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# **Violence Prevention Council:**

## ***Action Planning***

***Current Status of Violence Prevention Committees***

### **Santa Clara County Violence Prevention Council**

**December 15, 1997**

***A work in progress***



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# **Purpose of this Report**

## **Context of Violence**

The November 6, 1997, conference yielded valuable input about violence in general, the planning process, context, and various other areas. This report will reflect those changes.

## **Present Draft Plans**

The Violence Prevention Council designated four committees to identify and develop a countywide Violence Prevention Action Plan: Community Assessment & Data; Policy; Community Based Initiatives; and Public Awareness & Education. This report presents each committee's draft action plan that will be further refined before outreach into the community for input.

## **Recommend Next Steps**

This report will also provide recommendations for receiving input on the Violence Prevention Council's action plan from various segments of the community; evaluation plans; as well as presenting the Council's work and next step recommendations to the Board of Supervisors for approval.

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# 1

## **The Violence Prevention Council**

### ***Mission & Founding Principles***

The mission of the Violence Prevention Council is to prevent violence and its related injury, psychological trauma, death, disability and crime through the implementation of multiple levels of prevention and intervention and through collaborative county-wide action in order to create a safer, healthier, more economically viable community.

The Council believes that violence is preventable and envisions a community that fosters the development of healthy communities, healthy families, and healthy and responsible youth. Violence is a complex problem that will require collaborative community action to prevent the problem. This Council's vision is founded on the following principles:

- Embracing violence-free values
- Adopting an asset- or strength-based view of family and community
- Applying effective principles to community planning and community-building
- Building on existing resources and promoting collaboration
- Focusing on primary, secondary and tertiary prevention
- A planning process which
  - will make decisions based on data
  - will identify opportunities for action based on both community assessment and known "Best Practices" and how our local practices compare to these opportunities
  - will modify county-wide plans to address regional/community specific needs and resources

## ***Goals of the Violence Prevention Council***

***The primary goal*** of the Violence Prevention Coalition is to coordinate with and support the efforts of groups and agencies involved in violence prevention related activities. Other goals which the Coalition will address include the following:

1. ***To raise public awareness about violence in our society***- the scope and magnitude of the problem, complexity of the problem, and the conditions which promote violence while building consensus around potential solutions.
2. ***To advocate for policies, strategies and organizational changes*** that promote prevention and early intervention, best practices and collaborative action.
3. ***To refocus the community's attention on the social values that promote nonviolence*** such as respect for all people, acceptance and respect for diversity, and personal and social responsibility.
4. ***To work with communities to build on their capacity*** to develop and implement effective strategies and policies which reduce and prevent violence.
5. ***To focus special attention on involving youth*** in school and community-based violence prevention efforts.
6. ***To expand and develop new funding and prioritize existing resources*** with a particular focus on creative funding strategies to support collaborative prevention efforts and systemic strategies to address the multiple factors associated with violence in our society.

## **Definitions**

The following definitions guide the Violence Prevention Council's work:

### **Violence**

The threatened or actual use of physical or psychological force or power against another person, against oneself, or against groups or community that either results in, or has the high likelihood of resulting in injury (physical or psychological), death or deprivation. (*Adapted from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention*)

### **Prevention**

Multiple levels of prevention and intervention are critical to a comprehensive continuum of effort among an array of health, education, welfare and human service providers in partnership with law and justice systems. *Primary Prevention* is the proactive process which keeps people safe and healthy. *Secondary Prevention* addresses attitudes, behaviors, conditions and environments and focuses on early identification or intervention. *Tertiary Prevention* relates to reactive efforts and intervention where there are recognized problems (*Adapted from Technology of Prevention, 1991; Chronic Disease Epidemiology and Control, 1993; and Violence Prevention, 1995*).

## **Planning Process**

Several founding principles of the Council's work include inclusive collaboration and data-driven planning. The Violence Prevention Council continues its efforts in bringing together our county's leaders, experts and interested community members to participate in the planning process.

The Council was convened to steer violence prevention planning efforts, and to expand the circle and increase involvement. The conference was held to convene the Coalition and as the regional forums are conducted, the network will evolve.

The Violence Prevention Council adopted a planning process with four major steps to guide its overall planning process and that of the committees:

- Assessment of the problem
  - making decisions based on data
- Identification and use of Best Practices
  - comparing local practices to Best Practices
- Action based on data and Best Practices
- Evaluation of the work of the Council

In addition, a context setting model was also adopted to structure the planning. This model identifies the current situation, the desirable situation, and the steps needed to get there. The Council is also in the process of continuing to expand the network of participants. The November 6, conference was one such mechanism. Other mechanisms to expand participation include regional community forums and focus groups. Recommendations for these processes are included in the final chapter of this document.

### ***Action Planning Conference***

On November 6, 1997, the Violence Prevention Council convened the "Safe Homes, Safe Schools, Safe Neighborhoods" conference. This event was designed to bring together a broad array of stakeholders interested in developing a violence prevention action plan. The conference was attended by over 200 individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and disciplines including: elected office, education, law enforcement, faith, media, mental health, public health, social services, legal, justice, business, and concerned community members.

This report provides an overview of the progress of the four committees: Community Assessment and Data; Policy; Community Based Initiatives; and Public Awareness and Education since the conference. Each committee is in the process of developing action plans.

Recommendations for taking these draft action plans into the community and gathering more input from the community will be the final chapter of this report.

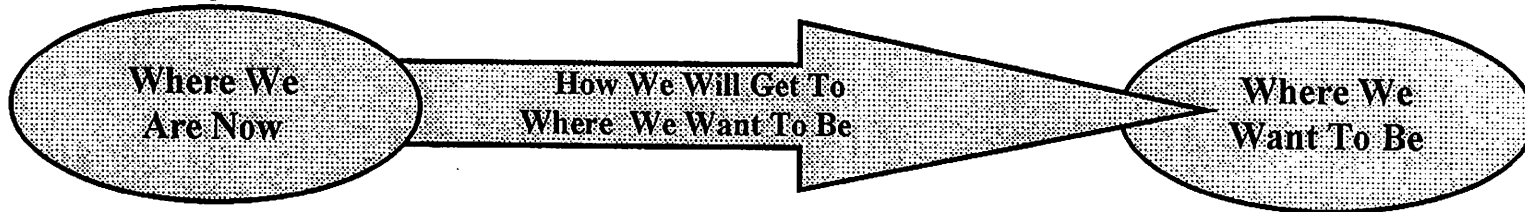
### ***Next Steps/Timelines***

The final chapter of this report documents the next steps and time frames. These include: regional community forums, focus groups; evaluation plans; and formal approval by the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors of the Violence Prevention Council's activities.

# Community Assessment & Data Committee

**Context:** Data can assist us in guiding decision making for county-wide action. Collaborative assessment efforts can assist us in : 1) better understanding the full scope & magnitude of the violence problem; 2) preventing it; and 3) evaluating our efforts. A systematic approach will be necessary to accomplish these three things.

**Key Stakeholders:** Key leaders who play a role in “keeping” and maintaining data bases for select aspects of the violence problem, including: elected officials; health and human services; education; law; justice; faith community; neighborhood groups; and the media.



- Various community organizations capturing various parts of violence problem
- Profile of violence problem fragmented.
- Lack comprehensive profile of available resources.
- No tracking of individuals accessing various aspects of the system.
- No systematic evaluation effort.
- Inadequate identification and tracking of known Violence Prevention “Best Practices.”

## Four Phase Development:

I. Scope/Magnitude of Problem

II. Precursors to Problem

III. Tracking System

IV. Evaluation

## Comprehensive Violence Surveillance System

(Community Violence Information System)

*Violence Prevention Council of  
Santa Clara County*

*December 1997*



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# 2

## **Community Assessment & Data Committee**

Since the November 6 conference, the Community Assessment & Data (CA&D) Committee, like all other VPC committees, has met twice to continue to further evolve a draft action plan. This committee has been pursuing numerous areas in an effort to develop a comprehensive violence surveillance system including: a local violence prevention resource inventory, a data matrix, and the identification of best practices. Key to such a system are standardized methods in order to link data from different sources.

### ***Context***

Data is instrumental to informed decision making. Collaborative efforts can assist in better understanding the full scope and magnitude of violence, preventing violence, and evaluating the Council's efforts. There are numerous agencies that are critical to developing a comprehensive system: law enforcement, Social Services, Justice Department, Office of Education, Probation, community organizations, and the Health & Hospital System.

### ***Assessment***

As described in the graphic on the previous page, the CA&D committee has described the current state of violence related data:

- Various community organizations capturing various parts of violence problem
- Profile of violence problem fragmented
- Lack comprehensive profile of available resources
- No tracking of individuals accessing various aspects of the system.
- No systematic evaluation effort.
- Inadequate identification and tracking of known Violence Prevention "Best Practices."

The report produced for the conference, "Violence Prevention in Santa Clara County," while identifying numerous opportunities for violence prevention, also identified numerous gaps, inconsistencies, or concerns about existing data. Below are the identified "gaps" and "limitations" as presented in the conference report. Whereas the report compiled violence data and information from 31 agencies, gaps and limitations in data were identified.

### ***Gaps***

There is a lack of reliable statistics around violence stemming from gang activity. Although there is information on gang activity in the city of San Jose, we are missing data in all other SCC cities.

Enhanced data collection in emergency rooms to document incidents and outcomes of violence is lacking. Although Emergency Room physicians believe 30% of their patients are victims of domestic violence, there are no systems that can substantiate these claims.

No information about violence among incarcerated populations is included in this report due to lack of consistent, accessible surveillance systems.

The inconsistent collection of income data results in heavy reliance on proxy measures.

Youth relationship violence and same-sex relationship violence is often not differentiated from adult or heterosexual relationship violence. This gap makes it difficult to understand the magnitude of the problem facing these populations.

Data on workplace violence is not included in this report due to reporting discrepancies associated with this type of violence. Violent events taking place at a worksite are often not reported in context, rather they are often seen as isolated incidents of assault, trespassing or even domestic violence. We are cautioned that any statistics pertaining to workplace violence are most likely an under- representation of the current situation. Lack of cross-reporting of violent incidents at the worksite makes it difficult to form an accurate account of occupational violence as well as domestic violence at the work place.

There is no centralized system to track cases of domestic violence or gang-related violent events. In the case of domestic violence, reporting from different sources (i.e. police departments, sheriffs, district attorney, shelters, emergency room, etc.) will not give a complete picture of domestic violence. Figures from some sources may underestimate the magnitude of the problem and there is no way to know which cases are duplicates.

### ***Limitations***

Some databases are more complete than others in reference to perpetrator and victim demographics and location of violent events.

Not all data are current, because data from sources that are not tracked at the county level take longer to get (as much as two years).

Because the data are currently in different formats (cases, rates, percentages, aggregate, categories etc.), it is not possible to make comparisons across sources.

Data do not cover the same time frames (fiscal vs. calendar year).

Data based on referrals are not as interpretable as data based on confirmed cases.

Various data systems may duplicate cases.

## **Recommended Actions**

The CA&D committee is undergoing a four phase process to develop the system as documented in "Preventing Violence in Santa Clara County." Those phases include: documenting the violence problem; identifying and tracking precursors of violence; developing a comprehensive system to gather data; evaluating violence prevention programs and the work of the Council

### ***Policy***

One of the key issues identified by this committee is fragmented violence related data -- collected by numerous agencies. To address this serious gap, the CA&D committee will recommend that the Board of Supervisors formalize the Violence Prevention Council's efforts and direct county and community agencies (e.g. Probation, Social Services, Law Enforcement, community organizations, etc.) to collaborate with the data committee to ensure the formulation of a comprehensive violence information system. The Supervisors will also be asked that a Memorandum of Understanding be developed for sharing data across jurisdictions.

### ***Resources***

In addition to documenting the impact of violence in Santa Clara County, the committee is compiling a violence resource inventory. This activity is in accordance with the Council's guiding principle of assessing community assets, not simply focusing on problems. Committee members are collecting information on available violence-related resources in Santa Clara County. A listing of agencies in the database thus far is attached as well as a sample of the type of information being collected for the database. The listing is not complete at this time, and a form is enclosed to allow any agency missing from the list to provide the information for inclusion in the database.

# Preliminary list of Agencies in Violence Prevention Resources Database

| Agency Name  | City        |
|--|-------------|
| Action Alliance for Children                       | Oakland     |
| Adolescent Counseling Services                     | Palo Alto   |
| Adult & Child Guidance Center                      | San Jose    |
| Advent Group Ministries                            | San Jose    |
| Alliance Community Counseling Center               | San Jose    |
| Almaden Valley Youth Counseling Service            | San Jose    |
| Alum Rock Counseling Center                        | San Jose    |
| American Institutes for Research                   | Palo Alto   |
| American Red Cross                                 | Palo Alto   |
| Asian American Recovery Services                   | San Jose    |
| Asian Americans for Community Involvement          | San Jose    |
| Asian Law Alliance                                 | San Jose    |
| BAMM (Bay Area Model Mugging)                      | Redwood Cty |
| Bar Assoc. of San Fran. - Ad Hoc Comm./Gun Control | San Fran.   |
| Big Brothers & Big Sisters of Santa Clara County   | San Jose    |
| Bill Wilson Center                                 | Santa Clara |
| Black Infant Health (BIH) -Subcontr. Econ & Soc Op | San Jose    |
| Boys & Girls Clubs                                 | San Jose    |
| Breakout Ministries                                | San Jose    |
| Ca. Youth Authority- Gang Info. Apprehension Unit  | Pleasanton  |
| Cal. Assoc. for the Education of Young Children    | Los Gatos   |
| California Youth Authority                         | San Jose    |
| Campbell Union High School District                | San Jose    |
| Catholic Charities                                 | San Jose    |
| Center for Human Development                       | San Jose    |
| Center for Organizational Learning & Effectiveness | Los Gatos   |
| Center for Training & Careers                      | San Jose    |
| Chamberlain's Children Center                      | Gilroy      |
| Child Advocacy Council                             | Palo Alto   |
| Child Advocates of Santa Clara & San Mateo Co.     | San Jose    |
| Child Health and Disability Prevention Program     | San Jose    |
| Child Quest International, Inc.                    | San Jose    |
| Children's Home Society of California              | San Jose    |
| City Year  | San Jose    |
| CityTeam Ministries                                | San Jose    |
| Community Health Awareness Council                 | Mtn. View   |
| Community Psychotherapy Insitute                   | San Jose    |
| Community Solutions                                | Morgan Hill |
| CONTACT  | San Jose    |
| Council of Churches of Santa Clara County          | San Jose    |
| Cross Cultural Community Services Center           | San Jose    |
| Cupertino Community Services                       | Cupertino   |
| East Side Union High School District(Foothill HS)  | San Jose    |
| Eastfield Ming Quong                               | Campbell    |
| Economic & Social Opportunities, Inc. (ESU)        | San Jose    |
| Education Programs Associates                      | Campbell    |
| Emergency Housing Consortium                       | San Jose    |
| Families First                                     | Campbell    |
| Family Health Foundation                           | Alviso      |
| Family Service Mid-Peninsula                       | Palo Alto   |
| Family Service Association of Santa Clara Valley   | San Jose    |
| Filipino Youth Coalition                           | San Jose    |
| Friends Outside in Santa Clara County              | San Jose    |
| Future Families, Inc.                              | San Jose    |
| Gardner Health Center (Centro de Bienestar)        | San Jose    |
| George Mayne Elementary                            | Alviso      |
| Giarretto Institute                                | San Jose    |
| Housing Authority of the County of Santa Clara     | San Jose    |
| Indo-American Community Service Center             | Santa Clara |
| Information & Referral Services, Inc.              | San Jose    |

## Preliminary list of Agencies in Violence Prevention Resources Database

| Agency Name  | City        |
|--|-------------|
| Innovative Concept Transitional Housing            | San Jose    |
| InnVision of Santa Clara Valley                    | San Jose    |
| Interagency Collab. Committee of Chld Abuse Cncl.  | San Jose    |
| Juvenile Court                                     | San Jose    |
| Kappa Social Services, Inc.                        | San Jose    |
| Lutheran Social Services/Turning Point             | San Jose    |
| Medical Protocol Committee of Domestic Viol. Cncl. | San Jose    |
| Mexican American Community Services Agency         | San Jose    |
| Next Door, Solutions to Domestic Violence          | San Jose    |
| Odd Fellow-Rebekah Children's Home                 | Gilroy      |
| P.A.L. (SJ Police Activities League)               | San Jose    |
| P.E.A.R.L.S. (Parent Ed. And Resource Link Svcs.)  | San Jose    |
| PACT-St. Maria Goretti                             | San Jose    |
| Palomares Group Homes, Inc.                        | San Jose    |
| Pathway Society, Inc. Youth Services               | San Jose    |
| Planned Parenthood                                 | San Jose    |
| Process Therapy Institute                          | Los Gatos   |
| Project Clean Slate                                | San Jose    |
| Project Crackdown                                  | San Jose    |
| Role Model Program                                 | San Jose    |
| Roosevelt Community Center                         | San Jose    |
| San Jose City Attorney's Office                    | San Jose    |
| San Jose Conservation Corps                        | San Jose    |
| San Jose Dept. of Parks, Rec. & Neighborhood Serv. | San Jose    |
| San Jose Mayor's Office                            | San Jose    |
| San Jose Peace Center                              | San Jose    |
| San Jose Police Dept.                              | San Jose    |
| San Jose Shelter Foundation                        | San Jose    |
| San Jose State University                          | San Jose    |
| San Jose Unified Pioneer High School               | San Jose    |
| San Jose Unified School District                   | San Jose    |
| Santa Cruz Barrios Unidos                          | Santa Cruz  |
| SCC Asian Law Alliance                             | San Jose    |
| SCC District Attorney                              | San Jose    |
| SCC District Attorney's Office                     | San Jose    |
| SCC District Attorney's Office                     | San Jose    |
| SCC Law and Justice System                         | San Jose    |
| SCC Multi-Disciplinary Child Death                 | San Jose    |
| SCC Office of Education                            | San Jose    |
| SCC Office of Education ( COE)                     | San Jose    |
| SCC PH - MCAH - Comprehensive Perinatal Svcs       | San Jose    |
| SCC PH MCAH  | San Jose    |
| SCC PH Multidisciplinary Child Death Review Team   | San Jose    |
| SCC PH- Multidisciplinary Child Abuse Team         | San Jose    |
| SCC Probation - William F. James Boys' Ranch       | Morgan Hill |
| SCC Probation - Diversion                          | San Jose    |
| SCC Probation Department                           | San Jose    |
| SCC Probation Department - Juvenile Division       | San Jose    |
| SCC Probation Dept.                                | San Jose    |
| SCC Probation Dept.                                | San Jose    |
| SCC Social Agency-Nuestra Casa                     | San Jose    |
| SCC Social Services Agency                         | San Jose    |
| SCC Superior Court - Family Division               | San Jose    |
| SCV for Christ-Operation Drawbridge                | San Jose    |
| SCV Health & Hospital System                       | San Jose    |
| SCV Youth for Christ                               | San Jose    |
| SCV Youth Foundation                               | San Jose    |
| Sentencing Alternative Program                     | San Jose    |
| Si Se Puede  | San Jose    |
| SJ Dept. of Parks, Rec., & Neighbhd -Neighbhd Dev  | San Jose    |

## Preliminary list of Agencies in Violence Prevention Resources Database

| Agency Name                                       | City        |
|---|-------------|
| SJ Poice Dept.-Violent Crime Unit                 | San Jose    |
| SJ Police Dept.- Crime Preventn Dept.             | San Jose    |
| SJ Police Dept.-Juvenile Crimes Unit              | San Jose    |
| SJ Police Dept.-Violent Crime Enforcemnt Team     | San Jose    |
| Social Advocates for Youth                        | San Jose    |
| Social Services Agency of Santa Clara County      | San Jose    |
| South Bay Charity Cultural Services Center        | San Jose    |
| St. Andrew's Residential Programs for Youth, Inc. | San Jose    |
| St. Joseph's Cathedral / Social Ministry Office   | San Jose    |
| Support Network for Battered Women                | Mtn. View   |
| The Bridge Counseling Center                      | Morgan Hill |
| The Right Track Program                           | San Jose    |
| Tough Love  | Palo Alto   |
| Turn It Around                                    | San Jose    |
| Ujima Adult and Family Services, Inc.             | San Jose    |
| United Neighborhoods of Santa Clara County        | San Jose    |
| United Way of Santa Clara County                  | Santa Clara |
| Urban Ministry of Palo Alto                       | Palo Alto   |
| Vanished Children's Alliance                      | San Jose    |
| Vietnamese American Cultural and Social Council   | San Jose    |
| Vietnamese Voluntary Foundation                   | San Jose    |
| Volunteers in Parole, Inc. (VIP, INC.)            | San Jose    |
| Volunteers of America - Brandon House             | San Jose    |
| Women and Their Children's Housing (WATCH)        | Milpitas    |
| YWCA of the Mid-Peninsula                         | Palo Alto   |
| YWCA of the Santa Clara Valley, Rape Crisis Svcs. | San Jose    |

# SAMPLE of Information in Violence Prevention Resources Database

## Santa Clara County VIOLENCE PREVENTION RESOURCES

Agency Name:   
Street Address:   
City:  State:  Zip Code:   
Agency Type 1:  Agency Type 2:   
Other:

### TYPE OF AGENCY

E - Education    HH - Health    SS - Social Service    CJ - Criminal Justice    OO - Other  
Faith/Church    GS - Community Service    CB - Community-Based Non-Profit    CG - County Government

Contact Person(s):   
Phone Number:  Fax Number:   
Email Address:

Brief  
Description of  
Services  
Related to  
Violence  
Prevention:

Action Alliance publishes the "Children's Advocate" newspaper, sponsors conferences on violence on young children and prevention strategies, has produced a video on violence on children, and facilitate a childrens' violence prevention coalition.

Specific  
Projects, with  
area of  
county  
served:

Present projects include a violence prevention strategy presentation for cable TV that will be available for distribution and a domestic violence identification training program for childcare workers.

Initiatives:

### INITIATIVES

ID - Media    FA - Firearms    AD - Alcohol/Drug    CO - Community    FM - Family  
DO - Domestic    RS - Relationships    YO - Youth    PD - Respect for Diversity  
PS - Personal Social Responsibility    RE - Research Evaluation    WP - Workplace

### ***Available/Needed Data***

A matrix is currently being compiled in order to document which agencies collect violence data, in what format they collect it, and the specific information gathered. This matrix includes needed data points -- that is, information that may not currently be collected but is needed to formulate a clearer understanding of violence in Santa Clara County. A copy of the matrix follows. In addition to the preliminary matrix, a form is attached for individuals to complete in order to collect any data that is currently not reflected in the matrix.

This matrix can serve as a guide in the development of a comprehensive information system. Much of the information in this matrix is based on the Los Angeles County model.

### ***Recommendations for Self-Assessment***

In keeping with the Violence Prevention Council's model of evaluation, a self-assessment process needs to be defined and implemented. Such an evaluation model can help the Council enhance its collaborative planning process.

### ***Development of an Evaluation Template***

To measure the *outcomes* of the Violence Prevention Council's actions, the Council should develop a template for outcome evaluation.



## **Preliminary Violence Data Matrix**

To assist the Violence Prevention Council (VPC) in assessing the nature and magnitude of violence-related safety issues in Santa Clara County, the VPC is developing a matrix of existing community databases. The Violence Data Matrix (VDM) is the VPC's first attempt to catalogue available data resources on violence. The VDM is preliminary and will change as the Council is made aware of new data resources. If your organization has a database that records data about violence please add the name of the database to the matrix and fill out the matrix using the appropriate codes (E=Electronically Archived, HC=Hard Copy, RN=Report Narrative, ?=Unknown). If your organization's database is included, but not filled out, please take this opportunity to do so. Also, to help us keep track of data resources please fill out the following:

*Your Name:*

*Title:*

*Organization:*

*Address:*

*Phone:*

*Fax:*

*E-mail Address:*

---

We would like to know the name of the individual in your organization who is most familiar with how the data is archived and what fields the database contains (i.e. database manager).

*Name:*

*Title:*

*Phone*

*E-mail:*

---

Who is the person that does data analysis for your organization?

*Name*

*Title:*

*Phone*

*E-mail:*

---

Who is the person in your organization that has the authority to release raw data to the TSCN?

*Name*

*Title:*

*Phone*

*E-mail:*

---

Thank you for making your organization available to the Violence Prevention Council. If you have any comments or suggestions on the matrix please provide them below or call Stephanie Golz at (408) 885-4210.

*Please return this completed form to:*

*The Santa Clara County Public Health Department*

*2220 Moorpark Ave., Rm. 115*

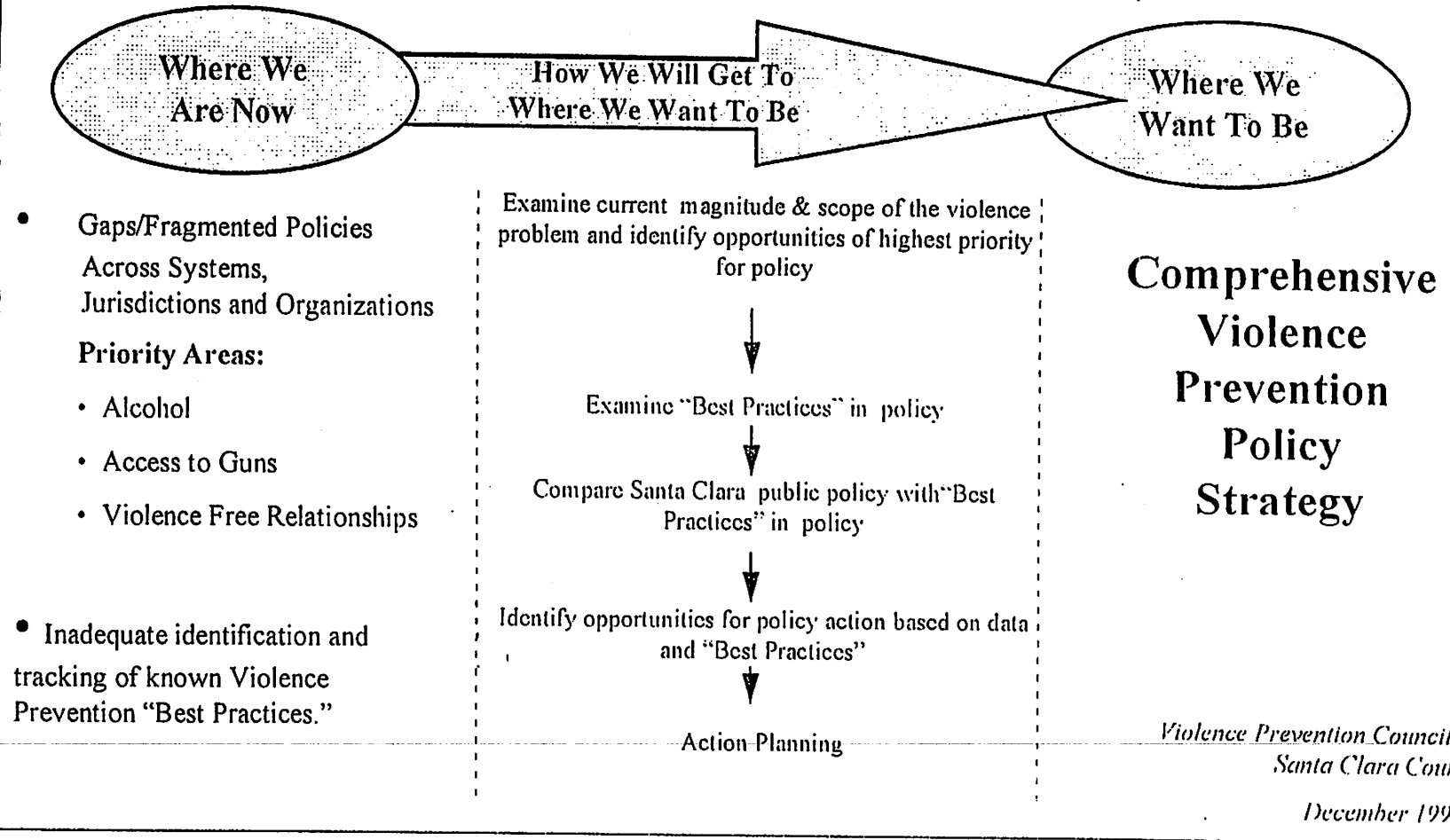
*San Jose, CA 95128*

*FAX: (408) 885-424 7*

# Policy Committee

**Context:** Policy at multiple levels can assist to proactively address factors which create conditions and influence the occurrence of violence. These levels include service provider organizations, systems, community and/or public policy to address primary, secondary and tertiary prevention and factors which create the means and opportunities for violence or influence the occurrence of violence for the person(s) committing the violent act, victims and witnesses of the violent acts.

**Stakeholders:** Key groups in community who need to be involved in the development of policy: elected officials; health and human services; business; youth; education; law; justice; faith community; neighborhood groups; and the media.



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# 3

## **Policy Committee**

The Policy committee is working to develop a comprehensive violence prevention policy strategy.

### **Context**

The Policy committee believes that violence is a problem that affects all segments of the population -- emotionally, physically and fiscally -- and that the entire community must accept responsibility for addressing that problem.

Among the numerous materials reviewed, the Policy committee considered the Attorney General's report, "Violence Prevention: A Vision of Hope." This document is the result of a group of experts who studied the issue for over a year and produced a series of policy recommendations. These recommendations covered the following areas: media, firearms, alcohol, community, family, relationships, youth, respect for diversity, personal and social responsibility, and research and evaluation. The Policy committee formally approved "A Vision of Hope" as its conceptual framework and model for Best Practices.

The Policy committee also discussed violence in context of the larger social issues of poverty, racism, and sexism. The committee felt it imperative to address both the structural issues of poverty and racism as it relates to violence. It acknowledges that in order to truly impact violence, these issues must be considered in any prevention activities.

In keeping with the Violence Prevention Council's focus on prevention, the Policy committee believes that the problem of violence must be addressed on three basic levels of prevention:

**Primary prevention** addresses those conditions or attitudes or beliefs that might lead to violence in a way that prevents violence from occurring in the first place and include such things as education, development of policy, adoption of community norms and attitudes, and similar actions.

**Secondary prevention** addresses the need to have early identification and early intervention strategies which will provide an early response before problems of violence become serious and require more intensive and remedial actions.

**Tertiary prevention** addresses the longer term, remedial and rehabilitative strategies that respond to violence which has occurred, such as criminal sanctions, treatment, and rehabilitation.

All three of these levels of prevention are necessary to have a complete community response to the problem.

## **Assessment**

The Policy committee identified three priority areas based on the Attorney General's report as well as local data. Some of the following data points from "Violence Prevention in Santa Clara County" highlight the need to focus in these areas:

- ***Promoting Violence-Free Relationships***

Child Abuse referrals totaled 22,376 in 1996, with the most frequent referrals being for physical abuse, followed by general neglect and sexual abuse.

Juvenile felony arrest rates have increased steadily from 1985 to 1994. There has been a dramatic increase in assault and robbery charges among juvenile offenders.

Juvenile arrest rates for weapons violations have increased 117%. Also, during the same time period, homicides perpetrated by juveniles involving firearms have increased threefold.

In Santa Clara County, 9 of 11 city law enforcement agencies reported gangs.

Schools report battery is the most common violent act perpetrated at elementary, middle and high schools. Most offenses occur on campus.

Domestic violence related deaths among Asians are more than double the group's presence in the total population

In 1996, 4,604 cases of domestic violence were filed with the District Attorney's Office. Between January 1, 1997 and September 30, 1997, there were 16 cases of same-sex domestic violence filed with the District Attorney's Office.

Dependent adult (18-64 years) abuse is inflicted by others 60% of the time, and self-inflicted in 40% of documented cases

Males aged 15-34 have a much higher rate of homicides (10.8 per 100,000) compared to same age females (3.1 per 100,000). Hispanic males aged 15-34 have the highest rate of homicide (20.9/100,000), followed by Asian males (10.2/100,000) and white males (5.5/100,000)

- ***Reducing youth access to alcohol and other drugs***

In a project study of two cities, alcohol was involved in one-fourth of all home arrests, two thirds of robberies, and between one-half to two-thirds of all homicides and assaults. (Attorney General's Office, "A Vision of Hope")

A 1989 study of alcohol and alcohol related problems in Santa Clara County found that census tracts with the highest concentration of outlets also reported the highest number of crimes and requests for police services. In an area of the county where Latinos comprised 57 percent of the residents, there were 4.56 alcohol outlets per 1,000 people -- nearly five times more than in the white communities, where there were 0.94 alcohol outlets per 1,000 people (Attorney General's Office, "A Vision of Hope").

According to a National Institute of Justice research report, the most promising strategies for reducing alcohol-related violence involve decreasing underage drinking through taxes, law enforcement, peer pressure and preventive education on substance abuse (Attorney General's Office, "A Vision of Hope").

- ***Reducing/preventing firearm (weapon) violence***

Firearms were responsible for 76% of homicides against children (< 21 years of age) between 1993 and 1994.

Guns were used in 57% of domestic violence related death incidents as reviewed by the Death Review Committee.

One in 5 homes in Santa Clara County have a gun. Of those homes, 31.9% have unlocked handguns.

## **Recommended Actions**

The Policy committee has identified the following steps that should be taken in each of the three priority areas.

### ***Violence-Free Relationships***

- Communities should consider adopting policies which identify and define violence in relationships and clearly express their intolerance with such violence.
- The clear definition of such things as spouse abuse, child abuse, date rape, fighting associated with sports events, and related activities, which are often not clearly viewed as violence, should be clarified.

### ***Alcohol***

- Communities should consider adopting policies which limit or reduce the concentration of alcohol retail outlets in high risk areas, using zoning, land use and conditional use approval authority.
- Specific models of land use policy, zoning ordinances and related regulatory tools available to cities and counties should be identified and shared with appropriate levels of government.
- Broad policy statements which place public emphasis on the link between alcohol availability and violence and abuse should be promulgated and widely disseminated.
- Policy support for more comprehensive resource allocation for education and treatment of alcohol problems should be supported.

### ***Firearms***

- Communities should consider adopting policies which limit the availability of certain kinds of firearms, such as assault weapons, and which establish broad community standards about firearm safety and intolerance of firearm violence.
- Specific strategies might include mandating safety locks and educating parents and youth on the safe handling and storage of handguns.
- Other strategies might include such things as local ordinances and business permit approval to limit sale of certain types of weapons.
- Policy statements should be adopted which clearly set forth the community's norms and values about the use of firearms

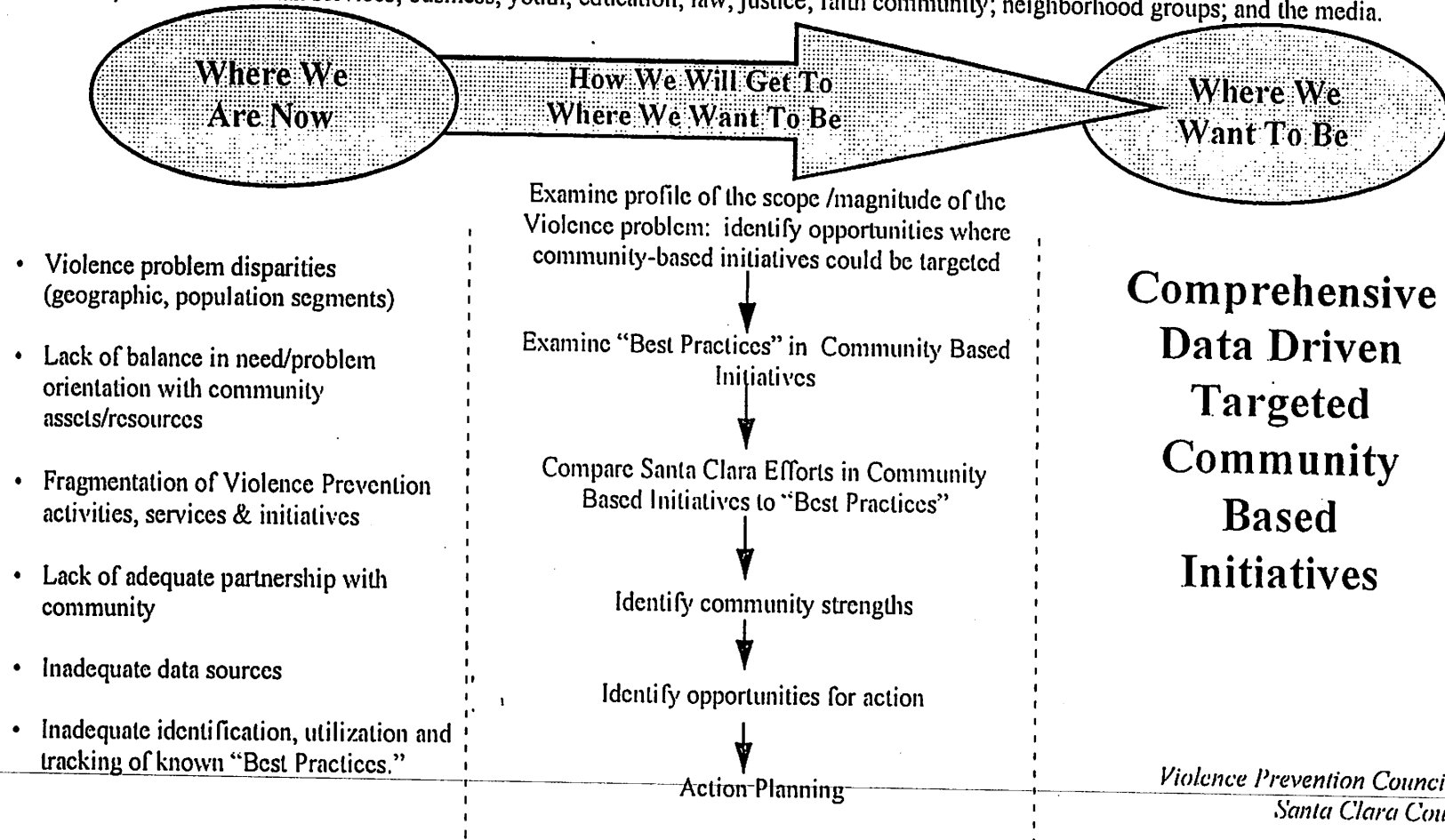
### ***Support from the Board of Supervisors***

The Policy committee is also preparing a transmittal to be submitted to the Board of Supervisors. The contents of this transmittal are described in the final chapter of this report.

# Community Based Initiatives Committee

**Context:** Whereas violence impacts the whole county, it occurs at the community level and it disproportionately impacts some geographic and population segments. In these geographic and population segments, there are opportunities to fully explore the appropriate community-based actions to address the phases of violence as well as the means and occasions creating opportunities for violence and/or environmental risk factors influencing the occurrence of violence.

**Key Stakeholders:** Key groups in community who need to be involved in the development of community based initiatives: elected officials; health and human services; business; youth; education; law; justice; faith community; neighborhood groups; and the media.



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# 4

## **Community Based Initiatives Committee**

### ***Context***

Although violence affects the entire county, it occurs at the community level. Certain segments of the population and geographical areas are disproportionately affected. In these areas, community based actions can be explored to address the different phases of violence as well as the means and occasions creating opportunities for violence.

### ***Assessment***

Based on available data, input from the conference, and subsequent meetings, the Community Based Initiatives (CBI) committee identified three priority areas. In each area, committee members stressed the importance of incorporating violence prevention into existing programs.

- ***Youth Leadership*** incorporating a comprehensive violence prevention curriculum

- ***Parent education and training***

Develop skills to gear toward violence prevention - anger management, conflict resolution, stress management

- preventing abuse and neglect
- building healthy relationships
- building adult leadership skills

- **Expand School Linked Services**

Using schools as community centers for neighborhoods. Creating full service schools (for example: Tyler school, Beacon Schools, New Beginnings) which in addition to offering an educational environment, offer opportunities for the healthy, social, and educational development of children and families in their community.

The committee expressed interest in working with the Sheriff's department to map the occurrence of youth violence.

The committee discussed the importance of taking a prevention based approach focusing on primary and secondary prevention and keeping a multigenerational perspective. The CBI committee noted that several other communities need to be brought to the table to ensure proper representation, particularly more grass roots community members as well as the business community.

### **Recommended Actions**

Ultimately the committee determined that it should focus on *one* of the above areas - **Youth Leadership** – as a starting point. The committee members raised concerns that many leadership programs plan their activities around already high achievers or those most at risk. The committee prefers a population wide approach at every level of schooling from elementary schools to high schools. This committee believes that all young people should have the opportunity to benefit from a youth leadership initiative.

### **Best Practices**

The committee is aware of a variety of organizations involved with developing youth leaders, and is currently compiling a list of these groups to be contacted for more information. The group's goal is to identify already successful youth leadership programs and integrate them with a comprehensive violence prevention component. A preliminary list of local and national organizations focusing on youth leadership development follows.

- |   |   |
|---|---|
| • AmeriCorps                                  | • School Student Councils                   |
| • Association of Junior Leagues International | • Department of Neighborhood Services       |
| • Big Brothers/Big Sisters of America         | • Asian Americans for Community Involvement |
| • Boys & Girls Clubs of America               | • Catholic Charities of SCC                 |

- Boy Scouts of America - national & Santa Clara County
- Campfire Girls and Boys - national & Santa Clara/Santa Cruz County
- Girl Scouts of the USA - national & Santa Clara County
- Junior Achievement
- City Year
- People Acting in Community Together (PACT)
- Youth Alliance
- Other CBOs
- Community Kids to Camp, Inc.
- Mexican American Community Services Agency
- Santa Clara County Social Advocates
- YMCA of Santa Clara Valley
- YWCA of Santa Clara Valley
- Interact - Rotary
- National Conference of Christians and Jews
- Uniting Congregations for Youth Development (Council of Churches)

### ***Next Steps***

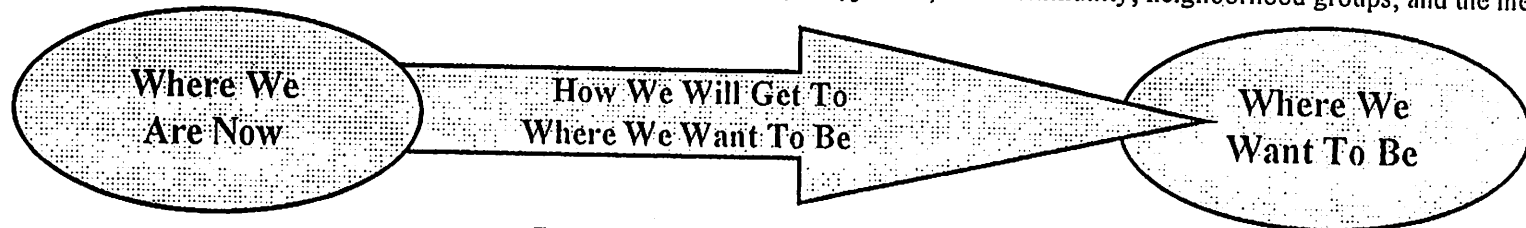
The CBI committee will:

- Continue to identify and evaluate youth leadership programs as models for a Santa Clara County initiative.
- Evaluate the Sheriff's Department mapping of youth violence
- Collect and evaluate literature and documents regarding CBI programs in other locations
- Seek to develop partnerships with the business community and with grass roots community organizations

# Public Awareness & Education Committee

**Context:** Public Awareness & Education strategies can help in violence prevention by making people aware of the full scope and magnitude of the violence problem. It can also include the role that multiple players and sectors can play in the full spectrum of the problem and the factors which directly or indirectly contribute and/or influence the occurrence of the phases of violence.

**Key Stakeholders:** Key groups in community who need to be involved in the development of public awareness and education strategies: elected officials; health and human services; business; youth; education; law; justice; faith community; neighborhood groups; and the media.



## Gaps in Public Awareness & Education *vis a vis* Violence Prevention

- Lack of comprehensive picture of the violence problem
- Lack of common awareness of all factors that directly and indirectly create conditions or influence conditions where violence can occur or escalate.
- Weak collaborative and systematic efforts in public awareness & education.
- Inadequate identification and tracking of known "Best Practices."

Examine violence problem profile and identify key areas where there are opportunities for Public Awareness and Education

Examine "Best Practices" in Public Awareness efforts

Compare Santa Clara Public Awareness and Education efforts with "Best Practices"

Identify opportunities for Public Awareness & Education action in Santa Clara County

Action Planning

## Comprehensive Violence Prevention Public Awareness & Education Strategies

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# 5

## **Public Awareness & Education Committee**

The Public Awareness & Education Committee (PA&E) is charged with developing comprehensive violence prevention public awareness and education strategies.

### ***Context***

Violence prevention efforts can be enhanced by raising awareness in the community of the full scope and magnitude of violence. Specific messages can be crafted and directed to specific communities or can be designed for different levels of violence prevention. There is virtually no segment of the population that is not at risk for violence as victim or perpetrator-- thus the stakeholders are multiple.

The violence issues facing our community have not been clearly articulated -- in part due to fragmented data but also because of the many types of violence that occur: physical, emotional, financial, etc.

### ***Assessment***

The report, "Preventing Violence in Santa Clara County," clearly documented that violence is pervasive in our community. Based on these data, the Policy Committee identified three priority areas:

- ***Promoting Violence-Free Relationships***
- ***Reducing/preventing firearm (weapon) violence***
- ***Reducing youth access to alcohol***

One role of the Public Awareness and Education (PA&E) committee is to support the efforts of the Violence Prevention Council committees.

As conference participants were setting the context for violence prevention awareness strategies, numerous participants noted a lack of awareness about violence in general. The committee noted this gap and considered a general campaign to increase understanding of violence issues.

The PA&E committee ultimately identified interpersonal violence, or violence-free relationships, as a priority for an awareness/education campaign. The committee specifically focused on violence-free relationships in part because it is not specific to a single type of violence (for example, child abuse or domestic violence) and can allow for the creation of a message emphasizing respect for others in all contexts.

### ***Recommended Action***

Based on the concept of promoting violence-free relationships, the PA&E committee has drafted a series of steps for an awareness campaign. The group identified youth as one group such a campaign would target, it also recognized the need for a wider, or "layered" campaign in the broader community.

### ***Youth campaign***

To reach youth, it was determined that a school-based campaign might be appropriate. A series of steps to develop this kind of campaign were identified:

1. Research which schools/districts have a violence-prevention curriculum
2. Determine appropriate contacts at school and district level
3. Identify and research other school-based violence prevention curriculum "Best Practices."
  - SJ Best, FAST, DARE, Turning Point, PeaceBuilders, etc.
4. Produce a resource directory (resources currently being documented/compiled by the CA&D committee)
5. Educate school staff
  - status of violence in county
  - impact of violence
  - what they can do
6. Develop a model policy that schools can adopt encouraging the incorporation of violence prevention strategies into curriculum

## 7. Encourage adoption of model policy

The need to involve parents in the education process was also identified as a component critical to the success of a youth-focused campaign.

### ***Community-Based Campaign***

As a complement to a youth-focused campaign, the committee recommends a community-based campaign focusing on violence-free relationships. The PA&E committee noted research showing that the effectiveness of an educational message is enhanced through repetition and reinforcement. Messages are more effective when heard multiple times from different sources. Thus, the success of a youth focused awareness campaign also hinges on messages that adults – who are educators, parents, and role models for youth – send to youth.

The PA&E committee preliminarily identified a number of groups that might be the focus of such a community-based campaign, including: faith communities, ethnic communities, community organizations, and employers.

### ***Getting the message out***

The PA&E committee will consider a variety of vehicles to promote violence-free relationships including: media - paid and free; newsletters; posters; brochures; presentations, etc.

### ***Purpose of Campaign***

The purpose of the campaign is not only to raise awareness, but to ensure that those impacted by or concerned about violence can get support or more information. The proposed campaign would make a violence prevention resource guide available. The Community Assessment and Data committee (CA&D) is currently compiling a resource inventory, a sample of which can be found within the CA&D committee section of this report.

# 6

## **Recommendations for Next Steps**

### ***Expanding the Violence Prevention Coalition network***

An integral component of the Violence Prevention Council is to engage the community in order to build broader awareness of and support for the Council's work. The committee action plans will be presented at community forums throughout Santa Clara County for input in the first half of 1998. In addition to gaining input from geographically defined regions, focus groups will also be held with other defined communities.

### ***Regional Community Forums***

One method to bring the report to the community is via community forums in different regions as defined by the districts of the Board of Supervisors.

Each Supervisor will be asked to work with the Council to schedule these forums throughout the district in early 1998.

### ***Partner with Local Leaders***

In each region, the goal is to partner with local leaders - e.g. cities, schools, law enforcement - to present the plans. In so doing, the network will continue to be expanded.

Each committee will be asked to help identify those community members and groups that should be present as well as to conduct outreach to those groups.



### ***Focus Groups***

To further shape the broad areas identified during the conference and community forums, input will also be sought through focus groups. Members of the youth and elder communities as well as business, faith and education representatives will be brought together to hear input from these groups.

### ***Enlist Formal Support from Board Of Supervisors for Violence Prevention Council***

A transmittal will be submitted to the Board of Supervisors asking them to take the following actions:

1. Accept the November 6, 1997, Report from the Santa Clara County Violence Prevention Council entitled, "Violence Prevention in Santa Clara County - *Current Efforts, Statistics and Future Opportunities.*"
2. Request that the County Executive convene an interdepartmental task force involving all Health and Human Service, Law and Justice and other appropriate departments,
  - a.) to explore the development of a system for the ongoing collection, sharing and analysis of data and information relative to the incidence of prevalence of violence;
  - b) to develop collaborative approaches in addressing issues related to preventing and reducing violence in the county- and
  - c. ) to report back to the Board of Supervisors within 90 days on progress and planning efforts.
3. Instruct the Public Health Department to provide staffing to the above mentioned interdepartmental task force and to serve as the repository of the violence-related data system with the responsibility to develop and produce progress reports to the Board of Supervisors, County Departments and community at large.
4. Authorize the newly created Violence Prevention Council of Santa Clara County to convene a series of community forums and focus groups in 1998 to aid in the development of a "County Multi-Year Community Strategic Action Plan" to prevent and reduce violence throughout the County.

5. Instruct the Violence Prevention Council to involve young people, community and neighborhood groups and individuals, religious, business and civic representatives, and elected and appointed officials from throughout the county in the planning process for preparation of the "County Multi-Year Community Strategic Action Plan".

6. Designate the Public Health Department, Santa Clara Valley Health & Hospital System, with administrative responsibility to support the activities of the Violence Prevention Council, to bring the Council's action plan to the Board of Supervisors in June or August, 1998, with a proposed process for the implementation of the action plan which includes recommendations for an aggressive funding plan to support action plan recommendations.

### ***Self Assessment***

In order to continuously improve on the Coalition/partnership building process, a next step will be to conduct a self inventory using "Best Practices" for coalition building. This self inventory can serve as an opportunity to further evolve and refined aspects of the collaborative process.

