CITY OF HARTFORD
VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY - HVIP

May 14, 2022
Introductory Remarks

Mayor Bronin
VIOLENCE PREVENTION STRATEGY - HVIP

Town Hall Agenda

• Discuss what a Hospital-Based Violence Intervention program (HVIP) is and why it’s important

• Learn about the various partners and their roles

• Understand how the HVIP partners will be accountable to the community for delivering results
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Gun violence in our community today

- Like many cities around the country, we saw a significant increase in gun violence in our community in 2020 and 2021.

- While the number of shooting incidents is down so far in 2022, the number of fatal shootings is up.

- U.S. cities experienced about an average 30% increase in homicides in 2020 compared to 2019, and nationwide rates have continued to increase by about 24% this year relative to 2020.*

- Compared to 2019, Hartford experienced a 19% increase in homicides in 2020. The city’s homicides increased 36% in 2021 compared to 2020.

- Many of those involved in gun violence today have been victims of gun violence in the past.
Overview of City Violence Reduction Efforts

1. Law Enforcement Initiatives
2. Technology Investments
3. Project Longevity
4. Reentry Welcome Center Expansion
5. Youth Violence Intervention Program
6. Youth Service Corps Expansion
7. Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program (HVIP)
Why Develop an HVIP?

Estimated re-injury rates for victims of violence in urban settings appear to range between 40% and 55%.

Recent research indicates that the most common needs cited for victims of violent injury were culturally appropriate mental health (51%), victims of crime assistance (48%), employment (36%), housing (30%) and education (28%).
What is an “HVIP”?  

Through a trauma informed approach to care, identify patients at risk of repeat injury and link them to hospital and existing community based resources aimed to address underlying factors for violence.
Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program

**Initial Intervention - “Teachable Moment”**

There is a unique window of opportunity to engage with victims of violent injury while they are recovering in the trauma center or hospital, using Intervention Specialists.

Intervention Specialists are highly-training paraprofessionals who often come from the community in which they are working and have experience in working with patients that hospital staff may find challenging.

In coordination with existing hospital staff, the Intervention Specialist develops a discharge plan with the patient and their family that ensures the patient’s medical and social needs are addressed.
Hospital-Based Violence Intervention Program

**Intense Community-Based Case Management**

In addition to providing brief crisis intervention, an Intervention Specialist is also a link to community-based services, mentoring, home visits, follow-up assistance, and is responsible for ensuring and coordinating long term case management.

**Data Collection and Follow-Up**

Data collection and outcome measures are critical to ensuring that the HVIP is connecting people to resources and making a difference.
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HVIP Strengthening Collaborative

Planning Group
- Carolyn Alessi, Trinity Health
- Henrietta Beckman, MUAV
- Kevin Borrup, Connecticut Children’s
- Rev. Henry Brown, MUAV
- Dr. Brendan Campbell, Connecticut Children’s
- Julia Corrigan, COMPASS
- Deborah Davis, MUAV
- Susan DiVietro, Connecticut Children’s
- Dr. Paul Dworkin, Connecticut Children’s
- Mario Flores, Trinity Health
- Greg Frani, Hartford Hospital
- Dr. Jonathan Gates, Hartford Hospital
- Greg Jones, Hartford Hospital
- Dr. Ruchika Jones, Connecticut Children’s
- Dr. Charles Johnndro, Hartford Hospital
- Allison Matthews-Wilson, Connecticut Children’s
- Thea Montanex, City of Hartford
- Monika Nelson, Hartford Hospital
- Luis Rivera, Connecticut Children’s
- Jackie Santiago, COMPASS
- Dr. David Shapiro, Trinity Health
- Dr. Sharon Smith, Connecticut Children’s
- Mary Stuart, Trinity Health
- Andrew Woods, HCTC
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Hospital Partners

Connecticut Children's

Trinity Health Of New England

Hartford Hospital
A Hartford HealthCare Partner
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Community-Based Partners

- Conflict resolution and case management services for youth
- Crisis de-escalation and connection to support services
- Family engagement and peer supports
• The HVIP project was initiated by the City of Hartford as a new, complimentary tool to supplement our many ongoing efforts to intervene and prevent violence.

• This will be the first time that Connecticut Children’s, Hartford Hospital, and St. Francis/Trinity Health will have staff solely dedicated to violence intervention and prevention work.

• HCTC, COMPASS, and MUAV will all be funded to strengthen their existing case management and after care services/follow-up.

• The Health Alliance for Violence Intervention (The HAVI) is a national alliance building an evidence-base for the effectiveness of HVIPs, and team members will train with The HAVI to become Violence Prevention Professional (VPP) credentialed.

• Data collection and outcome measures are a critical component of this work with Connecticut Children’s serving as the agency coordinating data collection and reporting.
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Next Steps

Spring/Summer 2022

• Patients/Families will have access to an HVIP Specialist within each hospital to help them identify and access needed services.

• Community partners will have a seamless connection to the hospitals through the HVIP Specialists.
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Partnership Model

- Quarterly Oversight Meetings
- Daily “Rounds”
- Weekly Team Meetings
- Routine data sharing
QUESTIONS