How Mentoring Can Help Heal Our Communities

June 22, 2023
Gun Violence is on the rise in America. While gun violence is a widespread issue, it disproportionately impacts Black and Brown communities. Youth overall are gaining more access to guns, leaving communities devastated and wondering how to approach the issue. Join leaders for a candid conversation around co-creating solutions that mentoring programs can implement to reimagine safe and healthy communities where youth can thrive.

Today we will:

- Hear from local leaders that work with boys and young men
- Discuss potential community based and mentoring interventions
Tips for Engagement

**Webinar Buddies!**

1. Post on the JamBoard your name & email.
2. Find someone who doesn't have a sticky note next to theirs. Put yours next to it!
3. Follow up with one another in a couple weeks to see how they've been using this knowledge!

- Introduce yourself!
- Talk with one another
- Share resources
- Respond to presenters
- Ask the presenters questions
- Upvote questions you’d like to see answered
Facilitator - Bianca Myrick

- Mother
- Founder & Executive Director of Pretty Purposed (a nonprofit that empowers girls through mentoring)
- Executive Director of the Virginia Association for Environmental Education (a statewide network of educators that teach environmental literacy)
- Owner of Bianca Myrick Consulting
- Adjunct Professor at Virginia State University
- Co-founder and Vice President of Collective 365 (a trust based giving circle that has given over $55,000 in funding to Black led businesses and organizations)
- Former elementary and middle school teacher for 12 years
Dr. Marlon Haywood was born and raised on the Southside of Chicago in the Englewood area. Never one to let his environment dictate his future, he received his Doctoral degree in Educational Leadership from Roosevelt University. He has a Master’s Degree in Adult & Higher Education and a Bachelor’s of Arts in Liberal Studies from Northern Illinois University (NIU).

Dr. Haywood’s life’s mission is to be a positive source of change in the lives of young people, in particular young minority men. His professional resume is one deeply rooted in service. While serving as a Transition Specialist, he noticed the completion rate for African American males that receives their GED was low. To serve as an intervention, he developed the male mentoring program Urban Male Initiative, a program that provided academic support to first generation male students at Malcolm-X college. Dr. Haywood has expanded his work to include elementary and high schools, where he started Urban Male Network (UMN), a non-profit organization to work with teenage male youth in Chicago. Currently, UMN have 12 mentoring locations across the Chicagoland area, where the organization provides service to 200+ young men monthly. UMN is a community partner with the Obama Foundation - My Brother’s Keeper Initiative.

Still, even with all the work he does, Dr. Haywood felt there was more he could do. He founded Marlon Speaks, LLC, a platform that allows him to use his voice and experiences to promote social change as a motivational speaker.
Cameron Bertrand is an international, serial entrepreneur and Licensed Mental Health Counselor with years of experience serving families and youth through the Virginia Board of Counseling. As a Youth Development Professional, Cameron specializes in resource development, leadership development, and community engagement that is tailored towards the communities he serves. As a gun violence survivor, Cameron advocates for, and provides, wrap-around services, trauma-informed care approaches and programs, as well as opportunities of enrichment to students and families in dozens of cities throughout the world; especially those in underserved areas.

Cameron is the CEO and founder of Gun Violence Intervention & Prevention Outreach & Research Center (GVIP) and Violence Intervention & Prevention (VIP) LLC; Founder of BuyBackTheBlock and Beyond The Bullet. VIP LLC, provides the counseling, mentorship and advocacy necessary to help youth and adults transition from or prevent personal and community experiences with violence and trauma. VIP LLC offers free mentorship, advocacy, counseling, and Youth Leadership Programs in dozens of cities across the country as well as in Kampala, Uganda.

Cameron is an alumnus and community partner of Christopher Newport University, having graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology and Criminology. He served in the United States Army for four years as a 27 Delta Paralegal, and is a published author.
Ellery Lundy

Mr. Lundy is a Richmond, VA native and a retired Deputy Sheriff (25 years of service). He created the Broken Men Foundation in 2014, a nonprofit that aims to raise boys into young men. He has been certified in the Fatherhood Initiative program for fragile families through the Virginia Department of Social Services, in addition to being a certified crisis interventionist. He has coached various sports to include basketball and football, along with officiating games ranging from little league to semi professional sports. He feels strongly about giving back to the community, which fuels his work at The Broken Men Foundation.
MENTOR National and all panelists understand that gun violence is a multi-layered issue that bears collective responsibility. The purpose of this webinar is to explore solutions together with leaders that are on the front lines within communities that are impacted by firearm violence. Please take time to exercise care when discussing any issue that may be difficult to discuss or triggering.
Information to Consider

- Leading cause of death for young Black Men is homicide with about 85% involving a firearm (ages 15-44 years old) - CDC

- There was a significant increase in gun violence during the pandemic

- Black Americans make up about 12% of the population, but account for 61% of homicides by firearm - Center for American Progress

- Despite the fact that Black boys and men account for just six percent of the total population, they comprise more than half of all gun homicide victims- Giffords
Poll

Do you foresee the statistics decreasing in regard to gun violence within the next five years? (In the United States)
Urban Male Network (Chicago)
Gun Violence Intervention & Prevention Outreach & Research Center (Newport News, VA)
Root Causes

-Lack of investment in under resourced communities (Black owned businesses, schools, home ownership, etc.)

-Generational Trauma

-Environmental Factors such as food disparities

-Lack of Access to Resources

-Hopelessness

-Not enough avenues for youth to express themselves
Community Impact

- Innocent bystanders
- Children
- Elderly
- Gun Violence is a Public Health Concern
Effective Prevention Strategies

- Safe spaces for boys to enjoy themselves
- After school support programs
- Mental health programs that build emotional intelligence
- Trauma Informed Recovery Center (compilation of evidenced based approaches)
- Gun safety initiatives and certifications that hold young men accountable and eliminates the excuses

Urban Male Network- Rock Climbing
Incarceration

What happens when youth are released?

We need more:
- trauma informed supports
- restorative practices
- healing centered engagement
Mentoring for Boys

- Accountability
- Guidance
- Increased Opportunities
- Increased Network and Social Capital

Broken Men Foundation - Dress for Success

Cameron Bertrand with mentees
Parent/Caregiver Role

Establishing discipline

Overcoming personal and generational trauma

Creating and being apart of a village

Transparency in parenting (“talk with children- not at them”)

Be vigilant

Pay attention to their media content (music, videos, etc.)

Boundaries & consistency
Gun Safety

Tell children about your weapon

Share about the dangers

Keep the weapon locked away and out of reach (probability of a break in or invasion is slim)

Show them to eliminate the curiosity

Broken Men Foundation- Gun Safety
Crisis Response

What would you do?
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<th>Systems Level Change</th>
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<tr>
<td>Faith Based Communities (Churches)</td>
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<td>Social Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>Schools</td>
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<td>Nonprofit Organizations</td>
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*Broken Men Foundation with Governor Youngkin*
Next Steps:

What are some tangible next steps we can take?
Q & A

Broken Men Foundation Graduation

Urban Male Network -Obama Foundation Youth Forum

COLLABORATIVE MENTORING
WEBINAR SERIES
Additional Resources

Contact Us
Email us with any feedback or questions at collaborativewebinarseries@mentoring.org!

Affiliates
MENTOR Affiliates can support with training, resources, public awareness and advocacy. Find your local affiliate here.

Mentoring Connector
Recruit mentors by submitting your program to the Mentoring Connector.

National Mentoring Resource Center
Check out the OJJDP National Mentoring Resource Center to access evidence-based mentoring resources, and to apply for no-cost training and technical assistance
Remember...

- Please take **3-4 minutes to complete the anonymous survey** to let us know how we did!
- In a few days, you will receive an email with information on how to download the **slides, recording, and resources** on the CMWS webpage on MENTOR’s website.
- **Connect with your webinar buddy!** Check in with them in a couple weeks to see how they’ve used the information from today’s webinar.
Contact Our Panelists

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Breathing in Hope

A mindfulness exercise
- led by Cameron Bertrand