



**ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP
of Philadelphia**
Together we can end the cycle of violence

Homicide Task Force Overview

With a grant awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) by way of the U.S. Department of Justice, the Anti-Violence Partnership of Philadelphia (AVP) is working to improve Philadelphia's systemic responses for families of homicide victims. There is an additional focus on enhancing responses for survivors of intra-familial homicide (IFH), which is also referred to as complex homicide. The IFH team is not a direct service provider, but rather it works to improve service provision across the city in the following ways:

1. Conducting survivor-centered research with survivors of IFH and service providers who work with the impacted families to identify gaps and best practices;
2. Increasing collaboration and coordination of services across city and community agencies, including the Medical Examiner's Office (MEO), District Attorney's Office (DAO), Philadelphia Police Department (PPD) homicide unit, victim services agencies, and more;
3. Coordinating training from local and national experts for multi-disciplinary providers on issues related to homicide survivorship and evidence-based practices for service provision; and
4. Developing, purchasing, and disseminating resources that provide families with the critical resources and information they need in the aftermath of a homicide.

Ultimately, Philadelphia will be one of seven national sites to serve as a model for newly developed protocols, materials, and best practices when responding to complex homicides. These resources will be made available for providers to improve and enhance services nationally, and they will be distributed by the National Center for Victims of Crime (NCVC).

Homicide Task Force Purpose

AVP has worked closely with the Philadelphia Police Department homicide unit to begin a temporary, **six-month task force** to improve the response of how agencies within the city of Philadelphia respond to and manage homicides through effective collaboration and accountability. Agencies that touch homicide in some way have been identified, and we are asking that **one representative** from each identified agency commits to the task force. Ideally, this person will be able to implement action items from the meetings. The task force will begin on **Tuesday, November 12, 2019** and end on **Tuesday, April 14, 2020**. The task force will meet every second Tuesday of the month from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. alternating locations between Concilio and the District Attorney's Office. Task force dates are as follows:



**ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP
of Philadelphia**
Together we can end the cycle of violence

Meeting 1: Tuesday, November 12, 2019 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Concilio
Meeting 2: Tuesday, December 10, 2019 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., DAO
Meeting 3: Tuesday, January 14, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., Concilio
Meeting 4: Tuesday, February 11, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., DAO
Meeting 5: Tuesday, March 10, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., TBD
Meeting 6: Tuesday, April 14, 2020 from 11 a.m. – 1 p.m., TBD

Commented [A1]: Do we have locations for the last two meetings?

Task Force Goals and Objectives

- To identify the collaboration needs of all organizations and those impacted by different types of homicides, including intra-familial homicides (IFH) and intimate-partner violence (IPV) to create a more streamlined process in responding.
- To identify and achieve quarterly and yearly concrete goals and action steps with achievable outcomes.
- To improve collaboration between agencies around response to various types of homicides, including IFH and IPV within Philadelphia through partnerships and memorandums of understanding (MOUs).
- To identify and have agencies carry out specific tasks and responsibilities that improve the response to homicides within Philadelphia.
- To create a formalized process for organizational accountability.
- To identify challenges and issues for the task force.
- To create more survivor-centered services and develop specific brochures and materials for families in Philadelphia who are impacted by homicide.
- To disseminate materials purchased by AVP to better serve and inform survivors of homicide.

Task Force Priorities

1. Identify all agencies that respond to homicides within the first 24 to 48 hours.
2. Identify all agencies and services beyond immediate homicide response.
3. AVP will purchase 1,500 burial and resource guides created by a survivor of homicide to give to agencies that immediately respond to homicides to distribute to families (including PPD homicide, CARES, medical examiner's office, etc.) All other agencies in Philadelphia who serve survivors of homicides will also be able to obtain burial and resource guides to distribute.
4. AVP will lead the creation and purchase of a brochure specific to Philadelphia for survivors of homicide based on interviews completed with survivors, along with input from the task force.



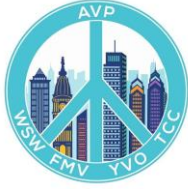
**ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP
of Philadelphia**
Together we can end the cycle of violence

5. Create a resource list/map/timeline based on all agencies that respond to homicide in Philadelphia.
6. Ensure services become more survivor-centered and create a more streamlined, formalized process to better serve survivors of homicide.
7. Educate and train individuals for identified needs related to homicide based on the experiences and perspectives of survivors of homicide.

Contact Information

If you have any questions regarding the task force or your participation, please reach out to Kendra Van de Water, Director of the Intra-Familial Homicide Initiative at the Anti-Violence Partnership by phone or email: (267) 469-3002, kvandewater@avpphila.org.

*This document was produced by the **Intra-Familial Homicide Team** of Anti-Violence Partnership under Grant Number 2016-XV-GX-K023, awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this document are those of the contributors and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.*



**ANTI-VIOLENCE PARTNERSHIP
of Philadelphia**
Together we can end the cycle of violence