



Legislative Principles: Mentoring and Community Violence Intervention

- Effective approaches to address youth and community violence encompasses the following:
 - Strong initial, idiosyncratic, hyper-local mapping and research of the community, with the purpose of empowering the community to design interventions that will work for itself. Questions that should be asked include:
 - What are the problems, trends, and challenges?
 - What assets does the community already have? Do programs already exist to help mitigate what's happening?
 - Targeted programming for those most affected, with tiered approaches, informed by the data collected in initial community mapping and research.
 - Comprehensive wraparound services for youth impacted by trauma, including cognitive behavioral therapy (CBT) and additive services.
 - Partnered among multiple institutions (i.e. local/county governments, nonprofits, private sector) to create systems of collective impact, in order to provide for other community needs, such as jobs, housing, and food.
 - Flexibility to alter programming according to the needs of program participants and the community.
 - Programming designed specifically for victims of violence.

- As such, the mentoring movement is presented with the following opportunities to effectively contribute to this work:
 - Programs could partner with agencies, community-based organizations, and partners in the private sector to implement whole community approaches to address violence. The Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) could also target grants to support these approaches.
 - Programs could train staff and mentors on identifying the four common trauma responses, the guiding principles of trauma-informed care, and mental health “first aid”
 - The National Mentoring Resource Center (NMRC) could design curriculum, tools and training modules focused on these approaches. The NMRC could also lead a train the trainer model and/or train consultants on best practices for implementing these approaches in a community, including effectively conducting the necessary baseline research and identifying successful programs.
 - Continue to weave mentoring in with other evidence-based interventions (some of which are handled by clinicians) to address community violence through a supportive accountability model. MENTOR is already expanding into this area through workforce development and job training programs. Other areas that are worthy of additional exploration include mental health-focused programming and victim support.