



105042

DATE: May 6, 2021
TO: Public Safety and Justice Committee
FROM: Rocio Luna, Deputy County Executive
Carla Drina Collins, Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention
SUBJECT: OGBVP Semi-Annual Update

RECOMMENDED ACTION

Receive semi-annual report from the Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention.

FISCAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no fiscal implications associated with receipt of this report.

REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION

As part of its infrastructure, the Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention (OGBVP) provides biannual reports to the Public Safety and Justice Committee (PSJC) to highlight the work of the office.

This report fulfills the initial 2021 biannual report.

The Other Global Pandemic

Less than six months after the OGBVP was integrated into the Division of Equity and Social Justice the County of Santa Clara became the first in the nation to issue shelter-in-place orders. The OGBVP immediately began to work with direct service providers to assess needs and pivot resources. The office continues with monthly meetings to set intentional space with shelter providers, County emergency operations, the Office of Supportive Housing, and the City of San Jose to address the impact of the pandemic on domestic violence shelter providers and the community.

The table below shows the number of sheltered and motelled survivors from July 2020 – February 2021.

| Month | Sheltered | Motelled |
|--------------|------------------|-----------------|
| July 2020 | 64 | 119 |
| August | 58 | 120 |
| September | 53 | 91 |
| October | 42 | 104 |
| November | 55 | 103 |
| December | 47 | 106 |
| January 2021 | 38 | 62 |
| February | 43 | 64 |

Across the globe and here at home the impacts of sheltering-in-place when home is not safe results in intensified danger for survivors living with their abuser. The need for flexibility in how funding is utilized by services providers to meet the needs of domestic violence clients continues. As such, the increased need for motelling has been met while discussions have expanded to address the lack of adequate transitional and permanent housing for survivors.

Major Projects, Pilots and Special Initiatives

Despite COVID-19 and impact to non-COVID-19 efforts, work continues. While the OGBVP gained a Management Analyst in August 2020, extra help hours for a Management Aide and the volunteer services of a dedicated intern ended. Further, the Senior Management Analyst was activated as a disaster service worker in early 2021, joining 65% of staff from the Division of Equity and Social Justice.

The following highlights major areas of work.

Community Grants: Requests for Proposals (RFPs)

The OGBVP supported an RFP released by the Social Services Agency to address the needs of commercially sexually exploited children (CSEC) and expanded the scope with funding to include services for transitional age youth (TAY) populations that are at risk, suspected or confirmed human trafficking survivors. Contracts are currently in negotiations and services are scheduled to begin July 1, 2021.

The OGBVP released an RFP for \$1.5 million for prevention and intervention services. Nine contracts were approved in March 2021 to begin a variety of services including legal, mental health evaluations, trauma-informed counseling, peer counseling, mobile advocacy, and more. Services will reach residents in every district including zip codes identified by the San José Police Department and First Five for their high rates of violence and reports of sexual assaults.

Several assessments have been delayed. The OGBVP is working to release a coordinated shelter intake assessment for domestic violence shelters. Guidance from the Office of Supportive Housing will help ensure all data needs are included. Also, an RFP to assess services and gaps for LGBTQ+ communities vis-à-vis gender-based violence has been delayed but will possibly be released for Fiscal Year 2021- 2022.

Addressing Those Who Do Harm

Assembly Bill 372 (AB372) identified Santa Clara County and five other counties to reimagine the curriculum and other aspects of court ordered batterer intervention programs for domestic violence offenders, collect data on this pilot, and provide the data to the state to consider whether state-wide changes may be appropriate.

| County | High Risk | Medium Risk | Low Risk |
|-----------------|---|-------------|-------------------|
| Napa | 52 weeks | 26 weeks | 26 weeks |
| San Luis Obispo | 52 weeks | 52 weeks | 26 weeks |
| Santa Barbara | 26 weeks + cognitive behavioral treatment | 26 weeks | 16 weeks (Online) |
| Santa Clara | 26 weeks | 26 weeks | 13 weeks |
| Santa Cruz | 26 weeks + cognitive behavioral treatment | 26 weeks | 16 weeks (Online) |
| Yolo | 52 weeks | 52 weeks | 10 weeks |

The AB372 Work Group includes leaders from Probation, District Attorney, Public Defender, County Counsel, and Victim Advocates/Community Solutions, Local Project Evaluator/Justice Systems Partners, and the Batterer Intervention Facilitators/Caminar. Stakeholder meetings have been helpful to develop strong communication and collaboration as the Work Group meets every two weeks to keep the Pilot on track.

Using a curriculum developed by the University of Cincinnati Corrections Institute (UCCI) that targets criminogenic need areas for interpersonal abuse and includes activities for cognitive, social, and emotional skills development, sessions are held two times a week for 26 weeks and can range from 75 – 90 minutes depending on the topic. The curriculum relies on a cognitive-behavioral approach to teach people strategies to identify and manage high risk situations related to interpersonal violence.

COVID-19 impacted all AB372 efforts and delayed the start of sessions by nearly one year. The State Legislature is currently considering the Senate Bill 827 (the Public Safety Omnibus) which includes a provision to extend the sunset date from 2022 to July 1, 2023. The bill is expected to pass.

Initial findings of the AB372 Pilot are positive and the Work Group hopes to both continue and expand the Pilot beyond 2023 to allow for the collection of three years of data. If data continues to show promising outcomes, Santa Clara County will lead the way for the State to improve batterer intervention outcomes and ensure victim services are part of the efforts to ultimately increase family safety.

Beyond the extension of this Pilot, concerns have emerged around the costs to participants in programming and the decline in service provider options for the community. Several certified batterer intervention programs are closing for self-pay clients citing COVID-19 impacts to their businesses. The Work Group will continue to assess this concern.

Sexual Assault Data

Survivors Survey. The OGBVP works with the Sexual Assault Response Team (SART) Committee to improve data. A time study and process map revealed several barriers to data collection including the lack of survivors' voices in discussions and the difficulty in collecting and analyzing data.

To initiate a long-term plan to include survivor input, the OGBVP contracted for specialized services to secure sexual assault survivor feedback through an online survey and interviews. Work began in August 2020 and an online survey was available in English, Spanish, and Vietnamese from January 2021 – March 2021. Interviews are currently underway and a full report will be completed in June 2021.

Sexual Assault Database Project. One of the first realizations, while working on the original process map and time study, was that data is collected by different systems that do not 'talk' to each other, and that data is collected in such ways that the only way to give critical information to decisionmakers is by manually pulling data from files then analyzing it. In fact, several law enforcement agencies were unable to participate in the first study because they had no bandwidth for their staff to pull the data.

Since then, the SART Committee has been exploring ways to modernize data collection and transform the way systems respond to survivors. Efforts are underway to secure a vendor to create software to automate the current manual process of documenting data for sexual assault medical forensic exams. This data, which is medical in origin but also used in criminal justice and victim advocacy systems, demands a robust security model to ensure that those with the right to know and the need to know can access only the data they need to complete or inform their service response.

The database management system will secure data software that can be used by Santa Clara County's Health and Hospital System and the SART Committee partner agencies. This software will allow the County of Santa Clara to lead the way for the region and state in developing an innovative software tool that will transform data collection in a way that is survivor-centered, efficient, and outcome driven. Benefits include: 1) improved data collection across SART agencies, 2) improved notification process for end users, 3) improved access to information for those with right-to-know, and availability of robust deidentified data for reporting and quality improvement.

The procurement process is near completion, and a single-source vendor is approved. This vendor is expected to be in contract to begin the first of six phases of work in May 2021. The entire project is expected to take 36 months with first beta test results available in Q4 of 2021.

Strangulation Response Pilot

The OGBVP has been working closely with the Office of the District Attorney, the Santa Clara Valley Medical Center Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Program, several law enforcement jurisdictions including the Office of the Sheriff, Santa Clara, Morgan Hill and Gilroy Police Departments, and the western division of San Jose Police, as well as our community partners that make up the Domestic Violence Advocacy Consortium, most closely with Community Solutions. Together, they launched a pilot in January of 2020 that allows domestic violence survivors, who experience non-fatal strangulation, to receive a medical forensic exam with the SAFE Program. These exams are similar to a medical forensic exam for sexual assault survivors but focus on providing critical medical care and documenting evidence of strangulation injuries. The pilot also ensured survivors of strangulation were connected with confidential advocacy services during and following the exam.

The Strangulation Response Pilot and has been extended to June 30, 2021. In March 2021 the Board of Supervisors directed the Office of the District Attorney to work with stakeholders to institutionalize the pilot countywide.

Expanding the Vision to End Domestic Violence and Increase Child Wellbeing

From 1999 – 2006 the County of Santa Clara was a Pilot site for a study to develop policy about child welfare and domestic violence. *Effective Intervention in Domestic Violence and Child Maltreatment Cases: Guidelines for Policy and Practice* became better known as the Greenbook Initiative. The guide identified 67 strategies to change the way communities respond to the co-occurrence of domestic violence and child maltreatment focused on changing culture and attitudes among the major stakeholders including social workers, domestic violence advocates, juvenile court judges, attorneys, and law enforcement.

Effects of this effort are still seen in data around improved initial response. Consider the overall rates of children entering the system:

| Year | No. of children removed from their home |
|------|---|
| 2001 | 1,629 |
| 2005 | 1,231 |
| 2019 | 626 |

Removals of children for four days or less:

| Year | Children removed for 4 days or less |
|------|-------------------------------------|
| 2001 | 538 |
| 2005 | 297 |
| 2018 | 68 |

The OGBVP, in partnership with the Department of Family and Children's Services (DFCS) and Superior Court, is reconvening stakeholders to look at the original recommendations and see what more can be done. Stakeholders have committed to quarterly meetings to engage in

difficult conversations needed to ensure that systems are responsive to children, survivors, and families who experience intimate partner abuse. Priorities for 2021 include addressing whole-family healing and empowerment-based solutions.

Addressing Campus Safety and the Title IX Referral

At the October 20, 2020 (Item No. 12) meeting, the Board of Supervisors received a report from the Administration with a proposal to conduct a countywide analysis of schools and post-secondary institutions' compliance with Title IX, the Clery Act, and other relevant state and federal laws. The Administration proposed a phased approach to audit K-12 and post-secondary institutions with a plan to ensure community engagement. This initiative is projected to take 12–18 months following completion of the solicitation process.

A Request for Statement of Qualifications (RFSQ) was released in January 2021 designed around two categories of work:

Category One consists of the compliance audit to survey and assess sex- and gender-based harassment and violence policies, procedures, and practices including compliance with Title IX, the Clery Act, and other relevant state and federal laws.

Category Two consists of community engagement to ensure that stakeholders, survivors of sex- and gender-based violence and administrative leadership of K-12 and post-secondary institutions inform the analysis and results of the audit.

Five proposals were received for Category One, the compliance audit. Three proposals were received for Category Two, community engagement. No proposals were disqualified, and all are currently being evaluated. The OGBVP continues to support this effort with a team from the Office of the County Executive.

Addressing Human Trafficking Commission Recommendations

The Human Trafficking Commission received recommendations from County leadership, advocacy groups, victim service agencies, and Commission members, to enhance the County's efforts against human trafficking at its annual meeting on December 4, 2020 (Items No. 4 and No. 5). The OGBVP is spearheading efforts to address a total of 65 recommendations that were identified at the meeting. The OGBVP has convened the Human Trafficking Stakeholders Group (HGST) comprised of County and community leadership to meet quarterly with designated work groups meeting on a more regular basis to vet action items and policy consideration in greater detail. The following work groups were determined by the HTSG as part of its first year workplan: (1) Housing, (2) Economic Empowerment, and (3) Training.

The OGBVP is also working with the County Legislative Manager and statewide partners to explore a plan for legislative advocacy to increase state funding for rape crisis centers as mandated by the state.

Summary

Despite the extreme impacts of COVID-19 on all aspects of life, the OGBVP has expanded funding for intervention and prevention services and most of the office is focused on efforts

with County and community partners to do the systems change work needed to transform the way the county responds to gender-based violence.

CHILD IMPACT

The recommended action will have significant positive impacts on children and youth, and families experiencing gender-based violence.

SENIOR IMPACT

The recommended action will have positive impact on seniors, particularly those experiencing gender-based violence.

SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS

The recommended action will have no/neutral sustainability implications.

BACKGROUND

The Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention (OGBVP) was established in September 2019 to transform the way the county responds to domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault. Its mission is to disrupt the cycles of gender-based violence and support survivors with services they need to heal and thrive while creating and supporting policy that is survivor-centered and trauma-informed. The OGBVP engages county departments and community service providers to partner in the creation of a coordinated, transparent response.

The OGBVP provided its first report to Public Safety and Justice in November 2020 with a presentation on its first annual report. This report highlights current efforts.

CONSEQUENCES OF NEGATIVE ACTION

The Public Safety and Justice Committee will not receive the requested information.

LINKS:

- Linked From: 106814 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) services at all SAFE response sites.
- Originated From: 106843 : Receive report from the Office of Gender-Based Violence Prevention and the Probation Department relating to Batterer Intervention Programs.
- Linked From: 107293 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) services at all SAFE response sites.
- Linked From: 107681 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to status updates for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program.
- Linked From: 108044 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center (SCVMC) relating to status updates for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Program.
- Linked From: 108388 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to status updates for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program.
- Linked From: 108798 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to status updates for the SAFE Program.
- Linked From: 111659 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to status updates for the Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program.

- Originated From: 113599 : Receive report from the Probation Department relating to the current status of Batterer Intervention Programs.
- Referenced By: 116673 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Healthcare relating to the Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Forensic Exam (SAFE) Program.
- Linked From: 118794 : Receive report from Santa Clara Valley Medical Center relating to the Adult/Adolescent Sexual Assault Forensic Exam Program.

ATTACHMENTS:

- OGBVP Semi Annual Report_5 6 2021 (PDF)