



# Gun Violence Prevention Actions & Recommendations

Carl Smart  
Deputy County Manager

March 25, 2024

# Prior Alachua County BoCC Action & Direction

- August 28, 2023 – Alachua County BoCC Meeting
  - Alachua County BoCC Adopts Resolution Declaring Gun Violence a Public Health Crisis
- January 22, 2024 – County-City Joint Commission Meeting
  - County Staff to Identify Current Steps and Stakeholders at the City and County.
  - County Staff to Return in 60-90 days to Report on:
    - Activities related to the local gun violence crisis (include the “10 Essential Actions Cities Can Take to Reduce Violence”).
    - Immediate, short-term, and long-term recommendations that can serve as a draft plan for consideration by both Commissions.

## **Actions Taken in Response to Board Motions**

- Internal Meetings to Identify Existing Resources and Opportunities
- Worked with Black on Black Crime Task Force Members to Convene a Gun Violence Task Force
- Development of MOU with the City of Gainesville and Santa Fe College
- Coordination with Area First Responders to Deploy Community Care Call-Out Teams

## Community Care Call-Outs

- Efforts Began in 2020 During Pandemic Lockdown
- Evolving Collaboration with First Responders (Law Enforcement, Medical, Mental Health)
- Engage and Support Residents Impacted by Gun Violence
- Alachua County Dept of Community Support Services Programs Play Active Role (Crisis Center, Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center)
- Neighborhoods Visited: Ridgeview, Sweetwater Square, Lincoln Estates, Pineridge, Duval, Highland Court Manor

# Alachua County Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center

- Program in the Dept of Community Support Services
- Emergency Response to Crime Victims 24/7 (Phone and In-Person)
- Counseling to Address Trauma, Legal and Medical Advocacy, Court Accompaniment, Access to Financial Assistance Programs
- Bilingual Advocates
- Educational and Awareness Activities
- Partnership with Gainesville Police Dept since 2000  
4 Victim Advocates Outposted at GPD (one City Funded)

# Alachua County Crisis Center

Program in the Department of Community Support Services

- 24/7 Crisis Line 352-264-6789 or 988
- Mobile Response Teams (24/7 On-site Emergency Response)
- Crisis Intervention and Mental Health Counseling (In Person and Telehealth)

Prevention and Education Activities:

- Suicide/Violence Prevention Outreach Programs
- Risk Assessment and Safety Planning/Risk Reduction
- Grief counseling and mental health support for community members impacted by gun violence

## Community Partners – Public Safety

Alachua County Sheriff's Office

State Attorney's Office

Gainesville Police Dept

Office of the Public Defender

Gainesville Fire Rescue

State/County Probation

Community Resource Paramedicine Program

Gun Violence Intervention Program Manager

Alachua County Fire Rescue

High Springs Police Dept

Alachua Police Dept

Santa Fe College Police Dept

University of Florida Police Dept

Public Safety Coordinating Council

# Community Partners – Alachua Co Board of County Commissioner Services

## Community Support Services Programs:

- Crisis Center
- Victim Services and Rape Crisis Center
- Social Services
- CAPP Agencies – Quality Childcare/Education, Food, and Housing
- Housing Services
- Veteran Services
- Community Stabilization Program
- Foster Grandparent Program

Camp Cuscowilla, Alachua Co Parks & Open Space Dept

CareerSource

Court Services



## Community Partners – Additional Agencies

Santa Fe College

Black on Black Crime Task Force

CDS Family and Behavioral Health Services

Gainesville & Alachua Co Residents

Neighborhood Watch Groups

Moms Demand Action

Department of Children and Families

River Phoenix Center for Peace Building

Afterschool & Mentoring Programs

Housing Authorities (GHA/ACHA)

Children's Trust of Alachua County

Gainesville Parks, Recreation & Cultural Affairs Dept

GNV4ALL

Alachua County School Board

Grace Marketplace

St. Francis House

Peaceful Paths

Episcopal Children's Services

Alachua County Library

Alachua County Health Dept

Faith Based Organizations

CAPP Agencies

# 10 Essential Steps to Prevent Violence

1. Set a clear goal: commit to saving lives by stopping violence

**Adopted Resolution Declaring it a Public Health Crisis**

2. Identify the key people and places driving the violence

**We will work with Area Law Enforcement & Gun Violence Task Force**

3. Create a plan for engaging key people and places

**MOU with the City of Gainesville and Santa Fe College**

4. Engage key people with empathy and accountability

**Alachua Co Community Support Services & Partner Agencies**

5. Address key locations using place-based policing and investment

**We will work with Area Law Enforcement & Gun Violence Task Force**

# 10 Essential Steps to Prevent Violence

6. Place responsibility for violence reduction efforts at the top.

**Commission's Resolution & Top Alachua Co Leadership Substantially Involved**

7. Emphasize healing with trauma-informed approaches.

**Alachua Co Community Support Services Committed to Trauma Informed Approach**

8. Invest in anti-violence workforce development.

**We will work with Area Agencies & GV Task Force to Determine Strategies**

9. Set aside funding for new stakeholders and strategies.

**We will work with Alachua County Leadership to Determine Strategies**

10. Commit to continuous improvement based on data, evidence, and peer-to-peer learning.

**Commitment Demonstrated Through MOU with Santa Fe College and the City of Gainesville**

## Near Term Recommendations

- Finalize MOU with Santa Fe College and the City of Gainesville
- Convene a Gun Violence Prevention Task Force
- Continue participation in Community Care Call-Outs
- Scale-Up Victim Services & Rape Crisis Center and Crisis Center Outreach and Education Programs

## Long Term Recommendation

- Commit to Continuous Improvement based on Data, Evidence, and Peer-to-Peer Learning (Step 10)
- Support Creation of a Long Term Plan to Address Gun Violence
- Research and Implement Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives that Focus on Youth and Families.
- Consider Hosting a Gun Violence Prevention Summit in the Future (2025)

Questions or Direction?