

was chosen because it is the highest risk group for first incidence of dating violence, which is heavily correlated with domestic violence in later life. The campaign is being developed with CauseMedia, a social issues focused marketing firm. Strong, positive, and consistent messages about healthy relationships, boundary setting, and resources for assistance in the event of experiencing violence in a relationship will be the focus. This campaign will be the foundation for future campaigns in our ongoing efforts to shift norms regarding the acceptability of domestic violence. Community partners involved in this effort include the Cambridge Police Department, the Department of Human Service Programs, Transition House, RESPOND, EMERGE, the Cambridge Health Alliance, the Cambridge Public Health Department, and the Women's Commission.

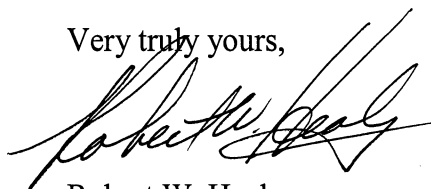
Community Services and Needs Assessment

On May 7th 2002, the Domestic Violence Summit originally held in 1995 was reconvened to engage our numerous community partners in discussion of emerging trends and needs. All partners expressed concerns about shrinking state and federal funding, and the fact that many feel they are close to exceeding their capacity to provide services effectively in these tight budgetary times. Our partners in the service agency community have agreed to participate in the evaluation process to assist in identifying service gaps and critically needed resources. The agencies and services most frequently used by Cambridge residents coping with the effects of domestic violence include:

Agency	Description
Transition House	24 hour hotline, crisis response, and temporary shelter for domestic violence victims.
Dating Violence Intervention Project	Full service teen dating violence prevention and response program, based at Transition House.
Cambridge Hospital Victims of Violence Program (and Community Crisis Response Team)	Full service, multilingual crisis response and therapeutic support program for all survivors of violence.
EMERGE batterer intervention program	State-certified adult male, teen male, and LGBT batterer intervention program.
Community legal services and counseling center	Full service, multi-lingual legal advocacy and counseling center.
Boston Area Rape Crisis Center	24-hour hotline, medical advocacy, counseling, and legal services agency.

Resoundingly, these (and other) community partners expressed the belief that the DVFZ Initiative is an important commitment that Cambridge must continue to make to its residents. The City Council's interest and ongoing support of this project is appreciated and necessary for it to remain viable, effective, and visible.

Very truly yours,



Robert W. Healy
City Manager

RWH/mec

- The establishment and dissemination of **policies** relating to domestic violence for residents of Cambridge Public Housing, as well as guidelines for faculty and staff responding to teen dating violence at CRLS
- The securing of funding to support the “Children with Voices” therapeutic and support program at the Cambridge Guidance Center, which provides therapy and advocacy for **children who witness domestic violence** and their non-offending parent (modeled after the nationally recognized program at Boston Medical Center).
- Review and selection of the city’s **EAP provider**, ensuring maximal capacity to respond effectively and sensitively to city employees facing domestic violence.

Phase II

While many Phase I efforts are anecdotally understood to have had meaningful impact on the lives and safety of many city residents and employees, it has become increasingly clear to the leadership of the DVFZ that we must develop and utilize stringent measures of effectiveness for existing programs (as well as to better understand community need for new programs). To that end, the Coordinator is overseeing an evaluation, which includes:

- Measurement of the outcomes of *individual projects*
- *Community reaction and commitment to the goals the project* and
- *Overall net effect* of the project.

Evaluation

This evaluation process, which began in Fall 2001 and is being funded by the Cambridge Public Health Department, will continue to the end of 2002. The process will involve the analysis of existing data from the police and courts, extensive interviews with Cambridge survivors of violence and community partners, and outcomes measurement of training programs and other educational interventions. Preliminary results are expected in Summer 2002. Questions currently posed by this assessment include:

- How effective are the various training initiatives for reducing family violence?
- How effective is the city’s EAP provider as a referral and intervention resource?
- What are the potential ramifications of developing a policy on domestic violence for support of municipal employees who are victims?
- What is the effectiveness of the Dating Violence Intervention Program (and other prevention programs) for reducing teen dating violence?
- What is the quality and comprehensiveness of city and non-profit agency services directed toward reducing family violence?
- Are these agencies culturally competent and accessible to all?

In moments of crisis when a tragic event occurs, we are reminded of the importance of continuous attention to the availability and quality of prevention services in the community. We plan to proceed with efforts to evaluate the extent to which we are meeting the needs of families in (and post-) crisis, from all backgrounds, in the most comprehensive way possible. While it is not possible to prevent all tragedies or comprehend the complexity of every family’s history, we believe we can best learn from this moment as an opportunity to think more carefully about the ways in which services must be extended and enhanced. We must also understand that evaluation and measurement of domestic violence services as a discipline is in its relative infancy, and once again, Cambridge has the opportunity to become a pioneer in its commitment to developing these measures.

Public Awareness

In 2001, the DVFZ Initiative received a grant from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services to develop a dating violence prevention campaign in Cambridge. This campaign, which will be implemented in October 2002, will be directed toward Cambridge youth ages 15-19. This target group



14.

CITY OF CAMBRIDGE • EXECUTIVE DEPARTMENT

Robert W. Healy, City Manager *Richard C. Rossi, Deputy City Manager*

May 20, 2002

To The Honorable, The City Council:

In response to Awaiting Report Item No. 02-37, regarding a report on the City's domestic violence prevention and intervention program, Chief Public Health Officer Harold Cox and Cambridge Violence Prevention Coordinator Susan Marine report the following:

In April 1995, Cambridge became the first city in the country to officially declare itself a 'Domestic Violence Free Zone', and began the work of committing to a long term plan of domestic violence prevention and response that would be a model for other cities. This plan would situate intimate partner violence firmly in a public health context, with recognition of its impact on victims, their families, and the entire community. Following two years of community collaboration spent in developing a comprehensive platform and gaining the support of critical agency and city government partners, the "Domestic Violence Free Zone" Implementation Plan was adopted. The plan features 11 initiatives in four broad areas: policies and protocols, outreach/education, training, and direct services. The plan has been the primary blueprint for the city's efforts to reduce family violence and its effects. The plan is coordinated by the Cambridge Violence Prevention Coordinator, with oversight provided by key municipal department personnel. In raising awareness and increasing commitment to the issue of family violence, many of its preliminary goals have been achieved. However, now in Phase II of implementation, complex work remains to be done to achieve the end goal of reducing family violence through coordinated interventions. In order to understand the progress of the DVFZ, it is helpful to review a brief history of the project beginning with its initial implementation.

Phase I

There has been significant progress in the first five years since the adoption of the DVFZ Implementation plan. Federal and municipal funding totaling \$400,000 has been secured to advance several of the 11 initiatives, with the following direct results:

- The **formation of a Core Group**, initially appointed by the City Manager and drawn from key city departments, continues to advise the Coordinator on a monthly basis about the progress and direction of the plan.
- The **training** of over 500 city employees from the Department of Human Service Programs and the Cambridge Housing Authority in detection, sensitive communication, and appropriate referral of families facing domestic violence.
- The **specialized training** of 60 Domestic Violence Resource Persons in the Cambridge school department, distributed throughout each school, who are prepared to be designated contacts within their schools for enhanced management of situations involving family violence
- The **specialized training** of 200+ Cambridge Health Alliance staff in key departments such as Emergency, Radiology, OB/GYN and women's health, in detection, response and referral of domestic violence.

S-158

Consent Agenda #14

Awaiting Report Item
Number 02-37, regarding a
report on the City's domestic
violence prevention and
intervention program.

In City Council May 20, 2002

**REFERRED TO PUBLIC
SAFETY AND HEALTH AND
ENVIRONMENT
COMMITTEES ON MOTION
OF VICE MAYOR DAVIS.**