



THE WEST PALM BEACH HOSPITAL VIOLENCE INTERVENTION PROGRAM (HVIP) PROPOSAL

RATIONALE:

Violent crimes involving young adults continue to be a major area of concern, nationwide. The Centers for Disease Control (CDC) listed homicide as the third major cause of death in the United States for young people, ages 15-19, in 2016. Similarly, the 2018 National Vital Statistics Report also found homicide as a leading cause of death for young people ages 25-34. In 2017, the Bureau of Justice Statistics found that violent crimes for young people ages 12 and older increased from 9% to 17%, totaling 3.1 million violent incidents.

Palm Beach County is not immune to this issue of violence among young people. According to the 2017 Florida Department of Law Enforcement (FDLE) Uniform Crime Report (UCR), there were a total of 6,255 violent crimes in Palm Beach County. Of those crimes, 3,939 were aggravated assaults with firearms involved about 30% of the time and 92 were murders involving a firearm nearly 86% of the time.

Moreover, firearm violence also has a financial toll on society. According to a 2016 study by Affinati, et al., 75% of individuals injured by firearm violence are under or un-insured; patients admitted for non-fatal firearm violence costed a hospital approximately \$424K per year. Additionally, this study found that the total cost of firearm violence for the United States amounts to \$174.1 billion dollars, annually.

Though violent crimes in Palm Beach County as a whole decreased by 4.3% according to the 2017 FDLE UCR, there has been considerable concern for the influx of violent crimes within the City of West Palm Beach, specifically the catchment area of Banyan Street to 25th St. and Tamarind Ave. to Dixie Hwy., which averaged about 45 shootings last year, as well as, a number of stabbings. When it comes to addressing violence amongst young people, Hospital-Violence Intervention Programs (HVIPs) have proven to be effective in increasing positive, pro-social behaviors as alternatives to violence and criminal behavior, as well as, cost savings to society. A study by the American Journal of Preventative Medicine in 2015 found the cost savings of HVIPs to be between \$82,765 and \$4,055,873, depending on the scope of violence issue in a community.

PILOT PROPOSAL:

In partnership with the *City of West Palm Beach's Office of the Mayor*, the Lord's Place proposes the ***West Palm Beach Hospital-Violence Intervention Pilot Program***. This program will utilize Intervention Peer Specialists with lived experience to provide engagement and case management services to victims of violent shootings and stabbings, excluding instances of domestic violence, identified by staff at St. Mary's Medical Center in West Palm Beach. The main objective of the ***West Palm Beach Hospital-Violence Intervention Pilot Program*** is to reduce at-risk factors leading to violence, criminal involvement, and re-injury by increasing the following protective factors:

- **Improve educational and vocational attainment:**
 - Participants will participate in GED, high school diploma, or vocational training and certification.
- **Increase employment skills:**
 - Participants will engage with job-ready and career development opportunities.
 - Participants will obtain and maintain gainful employment.
- **Improve health status:**
 - Participants with traumatic physical or mental injury will engage in appropriate, trauma services and follow up care.
 - Participants with mental health or substance abuse issues will engage in relevant services.



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- **Increase support system:**
 - Participants will attend weekly, vocational Cognitive Behavioral Intervention (CBI) through the Lord’s Place to learn skills to improve pro-social, educational and employment skills.
 - Participants will improve on Standardized Post-Test scores.
 - Participants will be connected to resources to increase positive, social supports, as necessary (i.e. housing, support groups, etc.).

SCOPE OF WORK:

PROGRAM FRAMEWORK:	
Number of clients to be served:	20
Length of intervention:	6-9 months
Timeframe:	3/1/19-12/31/19
Staffing:	.25 FTE Intervention Specialist Supervisor (1) .5 FTE Intervention Peer Specialists (2)

- **Referral Process:**
 - St. Mary Medical Center staff will have client sign consent form and call the designated phone number to refer client.
 - Within 2 hours of referral, The West Palm Beach HVIP staff will respond to hospital to meet with victim and begin engagement and intake process.

- **Case Management and Peer Intervention Services:**
 - Complete an intake assessment and develop safety and goal intervention plans with client to address risk factors, reduce violence, and increase pro-social behaviors.
 - Administer pre and post-test standardized assessments related to violence and pro-social activities.
 - Contact client weekly to address goals and connect to resources (i.e.-accompany to medical appointments, help with GED and job placement, phone check ins, etc.).
 - Provide a mid-point goal review of client’s progress towards goals intervention plan.
 - Complete discharge summaries with clients which have made significant improvement in post-test scores and in conjunction with completion of goals.
 - Provide up to 90 days of post-discharge support, as needed.

- **Outcomes:**
 - # of clients referred to The West Palm Beach HVIP Pilot Program.
 - # of clients who enroll or participate in vocational or educational programs.
 - # of clients engaged in medical, substance abuse or mental health treatment.
 - # of clients re-hospitalized due to violence following intervention.
 - # of clients arrested or re-arrested during active involvement in program.
 - # of clients who obtain and maintain employment.
 - Standardized assessment pre and post-test scores.

REFERENCES:

1. **Affinati, S., Patton, Desmond, et al. (2016). Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Programs Targeting Adult Populations, Journal of Trauma Surgery and Acute Care Open at [hht://tsaco.bmj.com](http://tsaco.bmj.com).**
2. **Centers for Disease Control, (2016) at <https://www.cdc.gov/nchs/fastats/adolescent-health.htm>.**



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3. Heron, M. (2018). National Vital Statistics Reports. Deaths: Leading Causes for 2019, Volume 67, Number 6.
4. Morgan, R. and Truman, J., (2017). Criminal Victimization, 2017. Bureau of Justice Systems.
5. Purtle, Jonathan, et al. (2015). Cost-Benefit Analysis Simulation of a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program, American Journal of Preventative Medicine, Volume 48, Issue 2, pgs. 162-169.

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January 2019



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