



Stakeholder meeting 1

June 5, 2024

Introduction

The City of Gainesville, Alachua County, and Santa Fe College formed the Community Gun Violence Prevention Alliance (“the alliance”) in May 2024. The City of Gainesville and Alachua County declared gun violence a public health crisis. This informs a data and research-driven approach to develop effective policies and strategies to prevent injury, disease, and death, and promote health and well-being. The alliance will cooperate and strengthen efforts to address gun violence, improve outcomes for survivors and those at risk, and spearhead a collaborative group of community stakeholders. This meeting is the first of the stakeholder meetings convened by the alliance. The goal is to have monthly meetings to ensure that the initiatives’ momentum is maintained.

Background

Nearly 40 stakeholders (in person and online) attended the alliance's first stakeholders meeting on June 5, 2024, at Santa Fe College’s Blount Hall.

Meeting agenda:

1. Alliance overview
2. Ground rules for discussing gun violence
3. Ongoing activities
4. SWOT analysis
5. Priorities and goals

The meeting started with an introduction of the attendees to the alliance and its goals, followed by a discussion on ground rules for discussing gun violence, and information about gun violence in Gainesville. In 2023, the Gainesville Police Department (GPD) reported that there were 147 reports of shots fired, 60 people were shot or injured by gunfire, and there were 14 homicide incidents with 16 victims, 13 of which were killed. The City and County Commissions declared gun violence a public health crisis.

Summary of ongoing efforts:

1. Impact GNV
2. Engaging stakeholders for the gun violence prevention month of June 2024
3. Host Crisis Intervention and De-escalation training for community members and organizations in partnership with the Alachua County Crisis Center
4. Community Care Callouts

5. One Nation One Project GNV
6. Explore grant funding opportunities in collaboration with GPD and other partners

SWOT analysis

Strengths	Weaknesses
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Resource heavy – a lot of organizations and community groups are working on this. ● There is funding and will to support smaller and short-term efforts. ● Increase in collaborations among groups. ● Diversity among groups working to address gun violence, especially in the black community and neighborhoods where gun violence is high. ● Advocacy and passion. ● The willingness to listen and the system-wide convening. ● Awareness of the breadth of the problem. ● We have the Department of Family, Youth, and Community Sciences which could support research and systems thinking. ● Engaged front-line workers with youth. ● Moms Demand Action has links with the community. ● Youth Engagement. ● Participation of well-connected people. ● Impact GNV partner BOLD. ● Community-based organizations and non-profit organizations provide services ● The array of health and social services. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Overlap and duplication of effort. ● No coordination among gun violence prevention programs from the city, GPD, and the county, siloed data. ● Lack of youth involvement and leadership of most impacted youth. ● How to impact parents as well as kids? ● Youth are often disconnected from the church. ● Need for intentional partnerships with those on the front lines. ● No follow-up from GVP programs in communities where gun violence is high. ● Missing a research framework for how youth thrive. ● Follow-up from GVP programs is poor. ● Inadequate accessible and affordable mental health services. ● The lack of system-wide data especially related to youth. ● An understanding of the mental health stressors, and a second tier of support around suicide, depression, increased trauma, and isolation. ● Communities' lack of trust in law enforcement agencies. ● Lack of funding for larger scale and/or long-term programs. ● Education. ● Economic challenges. ● Access to public transportation in rural areas. ● Family structure/challenges, lack of family involvement, the cycle of violence. ● Demand on the stakeholders at the table. ● Drug activity. ● Lack of post-incarceration support.

Opportunities	Threats
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Youths speak loudly about the impacts on their life. ● Coordinate GVP programs so overlap is minimized. Collaboration and data/info/resource sharing through the alliance. ● More research on child and youth developmental stages, engagement issues, and trauma. A culturally responsive model for youth with collaborations. ● Cultural arts through parks and rec programs. ● Merge groups doing similar things. ● Faith leadership. ● A marketing campaign for access to gun locks. ● Participatory research from youth-on-youth engagement and opportunities for leadership and learning. ● Interviews with survivors. ● A strong integrated system for youth. ● Working with gun shops to provide gun safety info. ● Rich mutual aid organizations that already serve communities. ● Kids should hear from other kids and athletes. ● Funding is available for GVP programs. ● Youth Peer-to-Peer communication. ● Training for community-based organizations (CBOS). ● Amplification and empowerment of CBOS. ● Public Health & Safety Education ● Positive family support. ● Collective healing in communities. ● Funding for small-scale and short-term projects is available. ● Social media/pop culture. ● Passion. ● Empathy from all residents, even if gun violence is limited in their neighborhood. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Poverty and desperation from people who are struggling. ● Lack of continuous funding, funding of larger scale projects, defunding of programs. ● Easily accessible unsecured guns. ● People are determined to commit violent crimes. ● Summer months. ● Economic disparity. ● Thefts of guns left in vehicles. ● Lack of education. ● Push back to a public health approach. ● Lack of connection with parents. ● Law enforcement dehumanization. ● State/Federal Legislation ● Failure to offer “third spaces” to communities. ● Lack of efforts in the most impacted communities. ● Transportation limitations and rural clusters of disconnect. ● Neighborhood environment. ● Lack of stipends, labor, and responsibility for young people. ● Youth peer pressure and gang activities. ● Less impacted neighborhoods don’t consider this their problem. ● Lack of listening to communities threatened by gun violence. ● Substance abuse. ● Lack of cohesive, umbrella plan. ● Ongoing issue – always upon us, issue fatigue. ● Under-resourced neighborhoods, lack of opportunities, equity gaps. ● Misinformation and mistrust. ● Funding and budget cuts to youth, summer, and arts programs. ● State laws/policies preempt local oversight. ● Lack of Mentors. ● Silos.

Priorities

The stakeholders identified the following priorities and goals:

Short-term

1. Involve youth, including in these meetings. Identify and invite!
2. Involve communities and community partners.
3. Invite people with lived experiences and youth to the next alliance meeting.
4. Prepare a resource/asset map of folks operating in these spaces (summer programs).
5. What is IMPACT GNV doing, how can stakeholders help, support, and engage?
A call to action.

Medium-term

1. Coordinate all programs to maximize support and reduce redundancy.
2. Listen to communities affected the most by gun violence.
3. Engaging law enforcement in new and innovative ways.
4. Economic development – youth jobs.

Discussion

The SWOT analysis and list of priorities revealed the following recurrent themes:

1. The availability of funding is perceived as a strength, a weakness, an opportunity, and a threat. This implies that funding opportunities may not be adequately advertised, or that additional grant-writing training might be useful.
2. The lack of collaboration and sharing of data and resources is a weakness and a threat, but they may also be turned into a strength and an opportunity.
3. The engagement of local communities, particularly youth, people with lived experiences, and faith leaders is imperative.

The alliance was formed specifically to address some of the weaknesses and threats identified in the SWOT analysis, and it should be able to address several of the weaknesses in the short term.