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# Regional Peacekeepers Collective Strategy



# A Public Health Approach

Public Health-Seattle & King County , Zero Youth Detention is undergoing a Community Safety and Well-being Planning process, which calls for a public health approach to ending gun violence. The two-pronged strategy includes:

- **Long-term Planning Process:** Work Groups that blend community and systems partners to identify solutions and provide recommendations in the domains of Juvenile Justice, Education, Workforce Development, Community-Led Safety and Health & Human Services
- **Immediate Go-First Strategy:** Regional Peacekeepers Collective- Multi organization Intervention, Prevention and Restoration services model including intensive engagement and wrap-around services to youth and families most impacted by gun violence

# Background & Problem Statement

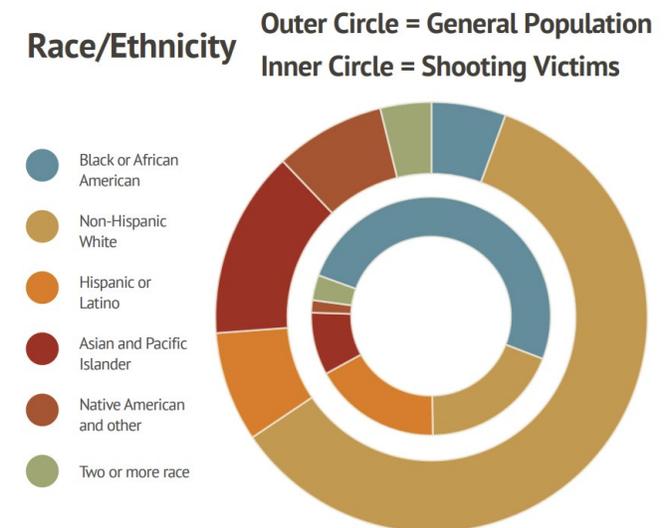
Gun violence is on the rise in Seattle & King County, with approximately 50% of the victims being African-American/Black men and boys. This violence also inflicts trauma on entire families, neighborhoods, and communities.

Homicides are the leading cause of death for young Black/African American men and boys. While the true cost can never be calculated, the CDC estimates that homicides cost the US economy \$26.4 billion every year in medical expenses and work loss costs alone.



*According to the 2021 year-end incident report from the King County Prosecutor's Office, the total number of shots fired incidents in 2021 (1405) was up around 54% and the number of overall shooting victims (460) was up 70% over the four year average for 2017-2020.*

*More specifically, the number of fatal shooting victims (88) was up 54% while the number of nonfatal shooting victims (372) was up 75% over the four-year average..*



# Mission & Vision

Through a unique public health approach, **the Regional Peacekeepers Collective** seeks to prevent and eliminate youth gun violence -- and provide the life-affirming care and resources to the young people and families who are most impacted by unjust systems.

# Theory of Change

Place-based social services, offered by culturally reflective providers, help connect young people at greatest risk to the services and support they need to develop lasting self-efficacy and positive community attachment.

Our community-led public health approach uses data driven strategies to ensure intensive support and wrap services for youth and families most directly involved in incidents of gun violence. Place-based strategies reduce violence by addressing important environmental and social contexts, such as economic and educational opportunity gaps, greening of vacant lots and remediating of active “hot-spots”.

Compassion-based care is trauma-informed, and emphasizes solution-focused positive youth development, by connecting young people locally to mentorship, skill development, emotional well-being and growth opportunities.

# RPKC Objectives



**High-intensity Engagement and Support for Youth and Families**



**Critical Incident Response System with Hospital and Community Based Support**



**Wrap Around Care for High-Risk Youth via a Care Team**



**Support and Connection for Families & Younger Siblings**



**Decreased Negative Law Enforcement Contact**



**Additional Community Capacity for Restorative Justice Programs**



**Community Outreach, Public Awareness and Restorative Events**

# Population Served

As reported by Harborview Medical Center Emergency Room Admission data, 100-150 young people between the ages of 16-24 years of age are seen in the emergency room for gun related injury each year. By zeroing in on these high-risk young people, we can reduce shootings and fatalities by significant numbers.

According to the King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, there are 50-80 young people per year who emerge in court cases as being at highest risk for gun violence involvement.

100-150 Highly Targeted Highest Risk Youth

2.3 M  
King County Population

18.3 K  
King County Incarcerated

**The RPKC will focus our efforts on those at highest risk, tailoring our efforts to the needs of our clients.**

# Program Model

Our **Intervention, Prevention and Restoration (IPR)** framework is focused on rigorous intervention, targeted prevention, and follow-up support for community restoration.

## INTERVENTION

Critical incident response and violence interruption based on real time notifications and strategic engagement based on data from shots fired reports.

Hospital Based Intervention

Hot spot remediation and direct community support.

## PREVENTION

Connect highest risk youth with credible outreach workers to build resiliency and decrease negative law enforcement contact

Provide access to services and group programs, also for families and siblings.

## RESTORATION

Provide intensive support:

- Care Team- Outreach & Case Managers
- Client Services
- Restoration Services
- Family/Sibling Support

Community events, with grief and mental health resources.

# Shared Methods of Practice



## **Community Leadership**

Multi-partner approach, with centralized management, coordination and reporting.

## **Rigorous Training & Professional Development**

To strengthen and build community capacity, all RPKC partners complete required trainings and teams are supported and managed via weekly meetings, on-going training and organizational level staff supervision and professional development

## **Coordinated Service Delivery**

Violence interruption, hospital-based intervention, client services, and family restoration services ensuring highest quality of care and support for youth and families.

# RPKC Strategy



# Data Driven Engagement Process



## Data Collection & Analysis

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Public Health Seattle and King County convenes leaders across King County and City of Seattle for 1/4ly reviews of regional data.



## Weekly Shots Fired Reviews & Action Planning

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Prosecuting Attorney's Office and the Police Departments provide shots fired data to RPKC team weekly and RPKC team create strategic action plans to engage youth in need of services



## Protocol Driven Critical Incident/Hospital Response

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CIR Managers are notified of critical incidents and deploy Violence Interrupters to critical incident locations to provide de-escalation, conflict resolution and mediation. Hospital-based interventionist works with eligible youth and families to connect to community-based services



## Strategic Community Engagement School-based safe passage & Hotspot Remediation

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Data from weekly shots fired reviews and community outreach is used to identify locations for strategic community engagement activities and hotspot remediation per protocols



## Assigned RPKC Care Team

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Client services manager makes referrals of highest risk youth to RPKC partner orgs. for Care Teams support and wrap around service

# Restorative Youth & Family Services



## Enrollment with RPKC Care Team

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Youth are enrolled with Care Team who work to establish trust via continuous outreach and immediate connection to needed services including emergency/safety relocation, mental health counseling and more.



## Trauma Informed Outreach, Life Coaching & Case Management

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Care Teams conduct safety planning and needs assessment and create service plans including:

- Risk/Harm Reduction
- Education & Employment
- Life Skills
- Social/Emotional Health
- Housing
- Positive Community Attachment



## Family & Sibling Services

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Restoration/family support specialists provide follow up care and victim assistance resources.

Supports family with safety and care planning.

Referral for younger siblings for support services



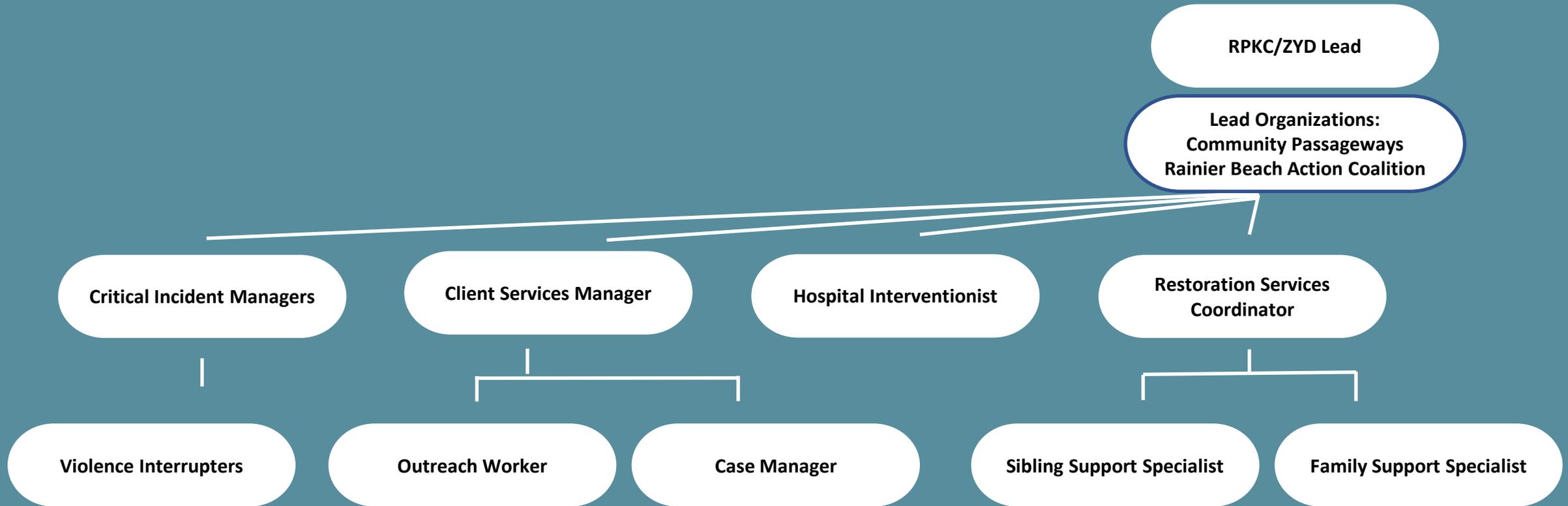
## Community Restoration & Healing Activities

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Intentional healing centered events and community dialogues, with grief and mental health resources.

In the event of loss, community counseling, plus vigil, funeral & memorial support is provided to family & loved ones.

# RPKC a Public Health Approach Service Model



# Program Roles

## Intervention

## Prevention

## Restoration

Goal

Violence interruption and immediate connection to services for youth and families directly impacted.

Safety planning, risk assessment and service referrals for young people and their siblings to prevent future violent incidents. Group mentoring and connection to caring adults.

Intensive engagement and connection to a web of support and opportunity. Healing activities, events and service connections to ensure connection to care.

Roles & Responsibilities

**Critical Incident Managers & Leads:** Respond to violent incidents. Provide community safety monitoring, hotspot remediation and strategic community engagement.

**Outreach Workers:** Build rapid rapport and trust and bridge young people to services and care to reduce crisis/risk and connect to positive opportunities.



**Case Managers:** Partners with youth and outreach worker to assess risks, create and maintain safety and individual service plans.

**Violence Interrupters:** Provide on-scene violence interruption at scenes of shootings/violence, hospitals and in known community hotspots.



**Younger Sibling Support Specialist:** Provide support for families directly impacted by gun violence (younger sibling ages 12-16).

**Restoration Services Coordinator:** Provide connection to Client Services Manager for support/referral for younger siblings and families.

**Hospital Based Interventionists:** Help connect families to services, prevent retaliatory violence, and ensure follow up care.

**Peacekeepers Programming:** Provide support services and group programs for directly impacted youth, younger siblings and peers who witness/are impacted by incidents of gun violence, specifically conflict resolution.



**Family Support Specialists:** Support youth transition home from hospital, follow up care appointments and victim assistance resources. Support family with safety and care planning, and with any vigils, funerals and memorials.

**Client Services Managers:** Support services referral and case coordination. Connect youth at highest risk for gun involvement with relevant services and supports, including intensive wrap-around case management and harm/risk reduction services and supports.

**Culturally Responsive Mental Health Provider Network:** Support in accessing mental health services, grief counseling and restorative activities. Work with families to support vigils, funerals and memorials.



# Shared Protocols

Shared protocols for all King County critical incident responders is key to successful deployment. These protocols are being developed for review and approval.

- Meeting Agenda Priorities:**
- Victim support and safety planning for family of victim (including short term emergency relocation if necessary)
  - Ensure staffing of and support for vigils, funerals and repasses
  - Development of conflict map
  - Outreach strategy for youth impacted including all youth involved in incident including witnesses/friends/associates
  - Identification of situation specific "hot spots" or areas of concern
  - School and community communications and response (grief counseling, added police coverage, etc.)
  - Determine potential retaliation incidents that could harm the community. If these incidents are associated with the original incident, they will be referred to as "Aftershock Incidents".

- "Aftershock" incidents requiring immediate notification include:
- Any acts of violence related to homicide and/or serious assault;
  - Credible threats of retaliation;
  - Knowledge of meetings/gatherings of involved gangs/groups;
  - Vandalism of memorial or memorializing graffiti or threats made on social media;
- \*\*\*\*\*If "Aftershock" incident" occurs and the Street Outreach meeting is more than 2 days away, emergency meeting may be called.

**Cool-down session:**

- CPA provides support for staff involved in CIR deployments as needed to address issues of vicarious trauma and compassion fatigue
- Outreach Director and Managing Director determine need for a cool-down meeting based on debriefs with outreach workers deployed to scenes

**Community Safety Follow Up:**

Outreach Director will determine Critical Response Team follow up

**Documentation and follow-up notifications:**  
Operations Director will collect data from Outreach Director and team as appropriate to manage Crisis Incident Response Management data tracking

**Critical Incident Response Protocols**

**Shots Fired Review Meeting Action Steps:**

1. Young people identified in meetings are immediately referred to outreach worker/program to conduct safety planning, risk assessment and service enrollment.
2. Team creates and implements engagement plan for each "hot spot"
  - Identify environmental changes that may be contributing to increased violence- dark areas, boarded up, construction etc.
  - Identify known neighborhood influencers
  - Identify Issues/Beef/History that may be increasing chances of violence in area
  - Lead with staff who have ties/credibility for negotiation, mediation, engagement etc.
  - Build consistent presence through "positive loitering" and strategically timed "hot spot" checks
  - Establish relationships by engaging w/ local businesses, youth, residents and other community members to gain trust and rapport
  - Provide supports that meet the immediate pressing needs including: Neighborhood Clean-ups, graffiti removal/ property damage repair Information on outreach, case management and other violence prevention services, jobs, job training, mentoring, mental health etc. and provide resources until it is no longer a "hotspot"
  - Strategic monthly events/activities based on need
3. "Hot spot" neutralization efforts/outcomes are tracked in "beef mapping tool and progress is reported at team and "shots fired" review meetings.
4. Monthly "shots fired meeting" follow up report prepared by Director of Outreach should include referrals made of youth named in review, "hot spot" remediation efforts and outcomes

# Evaluation Plan & Metrics

The evaluation approach for the Regional Peacekeepers Collective centers around understanding the public health implications of the populations we are serving. Over time, the evaluation will measure improvements in resilience among youth, goal achievement, as well as a decrease in gun possession.

Each RPKC service providing partner will report quarterly on a series of metrics, including:

- Shots fired, critical incidents, and injuries/fatalities
- Youth referred to appropriate services
- Youth enrolled with a care team
- Staff who completed capacity building trainings
- Households supported for wrap-around services

We will report out our progress in reducing gun violence via an annual report. An ongoing focus on data and evaluation will not only allow for an analysis of who is being served, but also provide an opportunity for real-time course corrections.

# Current Providers and Network

