



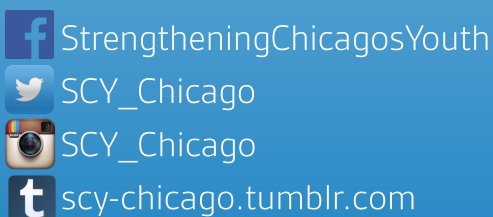
# 2015-2016 Reflections

## Connecting Through Collaboration

Strengthening Chicago's Youth (SCY) is a violence prevention collaborative convened by Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago.

SCY's mission is to build capacity among stakeholders to connect, collaborate and mobilize around a public health approach to violence prevention—adopting consistent messaging about the preventability of violence, promoting use of evidence-based violence prevention strategies and fostering multi-sector collaboration. SCY encourages partnerships that strengthen existing efforts and benefit the children of Chicago.

### Follow us at:



### Contact us at:

225 E. Chicago Ave, Box 157  
Chicago, IL 60611  
scy@luriechildrens.org | 312-227-6678  
scy-chicago.org

# Message from the Directors

Dear SCY partners,

SCY has accomplished a lot over the past two years—and Chicago has suffered a lot with over 750 murders in 2016, the most since 1997. As we begin 2017, SCY plans to continue our commitment to strengthen our communities by building partnerships that create environments and systems in which youth can achieve their full potential. We hope each of you will join us or develop your own collaborative efforts to support youth, families and communities. Let's make 2017 the year when partnership, rather than violence, captures the public's attention.

Sincerely,

**Rebecca Levin, MPH**

Director, Strengthening Chicago's Youth

**Karen Sheehan, MD, MPH**

Medical Director, Strengthening Chicago's Youth

## SCY's Strategies

SCY pursues violence prevention through four strategies that emphasize building connections among violence prevention partners. These strategies frame our *2015-2016 Reflections*:

- ◇ Coordinate efforts around the SCY **policy agenda**
- ◇ Facilitate **knowledge sharing** among and provide technical assistance and training to community organizations
- ◇ **Encourage conversations** about the preventability of violence and how every individual and organization can play a role
- ◇ Foster connections between **community and academic partners**

### Special Thanks to Our Funders

SCY's work would not be possible without the generous support of our funders. SCY's projects and strategies are supported in part by grants from:

- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago's Founders' Board
- The Jacob & Valeria Langeloth Foundation
- Illinois Children's Healthcare Foundation
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council through a grant from the Illinois Department of Human Services
- Michael Reese Health Trust
- Cook County Justice Advisory Council through a cooperative agreement from the U.S. Department of Justice
- Eunice Kennedy Shriver National Institute of Child Health and Human Development of the National Institutes of Health
- Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Illinois
- The Crown Family
- The Albert Pick, Jr. Fund
- Polk Bros. Foundation
- The Joyce Foundation
- Zeisler Family Foundation

# Policy Agenda

SCY works to coordinate efforts around and advocate for the SCY policy agenda by educating policymakers, testifying at hearings, and participating in awareness campaigns. In 2015-2016, we supported partners' advocacy around the policy agenda by providing updates on pending legislation and regulations and offering training and technical assistance.



The U.S. Surgeon General, Vice Admiral Vivek H. Murthy, MD, MBA, meets with Rebecca Levin and Jill Fraggos at Lurie Children's during a meeting hosted by Health & Disability Advocates.

## Juvenile Justice Collaborative



10

Service providers  
connected



50

Youth to be served  
in the first half of 2017

## Juvenile Justice Collaborative

Since 2014, SCY has led the development of a care coordination model for justice-involved youth. Together with the Cook County Juvenile Probation Department, TASC, the Illinois Collaboration on Youth, and 10 community-based service providers, SCY planned and initiated a demonstration project to test this innovation. The goal is to minimize further involvement of arrested youth in the justice system and to reduce racial disparities by facilitating and coordinating access to comprehensive support services that meet adolescents' developmental needs—ensuring that youth get the right level of care at the right time in their community. The Collaborative focuses on addressing the needs of families as a whole because the success of justice-involved youth is interconnected to the success of the whole family.

## Policy Update: Progress on Illinois Legislation

There has been significant juvenile justice system reform over the past two years, including sweeping changes in punitive school discipline addressing the school-to-prison pipeline, elimination of mandatory life-without-parole sentences for youth under 18, and reform of automatic transfers of children to adult court. New laws enacted in 2015-2016 included:

- Enhanced juvenile expungement (PA99-0835)
- Various reforms on juvenile probation and incarceration (PA99-0879)
- Removing Invisible Bars Bill (PA99-0689)
- Improved representation during custodial interrogation (PA99-0882)
- Requiring justification for imprisonment instead of incarceration (PA99-0861)

SCY and partners continued to work on bills that require gun dealers to be licensed and prohibit arrest of students at school (under most circumstances) and incentivize schools to transition from law enforcement to other evidence-based approaches to safety and security.

## SCY's The Limit in 2017

### 2017-18 POLICY AGENDA

Every two years, SCY revises our policy priorities through a collaborative consensus-building process. The 2017-2018 policy agenda will be released in early 2017. SCY's 2017 policy activities will include collaborating with partners around "Building a Safe Chicago—Calling for a Comprehensive Plan" and advocating for strategies that address trauma and promote resilience.

### POLICY & SYSTEMS CHANGE

In 2016, SCY received funding to bring our policy work to scale and mobilize partners to action around strategies that are effective in reducing violence. This project will develop and implement a robust structure to coordinate efforts to advance SCY's policy agenda, facilitate connections among stakeholders, and support partners in using data to inform policy.

# Knowledge Sharing

To facilitate knowledge sharing among and provide technical assistance to community organizations, SCY offers regular trainings and quarterly meetings; communicates with partners through bimonthly newsletters, social media, and SCY's website; and participates in coalitions with violence prevention stakeholders to grow SCY's network of connections. The basis of our work is "Connect, Connect, Connect" and those connections have grown substantially over the past two years.

# 1795

Partners attended SCY trainings, quarterly meetings, educational seminars, and conferences in 2015 & 2016

# 47%

Of 2016 training attendees were from community-based organizations



November 2016 quarterly meeting panel on violence prevention policy. From left to right, State Sen. Kwame Raoul, State Rep. Juliana Stratton, and Cook County Comm. Richard Boykin

## City-Wide Coalitions

Central to SCY's mission is connecting partners—one way we do this is through city-wide coalitions such as **Healthy Chicago 2.0** and the **Illinois Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs) Response Collaborative**. Healthy Chicago 2.0, the Chicago Department of Public Health's plan to improve health and health equity, was launched in 2016 through a series of community engagement events. SCY participated in the *Reducing Violence* action team and continues to promote efforts to advance this work. The Illinois ACEs Response Collaborative is comprised of stakeholders across communities and sectors working to prevent and heal trauma through education and policy development. SCY has helped create policy briefs, contributed to efforts to raise awareness of ACEs, and connected partners to the Collaborative.

## National Presentations

### NAACP CONVENTION

Community Programs Coordinator Ed Boone presented at the 107th Annual NAACP Convention in July 2016 as part of a criminal justice panel titled "Gun Violence in the African American Community." The panel discussed what the nation's civil rights, fraternal, and religious organizations can do to address gun violence in the African American community and in the country as a whole.

### CHILDREN'S HOSP. ASSOCIATION

Operations Manager Kelli Day presented "Getting Outside the Hospital Walls to Prevent Violence" at the Children's Hospital Association's Annual Leadership Conference in November 2016. The presentation described our approach to violence prevention, including the development of SCY, growth of the collaborative, SCY's collective and connective approach, and areas of focus and strategies that emphasize building connections among partners.

## SCY's The Limit in 2017

### TRAINING SERIES

SCY's Training Series will continue in 2017! Through these professional development opportunities, SCY aims to facilitate knowledge sharing with the goals of increasing partner knowledge, understanding and awareness, building capacity and skills, and connecting partners across sectors and communities.

#### 2017 Training Topics:

- ◆ Violence Prevention Advocacy 101
- ◆ Adolescent Relationship Abuse Prevention
- ◆ Health Spokesperson: Violence as a Health Issue
- ◆ Police-Youth Relations
- ◆ Program Evaluation
- ◆ Introduction to Peacemaking Circles
- ◆ Screening vs. Assessment
- ◆ Trauma 101
- ◆ Urban Youth Trauma
- ◆ Intersectionality of Policy
- ◆ Movement Building

# Encourage Conversations

Violence is not inevitable. SCY encourages conversations about the preventability of violence and how every individual and organization can play a role, including promoting Lurie Children's call for all Chicagoans to "roll up their sleeves" to help prevent violence. Focus on Five, our call to action for individuals and policymakers, frames our conversations at quarterly meetings and public awareness campaigns around these priorities.

## Partnerships & Communication

# 4184

Violence prevention partners on SCY's mailing list from over 1200 organizations & programs

# 93

Blogs highlighting relevant data, partners, programs, & policies

# 45%

Growth in social media followers since 2014

## National Youth Violence Prevention Week

National Youth Violence Prevention Week is an annual observance focused on raising awareness and providing education about the impact of violence in schools and communities and how youth, families, schools, and communities can get involved to prevent violence. In 2016, SCY led a social media campaign to increase awareness about actions that individuals can take to prevent violence and strengthen Chicago's youth.



"Strong Chicago youth are...healthy and safe."  
-Lurie Children's staff



"I strengthen Chicago's youth by...providing afterschool youth programs"  
-Lurie Children's family



"Strong Chicago youth are... the future Lurie Children's doctors and nurses."  
-Lurie Children's clinician

## Roll Up Your Sleeves

In December 2015, the *Chicago Sun-Times* published a letter to the editor from Patrick Magoon, Lurie Children's President and CEO, that addressed what Chicagoans can do to end violence. He called on policymakers to prioritize SCY's Focus on Five and offered our expertise "to help shape these priorities into concrete policies." Mr. Magoon also challenged individuals to roll up their sleeves and get involved in these same priorities through mentorship, advocacy, and community engagement. In May 2016, SCY's Focus on Five was highlighted in the *Capital Fax* blog as a call to action for individuals and policymakers to prevent violence and strengthen our youth, families, and neighborhoods.

## SCY's the Limit in 2017

### QUARTERLY MEETINGS

SCY hosts quarterly meetings to inform, engage, and connect. Save the dates for our 2017 meetings:

- ◆ **Wednesday, March 1**  
*Anti-racism and Anti-oppression*
- ◆ **Thursday, June 22**  
*State Health & Human Services Transformation*
- ◆ **Wednesday, August 30**  
*Connection Between Drugs & Violence*
- ◆ **Wednesday, November 1**  
*Parenting Support & Enrichment*

### SAFE & THRIVING COMMUNITIES

SCY is partnering with the Cook County Justice Advisory Council on the South Suburban Safe and Thriving Communities Project, which seeks to reduce youth violence in Ford Heights, Robbins and Harvey by linking youth to trauma-informed prevention, intervention and workforce development services and supports. We hope to identify opportunities to apply this project's approach in Chicago neighborhoods as well.

# Community and Academic Partners

While community organizations often lack the capacity to evaluate their programs or to implement evidence-based approaches in local settings, academic researchers may lack the connections to communities that are needed to ensure that their work makes a meaningful difference in people's lives. SCY works to foster connections between community and academic partners to ensure that community violence prevention efforts are more effective and that their effectiveness is better measured and demonstrated.

# 187

Partners attended two  
Violence Data  
Landscape educational  
seminars



Community-Academic Collaboration research team, including community partners and youth scribes from Chicago high schools

# 14

Community meetings held  
in seven regions across  
Chicago for Community-  
Academic Collaboration

## Violence Data Landscape

In 2015, SCY convened the Violence Data Landscape initiative, bringing together community and violence prevention programs, researchers, and advocates to identify strategies to increase use and dissemination of violence-related data for policy and program improvement in Illinois. Building on early momentum and support from The Joyce Foundation, SCY continued to lead this initiative in 2016, focusing on data sharing and linkage, summarizing and surveying data landscape, and disseminating resources. SCY hosted two educational seminars on violence data and is finalizing a catalog of violence data systems that will be housed on SCY's website.

## Community-Academic Collaboration to Prevent Violence in Chicago

The goal of this project is to identify the highest priorities of community residents to improve knowledge about violence in Chicago. In 2015, SCY concluded community gatherings across seven regions of Chicago, collecting stakeholder thoughts and ideas. These gatherings brought together residents, service providers, funders, and researchers to shape the violence prevention research agenda.



Natasha Brown, Youth Scribe, and Matt Berkley, Program Assistant, present their poster "Benefits of Youth Scribe Involvement in Community-Based Participatory Research" at the American Public Health Association 2015 Annual Meeting

## SCY's the Limit in 2017

### SHARING THE RESEARCH AGENDA

In 2016, SCY convened the Community Collaborative Research Workgroup of representatives from community organizations to develop a violence prevention community-based participatory research (CBPR) agenda and offer recommendations for a permanent infrastructure to facilitate implementation of CBPR projects to address and eliminate health disparities related to violence. SCY plans to share the final research agenda with both community and academic partners in the summer of 2017.

### SCY Staff

*We could not do it without you!*

**Edward Boone**, Community Programs Coordinator

**Kelli Day**, Operations Manager

**Kirstin Grabski**, Operations Coordinator

**Kate Spitzer-Cohn**, Program Coordinator

**Sana Yousuf**, Data Specialist