

Domestic Violence and Health Care Partnerships Task Force Development Strategies

RISE, The Women's Shelter Program, the Community Action Partnership in San Luis Obispo & Community Health Centers of the Central Coast

After being funded in the Domestic Violence and Health Care Partnership project by the Blue Shield of California Foundation in 2013, RISE, The Women's Shelter Program, CAPSLO's The Center, and Community Health Centers of the Central Coast engaged in an intentional and productive partnership. Their goals were to cross-train healthcare and DV service providers to screen for intimate partner violence (IPV), and to make the connection between patients' relationships and their health. They worked with an independent contractor to roll out the project until the end of our grant cycle in December 2016.

Since then, they have joined forces with the Intimate Partner Violence Coalition's Medical Subcommittee housed at the District Attorney's Office and Victim/Witness office thanks to shared missions and membership overlap. Since this merger, they have expanded their focus from issues in the medical field affecting solely survivors of intimate partner violence, to victims of sexual assault/abuse and sex trafficking. They meet on a monthly basis to troubleshoot challenges in addressing patient disclosures and time constraints, as well as to brainstorm innovative methods for integrating and elevating issues of violence into the health field.

This project seeks to solidify and formalize existing community partnerships to provide services that mitigate the health consequences related to gender based violence. Specifically, the project aims to implement existing protocol created under the Blue Shield Foundation project through new and innovative methods. They intend to institutionalize structural changes to ensure that gender based violence survivors are appropriately screened, assisted, and referred by medical professionals.

Learn more about this team's approach:

1) For survivors: riseslo.org/health

2) For providers: http://riseslo.org/resources_for_healthcare_providers.php

East Los Angeles Women's Center & Los Angeles County USC Medical Center

The East Los Angeles Women's Center has successfully developed and implemented a LAC+USC Domestic Violence Task Force. They have assembled a multidisciplinary team of LAC+USC professionals, reflecting a broad range of experts who meet regularly with the goal of developing and improving strategies on effective practices that address domestic violence and better meet the needs of survivors. The 18-core member Task Force has identified the following objectives:

- *Develop a systems-of-care approach that provides coordinated, trauma sensitive response services to domestic violence survivors*
 - *Through educational sessions, awareness campaigns, and training, increase knowledge and understanding of domestic violence among staff at the Medical Center.*
 - *Build upon existing strengths, advocate to improve gaps in care, address systematic needs, maximize resources, and support opportunities for collaboration.*
- *Collaborate to effectively develop protocols and interventions to assist individuals who have identified with domestic violence with the goal of ensuring they have a safety net and have full access to resources, which are trauma informed, comprehensive and confidential supportive services throughout the LAC + USC community.*

In addition, Task Force members have identified priority areas within LAC + USC medical community that they would like to address. Their goal is to look at these identified areas within the healthcare system, create access or improve the overall quality of services offered to those impacted by domestic violence.