



Responding with Intention

An overview of Multnomah County's
Gun Violence Impacted Families
Behavioral Health Response Team

Health Department
Behavioral Health Division

September 12, 2022

Gun Violence Impacted Families Behavioral Health Response Team

- **Culturally-specific** mental health treatment and support
- Low barrier trauma-informed **home-based** therapy sessions
- Peer support from **Credible Messengers** (community members who have successfully transitioned to life after involvement with gun and group violence)



By increasing access to safe and timely mental health services, the program aims to have the following impacts on participants:

- Reduce engagement with gun and group violence
- Connect youth to mental health services to improve mental wellness
- Improve family dynamics for healthy and meaningful connections
- Increase use of healthy coping mechanisms to alleviate trauma symptoms
- Increase awareness of cyclical trauma impacts on the community
- Increase pro-social community engagement
- Improve academic achievement



Program Structure

Multnomah County Health Department

- Three KSA Mental Health Consultants
 - African American
 - African Immigrant & Refugee
 - Latinx Culture/Spanish Speaking

Partnership with Community Based Organizations

- Portland Opportunities Industrialization Center (POIC)
- Immigrant & Refugee Community Organization - Africa House
- Latino Network



Program Services

Once individuals are enrolled in the program, they have access to comprehensive mental health services.

Pre-Enrollment
Engagement Activities

Mental Health
Assessment

Treatment Plan
to Address
Symptoms/Concerns

Care Coordination

Family and Group
Therapy

Individual Therapy



Outreach Strategies

Community Engagement	Connection Through Schools	Connection Through Overlapping Supports
<p>March Against Gun Violence</p> <p>Reclaiming Black Joy Event</p> <p>Rosemary Anderson High School's Mental Health Fair</p>	<p>Centennial</p> <p>David Douglas</p> <p>Gresham Barlow</p> <p>Parkrose</p> <p>Portland Public</p> <p>Reynolds</p> <p>MESD</p>	<p>Probation Parole</p> <p>Wraparound</p> <p>Human Services</p> <p>City of Portland</p> <p>City of Gresham</p>



Working With Trusted Partners

A unique and impactful facet of GVIF-BHRT's structure and outreach is the establishment and use of Credible Messengers to reach impacted members of the community through trusted, authentic, and trauma-informed stakeholders.

- Credible Messengers work collaboratively with Mental Health Consultants to establish and implement effective program tactics, including reducing barriers to services
- 57% of the referrals made to the program in 2022 have come directly from Credible Messengers



Emerging Themes

Throughout the first year of operation, the program has been reviewing participant needs, the nature of incidents, and feedback from participants, partners, and staff to identify core themes:

- **Generation involvement:** unpacking a client's involvement in gun violence opens a complex web of community & family historical ties
- **Exposure to violence:** video recordings have increased the exposure of viewing traumatic events, creating a normalizing and/or numbing effect on younger generations who are frequent users of social media
- **Increase in high capacity and fully automatic guns:** Before the pandemic, guns being used typically held 10-15 bullets, but today, we are seeing guns that hold 30-50 bullets





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