

State of Connecticut Hate Crimes Advisory Council

Community Awareness Subcommittee

Survey Results

Who is the community in “Community Awareness,” In other words, who is the audience for our work?

- The transgender community
- Communities throughout Connecticut.
- Everyone. Anyone can either commit or be a victim of a hate crime.
- Individual residents of the state as well as a variety of civic and communal organizations that can serve as hubs for information access.
- My particular concern is dealing with the frequent abuse of individuals with disabilities. These crimes occur with astonishing frequency, are often unreported, and are usually not considered hate crimes. They are crimes, often by caregivers, against impaired or defenseless individuals who are considered subhuman by the perpetrators.
- Two: (1) those being targeted so they know about resources and (2) the general populace so they are reminded that hate is wrong

Building Trust with law enforcement and engaging different community’s histories with law enforcements.

What does awareness mean to you? “Community Awareness” implies a mode of communication but how do you think we should define “awareness?”

- Being aware of the need of the community
- People knowing what is a hate crime and what to do if victimized or witnessing a hate crime.
- Awareness means complete education. This means not only clearly defining hate crimes but also any and all steps that can be taken to address hate crimes. In addition, it also means creating and developing groups and organizations that can continually work on hate crimes as an issue.
- There are certain things that everyone in the community is 'aware' of - many of them are absorbed from the general culture. It strikes me that in our work we need to make awareness of hate crime laws, as well as what they are, part of the general communal knowledge.
- The message to the community is that the lives and bodily integrity of individuals with disabilities are are important as the lives and bodily integrity of those not disabled. This is a message that needs to be sent strongly to the caregiver community, as well as individuals with disabilities.
- Awareness is the collective ability to name something as wrong/hate and also to know how to access resources. Everyone knows about 911 and 211 - that is the level of saturation we should seek with our messaging.

Youth: how are we communicating hate crimes in the schools. Educators and students, together. Are we talking about hate crimes vs bias incidents?

How do you differentiate the crime and the hate?

Proactively addressing the early behavior before it becomes violent and to the level of hate crime.

Data collection on incidents as well as crimes. Collection practices and comparison with other states. Update: hate crimes are going up and reporting on hate crimes are going down. Belief in

inaction, not sure they experienced a hate crime. Don't trust law or courts. Community awareness is important for building trust.

Don't want their name attached to the CHRO report, fear of retribution.

Disability community does not have the same access to reporting – public awareness, outreach, resources,

The focus in our charge identifies schools and agencies, what other institutions need to be included for partners in long term change?

- GLSEN
- Community groups with mutual interest such as TEAM Westport and bar associations to coordinate CLE and pro bono efforts.
- Non-profits, disability organizations.
- houses of worship/cultural centers, perhaps local civic organizations.
- Individuals with disabilities
- places of worship; local political committees

How to talk with prosecutors, to make sure hate and bias are carried forward

Police, prosecutors, SROs,

Media

Attorney General's office – civil rights claims in the hate crimes.

Can you suggest examples of effective curricula or PR campaigns designed to combat hate and violence?

- Something about working together and bring different backgrounds and cultures, we all have something to add to the discussion.
- <https://www.advancingjustice-aajc.org/antihate>;
<https://www.napaba.org/page/StandAgainstHate>;
https://www.ihollaback.org/app/uploads/2016/11/Show-Up_CUPxHollaback.pdf;
<https://www.lawyerscommittee.org/project/stop-hate-project/>;
<https://www.adl.org/reportincident>; <https://www.justice.gov/hatecrimes/get-help-now>;
- Not at this time but I look forward to researching and learning more about existing models.
- not at the moment
- The war on terrorism created a sense of alertness to certain types of threats. Similar efforts should be tried for hate crimes.
- There's a billboard in Springfield MA similar to this:
<https://www.wpri.com/news/crime/fbi-boston-launches-campaign-to-urge-reporting-of-hate-crimes-everyone-deserves-to-feel-safe/>

How should we account for current efforts in Connecticut?

- The divide in the country.
- Efforts should be included in the Council's annual report to be submitted each October.
- Researching statutes, laws, statistics and existing models that address hate crimes.
- I look forward to learning from others in our group
- I do not understand the question.
- I'm not really sure what those current efforts are related to curriculum design and PR campaigns.

GOALS and OBJECTIVES

Making a list of resources

Best Practices across the country

Framework

By December, Legislative priorities recommendations – specific suggestions for the improvement of the system.

Council wide how the council will develop and use it's voice.

Will this council speak up –

Agent Shukla

(1.) I think it is important for the Council to solicit input from the public. Perhaps someone will have a creative idea we might not think of. I am not sure how to go about reaching out to various communities who should be consulted, but please consider this. Perhaps an online event, or soliciting ideas in writing might help. (2.) I think some kind of a rapid response team should be considered. To be more precise, when hate crimes occur, the victim community is very much traumatized. Perhaps you could give some thought to creation of a standing group of people in the community--clergy-people, educators, social workers, psychologists—who could meet with people in a victim community and provide some insight and counseling and advice. Perhaps a standing committee of such people could be created and sent into action as needed, where needed. (3.) I think a public service campaign is a must. Radio and television ads and online announcements by well-known people—including the governor himself—could be featured making it clear that Connecticut has zero tolerance for haters, and that "if you see something, say something." A helpful slogan could be developed. (4.) A Hate Crimes Hotline is also something that we could use, under the auspices of the proper state agency; (5.) Also, a non-governmental hate crimes hotline, which people who don't trust the government, or are afraid to get involved with law enforcement, could call, without fear of getting into trouble.