



## HWC Quarterly Meetings

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HWC programs support children exposed to trauma and violence through improved communication and collaboration between law enforcement, schools/child care agencies and mental health providers, and connects families, schools and communities to mental health services. How effectively that collaboration is done is critical to the process.

Quarterly meetings create the opportunity for schools and community organizations to share vital information regarding the supports available to children who have been exposed to or have experienced trauma. Assembling a variety of organizations provides an environment to crosscollaborate and learn information relevant to individual agencies and how they support children in the community. Whether it is learning about a new drug on the streets, mental health resources available to children or after school programs that keep kids off the streets, the meetings allow a forum to ask questions, brainstorm ideas and support one another in increasing the effectiveness of the HWC program.

How do you build this rapport? The simple answer is 'buy-in'. Organizations need to understand not only the purpose of the HWC program, but the ultimate effect it has on students in the classroom when HWC notifications are received by the schools. Providing updates to First Responders who send the HWC notifications on interventions or resources HWC students receive, reinforces the importance of this process.

Below are some tips to consider whether you are beginning the process of scheduling quarterly meetings or trying to increase participation in the HWC program within your community:

- In addition to first responders (law enforcement, EMS, fire department) examples of other organizations to involve: 911 Dispatch, Mental health agencies (private or public), DHHR/CPS, CASA, Boys and Girls Club, Teen Court, members of school district (i.e. school counselors and social workers, principals, teachers, attendance workers, school board members), community council members.
- Encourage involvement by asking participants to present on their agencies at the quarterly meetings to build a shared awareness on their role within the community.
- Ask participants if they would be willing to host a meeting at their site so others can gain insight into their working environment.
- Provide monthly feedback to participants on the number of notifications received by the schools and interventions and supports that have occurred as a result.
- Provide a forum (quarterly meetings, school board meetings etc.) to recognize First Responders who support the HWC program by sending notifications on a consistent basis.
- Facilitate a simplified system of sending HWC notifications to increase efficiency and usage by first responders (i.e. notification link, QR code)
- Build a connection between schools and First Responders to increase their presence in schools.

It takes a village to ensure children have a safe space to thrive and be successful. Quarterly meetings can be a proactive way to increase support for students experiencing trauma.

Together, we can make a difference!