

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

**Summary Minutes for the Monday, October 24, 2011 Meeting**

**Present**

Roberta Phillip (chair)  
Marc Fernandez  
Bill Feyerherm  
Adrian Galvez  
Debbie Hansen  
Suzanne Hayden  
Pam Hiller  
Rakiyah Johnson  
Captain Kevin Modica  
Matt O'Keefe

Eduardo Ortiz  
Peter Ozanne  
Erika Preutt  
Mike Riedel  
Rebecca Stavenjord  
Regina Warren (for Mary Li)  
Noelle Wiggins  
  
Staff: Tom Bode

**Group Check in: One Small Success**

Roberta Phillip opened the meeting. Steering Committee members began by introducing themselves and sharing “one small success” – something in their professional or personal life that has gone well recently.

**Update: Weekend Gang Violence**

Portland Police Captain Kevin Modica updated the group on the gang violence that occurred over the weekend. There were shots fired reports on each Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. Friday night around 10:00pm, near the intersection of NE Haight and Killingsworth, there were many shots fired and a victim was hit. He later died.

**Disconnected Youth Attendance Initiative**

Captain Modica, Rob Halverson, and Roberta Phillip recently attended a “Cradle to Career” conference in Denver and reported back to this group. The “Cradle to Career” program is designed to provide support for young people from childhood through higher education by combining the resources of private and public partners. There are three focus points of the program: Equity, Early Learning, and Community Support. Each of the three focus points has its own specific initiatives; the Disconnected Youth Initiative is part of the Equity focus.

The purpose of the Disconnected Youth Initiative is to provide support for youth ages 13 – 24 who are neither engaged in work or school. Truancy and a lack of positive engagement for these youth is a cause of the “school to prison” pipeline. Captain Modica explained how Mayor Adams and Chief Reese want to increase

options available to PPB officers who encounter youth that should be in school. The school district provides some support for these chronic non-attendees, but in many cases if a student misses ten days of school in a row, they are removed from the attendance rolls.

The PPB applied for a grant to support programming in this effort, but it was not awarded. However, Captain Modica has been assigned two officers to support his efforts and he will continue to seek support from school districts, county agencies, and other interested parties. To further this cause, he asked the Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee to give him a letter of support. Suzanne Hayden seconded this request. Roberta Phillip will draft a letter and send it to the group.

### **STRYVE Grant Update**

Noelle Wiggins updated the Steering Committee on the status of the STRYVE grant recently awarded to the county. The year of funding began September 1 and Rebecca Stavenjord was hired as the project coordinator. The Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee is required by the grant to act as a “multi-sectoral coalition” that will oversee the development of a comprehensive prevention plan and other grant activities. At future meetings, Rebecca Stavenjord will guide the Steering Committee to perform its appropriate oversight functions.

Noelle Wiggins, Rebecca Stavenjord, and Roberta Phillip recently attended the UNITY (Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth) conference where training for the STRYVE grant took place. Many of the cities in the UNITY City Network are not provided with federal support, so the value of the UNITY conference was the access to knowledge and experienced people. All three Multnomah County attendees were impressed with the program and came away inspired and motivated. Many other jurisdictions in attendance were discussing programs and policies already in place in Multnomah County, including restorative justice, defending childhood programs, and strong relationships with law enforcement.

Noelle Wiggins addressed the group regarding the cut in funding to the STRYVE grant program at the federal level. The reduction in the grant was the result of eliminating future funding for all youth violence programs at the CDC (the grantee). That funding may be restored when Congress passes a budget for FY 2012. In response to this, the county commission sent a letter to Oregon Senators Wyden and Merkely, asking them to support restoring funding to these programs. Ultimately, however, the fate of funding for these programs may lie with the House of Representatives.

### **Network Analysis Collaborative Recommendations**

Matt O’Keefe reported the recommendations of the Network Analysis Collaborative to the group. The recommendations were distributed on a separate sheet, which is available upon request. The group had a discussion based on the recommendations.

Pam Hiller expressed concern that the social network “map,” which is the graphical product of the analysis, was and will be displayed in public. While she acknowledged its value as a law enforcement tool, she said that public display of gang affiliations may have a negative effect on anti-gang efforts. The group agreed with this position and emphasized the importance of making sure that the appropriate non-disclosure policies are established before beginning regular use of this analysis. Regina Warren said that her concerns about the inappropriate use of this data had been resolved at an earlier meeting of the Network Analysis Collaborative, where modeling this program, especially data privacy issues, on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team model was discussed.

In his recommendations and in the discussion, Matt O’Keefe and others emphasized the limited role and purpose of network analysis. Network analysis is a tool to enhance discussions and collaboration about responses to gang activity rather than a complete solution in itself. The value of network analysis is in how it will combine with human intelligence available from POs and police officers. They cautioned the group to not overestimate the value or use of this tool, rather understand it will increase the capacity of the analysts already working on this issue.

Erika Preuitt also spoke about the next steps for the network analysis project. She is working with other members of the Steering Committee to research and write a job description for a network analyst position. Part of this process is to gather feedback from practitioners, such as POs, and incorporate their thoughts into the position. She likes the recommendations of the Network Analysis Collaborative, but thinks that there is more work to do before this project can be finalized.

Peter Ozanne spoke about the organizational structure of the network analysis initiative. He spoke about the importance of having a dedicated full time project coordinator to take the lead on bringing together the operational, political, and analytical support necessary to effectively address the issue of gang crime. He cited gang expert David Kennedy, that a dedicated project leader is essential for a collaborative gang program to succeed and last in the long term. He suggested that the Steering Committee consider hiring a full time project coordinator and cobbling together the network analysis resources from among the involved agencies rather than hiring a full time analyst and cobbling together leadership from among involved agencies. Erika Preuitt suggested that it might be possible to find someone who can do both roles.

Roberta Phillip closed the meeting by promising that this discussion would continue before the steering committee endorses any course of action.

Next meeting: Monday, November 28<sup>th</sup>, 3:30-5:00, Multnomah Building, room 201