2024-2025 AVP-USA EDUCATION ANNUAL COMMITTEE REPORT TO BOARD
Submitted May 2025

Vision of AVP-USA Education Committee: Sustaining the core and guiding the future of AVP training

The Education Committee supports facilitators by developing training materials and providing related resources for facilitators who conduct training in alternatives to violence and conflict transformation. Facilitators train in a variety of contexts: prisons, diverse communities, schools, and other organizations.

Mission Statement

The Mission of the Education Committee is to serve as the "heart" of AVP by promoting best practices in AVP training, ensuring continual growth and improvement of training materials, and advising on maintenance of quality assurance for AVP core workshops. This mission specifically includes: development of manuals, training materials and web-based resources; promotion of continuing learning, ongoing sharing of experiences and the wisdom of best practices, and participation in a worldwide network of AVP facilitators.

FUNCTION

The Education Committee is responsible for developing AVP-USA manuals, other instructional materials and training as needed. It ensures that there are:

- high quality reference manuals and online libraries (for the Basic, Advanced, Training For Facilitators (T4F), Youth workshops, and Continuing Learning)
- professional quality companion translations in Spanish;
- workshop processes, content, and activities that align with AVP Core Values, philosophy, and best practices, and
- strategic plans articulating Committee goals, objectives, and accomplishments.

The manuals and online libraries provide an anchor for AVP workshops and AVP groups worldwide; they contribute to quality assurance in AVP workshops.

MEETINGS

The Education Committee uses collaborative technology for monthly meetings.

LEADERSHIP

- The committee co-chairs, Katherine Smith and Betty McEady, are members of the AVP-USA Board.
- There are co-chairs on each of the education teams; some workgroups may or may not have co-chairs at this time.
- Workgroups support the work and objectives of the Committee and Teams.

COMMITTEE MEMBERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES AND NEEDS

The Education Committee is a vital and productive committee. It provides opportunities for:

- a network of members with a variety of AVP experiences to give broader input on decisions, and
- experienced facilitators to share and evaluate new exercises, agendas and best practices.

The Committee invites new members who are willing to communicate and work collaboratively via various electronic or cloud-based network tools:

- manual writers, proofreaders, editors, publishers, translators
- newsletter writers, reviewers for exercises
- facilitators with data entry, database and internet development skills and experience.

Facilitators with the energy and creative ideas for these activities are welcome. Depending on the activities selected, an individual could spend from two to twenty hours per month on interesting and valuable tasks.

EDUCATION TEAMS

1. Manual Writing Team *
2. Best Practices Team #
3. Education Collection Team #
4. Knowledge Management Team $

EDUCATION WORKGROUPS

1. Education Technology #
2. Spanish Translation #

*** totally AVP-USA Education Committee**
# joint with AVP International Education
$ joint with AVP USA Communication

PARTNERS
The Education Committee works in partnership with the following committees on various projects:

AVP International Education Committee
Communications Committee
Adaptations Committee

ACCOMPLISHMENTS IN 2024-2025 OF THE EDUCATION COMMITTEE AND TEAMS

General Accomplishments of the Education Committee

1. Hired native Spanish speaking facilitators to translate the New Basic Manual and related materials into different Spanish dialects. Our intent is to serve AVP's diverse Spanish-speaking populations in prisons and across communities in the United States. We successfully recruited Cuban, Peruvian, Mexican facilitators, and “inside

prisons" AVP facilitators who can translate and edit Spanish companion manuals and related materials to meet our growing diverse Spanish-speaking populations.

2. Began revising exercises in the new Advanced Manual; the overall structure will emphasize consensus-based workshop approaches as well as specific topics workshop formats.

3. Worked in partnership with International Education in the development and presentation of the Online Libraries. This has led to further development of two Online Libraries, which are expanded annually to meet the needs of AVP facilitators world wide.

4. Formalized a feedback process for facilitators, **using feedback circles** in world cafe formats, Education Committee meetings, and breakout sessions during annual National Gatherings.

5. **Decided to continue to use this approach to gathering facilitator feedback when developing manuals, our strategic planning, and other education related materials.**

6. Continued to work with Teams or Workgroups that support special areas in Education, e.g., collection of materials and development of guidelines in online Core Workshop training.

7. Developed and implemented (along with the Education Collection Team) a process for submission and review of new AVP materials.

Team Accomplishments (2024-25)

❖ **<u>Manual Writers Team</u>:**

- Formed an active Team of highly experienced facilitators that planned the structure of and started developing the revised Advanced Workshop Manual. At this time, the writing team and Education Committee have developed a draft the introduction to the Advanced Manual and a draft of "Crafting an Agenda"; we will present these drafts to facilitators for feedback
- We are revising existing exercises and discussing additional submissions from some facilitators.

❖ **<u>Best Practice Team: a partnership between USA and International Education Committees</u>**

- Began to develop guidelines and best practices in Core Workshop training for online and in-person approaches. Combined ten major Best Practice documents into a 28-page booklet on AVP Best Practice**.**

❖ **<u>Education Collection Team: a partnership between USA and International Education Committees</u>**

- Worked collaboratively with AVP-I to collect and evaluate new educational material, using the Online Library platforms.
- Created a third online Education Archives Library (Green Library).

- Gathered materials and resources to support manual writing (for the Basic and Advanced Manuals)
- Reviewed all the content of the existing USA manuals to support current manual writing and the online library collections.

❖ **Knowledge Management Team:**

- Transferred the cloud-based working documents for Education from private drives to AVP-USA Team Drives (still in progress).
- Continued systematic collection of documents and materials for archiving of AVP material.
- Developed a knowledge management strategy for AVP-USA.

Workgroup Accomplishments (2024-2025)

❖ **Education Technology workgroup:**

- Worked collaboratively with AVP-I to expand the Education network infrastructure to provide access to Education materials, making them available to facilitators worldwide.
- Continued development of the online library platforms and extended our online drive platforms.
- Supported the Education Committee in its development of the Education Committee webpage.

PARTNERSHIPS WITH OTHER COMMITTEES

❖ **AVP International Education**

- Collaborated with AVP International Education Committee in online library development, best practices, collection development, and manual writing.
- Developed the International Education Network and improved the USA Education website.

❖ **Communication Committee**

- Worked with the Communication Committee to make AVP-I educational material available to AVP-USA facilitators, both inside and outside.
- Worked with the Communication Committee and Knowledge Management Team to develop a knowledge management strategy for AVP-USA.
- Worked with The Transformer Editor and prison coordinators to collect manual material and evaluate exercises written and submitted by “inside” AVP facilitators.

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