

# OKLAHOMA RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLANNING CONVENING SUMMARY

PREPARED FOR  
Oklahoma Department of Health

PREPARED BY



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# OKLAHOMA RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLANNING CONVENING SUMMARY

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK  
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SEPTEMBER 11-12,

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“Violence is multifaceted, yet preventable, and its prevention should be comprehensive in approach and united in strategies... Everyone must play a part.

–*Violence in Oklahoma: A Case for Prevention*, 2002

## I. BACKGROUND

Across the nation, there is growing momentum to address the problem of sexual violence through a public health, primary prevention approach. This momentum is being generated through federal policy such as the Violence Against Women Act of 2005, leadership from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, and perhaps most importantly, as a natural evolution and expansion of the grassroots movement to end sexual violence, led in large part by the thousands of local sexual assault centers throughout the country and the state coalitions that represent them. With the goal of dramatically reducing the overall level of sexual violence in our communities, states in every region of the country are grappling with the question, “What more can be done to prevent sexual violence *before* it occurs?”

To answer this question in Oklahoma, the Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault (OCADVSA), Oklahoma State Department of Health (ODH) and Oklahoma Attorney General’s Office (OAG) convened a group of leaders (*see Appendix C: for a list of convening participants*) on September 11 and 12, 2006 to initiate a statewide strategic planning process. (Participants in the strategic planning convening are referred to as “participants” in this document.) Prevention Institute, a California-based national center working to build momentum for effective primary prevention, facilitated the day-and-a-half convening, lending its expertise in developing comprehensive primary prevention strategies with a focus on sustained, environmental change (*see Appendix E for a description of Prevention Institute*).

Oklahoma has a rich history of state-level action to prevent violence and abuse, including the Oklahoma Council on Violence Prevention, which issued its report *Violence in Oklahoma: A Case for Prevention* in 2002.<sup>1</sup> Oklahoma is now poised for an expansion of attention and efforts to the prevention of sexual violence. The strategic planning effort coincides with significant advances within the state, including the establishment of the Oklahoma Task Force to Stop Sexual Violence and the completion of the Women’s Sexual Assault Prevention Study by the University of Oklahoma Public Opinion Laboratory. Building on this momentum, the convening was designed to allow the group to make significant progress in a short amount of time through frank dialogue and creative thinking, using the *Spectrum of Prevention* as a strategy framework.<sup>1</sup> The convening was structured to achieve three specific objectives:

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<sup>1</sup> The *Spectrum of Prevention* was developed by Larry Cohen in 1983 while he was working as Director of Prevention Programs at the Contra Costa County Health Department. It is based upon the work of Dr. Marshall Swift in preventing developmental disabilities.

1. Identify preliminary objectives and potential activities for primary prevention of sexual violence in the state of Oklahoma, across the Spectrum of Prevention
2. Identify preliminary infrastructure, data and evaluation needs for accomplishing primary prevention objectives in Oklahoma.
3. Identify potential next steps to complete strategic planning.

According to participant evaluations, the meeting was a tremendous success, with two-thirds of the participants indicating that the group had done an ‘excellent’ job achieving the objectives. Participants left the convening inspired by the possibility of comprehensive sexual violence prevention in Oklahoma and with a stronger sense of relationship and partnership. The convening laid the foundation and served as a catalyst for further collaborative planning and action. This report summarizes the outcomes of the convening as well as the assessment interviews that were conducted prior to it (*see Appendix A for a list of assessment interviewees*).

## II. SEXUAL VIOLENCE IN OKLAHOMA

### a. Overall Climate in Oklahoma

Oklahoma is a predominantly rural state. Of the 77 counties that make up Oklahoma, only three are classified as urban: Comanche, Oklahoma, and Tulsa. While sexual violence is a pervasive problem in all states in the US, rural states like Oklahoma tend to face greater challenges and barriers in addressing and preventing the problem of sexual violence, including greater physical isolation, few services, lack of anonymity for victims/survivors and low rates of reporting.<sup>2</sup> When asked about the state’s sexual violence problem, several assessment interviewees noted that Oklahoma is often described as the ‘Buckle of the Bible Belt.’ This phrase refers to the state’s dominant socially-conservative Christian culture and its far-reaching influence in politics, social policy and education. Convening participants described Oklahoma’s overall culture as being rooted in patriarchal values and practices in which males are considered dominant to females and in which behaviors of a sexual nature are considered private and taboo.

### b. Contributors to Sexual Violence in Oklahoma

Participants described community norms related to *traditional masculinity* (e.g., men can have power over women), *silence* (e.g., sexual violence is a private matter) and *tolerance* (e.g., it’s acceptable not to respond to sexual violence nor enforce sanctions) as contributors to sexual violence. Additional contributors include:

- Victim-blaming culture that protects men and places blame on women
- Media environment in which violence is portrayed as entertainment
- Harmful gender norms in the media
- Children growing up without positive male role models, male-to-male relationships and dialog about healthy masculinities
- Limited understanding of what sexual violence is (e.g., ‘stranger in the bushes’)
- Substance abuse

### c. Factors that Prevent/Protect Against Sexual Violence

Despite these powerful contributors, participants described Oklahoma as a state with significant movement in the right direction when it comes to sexual violence. Participants believe that community norms related to sexual violence are beginning to change and that there is a greater sense

that sexual violence is wrong and that it is the community's responsibility to respond. Additional factors helping to protect against and prevent sexual violence include:

- Positive self-esteem and understanding of body issues among girls
- Positive female role models
- More equitable treatment of girls and boys in the school environment
- Greater understanding of sexual violence prevention among the public
- Organized multicultural, multidisciplinary movement to end sexual violence

#### **d. Assets and Opportunities for Sexual Violence Prevention**

Participants described Oklahoma's strong faith communities as a valuable asset and indicated that partnerships with faith communities were one of the most promising venues for sexual violence prevention. Additional assets and opportunities include a burgeoning interest in the issue among policy makers, long-standing and committed leadership with key organizations and stronger, more collaborative relationships among key stakeholders.

#### **e. Barriers and Challenges for Sexual Violence Prevention**

The primary barrier and challenge identified was lack of attention and resources given to prevention efforts.

### **III. THE VISION: A STATE WITHOUT SEXUAL VIOLENCE**

Participants brainstormed words and phrases to describe their shared vision and ultimate end goal – a state of Oklahoma without sexual violence. The snapshot vision (*see Text Box A*) served as a reminder for the need for primary prevention. Participants were encouraged to think and act with this vision in mind, knowing that social change takes time. While the vision can not be realized in a matter of a year or two, leaders can take action in the short term and work to ensure that prevention efforts are in alignment with this vision.

**Text Box A: What Would Oklahoma Look Like Without Sexual Violence?** ❖ People respect each other's boundaries ❖ Everyone feels safer ❖ People are more trusting in their daily interactions ❖ Children are safe in their homes and outside ❖ Women are safe to walk wherever and whenever ❖ Young women are safe on college campuses ❖ Men don't have to act tough ❖ Men are engaged as partners in prevention ❖ Men and women work together in positive, non-threatening relationships ❖ This is more trust between different cultures ❖ There is less suicide and substance abuse ❖ There are fewer prisoners ❖ Women are in leadership positions in business and politics ❖ The media depicts more healthy relationships and less violence ❖ Parks and playgrounds are safe places for families ❖ Strip clubs have been renovated as teen activity centers ❖ Policymakers support prevention efforts

### **IV. OKLAHOMA'S STRATEGIC APPROACH**

Sexual violence arises out of a complex interplay of individual, relationship and environmental (community and societal) factors. Sexual violence prevention therefore requires a comprehensive prevention strategy and participation from multiple sectors and stakeholders.<sup>3</sup> The stage is set for Oklahoma to institute systems and policy level changes to effectively prevent sexual violence. The development of the Oklahoma Taskforce to Stop Sexual Violence speaks to the burgeoning policy interest in tackling the issue. Some of the convening participants are members of the recently

formed Taskforce and will be able to carry forth the charge from the strategic planning convening. With this key opportunity in mind, participants set out to develop a strategy to engage community members, including youth, as well as organizational leaders, decision-makers and policymakers, to foster sustained community level change through changes in public policies and organizational practices.

Prevention education was acknowledged as important, because increased knowledge and skills can influence behavior. However, participants felt that education alone would not be enough. For example, parents were identified as an essential partner and stakeholder in sexual violence prevention. However, parents alone can not protect their children from all of the factors in the social, cultural and physical environment that contribute to sexual violence. Therefore, engaging key sectors, such as schools, media and faith institutions, is essential. One participant stated: “Changes in the overall environment will facilitate changes in behavior among parents and their children.” Another participant emphasized the long-term nature of this approach: “Prevention works over the long-term. Environmental change and engagement of various stakeholders takes more time, but results in greater impact.”

## **V. CHARTING A COURSE: PRELIMINARY STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES**

Participants brainstormed and prioritized what they thought were the most important and influential environments to focus on in order to prevent sexual violence in Oklahoma. Participants then evaluated each environment according to the following criteria:

1. Would a focus on this environment build on existing local and/or state-wide assets and strengths?
2. Is a focus on this environment doable and achievable?
3. Does a focus on this environment balance pragmatism with vision?
4. Is a focus on this environment consistent with promising models?
5. Is a focus on this environment informed by research/evidence?

Participants voted and prioritized four environments as the most important to focus on: 1) media, 2) pre-K through 12 schools, 3) colleges and universities, and 4) faith communities. There is committed leadership and a foundation of prevention efforts in each of the four priority environments. Key leaders, particularly from the faith community and higher education were already at the table.

Participants then described what this environment would need to look and be like in order to prevent sexual violence, and with this in mind, developed four preliminary strategic objectives.

- ***Preliminary Objective 1 – Media:*** Improve the media environment in Oklahoma through more accurate reporting of sexual violence and greater engagement of local media outlets in sexual violence prevention.
- ***Preliminary Objective 2 – Faith Communities:*** Engage Faith communities in modeling and promoting healthy relationships, free from sexual violence.
- ***Preliminary Objective 3 – Pre-K-12 Schools:*** Implement comprehensive sexual harassment and assault prevention efforts in pre-K through 12 schools to promote healthy relationships and related knowledge and skills among children and youth.

- ***Preliminary Objective 4: Colleges and Universities:*** Influence the physical and educational environment of colleges and universities to improve response to and prevention of sexual violence.

## **VI. DELINIATING THE ACTIONS: THE *SPECTRUM OF PREVENTION***

The *Spectrum of Prevention*, a tool to assist advocates and practitioners in developing comprehensive sexual violence prevention initiatives, was used to delineate primary prevention activities to achieve each of the four preliminary objectives. The *Spectrum* consists of six levels of intervention. *Spectrum* levels are complementary and when used together produce a synergy that results in greater effectiveness than would be possible by implementing any single activity.<sup>4</sup> The six levels of the *Spectrum* are:

- *Influencing Policy and Legislation (Level 6):* Developing strategies to strengthen laws and policies that promote healthy community norms and a violence-free society.
- *Changing Organizational Practices (Level 5):* Adopting regulations and shaping norms to prevent violence and improve safety.
- *Fostering Coalitions and Networks (Level 4):* Bringing together groups and individuals for broader goals and greater impact on promoting healthy community norms.
- *Educating Providers (Level 3):* Informing providers who will transmit skills and knowledge to others and model positive norms.
- *Promoting Community Education (Level 2):* Reaching groups of people with information and resources to prevent violence and promote safety.
- *Strengthening Individual Knowledge and Skills (Level 1):* Enhancing an individual's capability for preventing violence and promoting safety.

Participants felt that focusing primary prevention efforts on both men and women, across the *Spectrum of Prevention*, will be important. Men need to be engaged as prevention partners. At the same time, an essential element of primary prevention must be the elevation of the status of women. Prevention initiatives should include elements to support greater empowerment of women and girls as well as healthy development and engagement of men and boys.

The *Spectrum* charts that follow represent the initial thinking of participants. Participants made great progress in identifying potential actions to achieve the preliminary objectives. These activities will need to be refined according to available research, knowledge of promising practices, and further stakeholder input.

Several challenges and barriers were raised particularly with regard to the schools initiative. It has been very difficult to make inroads into the school system in the past. Prior efforts to expand school-based sexual violence prevention have either been rejected or ignored by key leaders within the school system. One challenge will be in determining who within the school system will be responsible for teaching sexual violence prevention curricula and how will those educators be compensated for their expertise and time, including time away from their primary subject. An

additional potential barrier related to organizational change in schools is the lack of health education classes offered. In order to institutionalize sexual violence prevention in schools, a policy to mandate health education in schools may be needed.

**a. Preliminary Objective 1 – Media:** Improve the media environment in Oklahoma through more accurate reporting of sexual violence and greater engagement of local media outlets in sexual violence prevention.

| <b>Spectrum Level</b>                                     | <b>Activities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6. Influencing Policy and Legislation</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Improve enforcement of relevant FCC regulations at local media outlets</li> <li>• Advocate for stronger FCC regulations</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>5. Changing Organizational Practices</b>               | <p>Influence local media outlets in Oklahoma, especially news outlets, to engage in the following practices:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide ample coverage of: 1) stories depicting healthy relationships and healthy sexuality; 2) healthy gender norms, 3) sexual violence prevention efforts, and, 4) youth as advocates</li> <li>• Implement guidelines on advertising</li> <li>• Donate media time for public service announcements</li> <li>• Implement effective workplace sexual harassment prevention policies, including mandatory training</li> <li>• Provide incentives for staff to support SV prevention as volunteers at fundraising events</li> </ul> |
| <b>4. Fostering Coalitions and Networks</b>               | <p>Partner with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Advertisers</li> <li>• Radio stations</li> <li>• Viewers</li> <li>• State coalitions</li> <li>• Local centers</li> <li>• Elected officials</li> <li>• Faith communities</li> <li>• Chambers of Commerce</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>3. Educating Providers</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide training for local media outlet staff on sexual assault and harassment prevention</li> <li>• Provide training for reporters on accurate reporting on sexual violence and sexual violence prevention.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| <b>2. Promoting Community Education</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide media literacy education to community members, especially youth</li> <li>• Use media outlets for educational programming for sexual violence prevention</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1. Strengthening Individual Knowledge &amp; Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase knowledge and skills in media advocacy among advocates</li> <li>• Increase knowledge of prevention among reporters and editorial staff</li> <li>• Increase knowledge of existing sexual violence prevention collaborations among reporters and editorial staff</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |

*b. Preliminary Objective 2 – Faith Communities:* Engage Faith communities in modeling and promoting healthy relationships, free from sexual violence.

| <b>Spectrum Level</b>                                     | <b>Activities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6. Influencing Policy and Legislation</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Partner with insurance commission to enforce insurance requirements, including fines and incentives to put protection and prevention practices in place</li> </ul>       |
| <b>5. Changing Organizational Practices</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Institute protection and prevention practice in employment and other functions of faith institutions</li> </ul>                                                          |
| <b>4. Fostering Coalitions and Networks</b>               | Partner with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Domestic violence coalition</li> <li>Insurance commission</li> <li>Concerned clergy</li> <li>Oklahoma council</li> <li>Faith based initiatives</li> </ul>  |
| <b>3. Educating Providers</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide appropriate education to providers, including youth pastors and Sunday School teachers, according to their needs (do an assessment to identify needs)</li> </ul> |
| <b>2. Promoting Community Education</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Offer community education in local faith institutions, utilizing resources such as Faith Trust Institute and secular authors</li> </ul>                                  |
| <b>1. Strengthening Individual Knowledge &amp; Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Provide children with age appropriate information on healthy relationships</li> <li>Provide bystanders with appropriate information</li> </ul>                           |

*c. Preliminary Objective 3 – Pre-K-12 Schools:* Implement comprehensive sexual harassment and assault prevention efforts in pre-K through 12 schools to promote healthy relationships and related knowledge and skills among children and youth.

| <b>Spectrum Level</b>                                     | <b>Activities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                        |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6. Influencing Policy and Legislation</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Institute a comprehensive sexual harassment and assault prevention school policy for pre-K-12 schools</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                |
| <b>5. Changing Organizational Practices</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• All school personnel to have domestic violence and sexual assault training each year</li> <li>• Institute age appropriate curriculum on non-violence and healthy relationships in grades pre-K-12</li> </ul>                                                    |
| <b>4. Fostering Coalitions and Networks</b>               | Partner with: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• State coalition</li> <li>• OCA</li> <li>• OEA</li> <li>• OK Counselors Association</li> <li>• Youth</li> <li>• Area Prevention Resource Centers</li> </ul>                                                                                        |
| <b>3. Educating Providers</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide mandatory training to faculty, teachers, coaches, administrators, on identification, reporting and prevention of sexual violence</li> <li>• Provide presentations to school boards to increase their knowledge of sexual violence prevention</li> </ul> |
| <b>2. Promoting Community Education</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Educate parents and other community members.</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                         |
| <b>1. Strengthening Individual Knowledge &amp; Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Increase skills in non-violence, conflict resolution, anger management, healthy relationships and healthy sexuality among students, teachers and all school personnel</li> </ul>                                                                                |

**d. Preliminary Objective 4: Colleges and Universities:** Influence the physical and educational environment of colleges and universities to improve response to and prevention of sexual violence.

| <b>Spectrum Level</b>                                     | <b>Activities</b>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
|-----------------------------------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>6. Influencing Policy and Legislation</b>              | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Establish a policy for colleges and universities in the state to improve response to and prevention of sexual violence, including supports to and options for victims of sexual violence and efforts to promote gender equity on campuses.</li> <li>• Encourage legislation to support grants for sexual violence prevention research</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| <b>5. Changing Organizational Practices</b>               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Require all agencies that use the facilities to enter into an organizational agreement for sexual harassment and assault prevention</li> <li>• Implement a substantial sexual harassment and assault prevention curricula for freshman orientation, Greek organizations, sports programs and all resident housing.</li> <li>• Integrate sexual harassment and assault prevention curricula into professional courses (e.g., law, medicine, counseling, education)</li> <li>• Support collaborative research on sexual violence prevention between university and professionals in the field</li> </ul> |
| <b>4. Fostering Coalitions and Networks</b>               | <p>Partner with:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Local service providers</li> <li>• Campus police</li> <li>• Faith community</li> <li>• Professionals in the field</li> <li>• Researchers</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>3. Educating Providers</b>                             | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Provide mandatory training to faculty, teachers, coaches, administrators, on identification, reporting and prevention of sexual violence; involve health care providers and faith community. Offer Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for educators and university personnel</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
| <b>2. Promoting Community Education</b>                   | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Sexual harassment and assault prevention curricula for freshman orientation, Greek organizations, sports programs and all resident housing</li> <li>• Provide bystander education for community members, including bartenders</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |
| <b>1. Strengthening Individual Knowledge &amp; Skills</b> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Peer education, sexual violence prevention skills, bystander education</li> </ul>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                      |

## **VII. MAPPING INFRASTRUCTURE ASSETS AND NEEDS**

Participants identified five infrastructure elements needed for implementation, sustainability and effectiveness of the strategic plan: 1) coordination; 2) data/research; 3) evaluation; 4) resource development; and 5) communications. The group had initial discussions about assets and needs in three of the areas: 1) coordination; 2) data/research; and, 3) resource development. These preliminary discussions will need to be revisited as the strategic objectives are refined, given that “form must follow function.” Communications and evaluation needs will also need to be determined.

There was an overall sense that while infrastructure to expand primary prevention efforts is needed, the overarching goal must be for prevention and intervention efforts to move forward together, for several reasons. One major factor is that it is likely that prevention efforts will generate greater demand for services because breaking silence and seeking support will become more accepted as community norms related to sexual violence shift.

### **a. Coordination**

Effective coalition building, coordination and synergy of efforts will be essential to the success of Oklahoma’s sexual violence prevention efforts. Participants were particularly concerned about maintaining the momentum generated by the convening through coordination and follow through. Participants proposed the formation of a statewide Oklahoma Council for the Prevention of Sexual Violence, a multidisciplinary coalition of state and local nonprofit and public agencies to act as the coordinating body for the state’s sexual violence prevention efforts (see Figure 1). The Council would be comprised of participants in the strategic planning process as well as additional representatives from faith, education and media, among others. The Council would be responsible for ensuring that the objectives of the strategic plan were accomplished through sub-committees/teams focused on each of the objectives: pre-K-12, higher education, media and faith communities. Participants proposed additional sub-committees/teams which would be responsible for communications, resource development, and research/evaluation. Participants also proposed the creation of a staff position at a state-level agency that would report to the Council. The staff would be responsible for ensuring coordination of activities across initiatives and sub-committees.

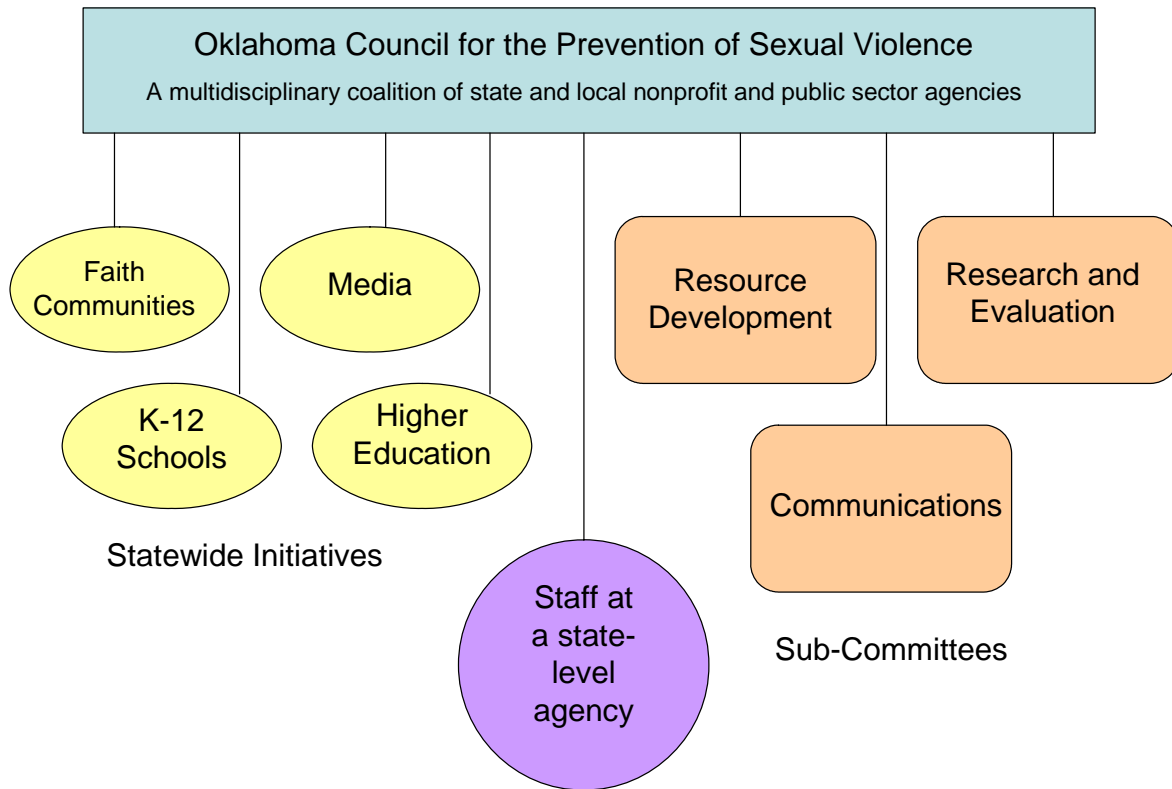


Figure 1: Proposed Oklahoma Council for the Prevention of Sexual Violence structure

### b. Research

Participants discussed research needs related to each preliminary objective. For each of the areas, a survey of best/promising practices in sexual violence prevention is warranted.

- *Media:* A survey of media advocacy resources for sexual violence prevention is needed. Research on links between media practices and negative social norms that contribute to sexual violence and methods used by journalists to report on sexual violence and gender equality is needed.
- *Schools:* Data such as from the Youth Risk Behavior Survey, the Oklahoma Health Children’s Statistics, the Department of Education, an inventory what’s being done in schools and a data on attitudes of teachers and administrations can be used to support the case for mandatory health education classes.
- *Higher education:* While it is difficult to obtain sexual violence incidence data for college campuses and Universities, some information may be obtained from local police departments, emergency rooms and the Attorney General’s office. In addition, almost all of the universities and colleges have certified sexual assault programs that can provide data on sexual violence, including anecdotal data. Incidence data will highlight the importance of addressing sexual violence in college campuses. Central police reporting data will be available in the near future.

- *Faith communities:* A starting place for the faith initiative will be to conduct an inventory of current sexual violence prevention efforts within the state’s faith institutions. The Oklahoma Conference of Churches and interfaith councils will be good sources of information. Another issue to clarify is the adjudicatory decision-makers and process within Oklahoma’s diverse faith institutions.

### **c. Resource Development**

Participants discussed the reality that sexual violence prevention is not a funding priority in the state or country. Existing sources of funds for sexual violence prevention and response were identified: 1) Federal pass-through Rape Prevention Education funds; and 2) confiscated property (funds go to SANE nurse program). Participants were unclear if additional funds were available through county public health departments. It was agreed that additional resources are needed for staffing and programmatic investments in prevention. A dedicated staff person who will be focused on implementing the statewide plan will be critical. Participants concurred that greater success in developing resources might be achieved by simultaneously advancing primary and secondary prevention goals. Potential additional funding sources include:

- The Attorney General’s office can work to increase appropriations for local agencies.
- State/regional foundations that fund adolescent health, youth development and family support services may consider funding sexual violence prevention.
- If the Title IV Safe and Drug Free Schools initiative is refunded, it may be possible to set aside some funding for sexual violence prevention, as one of the categories is dating violence
- Private companies and foundations may be able to fund specific items such as printed materials.

## **VIII. IMPLEMENTATION ROLES AND RESPONSIBILITIES**

Participants worked in groups according to the type of organization they were affiliated with and had brief conversations about the roles that their agency might play in developing and implementing the strategic plan. The following is a summary of potential contributions by each participating agency:

### **a. State Government Agencies**

- The Attorney General’s Office: can serve as the ‘leadership face’ of sexual violence prevention in Oklahoma. There are Creative people in the AG’s information office can work on the media objective. The AG’s office can work to increase appropriations for local agencies
- Criminal Justice Resource Center: The Center can play a limited role, but can compile data and prepare reports.
- Department of Health: The Department can work on building the infrastructure, such as playing a role in coordination, and developing data and evaluation systems. In addition, DPH can participate in advancing the objectives related to the media and schools.
- Department of Education can look into state training for school nurses, as part of the schools initiative.

### **b. State-level Nonprofit Organizations**

- The Interfaith Alliance is already partnering with injury prevention and is committed to sexual and domestic violence prevention. The Alliance’s extensive mailing reaches a diverse group with different target areas.

- The Oklahoma State Coalition will be able to help with each objective. It can assist by assembling media packets and by working with member programs to support their involvement. Additionally, the Coalition can hire a trainer to coach local groups in how to work with schools and implement the *Safe Dates* curriculum. The Coalition also has a history of partnering with faith agencies to promote day of prayer to prevent violence against women and work with lay ministers. They conduct training and education with universities and has a lobbyist that pushes legislation.
- St. Anthony's Hospital: Education materials intended for high risk youth can be distributed by Hospital staff.

### **c. Local Agencies**

- Local programs can bring together a pool of trainers to do training for the various initiatives
- Some local groups will be able to participate in state level planning and implementation
- Other local groups will be able to (most will want to) be involved in local implementation of each initiative

## **IX. STRATEGIC PLANNING NEXT STEPS**

The following steps were delineated for completing the strategic planning process:

1. *Debrief the Strategic Planning Meeting* among the three sponsoring agencies.
2. *Refine the strategic objectives and activities.* A steering committee will be formed (likely to be the 3 sponsoring agencies) and will refine the objectives and activities and send to the full planning group for feedback. Attention should be given particularly to the policy and resource development components. The steering committee will revise the objectives and activities based on planning group feedback.
3. *Gather additional stakeholder input:* Then the objectives will be further refined and finalized with input from experts/leaders from each of the objective areas (i.e., media, faith, schools and higher education) and from additional stakeholder groups. Several participants felt strongly that additional leaders from media, faith, schools (e.g., school board associations and Oklahoma Regents) and higher education, as well as additional representatives from rural areas, communities of color and men need to be engaged in the planning process to shape the initiatives. Participants felt that representatives from diverse cultural groups should also be involved in shaping the initiatives to ensure cultural sensitivity and relevance.
4. *Draw from existing Oklahoma models.* Look at previous relevant violence prevention plans to see what strategies may be similar and relevant.
5. *Draft a final plan.*
6. *Partner with the Oklahoma Task Force for Sexual Violence Prevention:* Work to ensure that the work of the Oklahoma Task Force is informed by strategic planning. Develop a timeline that is informed by the timeline of the Oklahoma Taskforce. The Task Force will complete its plan by February 2007 over the course of 4 meetings. The Task Force's plan will be focused on funding for services, education and prevention and law enforcement.

## **X. CONCLUSION**

Oklahoma is poised for an expanded sexual violence primary prevention strategy. The strategic planning convening brought together key leaders who worked efficiently in a very short period of

time to set a strategic direction and identify priorities for primary prevention of sexual violence in the state of Oklahoma, delineate infrastructure needs and identify next steps to complete strategic planning. Participants ended the day with a “one-word” closing activity (see Text Box B) and with hopeful, empowered statements such as these:

*“During our day-to-day struggles, prevention efforts tend to wind up on the bottom of the to-do list. Our strategic plan will become a road map – something we can all go back to, to keep us on track.”* – Strategic planning participant

*“We have already heard ‘no’ to our call for prevention many times. But we will continue to do the work. As a collective body, we will help each other get there. Together, we can make a difference.”* – Strategic planning participant

Primary prevention of sexual violence across the state of Oklahoma is no small task. Yet a safe and healthy state without sexual violence is what the people of Oklahoma deserve. The spirit of resiliency, resourcefulness, and determination of the people of Oklahoma, especially its local and state leaders, will serve the state well in its efforts to strategically and systematically move in the direction of this vision.

|                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                    |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <p><b>Text Box B: One Word at the End of the Strategic Planning Convening</b> ❖ Optimistic ❖<br/>Exhilarated ❖ Excited ❖ Encouraged ❖ Helpful ❖ Positive ❖ Hopeful ❖ Bolstered ❖ Invigorated ❖<br/>Pleased ❖ Relieved ❖ Educated ❖ Prepared ❖ Challenged ❖ Enthusiastic ❖ Inspired ❖ Impressed</p> |
|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|

## **APPENDIX A: ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW PARTICIPANTS**

1. Matt Atkinson, St. Anthony's Hospital
2. Gayle Jones, Co-Director of Comprehensive Health, Oklahoma Department of Education
3. Susan Krug, Office of the Attorney General
4. Jennifer McLaughlin, Sexual Violence Coordinator, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
5. Pauline Musgrove, Spirits of Hope
6. Marcia Smith, Executive Director, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault.
7. Gerald Williamson, Vice President of Student Services, East Central University

## APPENDIX B: ASSESSMENT INTERVIEW GUIDE

### Oklahoma Rape and Sexual Violence Strategic Planning Assessment Interview Guide

#### Opening

1. Can you tell us about the work you do that is related to sexual violence prevention in Oklahoma?
2. Have you participated in other local or statewide planning efforts on SV prevention? If yes, can you describe?

#### Sexual Violence in Oklahoma

3. What do you consider to be the most significant factors at the community level, including community norms that contribute to sexual violence in Oklahoma?
4. What do you consider to be the most significant factors at the community level, including community norms, helping to prevent or reduce sexual violence in Oklahoma?

#### Sexual Violence Prevention in Oklahoma

5. When you think about primary prevention, what comes to mind as the most innovative and effective approaches that you'd like to see in place in Oklahoma (that may or may not be in practice now)?
6. What are the opportunities and barriers in Oklahoma for implementing these innovative and effective approaches you mentioned?
7. What infrastructure is in place for sexual violence prevention in Oklahoma? What else is needed?
8. What is most important to accomplish in the next few years in local communities to prevent sexual violence in Oklahoma?
9. What is most important to accomplish in the next few years at the state level to prevent sexual violence in Oklahoma?
10. What kind of changes in organizational practices (regulations and standards within agencies and institutions) and policies (local and state) would have the most far reaching and sustained impact in preventing sexual violence in Oklahoma?

#### Strategic Planning Process

11. What do you think are the one or two most important objectives for the planning process to achieve?
  12. What contribution would you like to make to the planning process?
  13. Is there anything else you'd like to share with us at this time?
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## **APPENDIX C: STRATEGIC PLANNING CONVENING PARTICIPANTS**

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1. Brandi Woods-Little-john, Program Director, Oklahoma Criminal Justice Resource Center
2. Sue Settles, OSDH, Office of Child Abuse Prevention
3. Representative Pam Petersen
4. Jan Peery, CEO, YWCA of Oklahoma City
5. Jennifer McLaughlin, Sexual Violence Specialist, OCADVSA
6. Susan Krug, Chief, Victim Services Unit, Oklahoma Attorney General's Office
7. Rev. Jeff Hamilton, President, The Interfaith Alliance of Oklahoma
8. Sheryll Brown, MPH, OSDH, Injury Prevention Service
9. Teresa Biffle, Director, Women's Haven
10. Matt Atkinson
11. Kathy Middleton, RPE Coordinator, OSDH, Injury Prevention Service
12. Steve Nedbalek, Program Grant Coordinator, OSDH, Injury Prevention Service
13. Shelli Stephens-Stidham, Chief, OSDH, Injury Prevention Service
14. Tina Chang, CEO, Oklahoma Chinese Cultural Center Foundation
15. Pam Maisano, Legislative Advocate, Oklahoma Conference of Churches
16. Ralph Lindsey, PhD, Executive Director, Stillwater Domestic Violence Services
17. Ruth Barajas-Mazaheri, Director of Programs, Latino Community Development Agency
18. Rebecca Cook, Director, National Center for Disability Education & Training
19. Brandon Pasley, Women's Service & Family Resource Center
20. Gayle Jones, Co-Director of Comprehensive Health, Oklahoma State Department Of Education
21. Carol Furr, OCJRC

## APPENDIX D: STRATEGIC PLANNING CONVENING AGENDA

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### OKLAHOMA RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLANNING

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK

SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2006

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#### MEETING OBJECTIVES:

1. Identify preliminary objectives and potential actions for primary prevention of sexual violence in the state of Oklahoma, across the *Spectrum of Prevention*.
2. Identify preliminary infrastructure needs for accomplishing primary prevention objectives in Oklahoma.
3. Identify potential next steps to complete strategic planning.

#### DAY 1: SEPTEMBER 11, 2006, 9:00 AM – 5 PM

##### DAY 1 OBJECTIVE:

- ❖ Identify preliminary objectives and potential actions for primary prevention of sexual violence in the state of Oklahoma, across the *Spectrum of Prevention*.

|             |                                                                     |
|-------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:20   | Welcome, Introductions and Overview                                 |
| 9:20-9:30   | Developing the Vision: A State without Sexual Violence              |
| 9:30-9:45   | Describing Where We Are Now: Sexual Violence in Oklahoma            |
| 9:45-10:15  | The Levers of Prevention: Changing Community Norms and Environments |
| 10:15-10:30 | – Break –                                                           |
| 10:30-11:00 | The Levers of Prevention, continued                                 |
| 11:15-12:15 | Charting a Course: Preliminary Strategic Objectives for Oklahoma    |
| 12:15-1:00  | – Lunch –                                                           |
| 1:00-2:00   | Charting a Course, continued                                        |
| 2:00-3:15   | Delineating the Actions: the <i>Spectrum of Prevention</i>          |
| 3:15-3:30   | – Break –                                                           |
| 3:30-4:45   | Delineating the Actions: the <i>Spectrum of Prevention</i>          |
| 4:45-5:00   | Synthesis and Closing                                               |
| 5:00        | Adjourn                                                             |

## **APPENDIX D: STRATEGIC PLANNING CONVENING AGENDA, continued**

### **OKLAHOMA RAPE AND SEXUAL VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGIC PLANNING**

**OKLAHOMA CITY, OK**

**SEPTEMBER 11-12, 2006**

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#### **DAY 2 OBJECTIVES:**

- ❖ Identify preliminary infrastructure needs for accomplishing primary prevention objectives in Oklahoma.
- ❖ Identify potential next steps to complete strategic planning.

#### **DAY 2: SEPTEMBER 12, 2006, 9:00 AM – 12:30 PM**

|             |                                                                              |
|-------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 9:00-9:30   | Welcome and Reflections from Day 1                                           |
| 9:30-9:45   | What Do We Need to Make it Happen? Delineating Types of Infrastructure Needs |
| 9:45-10:15  | Mapping Infrastructure Strengths and Gaps                                    |
| 10:15-10:30 | – Break –                                                                    |
| 10:30-11:00 | Mapping Infrastructure Strengths and Gaps, continued                         |
| 11:00-12:00 | Prioritizing Preliminary Infrastructure Needs                                |
| 12:00-12:30 | Next-Steps and Evaluation                                                    |
| 12:30       | Adjourn                                                                      |

## APPENDIX E: PREVENTION INSTITUTE DESCRIPTION

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**Prevention Institute** is a national center dedicated to improving community health and well-being by building momentum for effective primary prevention. Primary prevention is defined as taking action to build resilience and to prevent problems before they occur. The Institute's work is characterized by a strong commitment to community participation and promotion of equitable health outcomes among all social and economic groups. Since its founding in 1997, the organization has focused on nutrition and physical activity promotion, injury and violence prevention, traffic safety, health disparities, and youth development.

Prevention Institute works to deepen understanding of effective primary prevention by developing frameworks, tools, and other resources that aid the development of comprehensive prevention strategies. The Institute also regularly provides training and technical assistance to coalitions, community-based organizations, government, foundations, and others through facilitated planning processes and partnerships around targeted initiatives. Our hands-on work with government and community partners serves to both inform the development of resource materials and test their effectiveness. We are highly committed to translating research into practice and building the capacity of communities using practical tools that have been developed with and for diverse constituencies.

Prevention Institute's past and current violence prevention experience is extensive. Our work in the area of intimate partner and sexual violence prevention is focused on identifying ways to influence norms and improve community environments to support healthy, violence-free relationships through comprehensive strategies that include public policy and organizational practice change. We have been training and consulting with CDC-funded initiatives across the country focused on the primary prevention of sexual violence and intimate partner violence. The Institute has also provided consultation and training services to the Minnesota State Health Department's Sexual Violence Prevention Action Council and lead sexual violence prevention staff on advancing primary prevention of sexual violence as well as facilitated trainings for leaders of Minnesota Coalition Against Sexual Assault (MNCASA) member agencies. Additionally, the Institute facilitates a series of web conferences and online dialogues through Prevention Connection to build the capacity of local, state, territorial, national and tribal agencies and organizations to prevent violence against women. Prevention Institute regularly conducts state and national training on emerging topics in primary prevention of violence against women, including norms/environmental change strategies, multidisciplinary collaboration, local policy change and media advocacy.

Highlights of Prevention Institute's most recent sexual and intimate partner violence prevention publications include: *Sexual Violence and the Spectrum of Prevention: Towards a Community Solution*, published in June 2006 by the National Sexual Violence Resource Center, and *Before It Could Ever Happen: The Primary Prevention of Intimate Partner Violence*, a chapter published in April 2006 in [The Physician's Guide to Intimate Partner Violence and Abuse](#).

For additional information on Prevention Institute projects, publications, tools, and resources, visit [www.PreventionInstitute.org](http://www.PreventionInstitute.org).

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## APPENDIX F: REFERENCES

<sup>1</sup> Oklahoma Council on Violence Prevention. (2002). *Violence in Oklahoma: A Case for Prevention*. Available at: <http://www.ocjrc.net/pubFiles/VioPrev/vio02.pdf>.

<sup>2</sup> Lewis, Susan H. (2003). *Unspoken Crimes: Sexual Assault in Rural America*. Enola, PA National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Available at: [http://www.nsvrc.org/\\_cms/fileUpload/rural\\_txt.htm](http://www.nsvrc.org/_cms/fileUpload/rural_txt.htm)

<sup>3</sup> Krug, EG, et. al., eds. 2002. *World report on violence and health*. Geneva, Switzerland: World Health Organization. Available at: [http://www.who.int/violence\\_injury\\_prevention/violence/world\\_report/en/](http://www.who.int/violence_injury_prevention/violence/world_report/en/)

<sup>4</sup> Davis, R., Parks, L. and L. Cohen. (2006). *Sexual Violence and the Spectrum of Prevention: Towards a Community Solution*. Enola, PA: National Sexual Violence Resource Center. Available at: <http://www.preventioninstitute.org/SVspectrum.html>