NCCASA’S Engaging Men and Boys Rites of Passage program (EMROPP)
A Sexual Violence Prevention Program

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IT IS EASIER TO BUILD STRONG CHILDREN THAN TO REPAIR BROKEN MEN.

Frederick Douglass
Purpose of EMROPP

- To empower boys and men in the prevention of sexual violence through exposure to and discovery of proper history, heritage, expectations and culture as they transition from boyhood to manhood.
Men and boys in session
EMROPP's goal is to stop sexual violence before it begins. Prevention requires that our program participants understand the factors that influence violence.
NGUZO SABA
(The Seven Principles)

Umoja (Unity)
To strive for and maintain unity in the family, community, nation and race.

Kujichagulia (Self-Determination)
To define ourselves, name ourselves, create for ourselves and speak for ourselves.

Ujima (Collective Work and Responsibility)
To build and maintain our community together and make our brother’s and sister’s problems our problems and to solve them together.

Ujamaa (Cooperative Economics)
To build and maintain our own stores, shops and other businesses and to profit from them together.

Nia (Purpose)
To make our collective vocation the building and developing of our community in order to restore our people to their traditional greatness.

Kuumba (Creativity)
To do always as much as we can, in the way we can, in order to leave our community more beautiful and beneficial than we inherited it.

Imani (Faith)
To believe with all our heart in our people, our parents, our teachers, our leaders and the righteousness and victory of our struggle.

Maulana Karenga
Goals of the program

- Improve participants’ self worth and respect for others, specifically for girls and women.
- Cultivate participants’ interest in creating or building a stronger community.
- Enhance their appreciation of culture and heritage.
Goals of the program

- Develop a holistic understanding of themselves (mind, body and soul).
- Identify their potential and refine their view of education.
Community Collaborations/Partnerships

- North Carolina Coalition Against Sexual Assault (NCCASA)
- Faith community
- Harbor Inc.-Dual agency (sexual and domestic violence services)
- Government (Local, State)
- Businesses
- Community stakeholders
NCCASA

- Establishment of sexual violence prevention service providers (traditional and non-traditional) for the facilitation of grant.
- Fostered communication links among services providers.
- Recognized the faith community as a necessary partner to have at the table.
- Provided technical assistance and training to facilitators and mentors.
Faith Community

- NC CASA and Harbor Inc. provided sexual assault awareness training to churches.
- Project worked with two churches. One church facilitated the program. The other church provided space.
- Each church had specific challenges that strengthened their relationship for this project.
- Each pastor and persons they assigned to the project worked together.
Harbor Inc.

- Provided training to mentors, mentees and parents on sexual violence.
- Served as a referral entity for the church project.
- The church and Harbor Inc. partnered to become sexual violence prevention advocates.
Government

- Provided use of town hall, specifically the council chambers for use of the crossing over or closing event (without charge).
- Offered to provide video-taping of next crossing over ceremony.
- Provide access and linkage to congressional representative and other community and state resources.
Businesses

- Local businesses such as Godfathers Pizza, Subway, other restaurants sponsored food for the Saturday sessions.
- Several barbershops gave the program coupons for $5.00 haircuts.
- One business sponsored polo shirts for the mentees and mentors.
Community Stakeholders

- Church Leadership/ parishioners
- Parents
- Other pastors and churches
- Residents/ members of the community
Questions and discussion
Program Specifics

- **Target group** - African American males between 13 and 17.
- **Sexual violence prevention education.**
- **Curriculum based on Robert Franklin’s “Five Wells” concept (spoken, read, dressed, travelled, balanced).**
Program Specifics

- **Length of Program** - nine monthly sessions (mentors contact mentees weekly via email, text or phone).
- **Persons involved in program** - elders, mentors, mentees (initiates) and Nest.
- **Each session has a theme**: with all activities centered around it.
Program components

- Permission from elders
- Libation
- Safe Circle
- Proverbs
- Principle
- Pre/post test
- Session
- Elders, Mentors, Mentees, Nest
Rebuilding **comm-unity**

- Understand
- Embrace
- Advocate
Understand

- Define sexual violence.
- Clarify the issues surrounding sexual violence which have a connection to individual factors.
- Demystify peer pressure and other environmental factors which influence behavior.
Embrace

- Acknowledge sexual violence does exist.
- Personalize sexual violence.
- Take responsibility that you can influence behavior (our peer mentees).
Advocate

- **Commitment to become a change agent in your family and larger community (going to class, graduation, stop smoking).**
- **Accountable for the community in which we live – I will be an empowered bystander.**
- **An advocate – one who will tell the story.**
Building strong boys and men
Questions and discussion