

# Connecting the Dots ...



A Newsletter from ODVN's Prevention Team

## HB 19: It Passed! NOW WHAT?

**First, take a deep breath.** We at ODVN are excited by this news and have heard from many of our partners who want to know, "Now what are we supposed to do?" The intent of this newsletter is to provide domestic violence programs, rape crisis centers, and other interested parties in Ohio with information about what is happening at the state level and what you might expect to come down the pike.

### HB 19 FAQs:

**Q1.** Can you provide me with a quick overview of the major components of the bill?

**A.** Very basically, the bill mandates education about violence in dating relationships for grades 7 – 12, updating of the harassment, intimidation, and bullying policy to include "violence in dating relationships," and mandates specified staff members to be trained about violence in dating relationships by October 2011 and every five years after the initial in-service training takes place.

**Q2.** What does the language of the bill actually say?

**A.** To find the actual language of the

law, you can download the bill by going to [www.legislature.state.oh.us](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us). On the left hand side of the screen, select the "House" option box and type "19" in the blank text box and click "GO". The underlined language in the document is new language related to dating violence.

**Q3.** When does the bill go into effect?

**A.** The bill goes into effect on March 29, 2010.

**Q4.** What does the bill obligate schools to do?

**A.** Schools will be mandated to provide instruction in health education "in grades seven through twelve, age-appropriate instruction in dating violence prevention education, which shall include instruction in recognizing dating violence warning signs and characteristics of healthy relationships." Boards of Education are required to update harassment, intimidation, and bullying policies to include "violence within a dating relationship" by September 29, 2010."

School Boards are also directed to incorporate training in the prevention of dating violence into the in-service training required by current law for "nurses, teachers, counselors, school psychologists, or administrators".

**Q5.** What is programming going to look like?

**A.** Because Ohio is a home rule state, each Ohio school district reserves the right to determine this for their community.

**Q6.** Who will be providing resources (such as guidelines) for schools to use?

**A.** The Ohio Department of Education (ODE) is directed by this legislation to provide free resources to Ohio school districts on the ODE website. The ODE has reached out to the Ohio Domestic Violence

### 9 Principles of Effective Prevention Programs "At A Glance"

- 1. Comprehensive:** Strategies should include multiple components and affect multiple settings to address a wide range of risk and protective factors of the target problem.
- 2. Varied Teaching Methods:** Strategies should include multiple teaching methods, including some type of active, skills-based component.
- 3. Sufficient Dosage:** Participants need to be exposed to enough of the activity for it to have an effect.
- 4. Theory Driven: Preventive strategies** should have a scientific justification or logical rationale.
- 5. Positive Relationships:** Programs should foster strong, stable, positive relationships between children and adults.
- 6. Appropriately Timed:** Program activities should happen at a time (developmentally) that can have maximal impact in a participant's life.
- 7. Socio-Culturally Relevant:** Programs should be tailored to fit within cultural beliefs and practices of specific groups as well as local community norms.
- 8. Outcome Evaluation:** A systematic outcome evaluation is necessary to determine whether a program or strategy worked.
- 9. Well-Trained Staff:** Programs need to be implemented by staff members who are sensitive, competent, and have received sufficient training, support, and supervision.

*Nation, M., Crusto, C., Wandersman, A., Kumpfer, K. L., Seybolt, D., Morrissey-Kane, E., & Davino, K. (2003). What works in prevention: Principles of Effective Prevention Programs. American Psychologist, 58, 449-456.*

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Network(ODVN), Ohio Department of Health, the Attorney Generals Office, and Ohio Criminal Justice Services to assist with providing resources for their website. The ODE is working to have some resources available as early as the end of January.

**Q7.** Does programming need to happen every year or just once?  
**A.** The law does not state specifically or exactly whether instruction must happen every year or just once during grades 7 – 12 .

**Q8.** How long or how many sessions do programs need to be?  
**A.** The law does not specifically state the number of sessions required.

**Q9.** Who is responsible for providing programming to students?  
**A.** The school is responsible for providing instruction.

**Q10.** How will schools pay for curricula?  
**A.** This will be determined by each school district and each school.

**Q11.** Is ODVN developing or endorsing a curriculum?  
**A.** No to both questions. There already exists a variety of teen dating violence programs and curricula. In addition, ODVN does not endorse any curriculum. We recommend using the principles of effective prevention in the selection of curriculum. We also know of two evidenced based programs for teen dating violence prevention: Safe Dates and The Fourth R.

**Q12.** What curriculum should I use and where do I get it from?  
**A.** ODVN has many dating violence curriculum in its Clearinghouse Library. You may borrow resources to review, by calling our office at 800-934-9840. For technical

assistance to help determine which curriculum might best meet your needs, contact Rebecca Cline ([rclineodvn@aol.com](mailto:rclineodvn@aol.com)), Jasmine Finnie ([jasminef@odvn.org](mailto:jasminef@odvn.org)) , or Jo Simonsen ([jsimonsen@woh.rr.com](mailto:jsimonsen@woh.rr.com)) at ODVN. We are happy to help!

**Q13.** What role do domestic violence programs and rape crisis centers play in this implementation?  
**A.** We at ODVN believe that you have an important role! The role will vary from district to district and be based upon the resources of local domestic violence and sexual assault programs. Our hope is that local programs will be considered a key resource and become a partner with schools. Children who disclose abuse during the program will need to be connected to local resources.

**Q14.** If schools contact us and ask us what they should be doing, how do we respond?  
**A.** You can respond by referring them to ODE or ODVN. Or, you can have a discussion with them about evidence-based practices mentioned above. Or, you can refer them to the Guidelines for the Prevention of Sexual and Intimate Partner Violence, by the Virginia Sexual and Domestic Violence Action Alliance. The guidelines can be found at: <http://www.vsdvalliance.org/secPublications/Prevention%20Guidelines%202009%5B1%5D.pdf>.

**Q15.** We have limited staffing and might not be able to meet all requests. What should we do if we can't?  
**A.** The important thing to remember is: This is not your mandate. This mandate is for schools to provide instruction. Not domestic violence programs and rape crisis centers. We encourage you not to stretch beyond your current capacity without additional resources to do so.

## **“10 Tips for Helping Schools with Prevention Programming” By Donna Dickman, Director Partnership for Violence Free Families**

1. Approach your own child/ grandchild’s or neighborhood school. Schools will see your concern as an investment into the children’s safety
2. Speak to parents groups, (i.e. PTO, room parents) about safety issues and let them know what you can offer their children through school-based programming
3. Offer to present latest information/ data on child safety to the School Board with an offer to bring in prevention programming addressing these needs
4. Participate on community task forces regarding youth safety, i.e., Weed and Seed Initiatives, Project Safe Neighborhoods, Disproportionate Minority Contact, and work together on a community plan
5. Offer to hold in-service professional development training for school staff, always including the bus drivers.
6. Approach guidance counselors with the latest listing of prevention/ intervention related community resources as well as overview of what prevention programs you are able to bring into the school
7. Have a conversation with Safe and Drug Free schools coordinators about the programs that they channel through the school and provide them with an overview of what prevention programs you are able to bring into the school
8. Know the Federal “Safe Schools / Healthy Students” grant recipients and approach them to help with their violence prevention plan
9. Support the Ohio “Safety and Violence Prevention” Curriculum and offer to schools youth programming that supports the professional development school staff received.
10. Offer early morning (breakfast) and afterschool sessions for youth programming.

## **Mark Your Calendar!**

**Sexual Violence Prevention Conference**  
June 15 & 16, 2010  
Columbus, Ohio.

**Free Regional Prevention Forums**  
Monday’s in April & May 3.  
Stay tuned for registration information.

**New Safe Dates Curriculum**  
On April 1, 2010, Hazelden is rolling out the new *Safe Dates*, one of the few evidence based curriculum for teen

dating violence prevention. The new *Safe Dates* will include updated statistics, more culturally specific scenarios, and a brand new parent education component! With the passage of HB 19, Hazelden is looking into the possibility of offering Ohio schools and local domestic and sexual violence programs the curriculum at a discounted price.

**Safe Dates Training of Trainers:**  
On April 20 – 22, Hazelden is offering free training of trainers. Participants will be

trained in how to train others to implement *Safe Dates* with program fidelity. The first training will take place in Columbus and each participant must purchase a copy of the new *Safe Dates* curriculum for \$225.00. Two ODVN staff members will be participate with a commitment to offer training to domestic and sexual violence prevention program staff on how to implement the curriculum.

The first training is full. If you are interested in a possible future training, please contact Donna Dickman at [ddickman@pvff.org](mailto:ddickman@pvff.org)