



2021 BLUEPRINT UPDATE

ARLINGTON'S PROJECT PEACE

ANNUAL REPORT 2021

Project PEACE (Partnering to End Abuse in the Community for Everyone) is a county-wide effort to prevent, identify and respond to intimate partner and sexual violence. The efforts of Project PEACE aim to enhance the safety, and improve the well-being, of Arlington County citizens and visitors impacted by interpersonal violence. Project PEACE examines and enhances existing policies and practices across disciplines and identifies the optimum methods for public and private agencies to address and end interpersonal violence. Project PEACE is hosted by Arlington County Department of Human Services and is managed by a diverse membership base. Representatives from Arlington local government, law enforcement, judiciary system, nonprofit organizations, culturally specific organizations, the faith community, health care providers, and citizens come together to create a collaborative that is larger and more impactful than any one institution.

In 2021, Project PEACE partners met monthly in their individual goal and leadership groups to operationalize the [2021-2024 Blueprint](#). Goal groups successfully worked towards their individual goals focusing on creating new programs and policies to prevent violence and promote healthy relationships, design trainings for service providers on trauma-informed and survivor centered responses and educating the community about the diverse array of services available to those impacted by interpersonal violence.

This report highlights the 2021 accomplishments of the Project PEACE collaborative as well as statistics on how intimate partner violence and sexual assault impacted the Arlington community.

PROJECT PEACE

Project PEACE's Vision

Arlington County is a peaceful and respectful community where diversity is celebrated, violence is not tolerated, and all people are empowered to build healthy relationships free from the fear, or threat of, all forms of intimate partner and sexual violence.

Project PEACE's Mission

Arlington County Project PEACE is a coordinated community response dedicated to advancing the most effective and efficient array of education, prevention, protection, and support services to end intimate partner and sexual violence in the Arlington community.

Project PEACE Partners



GOAL 1

Co-Chairs: Leah Fraley (SCAN) & Michael Swisher (DHS CFSD Prevention)

Goal Group 1, 2021 Focus: Support parents and caregivers in deepening their understanding of safe and healthy sexuality and intimate relationships; and teaching that to their children.

To meet this objective, Goal 1 focused on the development of a coordinated prevention campaign: Askable Adult. Goal 1 adapted a pre-existing campaign with an initial focus of creating a workshop for adults with an emphasis on parents and those in parenting roles. Goal 1 also procured grant funding and began development on an educational brochure associated with the campaign to highlight the many challenges youth in Arlington face and encouraging non-judgmental and empathetic adult responses.

Goal 1 is set to launch the “Askable Adult” campaign in Fall of 2022 with a soft launch scheduled for Spring 2022.



Promoting Healthy Relationships + Preventing Violence

GOAL 2

Co-Chairs: Lt. Eliseo Pilco (ACPD) & Joanne Hamilton (Safe Havens)

Goal Group 2, 2021 Focus: Create and Implement strategies that enhance safety and prevent future harm in intimate partner violence cases by ensuring system collaboration and timely access to critical resources and supports.

To meet this objective, Goal 2 began creating both a comprehensive intimate partner violence training for service providers and a collaborative protocol on service provider response and program options.

Each Goal Group 2 member has contributed to these efforts by providing modules for the trainings on their unique rolls and services as well as a detailed overview of their program’s response. Goal 2 is set to launch the collaborative protocol in Summer 2022 and the training in Fall 2022.



Advancing a CCR by First Responders + Service Providers

GOAL 3

Co-Chairs: Lissa Friedman (DHS Child Welfare) & Keri Thomas (Doorways)

Goal 3 Group 2021 Focus: Ensure community partners providing social, emotional, and mental health services are trained in the dynamics of interpersonal violence; including, but not limited to, how to work with and refer those who have been harmed or have harmed.

To meet this objective, Goal 3 created a service provider training, “We Support Safe Home.” This training was designed to educate childcare providers to recognize and respond to intimate partner violence. The “We Support Safe Home” training is set to launch in February of 2022.

Once the training is launched, Goal 3 will identify childcare providers who will benefit from this training. Goal 3 will focus on identifying providers from various cultural and racial perspectives to ensure engagement across the diverse Arlington community.



Improving Ongoing Services + Supports to Victims, Families and Abusive Partners

[View the Blueprint in its entirety here.](#)



ARLINGTON RESPONDS

to Intimate Partner & Sexual Violence

Project PEACE partners have provided data on the number of adults, youth and children receiving services in Arlington directly related to intimate partner or sexual violence.

The percentage & arrow indicate the % change in the number of people accessing that services from the previous year (2020).

CRISIS RESPONSE

Police Reports

Sexual Assault

91

25% ↑

Domestic Violence

372

8% ↑

Hotline Calls to Doorways

Sexual Assault

83

43% ↓

Domestic Violence

377

14% ↓

Forensic Exams

51

28% ↑

Sexual Assault and Domestic Violence at Inova FACT

INCREASING SAFETY

Child Protective Services

78

28% ↓

Number of cases where domestic violence was validated.

Safe Shelter

84

11% ↑

Number of Adults and Children Served at Doorways

Safe Havens

83

33% ↓

Number of Adults and Children Served

*Safe Havens data is 7/1/20-6/30/21 (FY21)

LEGAL RESPONSE

Court Advocacy

312

18% ↑

Total Clients Served at Doorways

Family Law Assistance

171

unknown

Total Clients Served at LSNV

Immigration Legal Support

21

75% ↑

VAWA/U-Visa Recipients at Just Neighbors

ONGOING SUPPORT

IPV Trauma Counseling

181

23% ↓

Number of Adults and Children Served at Doorways

Abuser Intervention Program

60

5% ↑

Adults Served, 100% Court-Referred



BEYOND THE GOAL GROUPS

Racial Equity and Anti-Racism Efforts

With the adoption of the [2021-2024 Blueprint](#), Project PEACE's published their first [Commitment to Anti-Racism and Racial Equity](#). In 2021 a committee of Project PEACE members was organized to create a plan to operationalize this commitment. The committee met several times in 2021 and structured their efforts around three main goals: to provide and encourage foundational training on anti-racism and racial equity to all PEACE partners, to review partner data to assess gaps, barriers and inequities for prevention and response services and to learn from, and align with, [Arlington county's broader Racial Equity efforts](#). The committee had representatives from Doorways, the Department of Human Services, Just Neighbors, Lantuun Dohio, Northern Virginia Services, and Arlington Court Services.

LGBTQIA+ Initiative

Project PEACE continued to support agencies in increasing their accessibility for the Lesbian, Gay Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, and Asexual + communities by offering the LGBTQIA+ agency assessment. In 2021, [SCAN of Northern Virginia](#) was the only partner to request and participate in a fully agency assessment. Thank you to SCAN for participating in this assessment and striving to create a safe and equitable community for everyone in the LGBTQIA+ community.

Prevention Efforts

While specific prevention efforts occurred within the purview of Goal 1, Project PEACE staff continued to support the community more broadly during year one of the Blueprint. Staff supported the Healthy Relationships Taskforce's efforts which included composing episodes of their podcast "Dear HRT", attending resource fairs, developing and hosting their own healthy relationships workshop and their awareness and advocacy efforts around the uptick in sexual assault and Title IX complaints occurring at the secondary level.

Additionally, staff developed and coordinated a summer training series entitled "Season of Learning," to provide continuing education opportunities for Project PEACE partner agencies. Topics included LGBTQ+ identity and sexuality, hidden and social biases and masculinity and community organizing. During the fall and winter, staff developed a social emotional learning training which will be provided to all APS Health and P.E staff in Winter 2022. Staff also worked closely with schools at the middle and high school level to provide support and technical assistance as [sexual assault](#), [harassment](#) and [Title IX](#) complaints increased drastically.

Contact Project PEACE

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