

WASHINGTON STATE

Council of Presidents

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Campus Sexual Violence Prevention Task Force Meeting #7
March 17, 2016
10:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m.
Council of Presidents Office - Olympia

Attendees:

Natalie Dolci, King County Coalition Against Domestic Violence; Paul Francis and Darshan Robertson, Council of Presidents; Tricia Boerger and Bruce Marvin, Washington State Office of the Attorney General; Kelly Schrader, The Evergreen State College; Tom Fitzsimmons, Independent Colleges of Washington; Richard DeShields, Central Washington University; Joe Holliday, Washington State Board for Community & Technical Colleges; Ana Blackstad, Bellevue College; Anne Messerly, Washington Student Achievement Council; Laurie Connelly, Eastern Washington University; Kim Anderson, Washington State University; Eric Richey, Washington Association of Prosecuting Attorneys; Ruby Hayden, Lake Washington Institute of Technology; Josie Ellison, Washington Student Association; Adam Hall, Senate Democratic Caucus; Kat Monusky & Jen Friedlander, Washington State Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs; and Chair John Vinson, Washington Association of Sheriffs and Police Chiefs.

Dr. Sharyn Potter, University of New Hampshire

Sharyn Potter, Ph.D., M.P.H., is an associate professor in the Department of Sociology at the University of New Hampshire and co-director of [Prevention Innovations, Research and Practices for Ending Violence Against Women on Campus](#), a research and development unit at the University. The research center was one of three research centers identified in the [first report](#) by the White House Task Force to Protect Students from Sexual Assault and is known for developing [Bringing in the Bystander](#), an in-person prevention program which has been implemented on over 600 college campuses and translated into multiple languages. Some of the center's current pilot projects include developing Bringing in the Bystander for high school students and a video game for first-year college students. Dr. Potter has more than 30 years of experience in this field.

Dr. Potter stressed that sexual assault on campus is not a new issue, referencing a 1987 study which documents that same prevalence rate which exists today. She described sexual assault as not only a public health issue, as demonstrated by the myriad of physical and mental health issues that survivors face, but also an economic issue, as many survivors either switch majors or quit school altogether. Potter believes addressing the problem of sexual violence includes three pieces: policies and procedures which assist victims; policies and procedures that ensure due process for the accused; and a comprehensive focus on prevention that involves not only students, but faculty, staff,

parents, alumni, and local business owners. Prevention should not only be bringing awareness to the problem of sexual violence, but should include teaching skills that people can use to intervene.

Potter described the emergence of a cottage industry of vendors offering products she described as simple “check the box” solutions for addressing sexual assault on campuses. She cautioned that institutions must be savvy consumers, as many vendors appear to be capitalizing on panic, and their products – often at a heavy expense - are not based in research. She likened the products to a vaccine, where they promise a one-dose solution to a complex issue.

Potter described a study she conducted for the White House Task Force which focused on seven four-year institutions from around the country, including a large public university, an Ivy League school and an historically black college. At each school, five first-year student courses were selected and randomized as to how they would receive the sexual misconduct policy. The first group, the control group, received no training; the second group received an online video; the third group was read the policy; the fourth group was read the policy and participated in a facilitated classroom discussion; and the fifth group received the online video and participated in a facilitated discussion. Results showed that students who participated in the facilitated discussion had a greater familiarity with campus resources and knew how to intervene if a friend was in danger of being assaulted. It was determined that only four percent of students who received the online video opened it. The group with the facilitated discussion had a pretest and a posttest one month later. In another study on in-person prevention, there was a pretest and posttests at six weeks, four months and 12 months. Studies show that students retained information from the training for up to 12 months. With the [Know Your Power](#) social marketing campaign, students received pre- and post-tests, showing a reduction in belief in rape myth and willingness to intervene five weeks after the training.

Other items discussed:

- Dr. Potter and her team have conducted a review of programs offered at some schools, to help them map out the variety of services offered to students, staff, and faculty.
- While there is a need for differing messages and efforts for nontraditional student populations, there are no evidence based practices on how to most effectively serve those populations.
- There have been two recent studies released recently regarding the efficacy of online bystander training. Dr. Potter will send the information to Paul to disseminate to the group.
- In Dr. Potter’s research students are heavily involved in helping identify the needs for prevention training on their campuses to ensure they are effective and relevant to unique student populations. All bystander prevention strategies developed by the research center use diverse student groups. Students are actively involved and consulted in the production of social marketing campaign images and dialog.

Subcommittee Updates

- **Criminal Justice System Workgroup** – The group is looking at a variety of programs offered through the Criminal Justice Training Commission. This includes promoting the use of a [Start by Believing](#) campaign, a program directed at law enforcement, as well as exploring the feasibility of a [You Have Options](#) program, which gives survivors choices about where and when to report, and also offers different tiers of reporting including anonymous reporting. After this program was implemented in Ashland, Oregon, reporting increased by 36 percent. The group is also looking at training designed specifically for prosecutors to aid in increasing their capacity to respond to non-stranger, adult victim sexual assault cases. For instance, how to anticipate rape

myths and educate a jury about them, alcohol as a weapon, and increasing collaboration with law enforcement as well as the relationship between the prosecutor and survivor. Finally, they are looking at information sharing regionally based on examples from other states. They are hoping to have their general conclusions completed by the summer. Kat and Jenn mentioned that the Coalition would be happy to connect with Natalie in order to assist workgroup members with their recommendations.

- **Campus Climate Assessment** – As required in SB 5518, the SBCTC has their student and employee surveys in a final draft form and is waiting for approval from DSHS’s Institutional Review Board (IRB). The community and technical colleges must have a uniform survey for all their schools, while the public universities must administer their own surveys. Some concerns which have arisen during the process include leadership questioning the graphic nature of some of the survey questions; concern about low response rate; and questioning what conclusions can be drawn from the survey results.
- **Advocate Confidentiality** – This subcommittee, which formed at the February meeting, reviews the gaps in protections for campus-based advocates and the confidentiality of their conversations and documents. The group will be having their second meeting next week, where they plan to formulate recommendations to present at the April Task Force meeting.
- **Prevention** – The group is looking at how to better connect prevention programming between K-12 and higher education. Before any recommendations are made, a representative from OSPI should be included in the group. Paul has been in contact with OSPI Deputy Superintendent Gil Mendoza regarding the need for a representative from their sector; Paul will follow up with Gil to help secure that individual. In addition to the Seattle Public School District report, the group will be looking to school districts across the state which may have similar reports. Current prevention efforts in our state’s K-12 system and colleges and universities are being evaluated. In developing recommendations, the group is gathering information on cost of prevention programming versus cost of response to help better explain the rationale on why a focus on prevention is needed.
- **MOU’s** – The draft MOU is pending WASPC approval at their May meeting. The MOU was designed as a template to be modified and adapted to different communities. Adam Hall mentioned that the legislative requirement provides an opportunity to explain any barriers which may be preventing the completion of MOU’s. It was agreed that Chief Vinson’s office will draft the report due to the legislature on July 1, with COP completing the formatting and branding. Task Force members also discussed including a summary of efforts by WASPC, a summary of current efforts by sector, and recommendations from the group that recognizes differences between institutions and sectors. An agenda item for next Task Force meeting will be to confirm what will be included in the report. The current draft MOU, which is pending WASPC approval, will be sent to Task Force members.
- **Student Conduct** – This committee has been meeting on a regular basis, and is in the process of developing and finalizing recommendations to share with the Task Force in April or May. Bruce has developed a recommendation regarding the sharing of student disciplinary actions between institutions. Leslie Gomez of the law firm Pepper Hamilton is scheduled to speak at an upcoming subcommittee meeting. Ms. Gomez is nationally known for her work on the institutional response to sexual misconduct and helps institutions develop comprehensive sexual misconduct policies, procedures, systems and training programs. She has worked with the White House Task Force and a number of universities, including those under investigation by OCR.

Future Meeting Logistics

Members agreed in the value of hearing from subject matter experts at future Task Force meetings.

The Task Force opted not to meet in July or August due to the challenges of scheduling during the vacation season. Instead, meetings in April, May and June will be extended to address some of the emerging questions about the Task Force's final reports due in July and December. The April and May meetings will be three hours long and the June meeting will be four hours long. COP staff will continue to work to ensure there are options to call and videoconference in to future meetings so as to limit travel costs. If scheduling necessitates the meetings be held over the lunch hour, COP will provide lunch.

The next meeting will be held at South Seattle Community College's [Georgetown Campus](#) on April 14. COP will send out Doodle polls for the May and June meetings.