



**Rural**  
VIOLENT CRIME  
REDUCTION INITIATIVE

# Rural Violent Crime Reduction Initiative - Rural Roundtable Peer Learning Event

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# Acknowledgement/Disclaimer

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# Event Logistics

- Event is being recorded
- Event survey
- Questions and Answers



# Agenda

- Developing Structures for Community Engagement Presentation
- RVCRI Grantee Presentations
  - Marysville, KS Police Department
  - Greenville, MS Police Department
- Facilitated Discussion and Q&A
- Announcements



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# Developing Structures for Community Engagement

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*LeVar Michael, Senior Program Officer (LISC)*



# LSC



**Developing Structures for  
Community Engagement**

Sexual Violence  
Prevention  
Initiative



# Understanding Community Engagement:

## Symbolic Engagement

Engagement which is designed to serve a purpose other than building relations, establishing trust, and empowering residents

## Perfunctory Engagement

A modest form of engagement which engages a small fragment of the community residents to serve as representatives of the entire community

## Effective or Authentic Engagement Produces:

- Strong Social Cohesion & Collective Efficacy
- Builds Community Capacity Strengthens
- Institutional Legitimacy & Trust



# Authentic Community Engagement:

Consistent and persistent engagement with an entire community for the purpose of establishing a foundation of partnership, trust, and empowerment.

Empowerment = Capacity Building

Engagement must be viewed as the emergence of a new paradigm - no more business as usual - this should be a “transformative process”

Creating opportunities for community members to obtain ownership, power, and authority over their own collective destiny by working with neighbors as decision makers to improve their community

Partnership: Working in tandem with community members and stakeholders to accomplish joint objectives of neighborhood safety





# Why Engagement is Important:

Provides an avenue for community residents to weigh in on critical community decisions

Legitimizes your work and reassures the community that you are here to serve and not exploit



**Builds Equity** and creates an equal planning field for information dissemination and decision making

**Creates sustainable networks** which serve as the catalyst for continued relationship building

# Where We Often “Miss the Mark”:

**Overly reliant on one-off projects or events:** While PAL and NNO are great first steps to engagement, they leave out opportunities for “whole community engagement”

**Lack of investment:** Historically, community engagement divisions or officer positions have been drastically under funded



**Lack of Sustainability:** Engagement efforts have a tendency to fizzle out if sustainability is not a priority

**Not identifying the right people:** Community engagement is a developed skillset and should be viewed as such

# Co-Creating Effective Public Safety:

## Co-learning Opportunities:

Joint learning creates an equal playing field and helps develop stronger relationships between police and residents

## Community CompStat:

Using data as a tool to engage residents, develop long-term partnerships, and enhance safety outcomes



**Collective Problem-Solving:** Action Research opportunities allow for an equitable and democratic synthesis of community issues and the co-creation solutions

**Participatory Policing:** Increasing community involvement in decision making and strategy development

# Standardizing Engagement:

How can you make community engagement a central part of your work as an organization...

## Enshrine in policy or standards

Your policy should be a reflection of your values and morals as an organization. Is community engagement upheld and reinforced through your organizational policy

## Roles and responsibilities

Assigning the work of engagement to a specific point person, but making the work central to everyone's expected contribution

## Reflected as part of your mission

Ensure that community empowerment, trust building, and relationship development are reflected as part of your organizational mission





# Standardizing Engagement:

Developing a communication mechanism with community partners...

## Developing a feedback loop

Establish lines of communication and mechanisms for sharing information, offering feedback, and discussing community issues

## Sharing information

Developing tools and processes for information dissemination: newsletters, community meetings, events/activities, social media, signage/branding

## Accessing information

Conducting stakeholder interviews, focus groups, surveys



# Education and Learning:

Empowerment community residents by establishing mechanisms for continual learning and educational growth...

## Trainings

Identify and promote training opportunities for community residents and stakeholders on an on-going basis

## Sharing knowledge

Develop a system for storing and disseminating resources and tools

## Power analysis

Assist in educating community residents on local power structures and how they can engage those structures to bring about the change they want to see



# Developing Leaders and Champions:

**Developing a network or pipeline of community advocates who care about local issues, who implement initiatives and help shape community**

## Capacity building of people

Working to build the capacity of individual residents can go a long way to developing new leaders

## Creating opportunities for mentorship

Linking community residents who have a desire for deeper involvement with a resident mentor

## Uplifting and encouraging

If you identify potential, make it your mission to nurture and promote that potential



# Asset Mapping:

Community asset mapping is a process of bringing community residents, partners, and stakeholders together to identify existing resources (strengths) as well as gaps (needs) within a particular community



This process involves categorizing and mapping community institutions, individuals, and associations

## Institutions:

- Libraries
- Churches
- Schools
- Community-based orgs
- Food outlets
- Public safety

## Individuals:

- Individual skills
- Community leaders
- Elders (wisdom)

## Goals:

- ✓ To develop a database of assets
- ✓ To understand what resources are missing
- ✓ To identify what resources are utilized and which are not

## Association:

- Civic groups
- Resident groups
- Neighborhood associations
- Advocacy groups



# Developing a Partnership Engagement Plan:

## Assessing Partnership Needs/Issues

- Being data-driven
- Asset mapping

## Identifying Focus Population

- Who do you need at the table – why?

## Developing a Partnership Vision

- Goals and objectives
- What do you want to achieve?
- Desired outcomes

## Defining Success

- Tracking performance
- Measurements of success

## Responsibility

- Who will be tasked with oversight and responsibility?



# Resources:

Chelsea HUB Model:

[https://chelseapolice.com/community\\_services/hub.php](https://chelseapolice.com/community_services/hub.php)

HEALing Communities Study:

<https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC7568493/>

DC Community Engagement Academy: <https://joinmpd.dc.gov/cea>

Simply Stakeholders: <https://simplystakeholders.com/best-community-engagement-strategies/>

Community Compstat: <https://www.compstat360.org/cs360-toolkit/>

# *Questions?*

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# RVCRI Grantee Presentations

- Describe your agency and community.
- What prompted you to apply for RVCRI funding?
- Summarize your RVCRI program and work accomplished to date.
- Discuss any challenges or successes realized/accomplished to date.
- Outline sustainability planning.



# Open Discussion

- Reminder: Event Survey

# What's Next?

- Community Violence Intervention & Prevention Initiative and Rural Opportunities Webinar scheduled for May 23, 2024
  - Additional details to follow
- Next Roundtable scheduled for June 20, 2024
  - Additional details to follow