

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

Summary Minutes for the November 28, 2011 Meeting

Present

David Barrios
Marc Fernandes
Bill Feyerherm
Adrian Galvez
Rob Halverson
Suzanne Hayden
Pam Hiller
Kevin Modica
Marcus Mundy
Peter Ozanne
Robertta Phillip
Erika Preuitt
Michael Riedel

Attending

Lorena Campbell
Samantha Koan
Michaela Pin
Kathy Sanchez
Kathy Sevos
Joel Shapiro
Rebecca Stavenjord
Noelle Wiggins

Staff: Mary-Margaret Wheeler-Weber

The group began by observing and sharing their responses to the recent passing of one of its member, Rob Ingram.

Announcements

Peter Ozanne announced the What Works conference and renewed the invitation for committee members to attend.

Multnomah County's Response to the Death of Julio Marquez

Erika Pruitt reviewed Multnomah County's response to the homicide of Julio Marquez, a DCJ client and gang-affected youth who was beaten and shot to death. DCJ has coordinated services to assess the impact on the community and address the needs of Marquez's family.

Kevin Modica asked if Victim's Assistance had been denied. Mary Li responded by describing the process leading DCJ to cover Marquez's funeral expenses.

Mary Li suggested that there was an inadequate system of care for staff grief and trauma when there are tragedies with clients.

Li noted that staff perceive that more resources go to addressing African American gangs, with lesser attention given to Latino gangs. Dave Barrios observed that Marquez was multi-racial: indigenous, African American, and Hispanic.

The group discussed Oregonian coverage of Marquez's and was critical of the initial response, although some felt later coverage became more balanced. The characterization of Marquez as gang-involved downplayed his status as a child. The group discussed potential ways to respond to the Oregonian, including writing a letter to the editor on behalf of the Steering Committee, or requesting a meeting with the editors. Roberta, Rebecca and Marc volunteered to work with Hank Stern (Multnomah County Communications) to draft a letter to the editor expressing the Committee's values.

Re-Entry Programs

Roberta reminded the group that re-entry is the "fourth prong" of effective responses to youth and gang violence.

Felton Howard, Mercy Corps NW presented on re-entry programs and shared his experiences. He emphasized the importance of the following:

- Addressing criminality through behavioral and cognitive thinking;
- Developing a re-entry program early (before sentencing, if possible);
- Peer mentoring;
- Family support.

Kathy Sevors, Volunteers of America, discussed her work in reentry programs. The elements she emphasized included:

- Strong, trusting individual relationships with clients;
- Stable and safe housing;
- Meeting the emotional needs of clients.

Howard and Sevors said they would be pleased to return and meet with the Steering Committee again.

STRYVE Grant

The discussion of the STRYVE grant was truncated due to time.

Rebecca Stavenjord informed the group that the STRYVE grant program is in a "holding pattern" until Spring of 2012 while Federal funding issues are resolved.

Roberta suggested that a Prevention Subcommittee of the Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee will be formed to work on STRYVE grant activities.

Next meeting: Monday, February 27th, 3:30-5:00 PM, Multnomah Building (501 SE Hawthorne), room 201