

*The California Intimate Partner Violence & Health Policy Leadership Cohort, funded by Blue Shield of California Foundation (BSCF) and facilitated by Futures Without Violence, is a network comprised of over a dozen local, state and national organizations that are committed to improving health outcomes for Californians by promoting practice and policy changes that address IPV as a health issue. The cohort is designed to bring together diverse voices to initiate, inform and advance California-based health and DV work.*

### **History of the California IPV & Health Policy Leadership Cohort**

From 2014-2017, BSCF funded the Domestic Violence and Health Care Partnership Initiative (DVHCP), investing in 19 local teams across the state to improve the health care response to IPV and increase the capacity of DV programs to address the health needs of survivors. Futures Without Violence provided guidance and technical assistance. Much of the early work of the partnerships included organization-level practice and policy change to promote universal prevention education, direct assessment for IPV in health settings, health assessments in domestic violence programs, and bi-directional referrals between partner organizations. As the partnerships matured, leaders emerged who were interested in sustainability, funding, alternative payment mechanisms, data collection on partnership impact, and other health policy and systems change strategies. What transpired from their interest and commitment was a unique leadership network comprised of four influential DVHCP partnerships. This network met in person on a monthly basis over a six month period in 2016, and together helped to create a strategic plan for sustainability, tested several payment and reimbursement models, and initiated new strategies around the most optimal data metrics for demonstrating partnership impact on access and health outcomes.

### **Future directions**

Although the DVHCP project will sunset in the fall of 2017, many grantees continue to influence and advance IPV and health policy at the local and regional level. In order to increase its impact, Futures Without Violence is continuing this network and convening new state level partners. This enhanced group will convene from August 2017 through June 2018 to strategize, examine and promote innovative multi-sectoral approaches, scale promising practices to address DV as a social determinant of health, and advance policy to strengthen systems of care for survivors. Working collectively, cohort members will be called to action on their strategic thinking, by engaging new partners, informing the development of new resources, and driving policy change across sectors to address health and DV. Members will also inform the development of new materials, policy briefs, and action plans, as well as support statewide dissemination efforts by presenting at conferences.

### **The objectives of the California IPV & Health Policy Leadership Cohort are to:**

1. Promote multi-sectoral relationships, shared learning exchange and collaboration among leaders in health and DV;
2. Promote strategies providing financial incentives to address the intersection of IPV and health-- including contract requirements, additional funding for DV programs for improved prevention and response, and value-based care initiatives;
3. Create a guide for programs addressing social determinants of health, health equity and quality care initiatives on evidence-based systems changes to prevent and more effectively address IPV;
4. Develop a state policy action plan for California to support sustainable, evidence-informed prevention and response programs for trauma and IPV;
5. Collaborate on policy briefs, practice tools, and other tools;
6. Provide leadership in local, regional, and statewide working groups, conferences/trainings, and other venues to promote and disseminate the cohort's findings.

### **For more information, please contact:**

Virginia Duplessis - [vaduplessis@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:vaduplessis@futureswithoutviolence.org) or (415) 678-5603

Jennifer Haddad - [jhaddad@futureswithoutviolence.org](mailto:jhaddad@futureswithoutviolence.org) or (661) 713 9979