

Create Your Own Bullying and Cyberbullying Taskforce: AAUW Napa County, California



A. Form a committee of interested people from your community.

B. Ask yourselves these questions:

1. What is happening in the elementary, middle, and high schools in your area with regard to identifying and reducing bullying and cyberbullying?
2. Are there teachers in your area willing to join your effort? If so, welcome their participation.
3. Are there existing local programs to address issues regarding bullying and cyberbullying? Are there organizations in your community that are addressing these issues? If so partner with them.
4. What are the laws in your state concerning harassment, bullying and cyberbullying? Are the laws enacted in your community?

C. Go to the AAUW Napa County, California website: www.aauwnapa.org and look under PROJECTS. There you will find our first presentation which is our position paper on this matter. Look in particular at the references. Download and print all related materials including the template for two sided bookmarks with advice for parents and students. Soon the Spanish version will be there as well.

D. Read several of the references:

1. "Nineteen Minutes" by Jodee Picoult
2. "And Words Can Hurt Forever" by J. Garbarino
3. "Hostile Hallways," an AAUW Publication
4. "Life Strategies for Dealing with Bullies" by Jay McGraw
5. "Bullying Beyond the School Yards" by Sameer Hinduja and Justin Patchin

E. Look at the referenced websites and study the information presented.

F. Contact your local library:

1. What books are available on the subject of Bullying and Cyberbullying?
2. Are the librarians interested in having you present information on this topic for patrons?
Ours is delighted to have this topic presented.
3. Will the library purchase books you recommend?
4. Does your local library have a place where you can give a presentation?
5. Consider how long in advance the room needs to be booked.

G. Contact Sallyann Berendsen at sallyannber@yahoo.com. She will send you a copy of our PowerPoint that we use in our presentations if you are interested and she will try to answer any questions.

H. Consider your audience: Are you addressing parents, teachers, or students? Our first presentation was directed toward parents and teachers. We are continuing to develop tools for students.

I. Consider funding: Who will pay for reference materials or the printing of materials for presentations? Contact local service organizations or partner with another local group.

J. Contact the local school superintendent and present your interest. Expect his/her blessing since funding for school issues is extremely tight.

K. Once your presentation is set, contact local schools, churches, and other community organizations to give your presentations.

L. Good Luck! Let us know of your success. Sallyann Berendsen (707) 256-3894