from page 3*

from the Massachusetts Department of Public Health, Dr. Nancy Norman from the Boston Public Health Commission, Carolyn Riley from Boston Public Schools, Suffolk County Sheriff Andrea Cabral, Superintendent Jim Hooley from Boston Emergency Medical Services, Rev. Emanuel Tikili from the Boston Ten Point Coalition and Wadi Muhammad from Teens Advocating a Global Vision. Who knew there were so many people that get paid to do violence prevention? Nobody mentioned that to us when we had career day?



Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith, Community Star Award recipient and Policy Panel moderator extraordinaire (photo by Roland Smart)

Dr. Deborah Prothrow-Stith facilitated the conversation between the panelists and the audience. It was really cool to finally see Dr. Prothrow-Stith in person. Our mentors are always talking about Deborah Prothrow-Stith and how she has done a lot to prevent youth violence. We liked her. She was really tough on the panelists and did not let them get away without answering hard questions.

At one point, a woman in the audience who had lost her son to violence stood up to speak. She talked about how she had collected the news clippings

from her son's murder and other murders that happened in Boston. This made some of us feel sad, but we were also inspired that we all can make a difference.

After the panel, we were all starving and enjoyed a great lunch of chicken and pasta. We even had cookies for dessert; kudos to the meal planner. The Peace Party happened during lunch. This was the moment we had all been waiting for. Twenty five individuals and groups received the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center Community Star Award. Here are a few statements we collected from the award recipients:

"As a hairdresser and single mom of four children, I never really considered what I do as violence prevention. I talk to my customers and try to help them solve their problems. I do the same for my kids and their friends. I am so very thankful that the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center chose to honor me today!"
Connie Robinson

"I felt honored as a South Boston Youth Ambassador to receive the Community Star Award. After the past 5 years of working on strengthening the youth and adult relationships in the South Boston community, we have finally been recognized for our undying, persevering efforts. We, as Youth Ambassadors, work as a team by positively voicing our thoughts and opinions. We believe in preventing violence and are proud of all those that helped us get to where we are!" Moss Lynch

"I was very happy to be honored by the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center, along with other deserving youth and adults from Boston. I felt that we make a difference and that there are people out there who care. Having done so much work to help our community, being there was an honor and a special activity that we could all share in together. It was amazing listening



(Left to right): Community Star Award recipient Rukia Ali with Anisa Ibrahim from the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center (photo by Roland Smart)

to all the stories of what people have been through and meeting such different and amazing people. Bringing peace to this community and to Boston is what we need and on that day there was peace and unity. I had a blast and the food was great but those that planned the day were greater! Thank you for everything!"
Shamia Chaparro

"When we received the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center Community Star Award, I felt extremely proud knowing that the work we are doing was being noticed and appreciated. As Youth Ambassadors we clean the streets, develop ideas to improve the connection between youth and adults, perform other community service like going to Mississippi

to clean up the devastation left by Hurricane Katrina. During the event, I met new, wonderful people who all believe 'Peace is possible.' And peace IS possible with a lot of hard work. Hopefully, it will be infectious and more people will follow our footsteps."
Lee Anne McDonough

"I was part of a group of five youth that received an award today on behalf of more than 40 Youth Ambassadors. Our group ranges in age from 12 to 20. Not only were we honored today but we also had the opportunity to serve by working the registration table, decorating and giving directions. I am proud that we showed a great presence by working together. We met a lot of great people. I personally shook hands with almost everyone who came in. It was an honor and a privilege to meet Deborah Prothrow-Stith. She has a great message that should be followed by everyone. I believe that the day went well and I look forward to participating again next year!"
James Foley III

So, there you have it! The Boston Peace Party and Policy Panel was a huge success!! We are glad that we were given the opportunity to participate in this event, and we hope that the Harvard Youth Violence Prevention Center continues to honor those who oftentimes are forgotten by others!



(Left to right): Ariel Matos, James Brown, Senator Sonia Chang Diaz, Sheriff Andrea Cabral, Dr. Brian Gibbs, Superintendent Jim Hooley, Dr. Nancy Norman, LeSette Wright, & Dr. Rodney Hammond (photo by Roland Smart)

Students Hear Prevention Messages at Be Safe Fair

By Jane Onoye & Susana Helm

Over 2000 students and faculty participated at the annual Be Safe Fair at Waipahu High School on O'ahu, Hawai'i on February 5, 2009. The fair provides information to students and staff from over 20 community and public agencies that are involved in youth wellness, prevention, and treatment.

Dr. Susana Helm, Ms. Tiffinie Kiyota, and Mr. MJ Gonzalvo from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine Department of Psychiatry volunteered to host an interactive booth on Healthy Dating & Teen Dating Violence Prevention at the event.

The invitation to participate for the second consecutive year at the Be Safe Fair came as a

follow-up to the recognition of the work that Dr. Helm has done on research in teen dating violence in partnership with the Teen Alert program (Domestic Violence Action Center) which was funded by the Hawai'i State Department of Health Maternal and Child Branch and supported by the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC).

Students who attended the booth learned about the differences among healthy dating, unhealthy dating, and teen dating violence. They were also presented with the research of the APIYVPC and the Tula'i Teen Dating Violence projects.

Students were actively engaged in asking about results of survey questions that showed

prevalence rates of dating violence. Many showed genuine interest in the issue of teen dating violence, and were surprised that behaviors that fall into the "emotional violence" realm were considered part of youth violence.

Dr. Helm has strongly supported community dissemination activities as an important and integral part of the effort to highlight youth violence prevention needs. Dr. Helm said "We were really impressed with the commitment of the school and community to increase awareness about health and safety for youth. It was great to see the students' interest in the dating violence research and how it related to their own healthy relationships."

IN FOCUS



Mr. MJ Gonzalvo, Ms. Tiffinie Kiyota, & Dr. Susana Helm (left to right) staffed the Healthy Dating & Teen Dating Violence Prevention booth at the Be Safe Fair at Waipahu High School in Waipahu, Hawai'i.

The ACEs

Columbia Center for Youth
Violence Prevention

Harvard Youth Violence
Prevention Center

Johns Hopkins University
Center for the Prevention
of Youth Violence

Center on Culture,
Immigration, and Youth
Violence Prevention

Southern California
Academic Center of
Excellence on Youth
Violence Prevention

Asian/Pacific Islander Youth
Violence Prevention Center

Chicago Center for Youth
Violence Prevention

Virginia Commonwealth
University Clark-Hill
Institute for Positive Youth
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Prevention Center

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NATIONAL COORDINATING CENTER
FOR THE ACADEMIC CENTERS OF
EXCELLENCE ON YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION

Sharing Lessons Learned in Developing a Comprehensive Approach to Youth Violence Prevention *by Jane Onoye*

The National Academic Centers of Excellence (ACE) on Youth Violence Prevention Coordinating Center (CC) and the Asian/Pacific Islander Youth Violence Prevention Center (APIYVPC) had the unique honor of hearing from one of the most respected and distinguished individuals in the area of children's mental health and youth violence prevention.

Dr. Bob Cohen is not only the consultant for the ACE Coordinating Center, and an Investigator for the Virginia Commonwealth University (VCU) Clark-Hill Institute for Positive Youth Development. He also has extensive experience and background in developing approaches to community and policymaker partnerships to address youth violence in Virginia. He was also the former ACE Principal Investigator for the VCU Center for the Study and Prevention of

Youth Violence from 2002-2005.

During his visit to Honolulu, Hawai'i, Dr. Cohen participated in the APIYVPC Community Advisory Board Meeting, and also presented at the APIYVPC Speaker Series, and the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa John A. Burns School of Medicine Psychiatry Grand Rounds.

The APIYVPC Speaker Series featured his presentation entitled "Developing a Comprehensive



The ACE Coordinating Center staff (left to right) - Georgine Perez, Jane Onoye, Robert Cohen, Gregory Mark, & Earl Hishinuma

Approach to Youth Violence Prevention in a Small City: Issues and Challenges." The audience included APIYVPC and CC staff, community members, and state and local government agencies. They had a chance to hear about the conceptual framework, the strategies used in the mobilization campaign, and the evaluation and lessons learned from the work done in the city of Richmond, Virginia, to develop a genuine university-community partnership. The similarities and differences between Richmond and O'ahu communities were also discussed.

It was truly a special occasion in that an ACE colleague had firsthand experience of the community-based work of another, experiencing the rich diversity of the local culture, and that both host and visitor were able to exchange ideas and share lessons learned.