

Healthy Masculinity Action Project
Healthy Masculinity Summit Report
October 2012



10th Anniversary Edition

October 2022

INTRODUCTION

2022 Message from Neil Irvin, Executive Director, MCSR

More than a decade ago, when MCSR first conceived of the Healthy Masculinity Action Project (HMAP), we envisioned a future where cultures of equity and respect flourish and healthy, safe relationships and communities thrive.

With the launch of HMAP in 2012, MCSR mobilized more than 40 national organizations, government agencies, and corporate partners to ignite the healthy masculinity movement. As the national catalyst for establishing the value and practice of healthy masculinity in multiple sectors, HMAP inspired boys and men to build the knowledge, skills, and abilities to develop more fully authentic selves that continually learn and grow.

Before HMAP, healthy masculinity existed only as a blip on the Internet – a search led to fewer than 20 results. And then, this unprecedented collaboration drove HMAP's massive reach to more than 60 million people. Today, that same search returns more than 90,000 results. HMAP not only changed the conversation about men's violence against women, but together we raised the collective consciousness about the vital role healthy masculinity has in creating a better world for everyone.

We have seen this paradigm shift across every area of human activity, from gender-based violence prevention to suicide prevention, corporate branding to institutional research, sports and entertainment to psychology and faith – but our work is not done.

With this special 10th Anniversary edition of the Healthy Masculinity Summit Report, I invite you to reflect on how far we've come, take stock of where we are in the present, and imagine what the future – rich with promise – can hold.

Thank you for your continued partnership and commitment to building a healthier, safer world.

Sincerely,

Neil Irvin

Executive Director

WHY IT MATTERED

The Healthy Masculinity Summit was a first-of-its-kind effort to highlight and explore how healthy masculinity positively impacts society. The summit advanced new ideas for how to spread healthy masculinity in all areas of human activity—athletics, faith, technology, business, youth development, education, parenthood, gender-based violence, and more—by engaging subject-matter experts and non-traditional partners alike with an intentional focus on the many ways these areas also intersect with race, gender, class, and identity. The innovative three-day event took a prosocial, strength-based approach to areas traditionally seen as a part of the problem and used stories as interactive conversation starters among participants instead of relying on one-way lectures and presentations.

By hosting more than 200 attendees in Washington, DC, streaming two of the keynote conversations online, and holding a Twitter Town Hall during the opening keynote, the summit organized thousands of people directly, and the positive message of healthy masculinity reached more than 60,000,000 people through the ripple effect of HMAP activities. Top tier media outlets like The Atlantic, Washington Post, and Huffington Post reported on the summit and its outcomes.

According to post-Summit survey results, when asked if the Healthy Masculinity Action Project partners should hold future summits on healthy masculinity, 96.3% of those surveyed responded affirmatively.

At the summit, keynote sessions were complemented by breakout and action conversations, where participants were invited to come out of their roles, be powerful, vulnerable, and connect as human beings. These conversations focused on short- and long-term strategies to reach new audiences by determining why they hoped to engage those men; who they had access to or could gain access to; what they aimed to engage the audience in; and how they were going to persuade the audience to become engaged. From here, concrete programs and campaigns took shape, including the following four key MCSR initiatives that endure a decade later.

WHY IT MATTERED

Key Initiatives Inspired by the Summit



The Inspired by the Healthy Masculinity and the Workplace dialogue, MCSR developed the Healthy Masculinity Training Institute to shape more equitable workplaces and prepare professionals to model attitudes and behaviors grounded in respect.



Counter Stories, a multimedia platform produced by and for youth, grew out of the Engaging Young Leaders and Healthy Masculinity and Media sessions, which highlighted the need to create a space for balanced conversations and encouraged men and boys to voice their allyship and advocacy.



Engaging Male Athletes and Coaches examined what drives student athletes and informed MCSR's Athletics Project, which connects character and performance to healthy masculinity and the role it plays in sports.



The national expansion, enduring growth, and ongoing evolution of MCSR's Youth Development work reflect learnings and calls to action from each of the summit sessions, and especially the needs and desires of young people expressed through the intergenerational relationships forged in HMAP's atmosphere of honesty and trust.

Additionally, immediately following the Healthy Masculinity Summit in the fall of 2012, a series of nationwide Healthy Masculinity Community Conversations carried forward the spirit of the convening by inviting storytellers of all ages, races, genders, and professional backgrounds to engage on the local grassroots level around topics uplifted at the summit. In the years since and to this day, through virtual and in-person Community Conversations, additional online town halls, youth development curricula, and training and technical assistance for professionals, MCSR continues to implement HMAP programming and set a standard for building a new generation of male leaders who model strength without violence.

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ABOUT HMAP

Every day we hear news stories about violence but rarely, if ever, are they linked to masculinity. It's time to make the connection between the epidemic of men's violence in our country and what society is teaching boys about masculinity. The traditional "boys will be boys" mentality is beginning to change. The Obama Administration has prioritized the engagement of boys and young men in efforts to reduce violence, especially violence against women. Now, for the first time, some of the nation's leading non-profit organizations are coming together to launch the most comprehensive effort centered on young men and healthy, non-violent masculinity in history.

What is the Healthy Masculinity Action Project (HMAP)?

The Healthy Masculinity Action Project (HMAP) is a national grassroots movement to eradicate the harmful expectations and stereotypes our society teaches boys about what it means to be a man. HMAP, a two-year initiative aims to build a new generation of male leaders who will model strength without violence and serve as positive change makers in society – taking their communities from awareness to action. Every day men, women, and youth nationwide are all driving HMAP.



ABOUT HMAP

What Does HMAP include?

The National Launch, The Healthy Masculinity Summit: The most critical juncture for HMAP and the primary focus of this report, the summit brought together in October 2012 the best of the best - more than 200 industry leaders from various sectors, including policy, business, education and health - to come up with the best strategies to engage men and boys on this issue and uncover how masculinity continues to create environments where men's violence against women, girls, and other men has been normalized and accepted.

<u>Healthy Masculinity Summit Twitter Town Hall:</u> During the opening of the summit, a Twitter town hall invited people to tweet about the topic of the keynote: "What is Healthy Masculinity and How Can It Benefit Our Lives?"

<u>Healthy Masculinity Community Conversations:</u> Leaders from communities across the country will host these grassroots conversations in urban, suburban, rural and frontier communities, and develop action plans to promote healthy masculinity, build stronger and healthier neighborhoods, and improve lives.

The Healthy Masculinity Training Institute: A three-day intensive training on "Healthy Masculinity: Awareness-to-Action" will mobilize HMAP ambassadors and equip them with tools to present in schools and local forums on the importance of healthy, non-violent masculinity.

<u>Ongoing Healthy Masculinity Twitter Town Halls:</u> In these innovative discussions over social media, experts will ask questions and invite answers from users on topical issues related to healthy masculinity.

ABOUT HMAP

Ultimately, HMAP will:

Train more than 1,000 ambassadors to spread the movement nationwide by holding community conversations, presenting on healthy masculinity in schools, and working with local organizations on community outreach to prevent violence against girls and women.

These ambassadors will equip nearly 1 million people with knowledge on the importance and benefits of healthy masculinity and how to prevent violence against women.

Develop invaluable resources to promote healthy, non-violent masculinity, including specific action plans for engaging men and boys in violence prevention.

Who is behind HMAP?

Led by MCSR, seven esteemed national organizations in the gender-based violence prevention field initiated and are responsible for moving HMAP forward.











HMAP ALLIES

HMAP Allies are crucial to the success of the project. The 35 national organizations who share information about HMAP with their digital networks help to make healthy masculinity more visible by significantly extending the initiative's influence – both in terms of varied audiences and numbers of people reached. Allies tweeted, posted on Facebook, and sent out messages over listservs and newsletters in the weeks leading up to the kick-off event for HMAP. During the two years of the initiative, Allies will continue engaging their national networks with messages about the ways healthy masculinity benefits us all.



ABOUT THE HEALTHY MASCULINITY SUMMIT

The Healthy Masculinity Summit kicked off HMAP on October 17 – 19th at the Renaissance Hotel in downtown Washington, DC. The innovative three-day event used stories as conversation-starters amongst participants instead of relying on lectures and presentations by experts.

The HMAP Organizing Partners worked hard to create a different kind of experience. They built a nationally recognized Summit Faculty of women and men from a variety of fields and professions to serve as the conversation facilitators. They highlighted the importance of valuing emotional, social, and academic learning and stressed the significance of recognizing all of the expertise and insight in the rooms. Everyone was celebrated, regardless of race, color, creed, ethnicity, religion, genders, gender identity or expression, age, sex, sexual orientation, national origin, physical ability, citizen status, veteran status, marital status, or HIV status. All the Summit participants created knowledge, skills, and abilities together that can be used to initiate conversations in their home communities and include storytelling, data gathering, and innovation to engage others in dialogue.

Participants were asked to be in the present, share stories from the past, and look ahead to the future. Healthy conversations predominated.

Registration goals were exceeded with more than 200 participants, and thousands of additional people were reached during the Summit by streaming two of the keynote conversations and holding a Twitter Town Hall during the opening keynote. The Summit participants included an equal number of men and women from a diverse set of age, gender, race, sexual orientation, religion, class, education, and professional backgrounds.

ABOUT THE HEALTHY MASCULINITY SUMMIT

The Summit set out to highlight and explore how healthy masculinity can positively impact society and how to spread healthy masculinity in a variety of areas (athletics, faith, technology, business, youth development, education, communities of color, fatherhood, gender-based violence, and many more). After a reception and a Barbershop Conversation on the evening of October 17, a full day of keynote and breakout conversations followed on October 18 focusing on building awareness of how unhealthy and healthy masculinity affect our lives. October 19 was a full day of keynote and breakout conversations devoted to exploring strategies for action. The conversations looked at specific male audiences to explore the value of healthy masculinity for women and girls' safety and the emotional and physical well-being of men and boys. The WORDLE – a compilation of words – in this report represents summit participants' descriptions of healthy masculinity and was shown on the last day of the event.



The response to the Summit was overwhelmingly positive. According to post-Summit survey results, 100% of respondents rated the Summit an overall positive experience. 81.4% of respondents were positively engaged by the conversational and storytelling basis of the Summit. When asked if the Healthy Masculinity Action Project Partners should hold future summits on healthy masculinity, 96.3% of respondents responded affirmatively. In summation, the Healthy Masculinity Summit provided HMAP with solid ground to launch this important two-year initiative.

SUMMIT KEYNOTE CONVERSATIONS

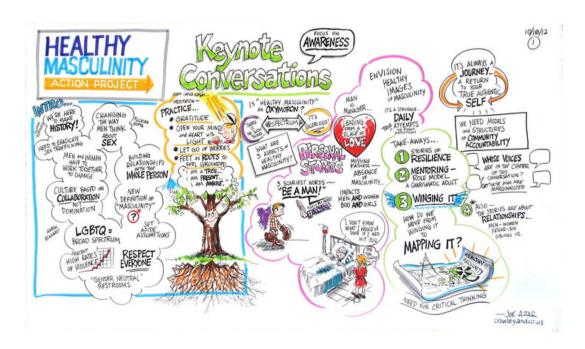
The keynote conversations set the tone for the Healthy Masculinity Summit. They covered a variety of topics, from the opening keynote, "What is Healthy Masculinity and How Can It Benefit Our Lives?" to the final keynote, "Healthy Masculinity: Emerging Leaders, Emerging Ideas." Each conversation started with riveting stories connected to masculinity told by a host of impressive storytellers. They included Rosalind Wiseman, author of Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boufriends and The New Realities of Girl World: Reverend Rob Keithan, Director of Policy at the Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice; B. Cole, Founder of the Brown Boi Project; and Joe Ehrmann, Founder and President of Coach for America and author of InSideOut Coaching: How Sports Can Transform Lives. The conversations were facilitated by experts such as Michael Kimmel, author of Guyland, Misframing Men, and A Guy's Guide to Feminism and by K. Shakira Washington, Director of Research/Community Outreach at the Human Rights Project for Men.



"Healthy
Masculinity:
Emerging
Leaders,
Emerging
Ideas"

SUMMIT KEYNOTE CONVERSATIONS

Especially compelling was the keynote conversation on Healthy Masculinity and Trafficking between Ruchira Gupta, Founder and President of Apne Aap Women Worldwide and winner of the Clinton Global Citizen Award, and James Pond, Founder and CEO of Transitions. It was the most tweeted keynote of all. Summit participants also found the Emerging Leaders, Emerging Ideas especially inspiring since it featured the voices and insights of the following young men: Micah Domingo, a 24 year-old rapper who utilizes hip hop to narrate his existence living, struggling, and loving as a queer person of color; Emilio Vicente, who has been working on comprehensive sex education since his junior year of high school; and Jacob Little, a 15-year-old high school student, who at a young age has already served a number of non-profits, including Community of Hope, MCSR, Faith and Money Network, and Little Friends for Peace.



SUMMIT BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS

Facilitated by qualified faculty, five simultaneous Breakout Conversations took place after each Keynote and were used at the HMAP Summit as a tool to create environments that encouraged everyone's participation through storytelling, objective listening, and respect for diverse groups and different views. All of this created a safe space for participation. Breakout Conversations were not about participants only using their areas of expertise gained through academics or professional training but rather an environment where a person could connect and share or speak their opinion using their academic, social, and personal experiences as reference points to engage in a dialogue specifically related to the topic chosen. Many of the topics were complex and often overlooked by society. The Breakout Conversations were continually used to effectively spark dialogue, gather data, develop a collective definition of healthy masculinity, and create specific strategies to engage men at the community level.

AWARENESS BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS - October 18, 2012

Each of the Breakout Awareness Conversations began with summit conversation facilitators sharing personal and public stories about masculinity and a particular topic. This sharing helped us gather data that raises our awareness about how masculinity affects our lives in healthy and harmful ways.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and Sports

Conversation Facilitators: Pam Herath, Lead Workshop Facilitator, Sports Challenge and Positive Coaching Alliance and Joe Ehrmann, Founder and President, Coach for America

What We Learned: There are two types of coaches: "transformational and transactional". A coach has the position and power to influence and encourage healthy masculinity at key developmental phases in an athlete's life. Coaches should develop transformational statements such as "I coach because I want to help develop healthy young men," allowing for coaching and winning to become a byproduct of healthy/holistic players.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and the Workplace

Conversation Facilitators: Samantha Yakal-Kremski, Manager of the Domestic Violence Prevention (DVP) Philanthropy Program, Verizon Foundation and Ulester Douglas, Associate Director, Men Stopping Violence

What We Learned: Power and gender are still affecting the work environment because many men spend most of their time in the workplace and affirm their own masculinity there. Women and other minority groups can become isolated as a result of all-male groups that support unhealthy concepts of masculinity. Healthy masculinity should be encouraged with office campaigns, creating personal accountability and structural equality.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and Fatherhood

Conversation Facilitators: Jacquelyn Boggess, Co-director, Center for Family Policy and Practice, and President, Women in Fatherhood and Johnny Rice II, Senior Program Associate with the Supervised Visitation Initiative at the Vera Institute of Justice

What We Learned: Healthy masculinity looks like a father unapologetically asking other men for support as he navigates his way through fatherhood. Many men have been influenced by the dominant story of masculinity and therefore choose to show love through financial assistance instead of physical and emotional support. A father can be the provider, equal member of the family, and exhibit unconditional love and affection as well.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and Education

Conversation Facilitators: Rosalind Wiseman, author, Queen Bees and Wannabes: Helping Your Daughter Survive Cliques, Gossip, Boyfriends, and the New Realities of Girl World and David Miller, Chief Visionary Officer and Co-Founder, Urban Leadership Institute.

What We Learned: Underperforming young men in school have become an acceptable new disadvantaged population. Many studies inaccurately suggest that young men are naturally aggressive and have a biological propensity for violence. This notion helps to fuel the idea that it is the responsibility of young girls to not provoke or encourage their peers to become aggressive. In school, young men are often involved in risk-taking activities to prove their masculinity and carry that behavior with them in order to achieve in their careers. Text books and historic passages often sensationalize the lives of historic figures too, making the more aggressive and dictatorial leaders the most powerful and/or successful. Cowboys are celebrated when they've defeated Indians and lone rangers are our nation's heroes after they've conquered with violence another group of people. These ideas further encourage unhealthy masculinity in our schools.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and Faith

Conversation Facilitators: Loribeth Weinstein, CEO/Executive Director, Jewish Women International and Reverend Rob Keithan, Director of Public Policy, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

What We Learned: Faith is a call to action to use our struggles and move forward. Religious traditions and beliefs can influence masculinity with its dominant stories of what a man's "role" should be in his home, community, and religious institution. If religious leaders can create environments for healthy dialogue and allow men to express themselves without using traditional gender role assignments, healthy masculinity and faith can beneficially support one another.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and Violence Against Women and Girls

Conversation Facilitators: Delilah Rumburg, Executive Director and Chief Executive Officer, Pennsylvania Coalition Against Rape and Neil Irvin, Executive Director, MCSR

What We Learned: Many people are unable to make the connection between violence against women and unhealthy masculinity, which makes it necessary to educate both men and women on the many ways unhealthy masculinity can affect their community. There must be a shift that empowers victims of abuse to become survivors and activists. Survivors have the power to help others gain empathy and a better understanding of the ripple effects of having been abused – it is not a "she" issue but a "we" issue. We also must acknowledge and regulate the lucrative and exploitive media channels that objectify women and encourage society to view women as property – consumable commodities. This shift can positively impact and perhaps change stereotypical gender roles.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity, Race, and Ethnicity

Conversation Facilitators: Tonya Lovelace, Director, Women of Color Network and Quentin Walcott, Co-Executive Director, CONNECT

What We Learned: The duality of being a minority and a male creates an intersectionality of race and masculinity. Looking at race and ethnicity can help us understand how stereotypical ideas of various groups of people can be a disservice when they intersect with unhealthy masculinity. An awareness of this intersectionality presents us with the opportunity to develop an understanding of unhealthy and healthy masculinities. Also, the discrimination and injustices some men experience through racism can be used as a reference point for them to develop empathy for other groups of people harmed by gender-based violence.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity, Sexual Orientation, and Gender Expression

Conversation Facilitators: Tonya Turner, Senior Staff Attorney, Break the Cycle and Andrew Barnett, Executive Director, Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL)

What We Learned: Community and family support are foundations for queer and transgender youth to come out. The trauma from realizing you do not fit into either gender binary causes a distrust of masculinity and a fear of having masculinity stripped. Society embracing a monolithic definition of masculinity is a disservice to our work and should be dismantled.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity and Men's Emotional and Physical Health

Conversation Facilitators: Olga Acosta Price, Director, Center for Health and Health Care in Schools at the George Washington University School of Public Health and Health Services and Jim Marsh, licensed professional counselor

What We Learned: Unhealthy masculinity makes it less likely for men to seek help for emotional problems than women. Men often seek alternative ways to deal with their psychological and physical well-being such as working out, participating in physical activities and other non-verbal methods. While offering temporary stress relief, these settings do not provide a context within which men can deal with masculinity and social and psychological issues including gender-role conflict. Unhealthy, violent masculinity devalues, restricts, and negatively affect a man's behaviors. It can lead to violence towards others and in some settings such as a fitness gym, can even cause self-inflicted harm if a man is unwilling to look "weak" or incapable of performing physical acts amongst his peers.

Awareness Breakout Topic: Healthy Masculinity, Information Technology, and Media

Conversation Facilitators: Ami Lynch, Vice President of Gender and Special Populations Research, Social Solutions International, Inc. and Brian O'Connor, Director of Public Education Campaigns and Programs, Futures Without Violence

What We Learned: The media's portrayal and acceptance of boys and men's violence reinforces damaging notions of how men and boys should act in society and how they should relate to each other and women. We can utilize traditional and social media to promote healthy masculinity and create a counter-narrative. It is necessary to understand the market for media and create a space for balanced conversations to include getting men and boys to become advocates and finding innovative ways to encourage them to speak out.

ACTION BREAKOUT CONVERSATIONS - October 19, 2012

Each of the Action Conversations focused on strategizing about an audience of men that participants wanted to engage by determining who they have access to or can gain access to; why they want to engage that audience; what they want to engage the audience in; and how they are going to persuade the audience to become engaged.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Male Athletes and Coaches through Healthy Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Pam Herath, Lead Workshop Facilitator, Sports Challenge and Positive Coaching Alliance and Joe Ehrmann, Founder and President, Coach for America

What We Learned: In order to persuade male athletes and coaches that healthy masculinity is of value to them, we can reclaim the purpose of sports by examining what's most important to the student athlete and use character enforcement or performance enforcement to help us engage male athletes and coaches in a dialogue to further examine what healthy masculinity means to them and the role they believe it plays in sports. Modern sports are partially blamed for undesirable behaviors and ideals for some athletes, both on and off the court. When coaches, schools, athletes, and the community can become educated on the relationship between the student's aggression and possible unhealthy masculinity being displayed on and off the field, a true examination of what healthy masculinity means can then begin to take place.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Fathers through Healthy Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Jacquelyn Boggess, Co-director, Center for Family Policy and Practice, and President, Women in Fatherhood and Johnny Rice II, Senior Program Associate with the Supervised Visitation Initiative at the Vera Institute of Justice

What We Learned: As the stereotypical roles of fathers are changing and being challenged with the emergence of more "stay-at-home" dads and "house dads," the issue of encouraging traditional masculinity can also be challenged. Historically, fathers were providers and disciplinarians while the mothers were the nurturers. Fathers can be engaged through healthy masculinity when we offer them a safer space to acknowledge how their desires to be affectionate towards their children might be suppressed and a space that supports their being comforting, nurturing, and sensitive. Women often have influence on framing a man's masculinity and should be included in the conversation to persuade men to consider and engage the concept of healthy masculinity.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Male Teachers and School Administrators through Healthy Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Eve Birge, liaison for gender-based violence and domestic human trafficking prevention in the Office of State and Healthy Students (OSHS) and David Miller, Chief Visionary Officer and Co-Founder, Urban Leadership Institute

What We Learned: The gender ratio of teachers is imbalanced for middle and high schools but even more so in elementary schools, particularly kindergarten. A teacher's role extends far beyond being a transmitter of curricula and cultural attitudes; they also interpolate their personal opinions and views based on their personal perspectives. If this is true, it is imperative to engage more male teachers to offer students a balance by collectively educating them and the surrounding community about the need for male teachers who practice healthy masculinity.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Male Faith Leaders through Healthy Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Loribeth Weinstein, CEO/Executive Director, Jewish Women International and Reverend Rob Keithan, Director of Public Policy, Religious Coalition for Reproductive Choice

What We Learned: When the evangelical culture allows for healthy expression, it creates a space for discussion of healthy masculinity. There is a need for increased dialogue between sects, in order for different communities to embrace and accept each other. Action and positive movement towards healthy masculinity can begin when leaders take on a flexible approach and are provided a safe environment for transparency. It's vital for religious institutes to utilize youth leaders who can address current issues affecting the communities they serve.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Young Men and Boys through Healthy Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Kristina Gilchrist, author, Praise Him for the Pain Too: My Journey from a Victim to a Survivor, and Neil Irvin, Executive Director, MCSR

What We Learned: When engaging male youth through healthy masculinity, it is important to know your target audiences; urban, rural, suburban, tribal and frontier youth all have varying ideas of masculinity. It is highly effective when you can relate to young men by "meeting them where they are." Providing an environment where youth feel respected by talking with them and not at them will encourage them to feel more comfortable to share. It is important for male youth to feel safe. This can be accomplished by adults being transparent and sharing their stories of masculinity to open up dialogue.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Communities to Dismantle the School-to-Prison Pipeline through Healthy Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Tonya Lovelace, Director, Women of Color Network and Quentin Walcott, Co-Executive Director, CONNECT

What We Learned: Many people are as unfamiliar with the "school-to-prison pipeline" as they are with the term healthy masculinity. It is critical to engage the community about the importance of healthy masculinity in the context of the school-to-prison pipeline, as this is where young men - particularly those of color - are categorized and unreasonably punished for displays of unhealthy masculinity taught to them by the same society that incarcerates them for such behavior. The intersectionality of this irrational method of punishment and unhealthy masculinity is an ongoing discussion that is continuously developing.

Action Breakout Topic: Engaging Gay, Bi, and Transgendered Men through Healthy

Masculinity

Conversation Facilitators: Tonya Turner, Senior Staff Attorney, Break the Cycle and Andrew Barnett, Executive Director, Sexual Minority Youth Assistance League (SMYAL)

What We Learned: In order to use healthy masculinity to engage gay, bi, and transgendered men, we must first be honest about our lack of knowledge on alternative and nonconforming sexuality. We must also acknowledge our feelings of discomfort, exposure, and vulnerability. A continued evaluation of what healthy masculinity looks like should take place to include acknowledging what feels authentic to gay, bi, and transgendered men. "Certainty is the enemy." Decide what parts of society's standards should be let go and what should be embraced based on personal feelings.

At the End of the Summit, all participants were provided with a Healthy Masculinity Action Guide that included the following: forming a Healthy Masculinity Working Group in your community; using The Five Ps, a framework for positively engaging men; and hosting a Healthy Masculinity Community Conversation.

MEDIA SNAPSHOT

During the course of our two-year HMAP project, we will raise the visibility of healthy masculinity through traditional media and social media nationwide. All seven HMAP Organizing Partners and the 35 digital Allies repeatedly sent out hundreds of weekly Tweets and Facebook postings starting in late May 2012 through September 2012 about healthy masculinity and the Summit.

Through digital and print media, the positive message of healthy masculinity and HMAP reached more than 60,000,000 people. Leading up to and after the Healthy Masculinity Summit, articles and blogs appeared in high profile media like The Atlantic, Washington Post, and Huffington Post.

The Washington Post IHUFFPOST



SEXES

The End of Violent, Simplistic, Macho Masculinity

The Atlantic By Thomas Page McBee



Thanks, Guys: Five Ways Men Are Fighting Sexism

By Hugo Schwyzer





SUMMIT FOLLOW-UP

After the Healthy Masculinity Summit, we maintained momentum by organizing the first in a series of nationwide Healthy Masculinity Community Conversations. The event took place at North Carolina Central University Women's Center in Durham, NC, on November 28, 2012 and was facilitated by representatives from the state domestic violence and sexual assault coalitions. Story tellers included students, faculty, and staff from universities across the state – Saint Augustine University, Elon University, North Carolina Central University, and UNC-Chapel Hill. The Community Conversation was attended by more than 60 people, representing a variety of ages, races, genders, and professional backgrounds. Our survey of participants after the event showed an overwhelmingly positive response, with an average rating for their experience of the Community Conversation overall of 9 (on a scale from one to ten, one being lowest, ten highest). The average rating for interest in participating in other HMAP events and activities in North Carolina was also 9.

The success of the North Carolina Community Conversation will serve as a model for future Community Conversations as we plan to take the Healthy Masculinity Action Project to rural, urban, suburban, frontier and tribal communities across the United States.

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