

# OFFICE OF VIOLENCE PREVENTION (OVP)

## CREATING A SAFER MILWAUKEE



CITY OF MILWAUKEE  
**HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

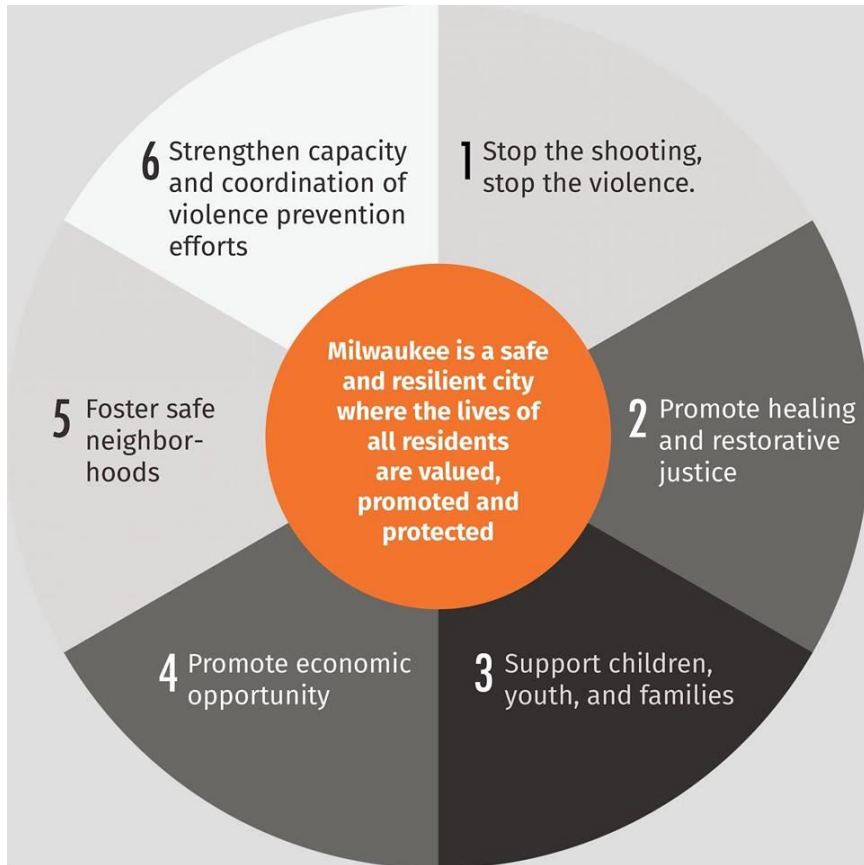
# OUTLINE

1. The Mission
2. The Blueprint
3. Understanding Prevention
4. Guiding Principles
5. Department Initiatives
6. Summer Initiatives
7. Let's Stay Connected

# OVP MISSION

*To prevent and reduce violence through partnerships that strengthen youth, families, and neighborhoods.*

# THE BLUEPRINT



- The Blueprint was created after a spike of homicides and NFS in 2015 approximately a 150% increase. The spike was seen around the country.
- There was a call to revamp the OVP in early 2016 with a charge to really engage the community in developing a comprehensive plan around this issue.
- The Blueprint was shaped by more than 1,500 individuals, elevating the voices of youth, community residents, and key stakeholders to call for strategic, aligned, and sustained investments and action to prevent violence, build resilience, and create a safer, healthier city.
- 6 goals and 30 evidence-informed strategies.
- OVP employs a public health approach and focuses on the prevention of violence before it occurs, as well as intervention efforts after violence has occurred to reduce its impact and prevent future perpetration and victimization.

# UNDERSTANDING PREVENTION



## Universal/ Environmental Strategies

\*Impacts everyone  
regardless of risk factors  
(e.g. billboard campaign  
promoting peace)



## Primary

\*Aims to prevent violence  
before it occurs  
(e.g. youth education,  
engagement & support)



## Secondary

\*Aims to prevent the  
reoccurrence of violence  
(e.g. Community  
Outreach, Violence  
Interruption and hospital  
response)



## Tertiary

\*Aims to reduce the  
impact of violence  
(e.g. Credible Clinicians  
and Healers, Healing  
Hubs)



# GUIDING PRINCIPLES IN ACTION

- This model is responsive to the community's desire for increased communication, guidance, and collaboration in their desire to change their environments
- This model keeps the work in the community not at a city agency, increasing ownership and sustainability
- Allows for a more-nimble department, focusing on guiding many efforts rather than leading a few

## Convener

- Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault
- Summer of Healing Resource Events
- Coordinate the Crisis Response Network
- Cardiff Coalition

## Collaborator

- Faith Based Community Collaborative
- City-wide Violence Prevention Campaigns (DVAM & SAAM)
- VR-Phast
- Mobilize Emergency Crisis Response

## Funder

- Summer of Healing Youth Programming
- Trauma Response Team
- Crime Stoppers
- The We Are Here Initiative

## Best Practices

- Love Without Violence – Domestic Violence Awareness Conference
- Winter of Wellness
- Blueprint Information Sessions
- Violence Prevention Educational Community Meetings

# OVP INITIATIVES

## Family-Focused

Commission on Domestic Violence  
& Sexual Assault

Safe Exchange & Visitation Center

Safer Communities for Youth

City-Wide Public Health  
Campaigns

## Youth-Focused

Wellness Yoga Sessions

Youth Trap Therapy

Summer of Healing Youth Initiative

Martial Arts

## Community

MKE Promise Zones

Promise Keepers

Blueprint for Peace

Heal the Hood

# FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

DE'SHAWN EWING, FAMILY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATOR





# SEXUAL ASSAULT AWARENESS MONTH

## A SEXUAL ASSAULT PREVENTION THROUGH THE LIFESPAN

- Coordinated with community partners
- 12<sup>th</sup> Annual Denim Day MKE, April 26<sup>th</sup>
- Collaboration to support and honor survivors of sexual assault



**Sexual Assault Awareness Month**  
APRIL 2023




**Sexual Assault Prevention Through the Life-Span**  
It's Time...to Talk About it

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 5**  
Understanding Elder and Cognitive Impairment Sexual Abuse

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 12**  
Disclosing and Finding Support as an Adult

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 19**  
Teachable Safety Skills

**WEDNESDAY, APRIL 26**  
Denim Day  
Press Conference by City of Milwaukee and Milwaukee Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault

# FAMILY VIOLENCE SERVICES

- The Commission on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- The Milwaukee Visitation Center
- Citywide Awareness Campaigns
- The Love Without Violence Conference
- Community Resource & Education Townhalls
- The Safer Communities for Youth Program
- Resource and Technical Assistance to Grassroots Organizations
- Direct and Indirect Crisis Support
- Coordination of Community-centered specialty outreach teams
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month Events and Activities

# SUICIDE PREVENTION

VAYNESIA KENDRICK, SUICIDE PREVENTION MANAGER



# MESSAGING

- Coordinated efforts with the HOP to promote access to national and local suicide prevention resources
- Recommended by the FTA (Federal Transit Authority) for suicide prevention messaging on all RTA's
- Community partners included:
  - American Foundation for Suicide Prevention
  - Milwaukee County Behavioral Health Services

Feeling overwhelmed, hopeless, anxious,  
or having thoughts of suicide?

**YOU ARE NOT ALONE,  
WE ARE HERE TO HELP.**



**CALL, TEXT or CHAT 988** to reach  
the Suicide and Crisis Lifeline.

**CALL 414-257-7222** to reach the  
Milwaukee County Crisis Line.



# SUICIDE AND RECKLESS DRIVING

- Partnership established with community partners to understand the correlation between suicide and reckless driving
- Research includes 3 aims:
  1. Examining and detailing evidence of suicide risk in the medical histories of decedents of single MVC
  2. Conducting psychological autopsy interviews with next of kin of a sample of decedents and conducting surveys with survivors of non-fatal SVMVCs
  3. Define a taxonomy of factors that can be used in SVMVC deaths or injuries
- Community partners include:
  - Medical College of Wisconsin
  - Sherman Park Neighborhood Association

# OVP FAITH COMMUNITY COLLABORATIVE PARTNERSHIP

- Coordinate bi-monthly meetings with faith and community partners
  - Discuss strategies and actions steps to engage the faith community on violence prevention matters
  - Serve as a system of support to members of the faith community for violence prevention events and functions
- Conduct numerous pieces of training
  - Stop the Bleed (Froedtert Hospital / Medical College of Wisconsin)
  - Conflict De-escalation (414LIFE)
  - Psychological First Aid (The Salvation Army)
  - Trauma, Resilience, and Faith 101 (Advocate Aurora Health)

# COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION

QUINN TAYLOR, COMMUNITY VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATOR



# MILWAUKEE BUCKS PLAYOFF AMBASSADORS

## OVP PARTNERS WITH MILWAUKEE BUCKS

- 60 Youth Ambassadors Hired
- 10 Supervisors From Promise Keepers Teams

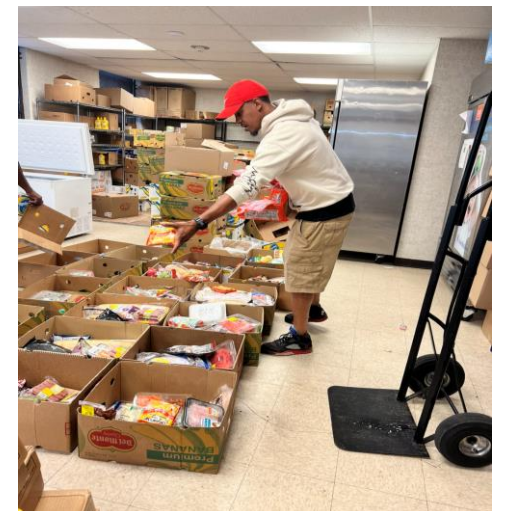




# SAFE SUMMER INITIATIVE

## MILWAUKEE PROMISE KEEPERS

- 13 Outreach Teams
- Focus on Street Outreach to strategize, organize and mobilize block by block
- Operates off the understanding that residents have autonomy when provided resources
- Engages the community to drive and lead their vision for their neighborhood



# SAFE SUMMER INITIATIVE

## CHANGE MAKERS YOUTH COHORT

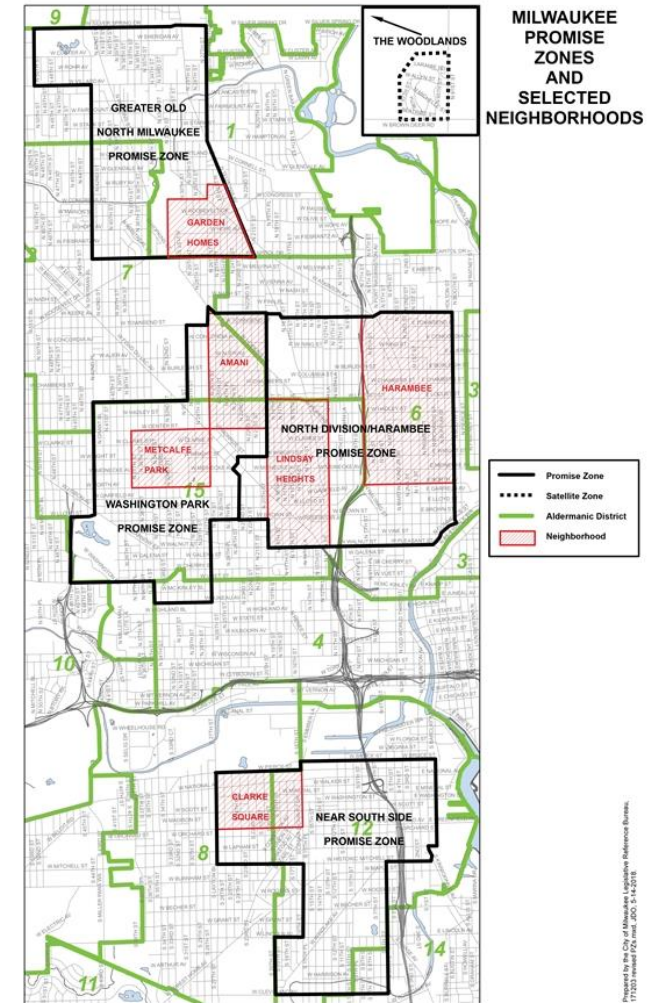
- Works to design programs based on contemporary interpretations of restorative justice
- Engages youth in the schools and within their communities to implement programs that address school push-out, youth violence, policing & juvenile justice
- Focus on dismantling the school-to-prison pipeline through social activism by children, families, & community



# MILWAUKEE PROMISE ZONES INITIATIVE

## REBUILDING AND STABILIZING NEIGHBORHOODS BLOCK BY BLOCK

- Find solution-driven resources that address the needs of the resident's economic empowerment and public safety
- 4 designated areas: Garden Homes Park, Harambee, Washington Park, and Near South Side Neighborhoods



# RECAST MILWAUKEE

RESILIENCY IN COMMUNITIES AFTER STRESS & TRAUMA



# HIGHLIGHTS

- Therapeutic Crisis Response
- Youth Trap Therapy
- Summer of Healing
- Wellness Yoga Sessions
- Credible Clinicians & Healers Network
- Healing Hubs & Mobile Pop-Ups
- Community Trainings

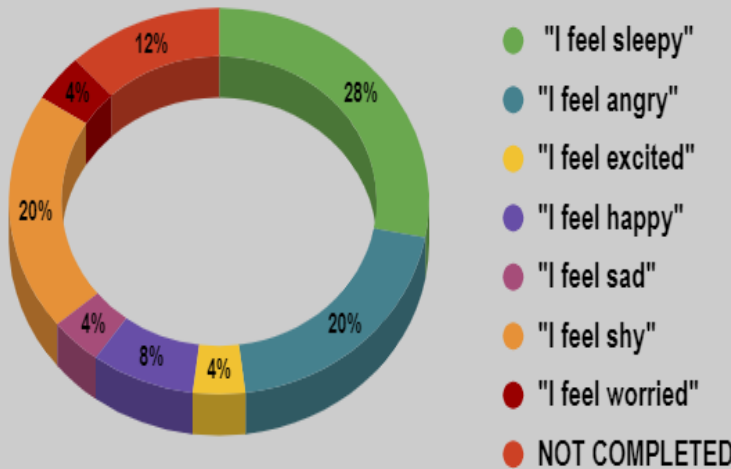




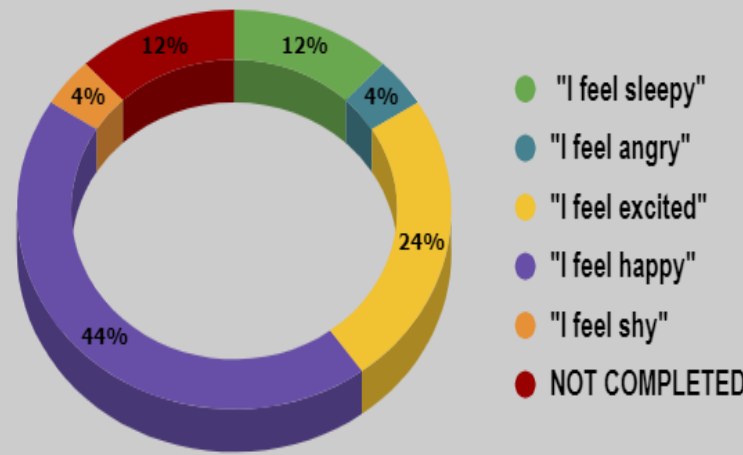
# Youth Trap Therapy Fall & Winter 2022 Feedback



How young People felt BEFORE Trap Therapy



How young people felt AFTER Trap Therapy





# TRAUMA RESPONSE INITIATIVE

## LINKING YOUTH EXPOSED TO VIOLENCE WITH HELP

	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022
# of referrals received	236	327	466	217	270	272
# of families engaged	212	182	272	89	194	203

Of the 272 referrals, 134 referrals were from District 5, 113 referrals were from District 7, and 25 referrals were from community partners such as the District Attorney's Office, the Crisis Mobile Team, and the Office of Violence Prevention.



# Upcoming Summer Initiatives

- Annual Mini-Grants to Youth Organizations
- Youth Lock-Ins
- Youth Trap Therapy
- MKE Promise Keepers Outreach Teams
- Youth Leadership Cohort & Ambassadors
- Healing Hubs & Mobile Pop-Ups
- Wellness Yoga Sessions



# LET'S STAY CONNECTED!

*WE ARE STRONGER TOGETHER*

- Office Line: 414-286-5468 / Email: [OVP@milwaukee.gov](mailto:OVP@milwaukee.gov)
- <https://city.milwaukee.gov/Health/Services-and-Programs/staysafe>
- Facebook: City of Milwaukee Office of Violence Prevention
- Instagram: MKEofficeofviolenceprevention
- TikTok: Coming soon!

