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4-day toll: 12 shot, 3 dead A new shooting erupts Wednesday after the police chief pleads for calm.

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After a deputy sheriff was wounded and his assailant killed Wednesday, a concerned police chief urged Omahans to reject violence when conflicts arise. But within hours, another gunman opened fire inside Creighton University Medical Center - his target becoming the 12th person shot in the city since early Sunday.

In four shootings Sunday, seven people were injured and a 25-year-old woman was killed in her home.

On Tuesday afternoon, a 19-year-old man was shot to death in a parking lot at Seymour Smith Park.

Shortly before noon Wednesday, a Douglas County sheriff's deputy attempting to serve a warrant was wounded and the man he was trying to serve was killed in an exchange of gunfire at a southeast **Omaha** house.

Then about 3:35 p.m., a man was shot in the face at Creighton University Medical Center, the same hospital where the deputy was being treated. The victim and suspect in the hospital shooting had been in an altercation, a police spokesman said.

The shootings, Police Chief Alex Hayes said, "do not appear to be random in nature. ... There's some kind of conflict going on in (each of) those incidents."

"It's an issue where people need to learn how to solve conflicts without bringing firearms ... in the middle of it," Hayes said.

Hayes said "mediation and talking" are the tools needed instead.

"The best way to learn that is getting hold of the younger kids and teaching them at a young age," he said.

Such skills are being taught to kids as early as kindergarten, said Kris Bivens, a counselor at Western Hills Magnet Center.

"One of the subjects that we do teach ... is controlling your temper, what to do when you're mad," Bivens said. Kids learn, "It's OK to be mad, but not OK to be mean."

But some children reply that their parents preach retaliation: "If someone hits you, you hit them back."

Bivens' response: "I don't want to tell you not to do what your parents tell you to do, but if you do that at **school**, these are the consequences."

Impact One Community Connection, a gang-intervention group, also stresses the consequences of retaliation when its staffers meet with friends and relatives of shooting victims in hospital emergency rooms.

"The main thing is just getting people to critically think," said Jannette Taylor, the group's executive director.

Impact One staffers, she said, offer comfort and counsel as they remind people that further violence might land them in prison and devastate their families.

The message: "Yes, you're in a terrible situation right now. But if you go out and retaliate, it will make it worse."

When people are emotional, they simply react, Taylor said.

"They think, 'What can I do right now to resolve the issue?' By us intervening at that moment and actually speaking with them, talking them down, de-escalating the situation, it helps them think."

Mediators don't have to be professionals, said Mary Lee Brock, instructor and chairwoman of clinical programs at Creighton University's Werner Institute for Negotiation and Dispute Resolution.

"They can be leaders in the community," she said. "They might be neighbors, pastors, matriarchs of families."

Guidance is needed because people today believe they must get their way - to win at all costs, Brock said.

"There are times when that winner-take-all mentality can come to play in very sad, violent episodes," she said.

Omaha police will continue to analyze crime data and patrol areas where they suspect problems might arise, Hayes said.

But officers need help from community groups and citizens to be effective, he said.

"We continue to always ask for the **public's** help in solving these crimes and the events that are going on," he said. "The more help and cooperation we get from the **public** ... the better off we'll be as a city."

So far, a bloody week

Sunday

2:36 a.m.: Gino R. Lindsey, 39, and Michael N. Bruegman, 28, are shot while in a vehicle outside 4469 Pinkney St.

5:23 a.m.: Timothy Valentine, 33, is shot during a break-in at 4004 N. 26th St.

4 p.m.: Roddick Glass, 14; Kevon Moss, 18; and Demarkus Myers, 14, are shot near 42nd Street and Redman Avenue.

10:25 p.m.: Larceeda McIntosh, 25, is killed and Brontae Evans, 25, is wounded when a gunman opens fire at 2753 Newport Ave.

Tuesday

4:40 p.m.: Joe Piper, 19, is fatally shot in a parking lot at Seymour Smith Park near 72nd and Harrison Streets.

Wednesday

11:39 a.m.: David C. Cermak, 37, is killed and Douglas County Sheriff's Deputy Tom Flynn, 39, is wounded at 329 Cedar St. Deputy Dan Heins is bitten by a police dog. Deputies were serving a warrant on Cermak.

3:36 p.m.: Otis Holford, 30, is shot through the cheek at Creighton University Medical Center.

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