

PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN KING COUNTY:

CENTERING COMMUNITIES,
SUPPORTING SURVIVORS



The King County Women's
Advisory Board

2022



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OVERVIEW

The King County Women's Advisory Board (WAB) respectfully submit the following recommendations to the King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council. These recommendations were formed by engaging with a diverse group of leaders on these topics, both during WAB meetings and through individual member outreach. Contributors include representatives from the following organizations:

- API Chaya
- Civil Survival
- Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence
- Collective Justice
- Cowlitz Pathways to Healing
- Harborview Center for Traumatic Stress
- Ingersoll Gender Center
- King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office
- King County Sexual Assault Resource Center
- LifeWire
- Seattle Mayor's Office on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault
- Refugee Women's Alliance
- Sexual Assault Forensic Examination Best Practice Task Force
- Sexual Violence Law Center
- Somali Family Safety Task Force
- Taking Black Pride
- The Arc of King County
- The Northwest Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian & Gay Survivors of Abuse
- YWCA Seattle | King | Snohomish

Thank you to the representatives from these organizations for their contributions and to all of the Department of Community and Human Services (DCHS) staff who supported and provided subject matter expertise.

It is our privilege to work with, and on behalf of, our community towards a better future for women and marginalized communities across King County. We look forward to hearing from you in response to these recommendations and opportunities to collaborate with you in the future.

Best,

The King County Women's Advisory Board

PREVENTING GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE IN KING COUNTY:

CENTERING COMMUNITIES, SUPPORTING SURVIVORS

Recommendations for the King County Executive and the Metropolitan King County Council prepared by the King County Women's Advisory Board.¹

INTRODUCTION

In 2019, the King County Women's Advisory Board (WAB)² adopted the topic of gender-based violence³ (GBV) in King County. Since then, WAB meetings have focused on educating members about GBV in King County by engaging with individuals, organizations, and subject matter experts about ways in which the WAB can affect positive impacts on the lives of survivors of GBV and their families. GBV in King County mirrors the national average, with 1 in 4 women and 1 in 7 men directly impacted⁴, and virtually all residents indirectly impacted because of its prevalence and reach. This violence is a major cause and contributor to requests for support services. Survivors⁵ must navigate obstacles to receive these services while they work to exit violent situations.

1. Members of the King County Women's Advisory Board (WAB) in 2022 include: Rebecca Chan, Tanya Matthews, Nanda Tewari, Sarah Reyneveld, Regina Elmi, Karol Brown, Kathryn Hancock, Roxanne Thayer, Council At-large appointees Zeeba Khalili and Joey Ketah, and Executive At-large appointee Dionne Foster. In addition to WAB 2022 members, former Advisory board members Michaela Ayers, Jessica Giner, Kathy Brasch, Hamdi Abdulle and Heena Khatri contributed, but did not vote on the final slate of recommendations, to this work.

2. Established in Title II, Chapter 30 of the King County Code, the WAB was created "to act in an advisory capacity to the executive and council, making recommendations to ensure that the needs, rights and well-being of women are taken into account in the development and implementation of legislation, policies, programs and funding in King County."

3. Gender-based Violence (GBV) is an umbrella term for any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived biological sex, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, and/or lack of adherence to varying socially constructed norms around masculinity and femininity. It is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, and power imbalances. GBV can include sexual, physical, mental, and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion, and manipulation.

4. Black, M.C., Basile, K.C., Breiding, M.J., Smith, S.G., Walters, M.L., Merrick, M.T., Chen, J., & Stevens, M.R. (2011). The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey (NISVS): 2010 Summary Report. Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

5. Not all people who have experienced GBV identify as a "survivor," however, for the sake of brevity, we have used the word "survivor" to refer to people who have experienced gender-based violence.



HOUSING

Domestic violence is the leading cause of homelessness for women and children in King County.⁶



LEGAL SYSTEM INVOLVEMENT

Survivors experience the highest number of civil legal needs per capita relative to any other group.⁷



MENTAL AND BEHAVIORAL HEALTH

Survivors of sexual violence experience high rates of post-traumatic stress.⁸ Because of the abuse and trauma, survivors are more likely to use drugs than the general public.⁹



ECONOMIC IMPACT

Victims of domestic violence lose about eight million days of paid work per year because of the violence that they experience.¹⁰



YOUTH

One in 9 girls and one in 53 boys under the age of 18 experience sexual abuse or assault at the hands of an adult.¹¹



REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

Only 30 percent of people who experience GBV report their experience to police.¹²

6. National Network to End Domestic Violence, "Domestic Violence, Housing, and Homelessness factsheet," 2018, https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/07/Library_TH_2018_DV_Housing_Homelessness.pdf.

7. Washington State Supreme Court, "Washington State Civil Legal Needs Study Update," 2015, https://ocla.wa.gov/wp-content/uploads/2015/10/CivilLegalNeedsStudy_October2015_V21_Final10_14_15.pdf

8. Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), Victims of Sexual Violence: Statistics, <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/victims-sexual-violence>

9. Ibid.

10. U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "Intimate Partner Violence: Consequences," December 2013, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/intimatepartnerviolence>

11. David Finkelhor, Anne Shattuck, Heather A. Turner, & Sherry L. Hamby, The Lifetime Prevalence of Child Sexual Abuse and Sexual Assault Assessed in Late Adolescence, 55 Journal of Adolescent Health 329, 329-333 (2014)

12. Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), Criminal Justice System: Statistics, <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>.

GBV touches all communities, but the risk of experiencing violence is compounded by those who experience overlapping inequalities and systemic patterns of discrimination, particularly those who are Black, Indigenous and people of color (BIPOC). Black and Native American/Indigenous women are more likely, at 45.1 percent and 47.5 percent of the community, to have experienced rape, physical violence, or stalking by an intimate partner in their lifetime.¹³ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, and asexual people (LGBTQIA) also experience high rates of violence and increased barriers to services.¹³ Transgender, genderqueer and non-binary survivors face unique challenges to accessing supports such as shelter, housing and gender-affirming care. People with disabilities experience higher rates of intimate partner violence¹⁴ and are three times more likely than their peers to be sexually assaulted.¹⁵ Such disproportionate rates of violence are compounded by a myriad of other intersecting systems of oppression that create the conditions for violence to thrive.

Finally, the pandemic exacerbated the need for support for GBV survivors. The economic and social ramifications of the COVID-19 pandemic have and continue to exacerbate survivors' experiences. To date, the pandemic resulted in an average eight-percent increase in domestic violence incidents nationally.¹⁶ Locally, the National Domestic Violence Hotline reports a thirteen-percent increase in domestic violence (DV) calls in July 2021 compared to January 2020 in King County.¹⁷ There were almost four times as many domestic violence homicides in King County during 2021 as compared to 2019.¹⁸ A survey conducted by the Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence (CEGBV) showed that 56 percent of King County area GBV providers noted a marked increase in demand for services in 2020.¹⁹

GBV is an insidious and systemic issue facing survivors and their families in King County. To address the overwhelming need demonstrated during the WAB's conversations with communities,

13. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010-2012 State Report," 2017, <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/datasources/nisvs/summaryreports.html>

14. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, "National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: An Overview of 2010 Findings on Victimization by Sexual Orientation," 2010, https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/cdc_nisvs_victimization_final-a.pdf.

15. Breiding MJ, Armour BS, "The association between disability and intimate partner violence in the United States," *Ann Epidemiol*, June 2015, 25(6):455-7, <https://pubmed.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/25976023/>

16. Erika Harrell, Ph.D, "Crimes Against Persons with Disabilities 2009-2013 – Statistical Tables," U.S. Department of Justice, 2015, <https://bjs.ojp.gov/content/pub/pdf/capd0913st.pdf>

17. Council on Criminal Justice, *Impact Report: COVID-19 and Domestic Violence Trends*, February 2021, <https://counciloncj.org/impact-report-covid-19-and-domestic-violence-trends/>

18. Public Health – Seattle and King County, "Economic, social and overall health impacts dashboard: family violence," 2020, <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/health/covid-19/data/impacts/violence.aspx>

19. Olivia LaVoice, FOX 13 Seattle, "Domestic violence homicides in King County on pace to be record breaking number" October 15, 2021: <https://www.q13fox.com/news/domestic-violence-homicides-in-king-co-on-pace-to-be-record-breaking-number>

20. Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence, "Impact of COVID-19 on Survivors of Sexual Assault & Domestic Violence in King County," 2020.

the WAB has prepared a slate of recommendations that address the most pressing needs of survivors: housing, mental and behavioral health, prevention, and the impacts of and alternatives to the criminal-legal system. We appreciate the Executive and Metropolitan King County Council's investments to address the needs of survivors and offer these recommendations to build on and further this work. Aligning with King County's equity and social justice values, the below set of recommendations seek to promote full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so all GBV survivors may achieve their full potential.²¹

TERMS

In response to community input, below are definitions of key terms used in these recommendations. There are also times in the recommendations where terms under the umbrella of GBV, such as sexual assault, are used for clarity and precision.

Criminal legal system: Umbrella term for policing, prosecution, courts, and corrections in the United States. The use of "criminal legal" versus the "criminal justice" system reflects an honest assessment that the system does harm to many marginalized communities, including GBV survivors. "Acknowledging this with accurate language is one small step toward creating systems that truly deliver justice for all."²²

Domestic violence: Domestic violence is a pattern of intimidating and coercive behaviors that a person uses to gain and maintain power and control over an intimate partner. You may also have heard it referred to as intimate partner violence or battering.²³

Gender-based violence: Gender-based violence is an umbrella term for any harmful threat or act directed at an individual or group based on actual or perceived biological sex, gender identity and/or expression, sexual orientation, and/or lack of adherence to varying socially constructed norms around masculinity and femininity. It is rooted in structural gender inequalities, patriarchy, and power imbalances.²⁴ Gender-based violence can include sexual, physical, mental, and economic harm inflicted in public or in private. It also includes threats of violence, coercion, and manipulation.

Sexual Violence: An umbrella term referring to broad range of violence including but not limited to sexual assault, rape, sexual coercion, sexual exploitation, and sexual abuse.²⁵

21. King County Equity and Social Justice Strategic Plan, 2016-2022, <https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/equity-social-justice/strategic-plan.aspx>

22. Erica Bryant, "Why we say 'criminal legal system,' not 'criminal justice system,'" Vera, December 1, 2021, <https://www.vera.org/news/why-we-say-criminal-legal-system-not-criminal-justice-system>

23. Coalition Ending Gender-Based Violence, "The Issue – Gender-Based Violence," <https://endgv.org/issue/>

24. U.S. Department of State, "Gender and Gender-Based Violence," 2021, <https://www.state.gov/other-policy-issues/gender-and-gender-based-violence/#:~:text=%5B1%5D%20Gender%2Dbased%20Violence,norms%20around%20masculinity%20and%20femininity>

25. University of Iowa, Rape Victim Advocacy Program, <https://rvap.uiowa.edu/help#:~:text=Sexual%20violence%20is%20an%20umbrella,that%20person's%20freely%20given%20consent>

Recommendations

SUMMARY

01

Increase investments in survivor-centered mobile advocacy for survivors of GBV.

02

Expand affordable housing options, and provide flexible funding for stable housing, for survivors and their families.

03

Address issues of housing discrimination and protect survivors of GBV from liability for property harm.

04

Increase funding to organizations supporting GBV survivors, including those impacted by incarceration, to access legal-support.

05

Invest in access to comprehensive health care and mental health resources for GBV survivors.

06

Invest in, expand, and develop youth-based and mentor-led educational and skilled-based GBV prevention programs to serve youth across King County.

07

Invest and expand GBV prevention and education programs designed by and for communities disproportionately impacted by GBV.

08

Support the creation and funding of community-based organizations that work outside the criminal legal system to support survivors of GBV.

09

Support the creation, implementation, and funding of community-based intervention programs for persons causing harm.

10

Create a King County GBV task force to further develop and implement these recommendations.

01

Aligning with King County's equity and social justice values, the below set of recommendations seek to promote full and equal access to opportunities, power, and resources so all GBV survivors may achieve their full potential.

Increase investments in survivor-centered mobile advocacy for survivors of GBV.

Recommendations

Background

Investments in mobile advocacy for domestic violence empowers survivors and leads to improvements in survivors' ability to utilize legal services, housing services, and behavioral health supports. Within the mobile advocacy framework, survivors determine their own needs—housing, transportation, childcare, food, as well as legal and medical fees—and community programs and flexible funds are used to meet those needs.

The flexible mobile advocacy model offers the most efficient, cost-effective, geographically, and culturally

responsive way to expand the capacity of the entire GBV service system. The WAB appreciates that King County's Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy has provided over \$6 million dollars for survivor-driven mobile advocacy, which allows survivors to determine and meet their own needs. However, even with these investments there remains a growing unmet need for services. Additional investments should be directed toward survivor-driven mobile advocacy services across King County.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 1:

- ➔ Double the current allocation of funds for survivor-centered mobile advocacy in the next iteration of the Veterans, Seniors and Human Services Levy if passed by King County voters, from just over 6 million dollars a year to 12 million a year.

Expand affordable housing options, and provide flexible funding for stable housing, for survivors and their families.

Recommendations

Background

Access to housing is an urgent and unmet need of survivors of GBV. Most survivors have to choose between shelter and safety. Yet those who are able to leave homes with abuse often face housing instability. One in every four women experiencing homelessness lost their housing because of violence committed against her.²⁶ Over 92 percent of unhoused mothers have experienced severe physical and/or sexual abuse during their lifetime.²⁷

While access to affordable housing is a challenge across King County, the WAB appreciates recent targeted investments towards expanded shelter capacity and construction of affordable housing units.²⁸ This includes 25 units of emergency shelter and transitional housing for domestic violence survivors and their dependents who are at risk of

being unhoused or coming out of homelessness in Bellevue. However, despite investments, organizations serving survivors still report a lack of stable housing and transitional housing, insufficient space in shelters, and housing discrimination against survivors.

Additionally, LGBTQIA people have specific needs that are currently unaddressed by King County's housing services. Research has shown that transgender individuals are disproportionately impacted by the violence in intimate partner relationships and face many systemic barriers to accessing services, including housing, to redress intimate partner violence.²⁹ There are few transitional housing supports in King County for transgender individuals, even though the transgender and gender-diverse community is at exceedingly high risk for violence.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 2: King County should continue to work with communities to provide additional funding to house GBV survivors, particularly those with dependents. King County should help expand access to housing for survivors and provide flexible funding to survivors to stay in existing housing by:

→ Increasing investments in dedicated transitional and permanent housing programs that prioritize survivors of GBV and their dependents. The housing program should be designed to help survivors and their dependents by expanding access to affordable housing which allows families to remain together. Dedicated housing programs should include wrap-around services that fully support health and housing stability for survivors and their dependents, including access to comprehensive

health care and mental health support, flexible child care, and educational support for working parents. These services should be culturally appropriate, address language barriers, and provide outreach to communities often overlooked in these programs.

26. YWCA, "Housing and GBV," September 2017, <https://www.ywca.org/wp-content/uploads/GBV-Housing-Fact-sheet.pdf>.

27. Ibid.

28. Cameron Sheppard, "King County Executive announces million in affordable housing funding for construction and preservation," the Bellevue Reporter, January 2022, <https://bellevuereporter.com/news/king-county-executive-announces-million-in-affordable-housing-funding-for-construction-and-preservation/>

29. National Coalition of Anti-Violence Programs (NCAVP), "Community Action Toolkit for Addressing Intimate Partner Violence Against Transgender People," available at https://avp.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/04/ncavp_trans_ipvtoolkit.pdf.

Address issues of housing discrimination and protect survivors of GBV from liability for property harm.

Recommendations

Background

GBV survivors disproportionately face housing discrimination that limits access to safe and affordable housing. This discrimination often results from false stereotypes about survivors, including that they are more likely to cause property damage or pose a safety threat to other tenants. Landlords may choose to deny survivors' applications for housing, or even choose to evict them as a result of damage caused by the acts of violence committed against them. Many survivors may have additional barriers due to financial abuse by partners, including issues with credit history and lack of rental history. Lastly, survivors who have intersected with the legal system may be discriminated against through the background check process included as part of many rental and public housing applications.

In the last few years, the City of Seattle has adopted a number of protective measures to address these

challenges, which King County should also consider adopting. First, in 2017, the Seattle City Council adopted Fair Chance Housing legislation to help address barriers to housing and prevent unfair bias in housing against renters who have interacted with the carceral system. Seattle's fair housing ordinance prevents landlords from using an applicant's carceral history to unfairly deny housing. It also prohibits the use of advertising language that automatically or categorically excludes people with arrest records, conviction records, or carceral history. Second, in 2019, the City of Seattle passed a measure to protect survivors of GBV from being held liable for rent owed and property damages made by those causing harm. The city's legislation bars landlords from charging survivors for property damage if they have documented evidence that it resulted from the person causing harm, even if it didn't occur during an act of domestic violence.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 3:

- King County should adopt a Fair Chance Housing ordinance to ensure that survivors in unincorporated King County who have past involvement with the carceral system are not unfairly discriminated against when accessing housing.
- King County should adopt legislation to protect survivors of GBV from liability for rent owed and property damages caused by those causing harm. King County should consider providing or accessing landlord mitigation funding.

Increase funding to organizations supporting GBV survivors, including those impacted by incarceration, to access legal-support. **Recommendations**

Background

A frequently cited unmet need for survivors in King County is civil legal assistance - particularly civil legal aid, protection orders, family law, and immigration legal assistance. Without the ability to access legal services, survivors are left without advocates or guides to help them navigate an often confusing and challenging system. Legal financial burdens have the greatest impact on single mothers, BIPOC, LGBTQIA+, and those with disabilities.

There are also a number of survivors of GBV who themselves are accused of domestic violence crimes - often called survivor-defendants. The vast majority

of women in jails and prisons were abused before imprisonment, and almost all incarcerated women experienced domestic violence or sexual abuse in their childhood.³⁰ Survivor-defendants experience significant impacts from incarceration, often leading to a loss of their employment, housing, custody of children, and dignity.³¹ Lastly, formerly incarcerated people are left with fewer options and stigmatized upon release. Survivor-defendants benefit from programs that provide culturally responsive and safe spaces to receive resources, support, and advocacy.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 4:

- ➔ Provide additional funding to organizations providing legal support to survivors, particularly those that have a demonstrated ability to reach marginalized communities.
- ➔ Identify opportunities to increase legal support for survivor-defendants and those who have interacted with the criminal legal system.

30. YWCA, "2021 Survivors First Fact Sheet", <https://www.ywcaworks.org/sites/default/files/programs/documents/2021%20Survivors%20FIRST%20Fact%20Sheet.pdf>

31. Ibid.

Invest in access to comprehensive health care and mental health resources for GBV survivors.

Recommendations

Background

Survivors report having to wait weeks, or in many cases months, to see a mental health provider in King County. Those who are uninsured or Medicaid eligible often struggling to access mental health care at all. One reason for this wait time is a shortage of mental health professionals within the behavioral health system in King County. This lack of capacity has been exacerbated during the COVID-19 pandemic, with more survivors reaching out for behavioral health services and presenting with increasingly complex needs. Not all mental health and behavioral health providers in King County are trained in these needs. This lack of service leaves survivors with challenges in identifying and engaging in community health services for the long-term.

King County has been successful in supporting mental health services for some survivors through Mental Illness and Drug Dependency (MIDD) funded community sexual assault programs. MIDD funded programs prioritize survivors who are ineligible for Medicaid, low-income, or are otherwise uninsured.³² MIDD funding, currently at slightly over \$1 million per year, is the only source of King County funding for specialized behavioral health services focused on survivors of GBV. The handful of agencies receiving these funds are not able to meet the growing demand for services for GBV survivors, in large part due to a lack of qualified mental health therapists. Community organizations who provide mental health services need access to a larger pool of licensed mental health professionals in order to meet the current demand and provide services quickly and effectively. Those survivors who are Medicaid eligible note that options are limited by the fact that many private mental health

providers in King County do not accept Medicaid. Providers overwhelmingly make this choice due to low reimbursement rates and long reimbursement schedules delaying payment for services rendered. This limits access to mental health care, particularly culturally relevant care, for Medicaid eligible survivors of GBV.

We appreciate the recent investments that the Metropolitan King County Council and Executive have made in behavioral health resources for survivors of GBV. The WAB is grateful that the Metropolitan King County Council provided \$1 million in MIDD funding to address the behavioral health needs of survivors in their 2023-2024 biennial budget in part in response to Recommendation 5. We are also encouraged that recently the King County Executive and community leaders have proposed a plan that will go to voters to improve behavioral health availability and sustainability in King County by creating a regional network of five crisis care centers, preserving and restoring residential treatment beds, and recruiting and retaining a behavioral health workforce³³. If approved, these investments will help to grow the pipeline of providers and meet the demand for licensed mental health professionals consistent with Recommendation 5.

Lastly, survivors report difficulty accessing comprehensive health care associated with GBV, particularly citing comprehensive examinations by Sexual Assault and Nurse Examiners (SANE) providers. SANE providers are able to evaluate and treat survivors in a holistic way, mindful of both the acute and long-term consequences of GBV.

32. <https://kingcounty.gov/depts/community-human-services/mental-health-substance-abuse/midd.aspx>

33. October 3, 2022. <https://kingcounty.gov/elected/executive/constantine/news/release/2022/September/26-behavioral-health.aspx>

Specific Actions for Recommendation 5

- Increase funding to MIDD by an additional \$1 million per year. Additional funds should be used to:
 - Fund therapists who specialize in GBV to respond to the increased demand and increasingly complex behavioral health needs. Therapists should be based in organizations serving survivors and provide culturally – and linguistically – responsive treatment programs.
 - Permanently expand funding for MIDD to cover costs associated with continuing professional education related to domestic, sexual, and GBV for clinical staff, trainer fees, and other expenses related to the Systems Manager’s work. While the County has allocated one-time funding for this purpose, this funding should be extended to allow MIDD providers to access continuing professional education opportunities to meet the increasingly complex needs of survivors.
- Help to grow the pipeline and meet the demand for licensed mental health professionals by creating and investing in programs to attract and retain qualified mental health providers.
 - Programs should increase the number of available mental health providers, particularly providers of color, by incentivizing students with tuition scholarships and/or loan forgiveness when a provider enters the mental health field.
 - Programs should provide additional incentives and support to retain quality mental health professionals in King County such as hiring bonuses.
- Expand funding for MIDD to include costs associated with continuing professional education related to domestic, sexual, and GBV for clinical staff, trainer fees, and other expenses related to the System’s Manager’s work. While the County has allocated one-time funding for this purpose, this funding should be extended to allow MIDD providers to access continuing professional education opportunities to meet the increasingly complex needs of survivors.
- Fund two professionally licensed psychiatrists who are dedicated to taking referrals from MIDD-funded therapists, state, and private partner therapists’ programs for medication and prescription management. These licensed psychiatrists will help assist GBV providers with managing the long-term care and medication needs of survivors.
- Develop state and private partners to increase funding directed towards county, state, non-profit organizations, and private behavioral health programs, focused on hiring staff with training in GBV and providing incentives for these providers to accept Medicaid. Incentives to accept Medicaid could include but are not limited to: increasing reimbursement rates, shortening reimbursement schedules and/or fully reimbursing providers who provide care to survivors on Medicaid.
- Work with state and federal program funds to expand access to comprehensive mental and physical health care for survivors, including Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) at every hospital, 24/7 in King County.
- Increase MIDD funding by 2 million a year.

Invest in, expand, and develop youth-based and mentor-led educational and skilled-based GBV prevention programs to serve youth across King County.

Recommendations

Background

The recently published “Lifting Up Transformative Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention” report affirms that “young adults are well positioned to prevent violence.” More should be done to ensure that all young people have the tools to prevent GBV³⁴ While all public schools are required to provide a comprehensive sexual health education program that is age-appropriate, medically and scientifically accurate, and inclusive of all students by the 2022-23 school year, they are not required to provide a comprehensive youth-centered GBV curriculum.

King County has successful examples of youth- and mentor-led education and prevention programs, but

they are most accessible to high school and college students in North and East King County. LifeWire, for example, partners with area high schools on the Eastside, Bellevue College, and the University of Washington-Bothell to help ensure that young people have the tools they need to build healthy relationships and prevent GBV. But LifeWire and other mentor-led programs only serve youth on the Eastside and are not as accessible to youth in Seattle and South King County. King County should ensure programming is available to all youth in King County by expanding existing programs and/or investing in existing youth-centered and mentor-led educational programs to create dedicated GBV programs.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 6: King County should invest in, expand, and develop youth and mentor-led educational and skill-based community and school-based GBV prevention programs to serve youth in all of King County.

→ King County should further invest in and expand community youth-centered educational and skill-based GBV prevention programs. These investments should prioritize youth disproportionately impacted by GBV, including BIPOC youth, LGBTIAQ youth, immigrant and refugee youth, and youth with disabilities. Programs should be able to demonstrate that they are youth-led. King County should explore how to tie programs into other youth-centered services, like those planned for the newly approved Youth Achievement Center in South Seattle.

→ King County should partner with the Office of Superintendent of Public Instruction (OSPI) and public schools in King County to pilot a youth-centered GBV curriculum. By 2022-23, all public schools are required to provide a comprehensive sexual health education program that is age-appropriate, medically and scientifically accurate, and inclusive of all students. King County should partner with OSPI and public schools to help design and implement a youth-centered comprehensive GBV curriculum pilot to serve all youth in King County. This curriculum should teach youth about healthy relationships and empower them to develop GBV prevention strategies.

34. Coalition Ending GBV, “Mapping Prevention – Lifting up transformative approaches to domestic and sexual violence prevention,” 2021, https://www.mappingprevention.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/MP_Lifting_Up_Transformative_Frameworks2021.pdf

Invest and expand GBV prevention and education programs designed by and for communities disproportionately impacted by GBV.

Recommendations

Background

The “Lifting Up Transformative Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention” report notes that “those most vulnerable are people living in communities that experience structural barriers to resources (e.g., disparate access to health care, education, political power) and people

who face institutional barriers to exercising self-determination³⁵.” Prevention and education programs are most effective when they are designed by and for communities disproportionately impacted by GBV, many who are experiencing multiple intersecting forms of oppression.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 7: King County should implement the recommendations outlined in the Lifting Up Transformative Approaches report including but not limited to:

- ➔ Focus on community-level strategies that address and change social conditions in which domestic and sexual violence happen and in a context that is relevant, effective, and meaningful for BIPOC communities as well as other marginalized communities.
- ➔ Support broad-based public education efforts to undermine social practices through which domestic and sexual violence are minimized.
- ➔ Strengthen programs that are specifically designed to build bridges and strengthen people’s ties to their ancestral cultures, communities (geographic, cultural, political, spiritual), and responsive care networks.
- ➔ Foster collaboration, relationships, trust, and skills for communities to work together to prevent and intervene in interpersonal forms of violence.

35. Coalition Ending GBV, “Mapping Prevention – Lifting up transformative approaches to domestic and sexual violence prevention,” 2021, https://www.mappingprevention.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/09/MP_Lifting_Up_Transformative_Frameworks2021.pdf

Support the creation and funding of community-based organizations that work outside the criminal legal system to support survivors of GBV. **Recommendations**

Background

Approximately 70 percent of survivors choose not to report their GBV experience to the police.³⁶ Instead, those survivors opt to turn to friends, family members, and community-based organizations for the support they need to work through their traumatic experience. Survivors choose not to report to the police for a variety of reasons, including the fear of retaliation, their cultural beliefs, a fear of getting the person who committed harm in trouble, immigration status, and the threat of losing their children.³⁷ Additionally, police brutality, racial discrimination, and violence against BIPOC and LGBTQIA communities have left many survivors distrustful of law enforcement and fearful of additional

harm through interactions -- starting from reporting all the way to trial. Reporting sexual assault to police can be a destabilizing event with wide-ranging repercussions including safety risks and serious economic and legal consequences for survivors.

Recognizing the vast majority of survivors do not seek remedies through the criminal legal system, there is a need to strengthen and develop the organizations that provide resources outside of it. These organizations can serve as the bridge to those who have become isolated as a result of this violence.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 8:

- ➔ King County should invest in developed and new community-based organizations working outside of the criminal-legal system to support survivors of GBV. Types of support may include healing circles, community-based support groups, training on trauma-informed care, and restorative justice programs.
- ➔ Explore funding the training for all community-based organizations receiving grants to address GBV in anti-carceral community responses to harm.
- ➔ Conduct a countywide review to identify services that currently require a survivor to file a police report to receive services and understand the impact of that requirement. The review will identify changes that can be made at the county level to support survivors and preserve safety while reducing harm.

36. Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network (RAINN), Criminal Justice System: Statistics, <https://www.rainn.org/statistics/criminal-justice-system>.
 37. Palermo T, Bleck J, Peterman A. Tip of the iceberg: reporting and gender-based violence in developing countries. *Am J Epidemiol*. 2014 Mar 1;179(5):602-12. doi: 10.1093/aje/kwt295. Epub 2013 Dec 12. PMID: 24335278; PMCID: PMC3927971.

Support the creation, implementation, and funding of community-based intervention programs for persons causing harm.

Recommendations

Background

People who are abusive can cause a great deal of physical, emotional, mental, and financial harm to their partners, children, other family members, and to the community as a whole.³⁸ Currently our system provides persons causing harm very little support, treatment, or training to prevent reoffending. Without intervention, people will usually continue to cause harm but studies have shown that criminal punishment without additional support does not break this cycle.

The City of Seattle began piloting a Domestic Violence Intervention Project (DVIP) in June 2018, aimed at improving survivor safety through both differentiated treatment and a multidisciplinary approach. King County should consider learnings from the DVIP, in addition to other models, when identifying root causes to gender-based violence and the interventions that might address them. See additional models referenced at the end of the report.

Specific Actions for Recommendation 9:

King County should develop a pilot program to fund a series of projects aimed at reducing GBV through interventions for persons causing harm. The projects should be chosen in consultation with King County agencies and the communities most impacted. When assessing projects, it is essential that survivors be included to gain a more complete picture of effectiveness.

38. CEGV, The Issue, <https://endgv.org/issue/>

Create a King County GBV task force to further develop and implement these recommendations.

Recommendations

Background

This recommendation would create a King County GBV task force to further develop and implement the recommendations in this report. The task force should bring together representatives from community-based organizations, community members with lived experience,

and other key stakeholders, with the representation weighted towards survivors. This task force can build off the strength of other successful task forces in King County, including the Children and Families Strategies task force recommended by the WAB and implemented in 2019.³⁹

Specific Actions for Recommendation 10: King County should create a task force to further develop, make actionable, and help implement select recommendations:

- ➔ **Develop and recommend a Fair Chance Housing ordinance to ensure that survivors in unincorporated King County who have past involvement with the criminal legal system are not discriminated against when accessing housing.** The task force should include community perspectives across intersections to ensure no communities are left unprotected through its development.
- ➔ **Design and implement community-based multi-disciplinary responses to GBV that will address root causes outside of the criminal legal system by:**
 - Investing resources in developed and new community-based organizations working outside of the criminal-legal system to support survivors of GBV. The task force should work with organizations serving survivors outside the criminal legal system to develop parameters for funding.
 - Supporting the creation, implementation, and funding of community-based intervention programs for persons causing harm. The task force should explore what programs are currently available to King County residents and identify any gaps, paying specific note to pathways of entry into programs and requirements for contact with the criminal legal system. With this information, the task force should recommend target areas for the pilot program and any assessment criteria to consider.
- ➔ **Work with communities to expand, develop, and support GBV prevention and education programs for youth and those communities disproportionately impacted by GBV.** The task force should work with public schools in King County and the Office of Public Instruction to support existing investments and learnings from the GBV Prevention pilot. The task force should also develop community-based prevention and education initiatives that center communities most impacted by GBV.

39. As part of the King County Women's Advisory Board's 2018 Recommendations on Improving Child Care Access and Affordability, the WAB recommended that King County create and support a task force to further develop and implement the recommendations. King County Executive Dow Constantine created the Children and Families Strategies task force which helped develop and implement the WAB's recommendation to develop a child care subsidy program and other recommendations to make child care more accessible and affordable in King County.

REFERENCES AND RESOURCES

Recommendations 6 & 7

[Lifting Up Transformative Approaches to Domestic and Sexual Violence Prevention](#)

Recommendation 9

- [10 to 10 Helpline](#): A helpline out of Massachusetts which seeks to increase non-criminal responses to gender-based violence through the creation of community-based restorative practice.
- [Futures Without Violence](#): A community-based organization in San Francisco which brings together government, healthcare, the workplace, and education organizations to create a society-wide web of healing and prevention for gender-based violence.
- [Hotlines](#): In Massachusetts U.S., Britain, Sweden, Australia, and Nova Scotia, have started hotlines for those who are causing harm to identify resources to stop.
- [Men Stopping Violence](#): A community-based organization in Georgia which provides men with education and support to not cause harm.
- [Natural Helpers Model](#): A Seattle-based program which trains, organizes, and provides support and resources to community action groups to be “natural helpers” in training and equipping their communities to respond to gender-based violence.
- [Respect](#): An organization in Britain which follows the example of Alcoholics Anonymous with sponsors for those who cause harm.

KING COUNTY WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD

Established in 1978, the King County Women's Advisory Board (WAB) makes recommendations to the King County Executive and the King County Council to ensure our county government takes into account the needs, rights and well-being of women.