

Title: Teen Dating Violence: Understanding Trauma and the Developing Brain

Presenters: Molly Voyles, Director of Public Policy, TCFV; William West, MPH, CHES, Prevention Manager, TCFV

Outline of topic:

- 1) Adolescent Brain Development**
- 2) Trauma and the Brain**
- 3) Dating Violence Basics**
 - a. Statistics**
 - b. Connections**
 - c. Reproductive Coercion**
- 4) Warning Signs**
- 5) Technology & Digital Hygiene**
- 6) Policy Response**
- 7) Minor's Rights**
- 8) Action Steps**
 - a. Levels of Prevention**
 - b. Curricula**
 - c. Partnerships and Other Strategies**

Summary of topic specifying the teaching objectives

Young people experience relationship violence at alarming rates. It is imperative that communities understand the prevalence of dating violence and its connections to other aspects of adolescent development and safety. Texas has a deep and ongoing history of policies related to dating violence prevention. Additionally, there are many strategies for prevention and supporting young survivors which domestic violence service providers and other community members can implement.

This session will:

- provide a framework to better understand the basics of teen dating violence,**
- discuss the dynamics of dating violence,**
- explore how trauma impacts the developing brain, and**
- outline policies and other strategies which can be adopted to address dating violence and support survivors.**

Biographical sketch of the speaker or speaker's TCOLE info (if applicable):

Molly Voyles is the Director of Public Policy for the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) and has worked in the movement to end violence for 30 years. In her position at TCFV, she is a subject-matter expert focused on public policy efforts that center the needs of survivors and advance systems change.

William West is the Prevention Manager for the Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV) and has worked

in the movement to end intimate partner violence for 10 years. He has a graduate degree in public health with a certificate in injury and violence prevention. He is a Community Health Education Specialist and a subject matter expert in domestic violence prevention and youth engagement.

- o If not TCOLE certified – include Subject Matter Expert – as part of the bio – in order to be eligible for TCOLE hours

Molly Voyles | **Director of Public Policy**
mvoyles@tcfv.org

Skills & Expertise Areas:

- Public Speaking
- Technical Writing
- Organizational Change
- Facilitation
- Policy Analysis
- Trauma-Informed Supervision

Work Experience:

2006-Present **Director of Public Policy, Texas Council on Family Violence, Austin TX**

- Provide technical assistance and consultation to family violence programs, funders, and other allied partners across the state on topics ranging from program policy to privacy considerations
- Co-developed statewide curricula and training on a wide variety of topics and provided trainings for groups of 5-500
- Create & develop written materials such as bill analysis, testimony, and model policies
- Research and analyze existing legislation, co-lead in the development of legislative agendas, and support implementation of legislation
- Collaborate with stakeholders, such as the Health and Human Services Commission, on system change advocacy

2002-2006 **Passages Program Advocate, SAFE Alliance, Austin, TX**

- Provided long-term advocacy to survivors of domestic violence with a focus on housing stability and support
- Supported collaborative team building with seven community agencies and led initiatives to create survivor-informed responses across the team
- Engage in system coordination to support long-term housing options for survivors of domestic violence

1996-2002 **Youth Programs Advocate, Middle Way House/The Rise, Bloomington, IN**

- Aided in the support and supervision of children aged 0-14 who have been exposed to domestic violence
- Provided youth engagement activities to minor victims of domestic and dating violence
- Supervised and trained employees

Education

May 2002 Bachelor of Social Work earned at Indiana University

William West, MPH, CHES

615-568-7976 ♦ william.west@alumni.emory.edu ♦ [linkedin.com/in/william-west-mp/](https://www.linkedin.com/in/william-west-mp/)

Personal Profile

I am a motivated, passionate, and committed advocate and leader with than ten years of experience working with advocacy and social change organizations. I have a passion for violence prevention, anti-oppression work, and systems change advocacy. Over the past nine years, I have had the privilege of engaging with more than 10,000 individuals through harm reduction, violence prevention and intervention, and youth empowerment programming at various social ecological levels. I am a skilled communicator with experience in project management, participatory training, technical assistance, nurturing internal and external relationships, and capacity building. I am experienced at developing trainings and conducting research and evaluations. I take pride in my work, including recently having successfully advocated for internal policy changes related to racial equity and employee wellness and fostering stakeholder buy-in for youth leadership opportunities.

Work Experience

Texas Council on Family Violence (TCFV)

Prevention Manager

(Advanced from Prevention Coordinator)

Austin, TX

July 2018-Present

- Develop statewide prevention resources, provide tailored technical assistance, and facilitate prevention training and programming for TCFV's member network of 1,300+ agencies and individuals, including 85 family violence centers throughout Texas
- Facilitated more than 60 trainings for 2,000+ people on topics intersecting with gender-based violence (e.g., healthy masculinity, anti-oppression, curriculum development, health equity, and youth empowerment)
- Support and collaborate on the development and implementation of annual operational plans and budgets
- Oversee day-to-day implementation of deliverables, budget, and grant reporting for federally funded projects
- Organized 25 executive leaders on an annual committee to review the budget formula and determine the allocation of more than \$36.1 million in state and federal funding across family violence programs throughout Texas
- Curated an online database of violence prevention curricula, activity guides, and resources to align with emergent research and best practices
- Provide input and feedback on agency-wide technical materials including presentations, reports, and collateral
- Monitor project implementation for statewide Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month engagements, including two annual legislative advocacy events reaching more than 500 people and providing education to 181 legislators
- Cultivate relationships with high-stakes partners on the national, state, and local levels
- Supervise two prevention coordinators and two prevention summer interns
- Provide technical assistance and support to local prevention educators in developing evaluation plans and tools for their curricula and programming
- Managed a diverse, statewide youth advisory board of eight high school students to champion the inclusion of youth perspectives in violence prevention programming throughout Texas
- Developed youth participants' public speaking, advocacy, and event organizing skills through modeling and creative opportunities for leadership
- Launched TCFV's first-ever weekly podcast as a co-producer and co-host with 60 episodes and 4,100+ listens to date, featuring conversations on the root causes and intersections of intimate partner violence
- Successfully advocated for the first enhancement of Texas health education standards in 20 years to include age-appropriate information on contraception, STI's, human trafficking, sexting, and healthy relationships
- Serve as a trusted advisor to and liaison between executive leadership and the agency's LGBTQ+ inclusion advisory group
- Advocated for legal administrative reform to ensure inclusive services of victims of family violence, including mandating racial equity, LGBTQ, and cultural responsiveness training for family violence programs
- Advance organizational culture change through the development of equitable policy and practice, including advancing racial equity, advocating for employee wellness, building trust across the agency, and monitoring leadership accountability

Women's Interagency HIV Study (WIHS), Emory School of Medicine

Atlanta, GA

Research Assistant

Sept. 2016-July 2018

- Recruited and administered informed consent to study participants via various modalities
- Conducted qualitative and quantitative surveys with participants regarding their health and quality of life
- Developed organizational systems to ensure the confidential and efficient management of participants' data

Program to Interrupt Violence thru Outreach and Treatment (PIVOT)

Atlanta, GA

Program Evaluator

Jan. 2018-May 2018

- Conducted a summative evaluation of a hospital-based gun violence prevention program funded by the Department of Justice, Bureau of Justice Assistance
- Implemented the Wilder Collaboration Factor Inventory to obtain quantitative data from of law enforcement, criminal justice, medical, and research partners
- Designed interview guides and completed detailed qualitative interviews with 11 PIVOT task force members
- Developed recommendations to increase PIVOT's efficacy based on the qualitative and quantitative data analyses

Hubbard House, Inc.

Jacksonville, FL

Victim Advocate

Sept. 2014-May 2016

- Trained and supervised two staff and four AmeriCorps members on the implementation of prevention curricula
- Supervised weekly volunteers and managed monthly volunteer groups for the Family Advocacy department
- Completed 400+ assessments and safety plans and conducted eight weekly counseling group for children and adolescents who were living in shelter

Education

Rollins School of Public Health, Emory University

Atlanta, GA

Master of Public Health, Behavioral Science and Health Education

Aug. 2016-May 2018

Middle Tennessee State University

Murfreesboro, TN

Bachelor of Science, Biology and Psychology

Aug. 2008-May 2013

Certifications

- **Certified Health Education Specialist**, National Commission for Health Education Credentialing (2020)
- **Injury and Violence Prevention Certificate**, Emory University School of Medicine (2018)

Publication

Johnson K, Allen KE, West W, et al. Strengths, Gaps, and Opportunities: Results of a Statewide Community Needs Assessment of Pediatric Palliative Care and Hospice Resources. *J Pain Symptom Manage*. 2020;60(3):512-521.e7. doi:10.1016/j.jpainsymman.2020.04.009

Community Engagement

- **Every Body Texas**
Board President, Program Committee Chair Austin, TX (Jan. 2021-Present)
- **New Leaders Council**
Fellow Austin, TX (Jan. 2021-June 2021)
- **Rollins Diversity and Inclusion Committee**
Student Government Representative Atlanta, GA (Mar. 2017-Feb. 2018)
- **Queer/Trans Collaborative at Rollins**
Opportunities Coordinator Atlanta, GA (Jan. 2017-Jan. 2018)
- **Sexual Assault Interagency Council**
Prevention Subcommittee Member Jacksonville, FL (Sept. 2013-Sept. 2015)
- **North Florida Health Corps**
AmeriCorps Member, Youth Prevention Facilitator Jacksonville, FL (Sept. 2013-July 2014)
- **Child Family Health International: HIV/AIDS in Durban**
Intern Durban, KZN, South Africa (July 2012)