



Annual Report
2018-2019



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Brief History

In December 2007, Metropolitan State University of Denver student Abigail Roberston was murdered by her ex-boyfriend. This tragedy was deeply felt by the entirety of the Auraria community and in 2008, the Auraria Healthy Relationships Coalition - a tri-institutional committee of student affairs professionals, campus safety representatives, students, and Abigail's mother, Kathy Robertson - successfully applied to the Department of Justice's Office on Violence Against Women grant program, "Grants to Reduce Domestic Violence, Dating Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking on Campus". Through the award of this \$500,000 grant, the Phoenix Center at Auraria (PCA) was established in early 2009. This initial grant was three years in duration and was followed by a period of primarily student fee funding until the PCA was awarded a Domestic Violence Program (DVP) grant in 2013 and a Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) grant in 2017.

Upon its establishment, the PCA hosted a staff of two professional staff members and was able to serve 70 clients in the 2009-2010 academic year. Since that time, the PCA has grown significantly to a staff of 4.5 professional staff members, expanded to a second site at the University of Colorado Anschutz with 1 professional staff member, and was able to collectively serve 233 clients in-office and field 249 helpline calls in the 2018-2019 academic year.

Place in the CU System

The Phoenix Center at Auraria is the only service provider of its kind in the University of Colorado system providing comprehensive advocacy, crisis counseling, and prevention education resources. The nearest related program is CU Boulder's Office of Victim Assistance, a subsidiary of the counseling center, which provides advocacy and counseling services but does not provide prevention education. The Phoenix Center at Auraria is a leader in the field of interpersonal violence and prevention resources and utilizes an innovative anti-oppressionist framework to support numerous campus partners as well as PCA clients.



Mission & Goals

Office Mission Statement

The mission of the Phoenix Center at Auraria | Anschutz (PCA) is to implement campus response services, provide education, and facilitate dialogue related to interpersonal violence in the Auraria community. Through a dedication to the empowerment model of service and a seamless implementation of campus response services, we work to ensure that the students, faculty, and staff associated with Metro State University Denver, University of Colorado Denver, Community College Denver (hereafter the tri-institutions), and the University of Colorado Anschutz may continue pursuit of their educational, personal, and professional goals regardless of their experiences with interpersonal violence (IPV).

Office Vision Statement

The vision of the Phoenix Center at Auraria | Anschutz is to create a trauma-informed and prevention-focused campus environment which is no longer conducive to ongoing incidents of interpersonal violence. Additionally, the PCA envisions an environment in which no student, faculty, or staff member's goals are negatively impacted by lack of institutional support following an experience of interpersonal violence.

Office Goals

Goal Progress

In August of 2018, the professional staff of the PCA came together to outline a number of goals for completion by the end of the 2017-2018 academic year. These goals are the following:

- Expand workshop offerings and venues in which workshops are offered
- Increase survey data from clients served
- Increase campus collaborations
- Provide 1 active event and 1 passive event each semester
- Hire a part-time, grant-funded victim advocate for the Auraria campus
- Hire Victim Services Program Manager and re-focus the direction of the Phoenix Center at Anschutz

Through pursuit of our goals and dedication to our mission as stated above we were able to accomplish most of our goals.

- We were able to add additional workshops to our offerings including curricula specifically focused on consent, supporting survivors as peers, rape culture,



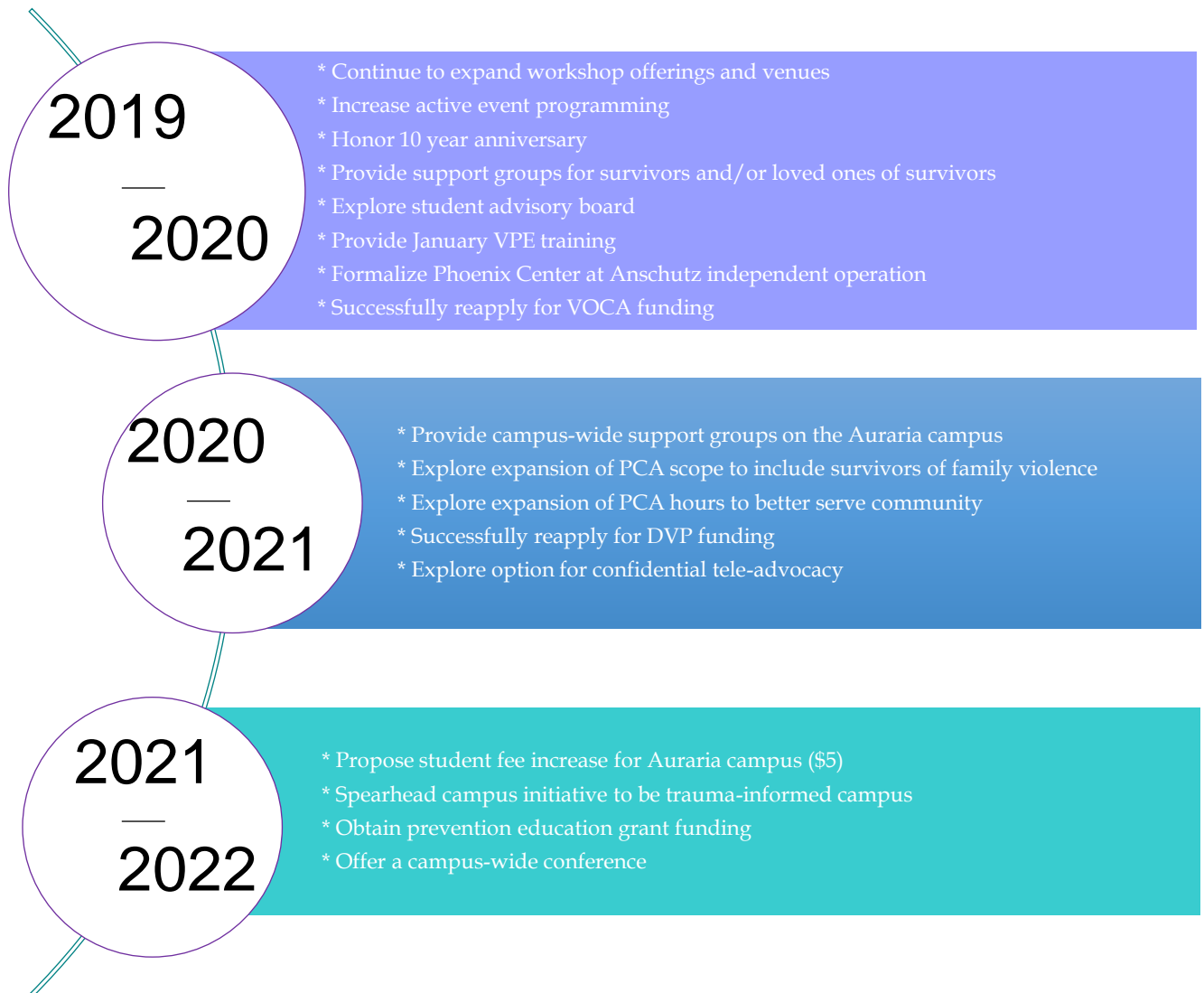
trauma-informed pedagogy, and toxic masculinity. Additionally, we were able to update and provide citation references for our new and existing curriculums.

- In the summer of 2018, the PCA pro-staff came together to create a new client services survey and we were able to implement this survey on iPads funded by our VOCA grant. In the 2018-2019 year, we collected 304 survey responses.
- The PCA made a concerted effort during the 2018-2019 school year to increase our on and off-campus collaborations and were able to partner with the Gender Institute for Teaching and Advocacy (formerly the Institute for Women's Studies and Services), the LGBTQ Student Resource Center, the Women & Gender Center, CU Anschutz Student Senate, the Center for Identity and Inclusion, the Center for Multicultural Excellence and Inclusion, CU Denver Student Government, CU Denver English Department, MSU Denver New Student Orientation, CU Denver New Employee Orientation, Community College of Denver New Student Orientation, MSU Denver Athletics alongside the NCAA, and others.
- During the 2018-2019 academic year, we provided the Red Flag Campaign and the Clothesline Project for our fall and spring passive events and a Title IX Notice & Comment event for our active event in the fall. Due to staffing concerns, we were unable to host an active event during the spring semester
- The PCA was able to hire a new Victim Services Program Manager for the Phoenix Center at Anschutz and begin the process of separating the two center to allow the Phoenix Center at Anschutz to flourish on its own.
- The PCA was not able to hire a new, part-time victim advocate during the 2018-2019 year.



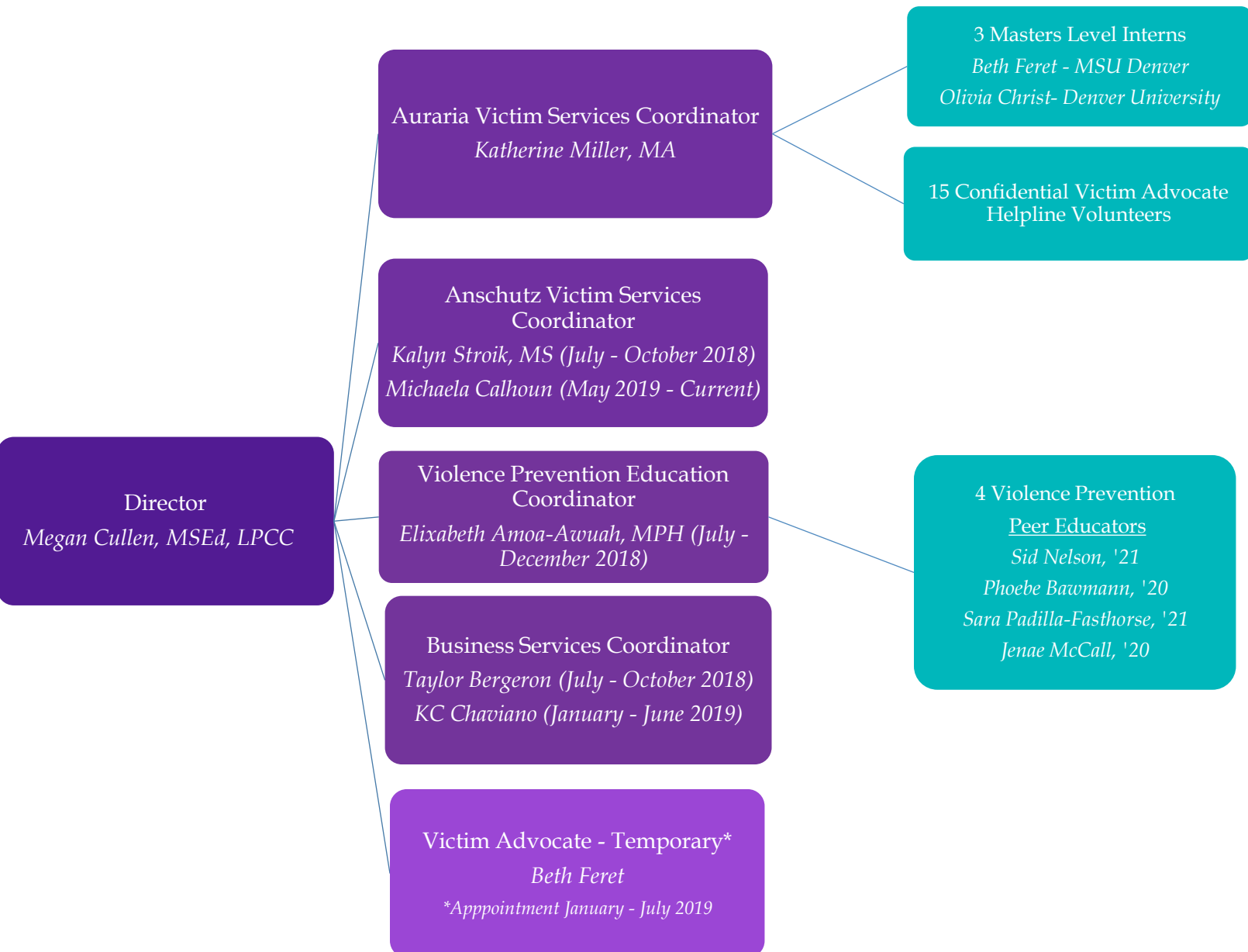
Longterm Goals

In August of 2018, the staff at the PCA conducted a summit to review our mission, vision, and goals. We developed the following list of goals and direction for our future:





Staff





Trainings, Outreach, and Education

The PCA is committed to preventing instances of relationship violence, sexual violence, and stalking through comprehensive education. The standardized curricula offerings for the 2018-2019 academic year were as follows:

PCA General Overview | The PCA Overview presentations reviews the services available to students, faculty, staff, and resident of CU Denver, CU Anschutz, MSU Denver, and CCD.

Supporting Survivors | This skill building session breaks down some survivor myths, discusses victim blaming, and dives into how to respond when someone discloses to you. *This curriculum can also be co-presented with the CU Denver Office of Equity.*

Interpersonal Violence 101 | This session will provide a general overview of all aspects of interpersonal violence and will include interactive activities to help folks think about the dynamics of violence and issues such as consent, healthy relationships, and how to help a friend.

Interpersonal Violence 301 | IPV 301 is a graduate-level curriculum addressing interpersonal violence in our society through collaborative discussions regarding identity and privileges and the intersections with interpersonal violence, effective bystander intervention, media literacy, and developing professional and empowering responses to survivor disclosures.

Healthy Relationships | An interactive discussion in which Violence Prevention Educators and participants work to create a shared definition of healthy relationships (intimate or otherwise) by placing emphasis on the importance of our personal values, boundaries, and needs. The group will also explore healthy ways love is expressed, harbingers of relationships in trouble, and power and control dynamics. In this way the course works to empower participants with the knowledge and ability to differentiate among healthy, unhealthy, and abusive relationships.

Bystander Intervention | Have you ever wanted to step into a situation because you knew something was wrong, particularly if it is a friend you are worried about? This workshop discusses bystander intervention and works to develop strategies to intervene in difficult situations. The focus is on incidents of stalking, sexual assault and relationship violence, but principles can be applied to much more.



Media Literacy | This workshop provokes discussion about what interpersonal violence is and how media and pop culture messages contribute to the normalization of it in our culture. Through activities, images and video clips the concepts of sexual objectification and gender construction in the social media age will be illustrated. The discussion will also look at intersections of race, class, and power as they relate to interpersonal violence. This workshop is intended to help participants think critically about a media heavy society and how it can affect views on interpersonal violence and what individuals and groups can do to create social change.

Gender Construction | This workshop is designed to highlight how language and societally constructed gender roles can contribute to sexism and interpersonal violence. We will explore how and why a binary gender system contributes to interpersonal violence and how we can help disarm and shift harmful gender stereotypes. This workshop aims to deconstruct the social construction of gender and help attendees critically think about gender privilege, inequality, and interpersonal violence.

Additionally, the PCA was able to offer a number of customized curriculums to campus partners, academic departments, and administrative departments which were tailored to their individual needs.

Community & Campus Involvement

Campus Committees

The Phoenix Center at Auraria | Anschutz is involved in a number of tri-institutional and university-specific committees which are focused on providing students, faculty, and staff at each institution with an engaging and rewarding educational and professional environment. The PCA chairs the Auraria Outreach & Education committee which meets monthly to discuss PCA programming initiatives relevant to the campus community. The PCA also served on the “That’s What She Said” planning committee, the Anschutz Wellness Committee, the Anschutz Health Promotion Committee, and the CU Gender Equity committee.

Community Involvement

In addition to serving on various campus committees, the PCA also serves on the Sexual Assault Interagency Council, the SAIC Title IX Working Group, and the Campus Partners Group with various community stakeholders committed to keeping our metro area safe and engaging in trauma-informed practices.



2018-2019
Phoenix Center at Auraria | Anschutz
Utilization

Victim Services

During the 2018-2019 academic year, the PCA continued to observe an exponential increase in the number of individuals seeking services related to experience of interpersonal violence (relationship violence, sexual violence, and/or stalking). This continued increase in the need for services justifies the PCA's supported request for a part-time victim advocate to be hired in the 2019-2020 year and reaffirms the need for the PCA on the Auraria campus.

The PCA served 233 clients in-office, provided services to those clients at a 163% increase, and fielded 249 helpline calls during the 2018-2019 academic year.

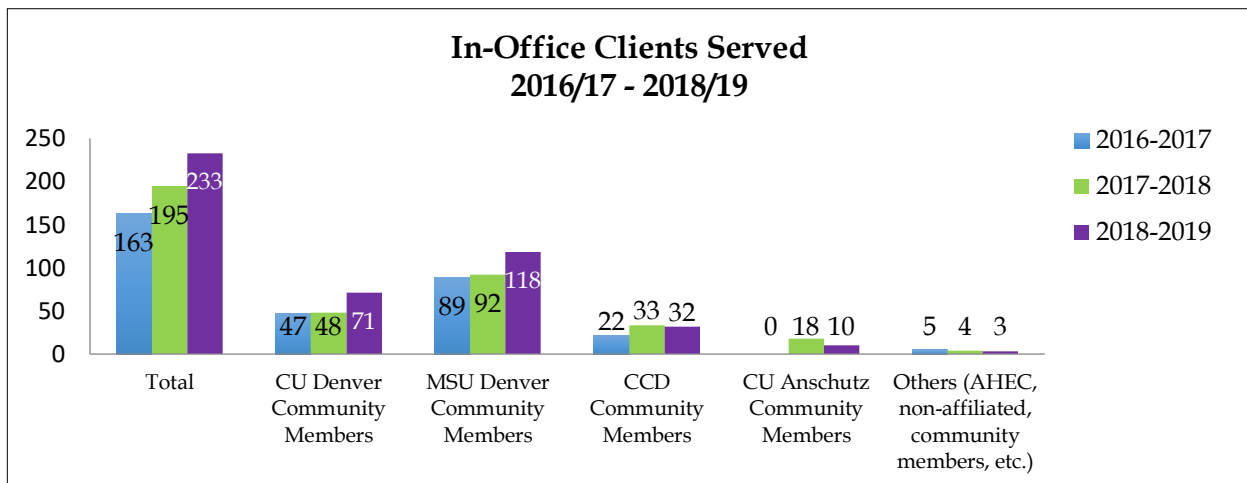


Figure 1. In-Office Clients Served. Figure 1 indicates the number of clients the PCA served according to institutional affiliation across three academic years. In 2018-2019, the PCA served 233 clients affected by interpersonal violence; this represents a 20% increase from the previous year.

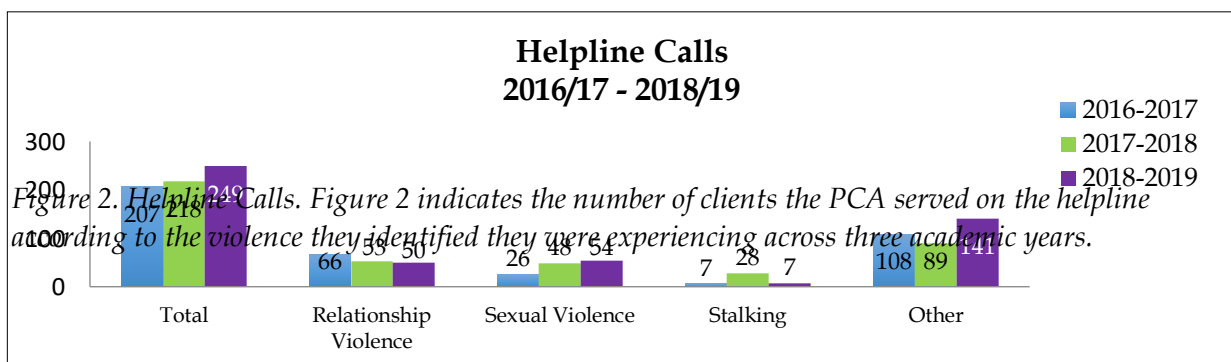


Figure 2. Helpline Calls. Figure 2 indicates the number of clients the PCA served on the helpline according to the violence they identified they were experiencing across three academic years.

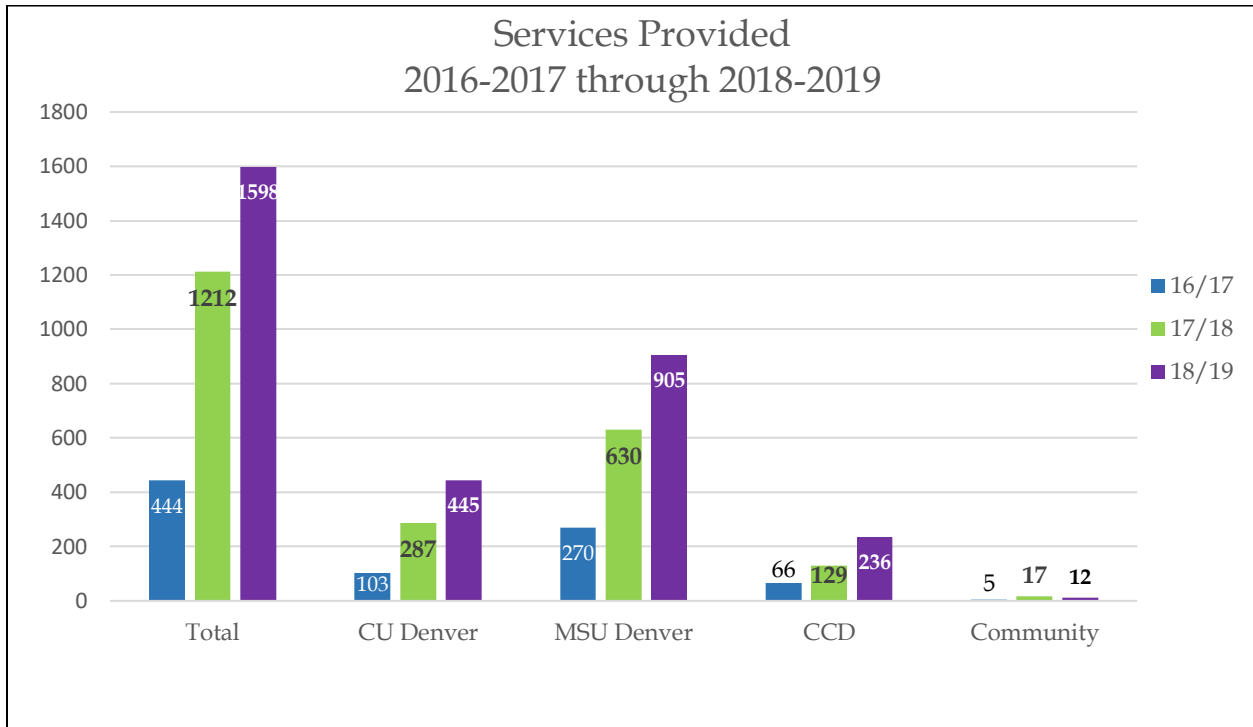


Figure 3. Services Provided. Figure 3 indicates the number of services or “contacts” performed alongside or on behalf of the clients served in Figure 1. In the last year, the PCA continues to see a marked increase in the number of services clients are needing and requesting during their tenure in the advocacy program.



Prevention Education

In the past academic year, the PCA Violence Prevention Educators (VPEs) presented 130 workshops and trainings for the Auraria community and facilitated 109 campus events and information tables interacting with a total of 9,382 individuals. Of particular import to note, the PCA staff and students were able to maintain an increase in the number of community members they engaged in prevention education in spite of the Violence Prevention Education Coordinator’s resignation in December 2018 and the maternity leave of the Director during the spring semester. Additionally, some of the increase in engagement with MSU Denver and Community College Denver can be accounted for the PCA’s new and increased involvement with new student orientation.

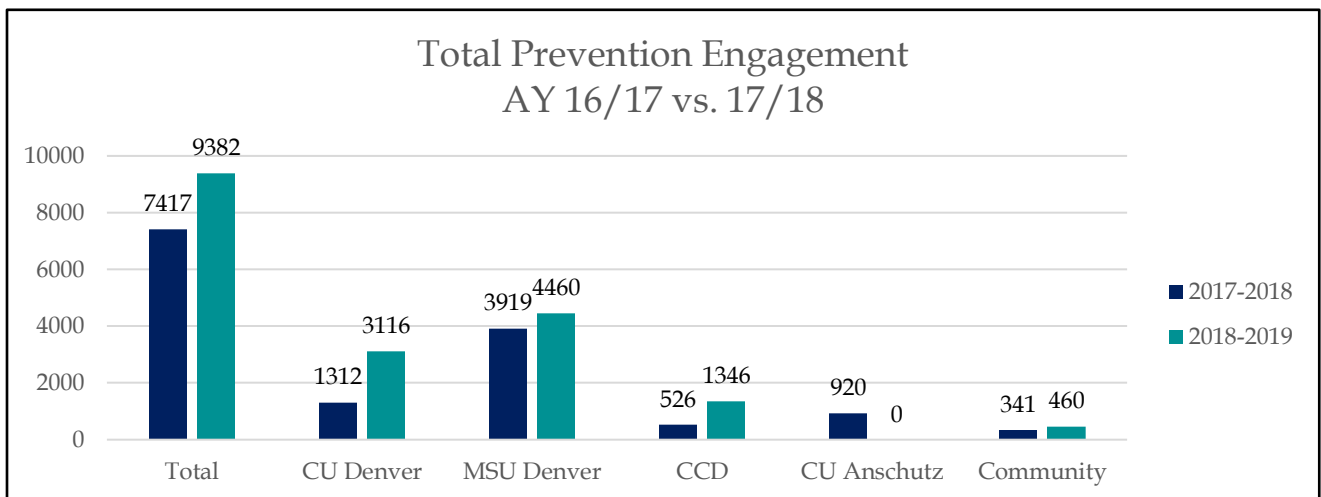


Figure 4. Total Prevention Engagement. Figure 4 indicates the number individuals - according to their affiliated institution - who were reached during the 2018-2019 academic year through prevention programming. Prevention programming includes classroom workshops, informational tables, orientation presentations, and active campus-wide awareness events.

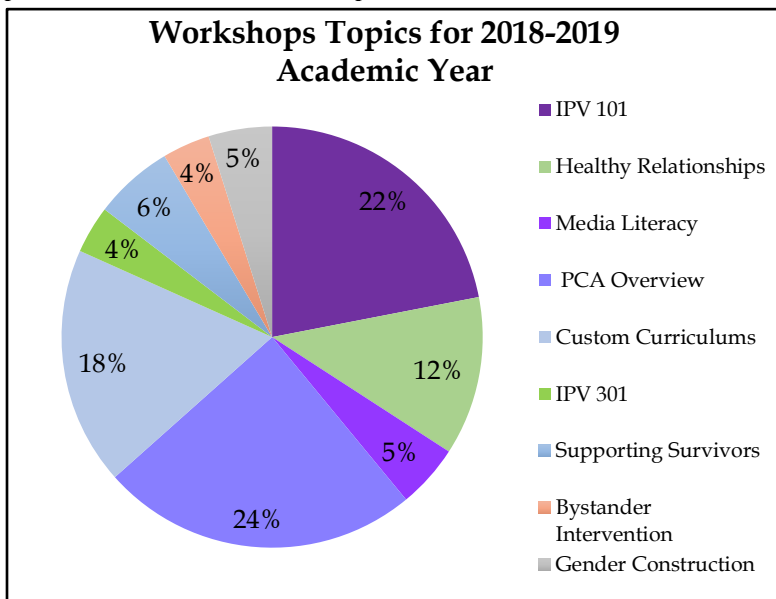


Figure 5. Workshop Topics for 2018-2019 Academic Year. Figure 5 illustrates the topics that the Violence Prevention Education team provided during the academic year. The PCA Overview and the IPV 101 curriculum are the most heavily requested curriculums. Additionally, we have seen an increase in the custom presentations requested by our campus community. These custom presentations have covered topics such as consent, toxic masculinity, trauma-informed pedagogy, and others.



Phoenix Center Photo Album 2018 - 2019

PCA Events

Red Flag Campaign September 2018



- 1) Phoenix Center staff and volunteers pose after putting up the 2018 installation of the red flag campaign raising awareness about relationship violence on our campus
- 2) a view of the red flags with the Denver skyline in the background
- 3) red flags in the grass with a sign stating "Each flag represents one survivor on our campus"
- 4) Red Flag installation at CU Anschutz.



Title IX Notice & Comment January 2019



MSU Denver Tabling Event

Lead Violence Prevention Educator, Sid Nelson (CU Denver, '21) works hard to help MSU Denver staff, faculty, and students in the Student Success Building know about the proposed changes to Title IX

Community College of Denver Tabling Event

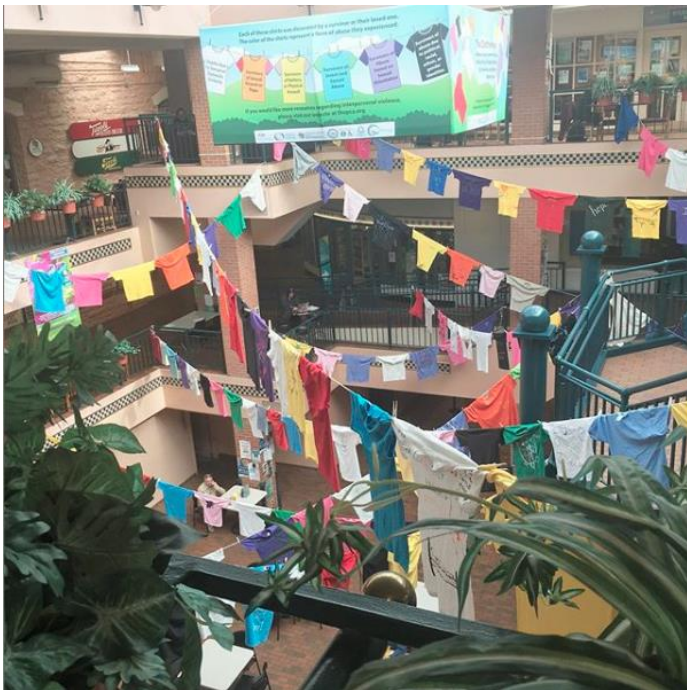
Business Services Coordinator, KC Chaviano, assists with the Community College of Denver tabling event to help the CCD community be aware of the proposed changes to Title IX and how they might choose to participate in the notice & comment period.



Sexual Assault Awareness Month



April 2019



Clothesline Project

In April, PCA staff, volunteers, and campus partners worked to install the clothesline project in the central atrium of the Tivoli Student Union. This project is erected by the PCA every year to help the Auraria community increase their awareness of the realities of sexual violence on our campus. The shirts are each decorated by an Auraria community member who has experienced violence and are color coded according to the type of violence they identify with.

April 24, 2019

Phoenix Center Lead Violence Prevention Educator (Sid Nelson) Director (Megan Cullen), and Victim Services Coordinator (Katherine Miller) were featured in The Metropolitan discussing sexual assault awareness month and the future of the PCA.



Life at the PCA



August 2018

PCA Pro-staff worked hard to collaborate on a new mission and vision for the Phoenix Center to reflect the current goals and approach of the staff and students working to end interpersonal violence on our campus.

September 2018

Taylor Bergerong, PCA Business Services Coordinator, snuggles with one of the PCA's favorite volunteer puppies during staff meeting!



April 2019

Megan Cullen, Phoenix Center Director, brought our newest volunteer to visit!