



Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin

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Black Male Achievement Advisory Council *Milwaukee Community Resiliency Project (MCRP)*

Overall Goal:

The Milwaukee Community Resiliency Project (MCRP) is a place based strategy designed to reduce the impact of both historical and continuing trauma in four (4) neighborhoods in the City of Milwaukee. The Black Health Coalition of Wisconsin (BHCW) will use its extensive experience and expertise in this area.

Target Population:

African American Men and Boys and their families. However, BHCW recognizes and will provide services to any residents of the areas.

MCRP will utilize the following strategies:

1. **Primary Prevention:** Educating the community, families and individuals regarding the effect of trauma and other adverse experiences on their daily lives. The education will also include the use of resiliency as a culturally defined method of preventing and/or mitigating the effects of trauma.
2. **Secondary Prevention:** MCRP will work with each community to develop a referral network for individuals in need of assistance.
3. **Intervention:** MCRP will coordinate with the community and direct services providers to assure services are respectful, culturally appropriate and to identify gaps in services.
4. **Documentation:** MCRP will work with designated City agencies regarding appropriate data collection and evaluation.

Project Implementation:

Current funding will allow the planning and implementation of one of the four identified areas. It is recommended that the Harambee/North Division Neighborhood be the first area, since BHCW is already working on a trauma informed care project with the Harambee community. As more resources become available the other will be brought on line. It is anticipated that planning will begin in January with a May 1, 2015 start date.

Principles of Trauma Informed Services
Journal of Community Psychology, 2005

1. Recognizes the impact of violence and victimization on development and coping strategies.

When a trauma-informed program recognizes the long-term and pervasive impact of interpersonal violence and childhood abuse, the experiences of survivors are validated and the difficulties they face in seeking services are recognized. This validation and recognition increase the survivor's sense of safety and hope.

2. Identifies recovery from trauma as a primary goal.

Trauma-informed programs offer either specialized services that directly address recovery from past trauma or integrate a person's care with an agency that does provide those services.

3. Employs an empowerment model.

A. There is a partnership between the person seeking services and the helper in which both participants are valued for the knowledge base they bring to the problem.

B. The goals of the work are mutual and established collaboratively.

C. A person's issues are understood as created or influenced by the sociopolitical context and the impact of their cultural context is considered.

D. The program facilitates the formation of a forum where people can relate to each other in a mutually supportive way.

E. People feel their experience and choices are validated. The work builds on their existing strengths so that their sense of inner

F. The experience of collaboration provides the person with increased knowledge of self and others, increases competence and comfort in taking action on personal goals.

G. The ultimate goal of the empowerment model is to help the person use their own resources and support network such that the person becomes more competent in using professional services. This model supports people becoming more engaged in their own healing and beyond their own healing to, for example, becoming an advocate for others.

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4. Strives to maximize a person's choices and control over their recovery.

Despite the great need and vulnerability experienced by many survivors, the ultimate goal is to work collaboratively with the survivor to increase their access to conscious choice, more options, and a sense of control over important life decisions.

5. Are based in a relational collaboration.

This principle recognizes that interpersonal trauma needs to be healed in a context in which the interpersonal relationships are the opposite of traumatizing. A therapeutic relationship has been defined as one that offers respect, information, connection, and hope. Staff must be aware of the inherent power imbalance in the helper-helped relationship and do their best their best to flatten the hierarchy.

6. Creates an atmosphere that is respectful of Survivors' need for safety, respect and acceptance.

Need to work with people to modify staff approaches, programs, procedures, and, in some cases, the physical setting to create a place perceived as safe and welcoming.