

LPSCC
Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee Meeting
POIC Rosemary Anderson East
2208 SE 182nd Avenue
9-11am

Notes for May 7, 2015

Subcommittee Attendees

Co-Chair Rod Underhill, District Attorney

Brian Detman, DCJ/Juvenile Services Division
Tracey Freeman, Department of Community
Justice/JSD

Mary Geelan, Juvenile Court Improvement
Coordinator

Jenny Glass, Rosewood Initiative
Dave Hendrie, Portland Police Bureau
Cheryl Johnson, Cascadia—HHP
Dirk Kinsey, Portland State University
Julia Mitchell, Portland OIC
Mariel Mota, Rosewood Initiative

Alice Perry, Latino Network
Rebecca Stavenjord, Multnomah County
Government Relations
Joe Walsh, City of Gresham
Kerian Walton, Boys & Girls Club of Portland
Eric Zimmerman, DA's Office

LPSCC Staff

Lauren Brown, LPSCC Staff
Christina Youssi, LPSCC Staff

Welcome, Introductions, and Announcements

District Attorney Rod Underhill welcomed everyone to the meeting and introductions and announcements were made.

- Alice Perry—CHI youth received grant from the Multnomah Youth Commission. A Youth Against Violence Summit will be held on May 15th at the Rosewood Initiative.
- Mary Geelan—Juvenile Court will provide an all day training on domestic violence and child abuse cases on July 9th & 10th. Mary can provide more information.
- Brian Detman—The topic of the next Juvenile Justice Council, on Monday, May 18th, will be procedural fairness.
- Eric Zimmerman—Camp Rosenbaum, a free sports camp for kids, will take place the week in June.
- Rod Underhill—There will be an increase in release of VOCA (Victim of Crime Act) funds for one year. Rod and AG Ellen Rosenblum are talking with Senator Merkley about flexible funding to assist in dealing with intimidation of witnesses. There will more details in late summer.
- Senate Bill 822, which deals with grand jury recordation, is now in the legislature. The DA believes special exceptions should be made for vulnerable witnesses and is working with Senator Cruz and Representative Barker on an amendment to the bill. Others are encouraged to write letters voicing concerns about the current bill. Law Enforcement agrees that there needs to be amendments to the bill or prosecuting gang violence will be problematic.

- Final interviews for the gang coordinator will be held May 20th with hopes to announce the new hire by the beginning of June.

Review OJDDP Steps and Timeline and Describe Narrowing Process and Discuss Prioritized Strategies in Key Strategy/Theme Areas

The implementation timeline was reviewed. As of last month, there were over 100 strategies. In April, the Coordinating Council used the “Impact and Influence” tool to narrow and prioritize. In June, the strategies will be shown to community groups.

Mary Geelan and Brian Detman walked through the narrowed strategies for Employment Opportunities, Family Engagement, Disconnection From Schools, And Mentors That Get It. (See attached). There were a few comments in each area. There was discussion around the criteria and best practices for mentors, and discussion about research around the importance of lived experience at different points along the mentorship continuum.

- Mary will look at original quotes from assessment about mentorship.

Discuss Youth, Community & Police Strategy and Apply Narrowing Criteria

Although most Y&GV Subcommittee members from law enforcement were unable to attend the meeting, PPB’s Lt. Dave Hendrie was present, and there was discussion and narrowing of the first 12 strategies for the Youth, Community and Police theme. (See attached). It was noted that community engagement will be effected because the Portland Police Bureau has the lowest number of officers per resident in years and many more officers will soon be retiring.

Next Steps:

- Members were asked to spend time reviewing the narrowed strategies.
- The narrowing of strategies for the Youth, Community and Police Theme will continue at the May 21st Coordinating Council Meeting. Law Enforcement will be asked to participate. Mary will provide and orientation to LE that can attend.

Next Meeting: Thursday, June 4th at the Multnomah Building

NARROWING CRITERIA

- Can you generally understand what the strategy statement means?
 - Is it within the control or influence of members of the steering committee?
 - How great of an impact will it have on helping us achieve our goal?
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EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES – Narrowed

- A. Create a similar program to Summer Works but for whole year.
- B. Develop or enhance employment program that focus on serving youth gang clients who are ready to make a change – such as the Homeboy Industries model. Social enterprises that provide paid job experiences for those with criminal records, tattoos, etc. Wrap-around services and a pay check in a supportive environment.
- C. Provide job training and employment opportunities in juvenile and youthful-offender facilities and during reentry.
- D. Create a consortium of employers/businesses that are willing to work with and employ at-risk youth.
- E. Create job/internship program for youth (pre-JSD involvement) use mentor or paraprofessionals to train youth. Interns. School credit. Stipend.
- F. Create capacity to increase community health workers throughout the County across all cultures

FAMILY ENGAGEMENT - Narrowed

- A. Create capacity to increase community health workers throughout the County across all cultures
- B. Engage community groups, individuals, and institutions to respond to the multiple needs of youth and their families through comprehensive advocacy/case management to families of at-risk or gang impacted youth centered around the needs they have identified (such as family therapy, shelter/housing assistance; transportation assistance, food, after-school activities, and community activities to strengthen families).
- C. Develop a model for parent-led small groups, that serve as support groups that meet parents when and where they are at. Classes could also be provided based on themes/questions identified by parents.
- D. Expand the GREAT families program in Multnomah County.
- E. Support first-time, low-income mothers with education, nutrition, health, safety, and human service resources to improve maternal, prenatal, and early childhood health and well-being.

DISCONNECTION FROM SCHOOLS – Narrowed

- A. Convene a multi-sector ad hoc workgroup to examine current school reconnection programs and outcomes for gang-involved youth and develop recommendations. Recommendations might include:
 - a. Expanding programs that have good outcomes for gang-involved youth
 - b. Establishing meetings with families of youth who frequently miss school to identify and eliminate barriers
 - c. Enhancing communication between schools and other youth serving agencies when at risk youth are suspended or expelled.

- B. In coordination with the work of All Hands Raised, work with school districts to develop consistent policies around suspensions and expulsions and assist teachers with classroom management strategies designed to improve aggressive/disruptive classroom behavior.
- C. Bring gang-affected youth into the conversations and solutions regarding school engagement.
- D. Engage in state level advocacy that requires teaching certification programs to include content on trauma informed and culturally responsive classrooms that, rather than starting with discipline, look to other causes of behavioral issues, such as learning challenges, not enough to eat at home, or other outside influences affecting school.
- E. Expand restorative justice programs in schools in order to promote school bonding; development of students' interpersonal skills; and a climate of safety, respect, caring, and helpfulness in classrooms and school-wide.
- F. Promote social emotional competencies in elementary school-age children, while simultaneously enhancing the educational process in the classroom. Provide teachers and caregivers with a blueprint for daily routine, playground organization, classroom management, and teacher-child interaction, all designed to create a warm, supportive learning environment.

MENTORS THAT GET IT – Narrowed

- A. **Recruitment** - Develop a mentor identification program that recruits individuals with gang specific life experience of the same backgrounds as the most impacted populations from the African, African American and Latino communities. Potentially meet with Oregon Mentors to plan a massive recruitment effort.
- B. **Training** - Contract/consult with a culturally specific mentor training program to provide the mentors with professional trainings regarding: boundaries, liability, resource and referral, positive youth development, brain development, trauma, violence, and community organizing.
- C. **Services & Referral** - Provide mentoring, counseling, referral for social services, gang conflict mediation, and case conferencing on individual youths for at-risk and gang-involved youths. Steer at-risk youths from delinquent peers to prosocial groups and provide positive peer modeling. Meet with at risk youth to help keep them in school.
- D. **Coordination** – Add a staff person to the local affiliate of the National Mentoring Partnership Network, who coordinates the recruitment, training and placement of mentors with a shared lived experience.

NARROWING ACTIVITY

LINKS BETWEEN YOUTH, COMMUNITY & POLICE

Strategies for Consideration:

1. Expand GREAT programs into all elementary schools and middle schools in high gang risk areas. There is currently no GREAT in East County. We need more trained officers. SROs?
2. Expand Rosewood's "Safety Buck" concept throughout the County as a way to increase positive interactions between youth and law enforcement.
3. Increase youth protective factors through expanding evening activities, tutoring, mentoring, and recreational centers for youth.

4. Develop youth forums for police and gang affected youth to build relationships, developed by both youth and adults.
5. Invest in and practice restorative justice and work daily to enhance the relationship between youth, their communities and the police.
6. Develop understanding of procedural justice and trauma informed practice to better shape enforcement policy and practice.
7. Create youth internships around crime prevention through environmental design (CPTED) that connect to law enforcement in positive ways and landscape design as a career path. Expand on "agriculture" path. Grow spring plants.
8. Fully use Police Activities League (PAL) of Beaverton. Re-create PAL of Portland/East County. Fully use and exploit resources from Boys & Girls Clubs. Explore all youth sports leagues in metro area and possibly to assist with engagement of at-risk youth into sports programs.
9. Develop a youth and family review board to review youth/gang related arrest procedures, and give voice to community policing practices they believe in
10. Follow up with Multnomah Youth Commission (MYC) regarding their policy recommendations. Show youth we hear you, and respect your worth and work.
11. Create a one-stop center that addresses gang involvement and general delinquency involvement with individual problem assessment, services, service referral, and recreational activities.
12. Educate youth to modify their perception that gang membership is beneficial.
13. Mobilize community leaders and Boys & Girls Club staff to recruit at-risk and gang-involved youth into club programs in a non-stigmatizing way through direct outreach efforts to discuss local gang issues and design a strategy to offer youth alternatives to the gang lifestyle.
14. Sponsor Police Athletic Leagues that provide recreation and mentoring.
15. Serve as teachers in school-based education programs, such as Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.), that, among other things, educate youth on the consequences of gang involvement.
16. Provide community policing that enlists community support, shifts police focus from individual gangs and crimes to the neighborhoods, and recognizes the importance of strategies and tactics other than what the police can provide.
17. Form an Interagency Intervention Team that targets gang members for interagency services and sanctions and provides case management.