



SEOW Quarterly Meeting Minutes

Wednesday, August 31, 2022

9:00 am – 11:00 am

Time	Wednesday, August 31, 2022 9:00 am – 10:18 am
Location	Zoom Webinar
Address	-
# Attendees	36

Meeting Minutes

9:00am-9:07am Welcome and Introductions

9:07am-9:40am Angelina Mercado, Executive Director of the Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence presented on Understanding Substance Use, Mental Health & Domestic Violence

- The Hawaii State Coalition Against Domestic Violence provides technical assistance and training in the community. Their mission is to increase awareness of domestic violence, develop the capacity of the member programs and community partners to address the needs of survivors and their families and advocate for social justice and change.
- This presentation aims to: 1) define domestic violence and intimate partner violence, 2) learn about the prevalence of intimate partner violence and dating violence in Hawaii, 3) learn about the coercion tactics experienced by victims with mental and substance use disorders, and 4) learn about trauma in the context of domestic and sexual violence.
- Domestic violence is “domestic or intimate partner violence, is when one person in a relationship uses patterns of abusive behaviors and tactics to gain power and control over their partner.” The majority of victims are women and girls.
- “Power and control” are the critical elements in understanding domestic violence and are related to the gender norms in the community.

- Regarding the prevalence of domestic violence in Hawaii, according to Hawaii Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) data from 2013, 13% of the population in Hawaii reported experiencing Intimate Partner Violence (IPV) in their lives (65% of them were women). About 1 in 6 women experienced domestic violence around the time of their most recent pregnancy.
- Based on the survey in 2021 on sexual harassment and gender-based violence at the University of Hawaii, 18.5% of the participants (across all campuses) reported gender-based violence, and 53.4 % of perpetrators were not associated with UH. In addition, 67.1% of them answered that “emotional/behavioral health” was the most significant area in their life impacted following dating and domestic violence.
- According to the research published in 2009 regarding mental health and substance use, victimization of domestic violence increased the risk of depressive disorder, substance use disorder, and suicide attempts. For LGBTQ individuals, increasing substance use was associated with victimization among transgender women. In addition, in 2019, only 10% of people needing substance use treatment accessed it.
- Coercion and stigma, including victim blaming, worsen mental health and substance use concerns among victims of domestic violence, so the community needs to destigmatize the people who encounter these issues.
- The following ways are recognized as a tactic for control of abusers: 1) undermine sanity, sobriety, credibility, and parenting, 2) coerced overdose, coerced substance use, coerced illegal activities, coerced sex, 3) control medication, control treatment, sabotage recovery, 4) use against survivor to prevent access to support, resources, protection, and custody.
- Domestic violence is often targeted toward undermining a partner’s substance use disorder or mental health treatment and recovery. For example, 60% of the 3,224 national domestic violence hotline callers who sought help for substance use said their partners had tried to prevent or discourage them from getting help. This problematic tendency is also realized in the situation of substance use treatment.
- Trauma is associated with various elements related to domestic violence and survivor issues. Understanding how trauma affects survivors are critical to helping them as follows; 1) normalizes and makes sense of responses, 2) offers opportunities to develop alternative coping strategies, 3) acknowledges the importance and challenges of connection, 4) supports preparation for trauma responses, and 5) elevates the importance of choice and control.

- In domestic and sexual violence, trauma includes interpersonal violence, intimate betrayal, ongoing risk, etc. Trauma is not “post.” It is a proper response to ongoing danger, not an “overreaction” to minor stimuli; it is an acute social awareness. There are various types of trauma, such as individual trauma, collective trauma, cultural trauma (genocide), and historical trauma.

9:40am-9:52am

Presentation Q&A

- Do the abusers have to seek and get substance use treatment on their own? Or, can they stay with their victims to take substance use treatment together?
 - Although I do not know about the treatment designated for abusers and victims together, it is promising for abusers to receive treatment. Understanding the dynamic (power and control) of domestic violence works for abusers as it helps victims. Substance use and mental health issues could be related to each other.
- Is the financial piece of women related to domestic violence?
 - The gender-informed financial perspective is critical regarding the domestic violence situation. For example, living expenses such as high housing prices can be a risk of enabling abusive situations. Sometimes, abusers control the bank account and how to use the financial resources. It can be financial abuse for victims.
- What are some examples of alternative coping for survivors who have substance use disorder?
 - It depends on each survivor's situation, and coping methods need to be individualized. As a supporter, building trust with survivors and identifying their strengths are critical to finding constructive future direction. Ensuring a safe place and supporters is also important.
- Is there a causation or correlation relationship between substance use and mental health concerning victims?
 - For example, when abusers coerce or force victims to use more illicit drugs, victims risk using illicit drugs as the norm. And this dependency sometimes leads to mental health issues such as depression.
- What are the practical supports for cultivating victims' resilience in their daily lives?
 - For cultivating their resilience, trying to support victims to get control of themselves. the ways of control depend on each victim, and safety planning, including living place, shelter, social support, and restraining order, is important. And safety planning helps to understand the triggers and responses of

victims, as well as safety planning works to identify how to cultivate their resilience.

- Are the court judges receiving training on domestic violence?
 - Yes, judges have several opportunities for training. Also, in the family court and child welfare systems, judges take training on child welfare services to be an advocate for domestic violence victims attending family court.

9:52am-10:02am *Break*

- 10:02am-10:13am Layne Nakano, Graduate Assistant from UH Epidemiology Team presented an update of the SEOW 2021 Profile
- The presentation covers the latest Hawaii State Epidemiologic Profile that is intended to present various alcohol and substance use data. The latest version of the profile is available on the SEOW webpage (as one of the Latest Resources).
 - The presentation covers the followings:
 1. It explained a table generated from the epidemiologic profile, focusing on Youth Risk Behavior Surveys (YRBS) High School Survey.
 2. It showed how the team obtained relevant information from the Hawaii Health Data Warehouse website.
- 10:13am-10:16am SEOW Announcement
Michael Phillips, New Principal Investigator of SEOW, distributed greetings and self-introduction to all attendees
- 10:16am-10:18am Closing: The next SEOW Quarterly Meeting will be held on November 30, 2022 9:00am-11:00am via Zoom.