



STRATEGIES FOR CHANGE: Building More Peaceful Communities ©

The Greater Pittsburgh COALITION AGAINST VIOLENCE (CAV)

Creating Long Term Solutions to Deep Rooted Problems

“Moving from Complaint to Possibility...from Planning to Implementation to Mobilization”

3rd Edition

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By the Working Group of the Coalition Against Violence

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In partnership with the
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Foreword

As the Administrative Judge of the Juvenile and Family Court of Allegheny County, I preside over a court where the common dominator among court users is trauma. For the most part, people enter the Family Division due to a traumatic event in their lives.

They come to our courthouse because their marriage is in crisis and one of them has filed for divorce. They come because they can't agree upon the custody of their children or medical, educational and religious decisions for their children. They come seeking protection from abuse. They come because Child Welfare has taken their children. They come because they are victims of juvenile crime. They come because their children are accused of crimes and they are worried about their futures. Sadly, we terminate parental rights in our courthouse.

Children come because they have been accused of committing crimes, because they are caught in the middle of their parents' divorces and custody battles; because they have been removed from their homes, their communities, their parents, siblings, families and friends due to abuse, neglect, or exposure to domestic violence.

And while a single traumatic event may bring a family to court, in reality, many of the people we serve have been exposed to repeated traumatic events. Overwhelmingly, our court users are poor; disproportionately, they are African-American. Many live in communities fraught with violence, without safe places to play or socialize, without decent housing or access to healthy food. Too many of our children are being raised by single parents, or grandparents or great-grandparents. Too many of our children have experienced the loss of a parent or loved one due to incarceration, violence, addiction, or premature illness.

All of these issues have an impact upon building and maintaining a peaceful community. The road to peace is not immediate, but I have hope that it can and will happen. I have been on the bench for more than 17 years, and I have learned so much from the children and families that I serve. Every day someone restores my faith in humanity. It is because of this that I have adopted a Servant Leadership Model in my courtroom.

"Strategies for Change: Building More Peaceful Communities" provides a resource for our community which addresses violence in every iteration. It educates; it challenges; it provides solutions. I commend the Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence for undertaking this important project.

"The servant-leader is servant *first*... The difference manifests itself in the care taken by the servant first to make sure that other people's highest priority needs are being served. The best test, and the most difficult to administer, is this: Do those served grow as persons? Do they, *while being served*, become healthier, wiser, freer, more autonomous, more likely themselves to become servants? *And*, what is the effect on the least privileged in society? Will they benefit or at least not be further deprived?" –Robert K. Greenleaf: *The Servant as Leader*, 1970.

Please join the Coalition Against Violence and become a Servant Leader.

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "KBC Clark".

Judge Kim Berkeley Clark
Administrative Judge—Family Division
Court of Common Pleas of Allegheny County



Dedicated to the Youth for Whom We Do This Work

Dear Brother

*I watch you prowl the lonely streets,
blocks and blocks of broken dreams.
While you sell drugs and waste your time,
a little voice inside you cries.
He screams and screams because he can see,
the man within that you can be.
But, for some odd reason all that you know,
is violence, drugs, pimps, gangstas and dough.
I observe you brother and I wonder why,
you so willingly let your spirit die.
Your heart is hollow, dark and cold.
You are only your father's sad story retold.
Right now you have the power to change,
but you just want to stay the same.
The same person who walks around with no life,
and has no other place to look, but down.
The streets are addictive, close to a drug.
They sucked you up and stole your love.
Took you so, so, far away,
that night is night and night is day.
Sometimes you sit alone,
and wish that you had a life of your own.
And when you do, the little boy weeps,
because he wishes he could go to sleep.
He wants to go back to family and love.
And turn his head to darkness and drugs.
Kill your heart the streets demand,
while you walk in burning sand.
You've done too much to go back,
Way too much to carry on.
So the only time you will ever be happy again
is when you are dead, buried, forgotten...GONE!*

*Cornaya Moorefield ©2006
City Charter High School*

The Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence dedicates this Third Edition to Faith Stenning, who wrote the Arts Community section. We fondly remember Faith for her steadfast commitment to peace and non-violence, for coming to every Coalition Working Group Meeting, and for her sense of humor, knowledge, wit and wisdom.

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Acknowledgements

We Remember!

Very special thanks goes to the NAACP, Pittsburgh Branch, spearheaded by Tim Stevens, along with community and religious leaders, representative from various community-based organizations, and concerned citizens who ‘produced “Strategy 95” in 1995. This comprehensive anti-violence document served as the foundation upon which the Coalition Against Violence document “*Strategies for Change: The Full Document*” (1st Edition) was originally created.



A MESSAGE FROM THE CO-CONVENERS

In January 2007 the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania had the unfortunate distinction of being identified as having the highest rate of “Black on Black homicide” in the nation. Members of the Black Political Empowerment Project (B-PEP) found this to be an unacceptable reality, and in partnership with One HOOD called for a press conference on February 8, 2007 to address this very troubling situation. This press conference hosted approximately 55 people, including ministers from various religious denominations, political and community leaders and interested citizens. Little did we know that this powerful and passionate press conference would lead to fifty-one (51) more work sessions, ending in March of 2008 which led to the unveiling at Duquesne University of the first edition of the Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence (CAV) “Strategies for Change: Building More Peaceful Communities” (printed by the University of Pittsburgh) on July 8, 2008. A youth version, targeting information and resources from *Strategies for Change*, also was released, along with CAV’s first *Directory of Community Services*.

The second edition of *Strategies for Change* followed on October 18, 2013 at an event hosted by Community College of Allegheny County and its President Dr. Alex Johnson. Doubling in size, it contains thirteen new sections of content. The second edition took a few years to write and nearly doubled the length of the original document.

The CAV documents’ usefulness and relevance come from the grassroots contributions of hundreds of Pittsburgh area residents of all ages, races and socioeconomic backgrounds, including youth, social justice and religious leaders, law enforcement, and members of the LGBTQAI community.

We were honored to have the National President of the Urban League, Marc Morial, define our second edition of our CAV “Strategies for Change” document as one of the most extensive anti-violence documents in the nation. We appreciated the recognition from Mr. Morial and we knew there was more work to do, and our “CAV Working Group” continued meeting to identify additional strategies that could impact violence throughout the Pittsburgh Region and the nation. For this third edition the Working Group expanded some sections of the second edition and added two major *new pieces*, “Violence Against Women and Girls” and “Violence Against the LGBTQAI Community”. *Each* section of our strategies begin with ‘verbs’ in bold so as to emphasize that our goal is have partners, across the board, who are committed to ACT. We ask that YOU be one of our partners to assist in the implementation and mobilization of any section, or any of the hundreds of strategies, contained in this expansive document. Our work continues to expand based on our philosophy of *Moving from Complaint to Possibility...from Planning to implementation and Mobilization*. We are committed to creating more peaceful communities! We are blessed to have the financial support going forward from Highmark Blue Cross Blue Shield and the Pittsburgh Foundation, and are appreciative of past financial support from Vibrant Pittsburgh and resource support from the Pittsburgh Bureau of Police and the City’s Department of Public Safety.

This work, continuing our collective commitment, is dedicated to all of those who have died as a result of violence, and as a testimony that their deaths will NOT be in vain!

Tim Stevens and *Valerie Dixon*, Co-conveners, The Greater Pittsburgh Coalition Against Violence Working Group