



Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA): Preventing Domestic Violence in California

DELTA Project Overview

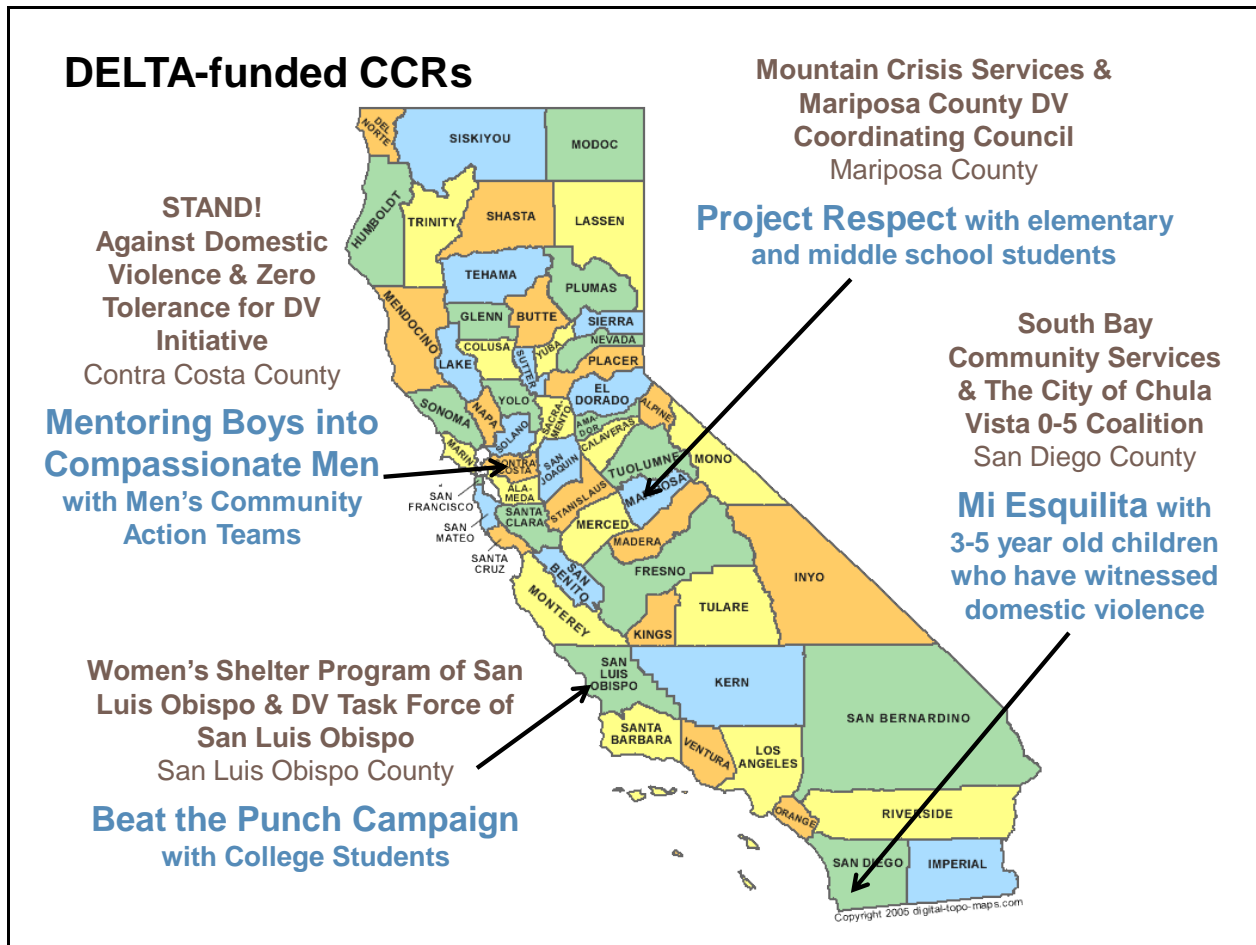
Since 2003, with support from the US Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), the California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV) and local communities throughout the state have participated in the Domestic Violence Prevention Enhancement and Leadership Through Alliances (DELTA) Project to *enhance* and *lead* intimate partner violence (IPV) prevention in California to greater effectiveness. The purpose of the DELTA Project is to strengthen prevention efforts – i.e., principles and practices aimed at changing the conditions that lead to IPV, before it is perpetrated – in order to reduce the incidence of IPV.

Local DV Prevention

Coordinated Community Response (CCR)¹ teams in Contra Costa, Mariposa and San Luis Obispo counties and the City of Chula Vista are planning, implementing and evaluating DV prevention strategies in their local communities with support from the DELTA Project. Their efforts cross the lifespan – with 3-5 year children who have witnessed domestic violence, elementary and middle school students, college students and adults. A range of programs increase assets and protective factors among individuals, improve bystander and care-provider behaviors, and promote positive community norms, policies and practices to support respectful, non-violent intimate partnerships. By working to effect change in individuals, families and organizations as well as systems and policies, CCRs aim to achieve comprehensive change. By involving a coalition of diverse stakeholders, each CCR is broadening understanding of, and long-term support for, effective DV prevention.

From 2009-2012, the four CCR's will continue to implement DV primary prevention strategies designed for their communities. They will also work closely with CPEDV's Prevention Team and our Empowerment Evaluator, Korwin Consultants, to use evaluation and continuous quality improvement processes to make program improvements and increase the evidence of the effectiveness of their strategies. They will also develop plans to grow and sustain their efforts.

¹ Coordinated Community Response (CCR) teams are local coalitions representing diverse populations and disciplines addressing domestic violence response and prevention. CCRs work to integrate prevention and intervention strategies and services through increased communications, cooperation, and coordination.



South Bay Community Services and the South Bay Violence Prevention Coalition

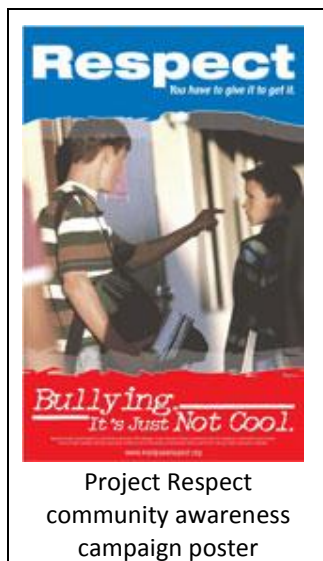
The City of Chula Vista is one of the fastest growing cities in the nation and San Diego County's second largest municipality, located at the crossroads of the San Diego/Baja region. Recognizing that interventions with children and families who have experienced or witnessed abuse are important for curbing the negative effects of violence and reducing the future incidence of violence in relationships,² South Bay Community Services (www.southbaycommunityservices.org) runs a therapeutic pre-school, *Mi Escuelita* for children who have witnessed family violence. The only school of its kind in Southern California, Mi Escuelita is free and bilingual in English and Spanish. It utilizes *The Incredible Years: Parents, Teachers, and Children Training Series*, a comprehensive evidence-based program to promote social competence and prevent, reduce, and treat aggression and related conduct problems in



² Wolfe, D. A., Crooks, C. C., Chiodo, D., Jaffe, P. (2009). Child maltreatment, bullying, gender-based harassment, and adolescent dating violence: Making the connections. *Psychology of Women Quarterly*, 33, 21–24.

toddlers and young children.³ The program includes services for 3-5 year olds and their families such as developmental screenings, counseling, and a range of therapeutic, developmental and educational activities. The school also provides teacher and caregiver support and training. Evaluation shows improved children's social and emotional skills and cognitive development and decreased negative behaviors and disruptive behaviors. *Mi Escuelita* aims to decrease intimate partner violence (IPV) risk factors and increase IPV protective factors to prevent future IPV perpetration and victimization among children 3-5 who have witnessed DV. The school achieves this through direct support to the children, as well as through efforts to strengthen the role of parents and other care givers in nurturing the foundation for future healthy, non-violent relationships among children.

Mountain Crisis Services and Mariposa County DV Coordinating Council



Located in the western foothills of the Sierra Nevada mountains, Mariposa County is a rural county that is home to Yosemite and countless outdoor attractions. It is also home to **Project Respect**, a county-wide initiative to create a safe, trusting, community environment and reduce DV by addressing one of its precursor behaviors – bullying (www.mariposarespect.com). Addressing bullying behaviors is a recommended strategy for prevention of DV later in life.⁴ Project Respect involves 7 elementary and middle schools in providing the evidence-based curricula *Steps to Respect* and *Second Step*.⁵ The project involves ongoing training for teachers and other school staff, including yard duties, bus drivers, and administrators, by the creators of the curricula, Committee for Children, a leading international organization in teaching safety and social and emotional learning (www.cfchildren.org). An evaluation of the teacher/staff trainings showed an increase in knowledge (85% of teachers showed an increase in bullying prevention knowledge and ways to integrate this information into their classrooms); and an increase in behavioral intention (86% of teachers reported that they felt more confident and would be more likely to intervene in bullying; and 89% reporting that they intend to use bullying prevention strategies in their classroom setting.) As an effort to achieve more family support of Project Respect, also new this school year, is the Project Respect Theater programs, in which students rehearse skits to address topics such as bullying, friendship, respect and then perform for their families and loved ones.

Project Respect also involves an extensive public awareness campaign, featuring banners, bumper stickers, newspaper ads and a series of articles in the Mariposa Gazette and other local news sources. The project also engages in ongoing policy and systems change advocacy to

³ Webster-Stratton, C, Reid, MJ and M Hammond. (2001). Preventing conduct problems, promoting social competence: A parent and teacher training partnership in Head Start. *Journal of Clinical Child Psychology*, 30(3), 238-302.

⁴ Ann L. Coker, AL. (2004). Primary prevention of intimate partner violence for women's health: A response to Plichta. *Journal of Interpersonal Violence*, 19, 1324-1334.

⁵ Frey, K, Hirschstein, M, Edstrom, L and J Snell. (2009). Observed reductions in school bullying, nonbullying aggression, and destructive bystander behavior: A longitudinal evaluation. *Journal of Educational Psychology*, 101(2), 466-481.

improve bullying prevention efforts in the county. The project is leveraging multiple resources, including Mental Health Services Act funding, to expand the comprehensiveness of these school and family-based efforts. Additions for the 2009-2010 school year include a demonstration project to encourage full curriculum implementation and school unity around bullying prevention at two district school sites; Coaches who will work one-on-one with students who exhibit warning sign behaviors to reinforce the curriculum; and a part time Project Respect Liaison for the demonstration sites to help staff to achieve project goals.

STAND! Against Domestic Violence and the Zero Tolerance for DV Initiative

Contra Costa County is a primarily suburban county in the San Francisco Bay Area with a population of over 1 million. Authorized by the California Legislature in 2002,⁶ the Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Initiative in Contra Costa County is a multi-jurisdictional partnership focused on long-term systems change to create an environment where violence is no longer tolerated in the county (www.contracostazt.org). With leadership from STAND! Against Domestic Violence, the ***Mentoring Boys into Compassionate Men Project*** engages men to prevent violence (www.standagainstdv.org). Rooted in the tradition of community mobilizing in the movement to end DV⁷ and focused on male leadership, Community Action Teams



"These Men Are Against Violence Against Women," a banner signed by students at Olympic High School in Concord.

of youth or adult men engage in education and peer support and take action in their families and communities to support compassionate men and violence-free homes. For example, a team of students at Olympic High School in the City of Concord coordinated and produced an all-school assembly of over 250 students and school staff as a follow-up to "ManPower: Men Mentoring Boys Into Compassionate Men," a seminar with Michael Kaufman, an international expert in preventing violence against women. With a commitment to community asset building and mentorship, annual "Men of Merit" celebrations acknowledge and mobilize positive male role models who are nominated by community members. These celebrations involve school bands and theater performances, children's activities and plenty of good food. Follow-up support in taking ongoing leadership to prevent DV is provided to honorees.

Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo and DV Task Force of SLO County

The County of San Luis Obispo is the cultural and commercial hub of California's scenic Central Coast, with rolling hillsides, breathtaking ocean views and spectacular beaches. Home to California Polytechnic University (Cal Poly) and Cuesta College, the city enjoys a youthful vigor. Through the staffing and leadership of the Women's Shelter Program of San Luis Obispo

⁶ SB 968, the Zero Tolerance for Domestic Violence Act in Contra Costa County declares the need for governmental oversight and coordination of multiple agencies to ensure a comprehensive approach to domestic violence and authorizes the collection of a fee for certified copies of vital records.

⁷ Shepard, M. (2008). *Mobilizing communities to prevent domestic violence*. Harrisburg, PA: VAWnet, a project of the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence/Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

(WSPSLO), the **Beat the Punch Campaign** addresses the pervasive problem of IPV on campus (www.violencefreecommunity.com).⁸ The project educates and trains Cal Poly students as well as Resident Advisors, housing personnel, faculty and staff on how to be a “courageous bystander” who intervenes in unsafe dating situations and speaks out against social norms that support IPV, such as sexist language or media that supports, or makes light of, violence against women. The training encourages participants to be individuals who create a culture of nonviolence and equality around themselves and in their circles of influence. WSPSLO also sits on Cal Poly’s Women’s Safety Committee, which advocates for safe and healthy environments for women in all contexts of campus life, from Greek life to resident housing to the classroom. The Committee hopes to develop protocol that can guide faculty and staff to respond appropriately to dating violence.



WSPSLO is also helping to create a campus organization that would act as a resource for those in unsafe dating situations, under the umbrella of the Cal Poly student organization SAFER (Students Advocating For Ending Rape). With guidance from WSPSLO, SAFER is now including a component of dating violence and IPV prevention in their outreach presentations. Through its involvement with the Women’s Safety Committee, SAFER and all other efforts at Cal Poly, WSPSLO advocates for proactively creating a culture that encourages healthy,

nonviolent relationships. Further, the Domestic Violence Task Force developed a media campaign that includes a website (English and Spanish), social media presence, edgy public service announcements on college radio stations, a billboard, banners, other collateral materials and ongoing direct outreach at community events. WSPSLO, the DV Task Force, the Women’s Safety Committee and SAFER together are creating a multi-faceted approach and a synergy among efforts that is critical for effecting lasting community change.^{9,10}

State Coalition Activities

The California Partnership to End Domestic Violence (CPEDV) is a statewide coalition representing over 200 organizations and individuals. CPEDV’s vision is a California free from domestic violence. Our mission is to promote the collective voice of a diverse coalition of organizations and individuals, working to eliminate all forms of domestic violence. As an advocate for social change, we advance our mission by shaping public policy, increasing community awareness, and strengthening our members’ capacity to work toward our common goal of advancing the safety and healing of victims, survivors and their families. Our overall DV

⁸ Carr, J.L. (2005.) *American College Health Association campus violence white paper*. Baltimore, MD: American College Health Association.

⁹ Langford, L. (2004). *Preventing violence and promoting safety in higher education settings: Overview of a comprehensive approach*. Newton, MA: Higher Education Center for Alcohol and Other Drug Abuse and Violence Prevention.

¹⁰ Nation, M, Crusto, C, Wandersman, A, Kumpfer, KL, Seybolt, D, Morrissey-Kane, E, et al. (2003). What works in prevention: Principles of effective prevention programs. *American Psychologist*, 58(6), 449–456.

prevention strategy is to promote respectful and equitable nonviolent relationships through individual-, relationship-, community-, and societal-level change. With the guidance of over 50 representatives from our member organizations and allied groups,¹¹ CPEDV developed a plan to guide our efforts to advance domestic violence¹² prevention in California from 2009-2013. CPEDV is implementing the *Prevention Plan 2009-2013*, while using evaluation and continuous quality improvement processes to make program improvements and increase the evidence of the effectiveness of our strategies. We will also develop plans to grow and sustain our efforts. As part of the DELTA Project, CPEDV provides technical assistance and training to the four DELTA-funded CCRs to support their work in implementing, evaluating and sustaining primary prevention strategies.

DELTA Project Team

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This publication was supported by Grant/Cooperative Agreement Number US4/CCU922584-04 from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Its contents are solely the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the official views of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

¹¹ The term allied groups refers to local, state and national organizations that CPEDV works with in some capacity, that are not official Coalition members.

¹² The bulk of our efforts will focus on youth and young adult relationship abuse prevention. However, we use the term domestic violence because it is currently the most recognized and utilized term among CPEDV's member organizations and allied groups. We are committed to using relevant and accessible language and will use terms such as youth relationship abuse and teen dating violence in our prevention work, as appropriate.