



**National Network
For Safe Communities
at JOHN JAY COLLEGE**

Focused Deterrence in the Current Moment

**Presentation to the Violent Crime Working Group
Council on Criminal Justice**

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Focused Deterrence Principles

1. Most serious crime driven by small number of people, often in groups
2. Create certainty
3. Provide clear information about risk
4. Mobilize moral voice of the community
5. Offer support & outreach
6. Face-to-face communication
7. Enhance legitimacy and procedural justice
8. Follow up: keep your promises
9. Assess and evaluate



GVI is not Focused Deterrence; “Ceasefire” is not GVI

- Focused deterrence is a way of thinking about and addressing violence and serious crime, not a particular substantive intervention
- The Group Violence Intervention (GVI) is focused deterrence adapted to the core issue of group violence
- “Ceasefire” is not GVI
 - Lowell
 - Pelotas, Brazil
- “Ceasefire” and GVI are constantly evolving

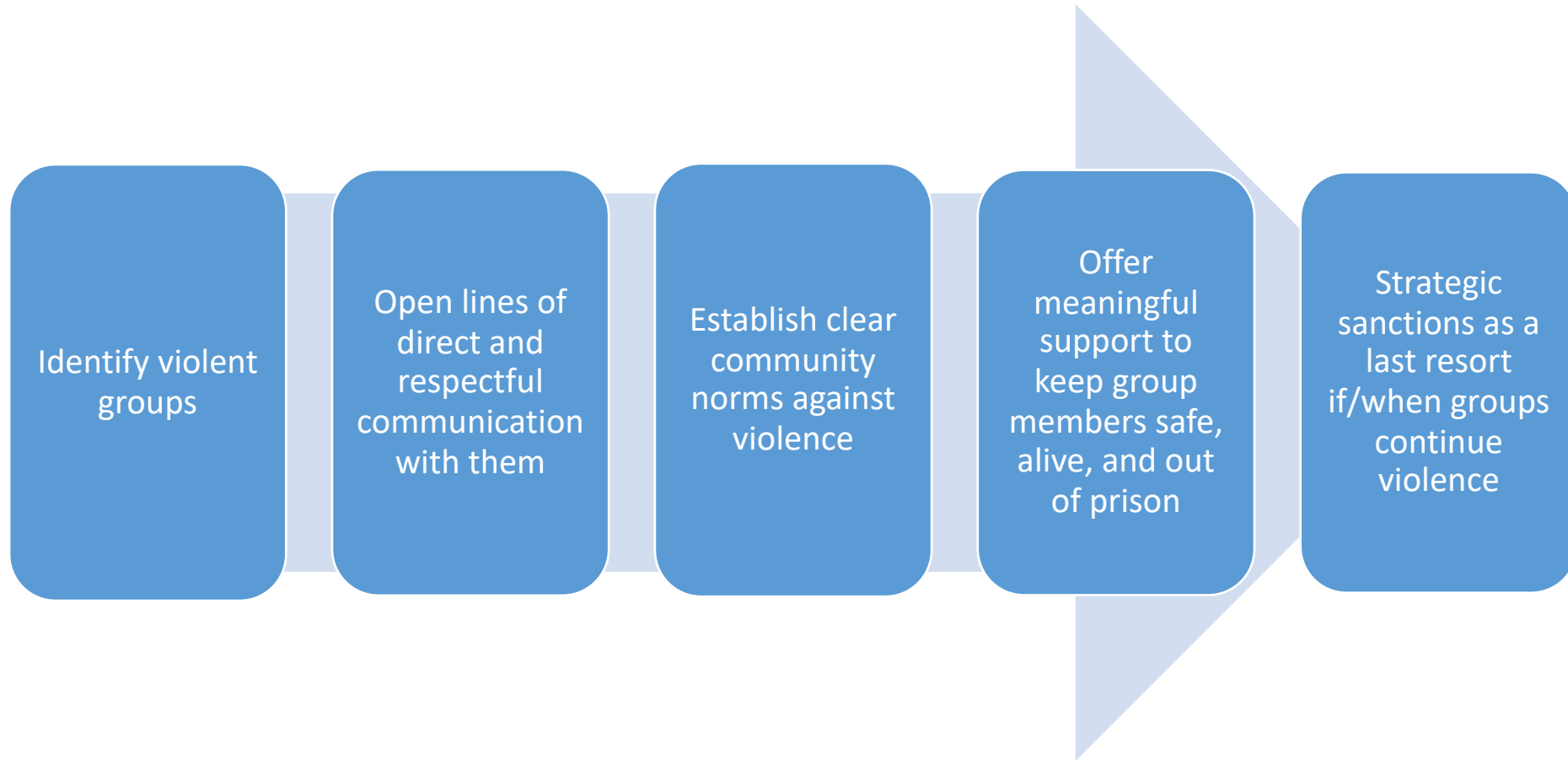


Strong evaluation record

- Impact
 - Extensive and largely positive body of evaluations and systematic reviews
 - Nothing works everywhere all the time - GVI evaluation record is now long and extensive enough to reflect that
 - Increasing but still limited insight into “black box” of the intervention
- Scope and scale
 - Meaningful violence prevention has to operate with respect to the worst violence, in the places and with the people affected, at city or meaningful part-of-city scale, with meaningful speed, with reasonably available resources, sustainably
 - GVI and the like is (so far) the only intervention that meets this standard



GVI



Framework has a place for anything that works

- Thought experiment – incorporating any given effective intervention
 - Life coaches, GRYD coordinators, CBT, etc
- Incorporating “model” insights: Advance Peace, Cardiff Model
- Anything that works fits (so far)
- Important recent advances in non-LE practice make LE less important and reduce enforcement footprint



Aims to reduce and transform policing and LE

- Only “evidence-based” practice that refocuses police and LE, reduces their footprint, challenges traditional practices and norms, elevates and addresses policing/LE harms
 - Theoretical and practical links to understanding and addressing how LE can damage collective efficacy, community dynamics, legitimacy
 - Driving home fact of concentration is critical in practice
- Key practical move is to take advantage of LE information and insight, move that granular knowledge to non-LE actors for intervention: recently gaining power and momentum
- Political and ideological impasse over policing not found at front lines



Violence prevention in an era of pandemic and protest

- Violence increase is in already high-risk population
 - Means that what has been developed and proved effective to address this is largely still the right thing to do
- Everything is hugely harder
 - Pandemic
 - Legitimacy hit
 - Paralyzing politics
 - Leadership gap
- GVI still draws necessary coalition of the willing at front lines, even as strained relationships and the difficulty of doing work are severe challenges



Violence prevention in an era, cont.

- Increasing resonance of reframing of high-risk world: extreme concentration, “there’s no such thing as a dangerous community,” overlap of victimization and offending, central role of trauma
- Lots of operational interventions – Philadelphia group customs
- Demand is up: cities want help

