

**Local Public Safety Coordinating Council
Youth & Gang Violence Steering Committee**

Summary Minutes for the August 22, 2011 Meeting

Present

Antoinette Edwards
Marc Fernandes
Rob Halverson
Debbie Hansen
Suzanne Hayden
Pam Hiller
Rob Ingram
Roneesha Kennedy
Kevin Modica
Thach Nguyen
Eduardo Ortiz
Kris Persson

Roberta Phillip
Erika Preuitt
Michael Riedel

Attending

Felicia Haggerty
Art Hendricks
Samantha Kaan
Noelle Wiggins

Staff: Mary-Margaret Wheeler-Weber

Group Check In: One Small Success

Steering Committee members began by each sharing “one small success” – something in their work or life that has gone well recently.

Gang Rapid Response Project

Roberta Phillip reviewed the two efforts underway that are utilizing the social network mapping on youth and gang violence. One project falls under the auspices of the Youth and Gang Violence Social Network Collaborative. The work of this group is focused on law enforcement data and is being carried forth by a team of analysts headed by Matt O’Keefe. The other effort is the Gang Rapid Response Project, headed by Erika Preuitt. This project is focused on service delivery to individuals and families who are actively involved in gangs or impacted by that involvement.

Erika gave an update on the work of the Gang Rapid Response Project. Currently, the agencies involved are Multnomah County Health Department, Department of Community Justice, Department of Community and Human Services, Multnomah County Health Department, Juvenile Detention. The Portland Police Bureau is also involved in the discussion. Additional partners may be added to discussions and planning as the work progresses.

The project is focused on prioritizing delivery of wrap-around services to 5-20 gang-involved families to help reduce gang violence. Erika shared the group’s mission statement:

Reduce gang violence through *suppression* efforts but then remain engaged with the communities as we move toward *intervention, prevention and re-entry* efforts by providing opportunities for communication and strengthening collaboration between county departments in our efforts to address the gang violence in the community impacting individuals and families.

The targeted families were identified through a process in which representatives from each of the partner agencies brought in the names of five high-priority individuals, and had a conversation about their lists. The questions the project has asked about the individuals in social mapping are: who are they, which gangs are they involved with, where do they live and hang out, what kinds of criminal activities are they involved in, and who are their families, etc. The project uses public information only, and the information is processed using tools such as flip-charts, pens and paper (not software). They have developed a logic model working with research and evaluation specialists from DCHS, MCSO, DCJ and the Health Department, and have identified measures of success. The team is working on developing a service ticket form to track referrals, give staff a tool for engagement, enable better communication among county agencies, and track those receiving services.

Of the four families identified and contacted so far, three have refused services. Erika was asked whether the families are given the option of being involved in services or whether it is required that they participate. The families do have a choice about whether or not they are involved with services, but it is not a one-time offer. In some cases, there may be suppression actions with those who decline to become involved with services.

The project does not provide services itself, but helps prioritize who should receive services from existing programs such as the Family Neighborhood Gang Violence Prevention project. Children are connected to the schools through the programs to which the prioritized families are referred.

Social Network Mapping

Roberta shared an update on the work of the Youth and Gang Violence Social Network Collaborative, which includes DCJ, PPB, and the Sheriff's office. Roberta is reviewing legal guidelines for the project with the county attorneys. The work Collaborative and that of the Gang Rapid Response Project are closely related, and the two teams are talking to one-another.

STRYVE Grant

Noelle Wiggins, Multnomah County Health Department Community Capacitation Center, reviewed the STRYVE grant. STRYVE (Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere through Local Public Health Leadership) seeks to increase the use of comprehensive youth violence prevention strategies using public health models, with a focus on prevention, community involvement, and collaboration. The Health Department's Community Capacitation Center would administer the grant under Noelle

Wiggins's direction. The program would include planning and implementation over a five-year period, with time in the first few years to build community partnerships.

The LPSCC Youth & Gang Violence Steering Committee, as a multi-sector coalition, will provide the foundation for the coalition building the grant calls for. Rob Halverson noted that representation from East County has been missing at Steering Committee's meetings and would be needed for carrying out the grant.

The grant was submitted June 1st and the awards should be announced in a few weeks. It would provide \$225,000 annually for five years for staff to support the work.

Discussion: Trickett, E. J. et al. (2011) *Advancing the Science of Community-Level Interventions*.

Noelle led the group in a discussion of the article by providing several statements based on the article to which the group responded (attached). Many in the group agreed with the statement that, "community interventions should emerge from and be defined by the knowledge of the community." In response to this statement, Marc suggested that there should be more youth involvement in youth and gang violence activities. Erika suggested the groups should ensure that Kennedy's Ceasefire steps are grounded in Multnomah County conditions. Rob Ingram suggested that many different community groups and constituencies bring their concerns to the Gang Violence Task Force meetings, and this is not always productive or appropriate, but there does need to be a place for that involvement. Erika suggested the "Restore the Village" meetings were one place where this has taken place in the past.

Next meeting: Monday, September 26th, 3:30-5:00 PM, Multnomah Building (501 SE Hawthorne), room 201