

King County Regional Approach to Gun Violence

**Seattle City Council
Public Safety & Human Services
Committee Briefing**

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Our Regional Approach



**The center arrow indicates referral pathways*

Hospital-based Intervention

Blended funding from PHSKC & COS has increased staffing from 1.5 FTE to 3 FTE

- Two Hospital-based Interventionists / Social Work Assistants
- One Social Worker

Investments:

- King County: \$182K
- City of Seattle: \$182K

Referrals: Harborview & Community Partners

- Referrals serve as a portal to community-based care including RPKC, SCSi for young people ages 12-24 and their families, and the Urban League for those over 24

State of Washington Funding has helped HMC HBI add

- Program Director
- Navigator to ensure patients access relevant community resources





RPKC Outcomes

Since the launch of the Regional Peacekeepers Initiative (RPKC),

- **92 young people** between the ages of 12-24 were admitted as victims of gun violence to Harborview hospital and were referred to Community Passageways for ongoing care and support
- Enrolled **375 young people** directly impacted by gun violence into services funded by RPKC
- Served over **213 families**
- Responded to over **135 critical incidents**
- Hosted over **264 community events**
 - **136 hot spot engagement events & 93 community healing events**



STRENGTHS OF RPKC

Strengthened supportive relationships

Strengthened self-efficacy and coping:

- Creating value of self
- Seek interests
- Continually addressing trauma
- Learning or implementing new coping skills
- Youth feel safe

Strengthened families:

- Mothers more at ease
- Families reunited

Strengthened material needs:

- Providing food
- Housing support
- Providing funeral support
- Academic success and improved attendance
- Extra-curricular activities

RPKC Expansion

Expansion to Skyway

- Blended funding from the City of Seattle and Public Health- Seattle & King County is supporting expansion in Southeast Seattle & to Skyway through partnership with Rainier Beach Action Coalition Urban Family and additional partners

The Regional Gun Violence (RGV) Program is focused on implementing geographically focused Service Hubs in:

- Kent with Community Passageways, Burien with Alive & Free, Skyway/Tukwila with Urban Family in 2023

RGV has selected an Intermediary to support capacity building for RPKC providers

- Based on best practices, RPKC is contracting an intermediary agency to support capacity building, fiscal oversight, budget management, evaluation and data reporting and expanded implementation of RPKC's Community Violence Intervention (CVI) strategies





Additional Progress

- Taking a Regional Approach has helped to increase coordination across systems and allowed for better collaboration between government and community providers
- Blended investments are allowing for services to be available to young people and families impacted by gun violence regardless of zip code
- Safe gun storage efforts in coordination with community partners have resulted in the distribution of over **600 lockboxes** Central area Seattle, Rainer Beach (SE Seattle), Skyway, White Center, Kent, Tukwila in 2023 so far
- Collaboration with community partners, PHSKC, COS, COT, SOW and AGR resulted in the first annual TWEGV Conference attended by **300+ attendees**
- Secured over **\$500K in funding** from Everytown for Gun Safety to support technical assistance from National Institute of Criminal Justice Reform and ROCA Baltimore



Lessons Learned

- Intermediaries are a best practice for strengthening the Community Violence Intervention (CVI) field ([Giffords Report 2023](#))
- Community Violence Intervention must be included as a pillar of our public safety framework
- Community-based organizations need long term commitment to capacity building and implementation support . Many have been doing violence prevention work for decades, but are now asked to
 - Rapidly bring to scale
 - Successfully coordinate across organizations
 - Collaborate with government and across systems
- Comprehensive Community Violence Intervention (CVI) must include Cognitive Behavioral Intervention to support mindset change and positive attachment to community in order to reduce use of guns to resolve conflict
- Coordination and alignment of funding, evaluation, training, and shared technical assistance must be sustained to make meaningful impact



From our RPKC Partners

"A huge success has been connecting with and helping youth get to a point where they want to change and do something different. We have to acknowledge with empathy that they won't get it on the first try, and it's been encouraging to see youth try over and over to be successful and change their mindset."

"Building face-to-face rapport with our team and/or the Harborview Medical Center interventionist at bedside is exceptionally important for participant buy-in."





The Path Forward

- Expansion of fully resourced and coordinated Service/Safety Hubs
- Technical assistance from:
 - ROCA Baltimore to implement evidence based Cognitive Behavioral Intervention and Relentless Engagement methodology for those at greatest risk
 - NICJR to conduct Cost of Violence and Problem Analysis and implement comprehensive intensive engagement life coaching and care management
- Instituting an Academy of Community-led Public Safety to certify and credential CVI workforce
- Securing long term funding to:
 - Increase workforce
 - Ensure resources for emotional health and trauma support for frontline CVI staff
 - Provide ongoing training and professional development
- Increase community buy-in with public awareness campaigns
- Develop a shared Regional Office of Violence Prevention

