THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: April 17, 2008 REPORT NO: 08-063

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee Agenda of April 24, 2008

SUBJECT: Informational Report regarding the U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) for the Gang Prevention Coordination Assistance Program awarded to the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

SUMMARY

The Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention was awarded $200,000 by the U.S. Department of Justice in September 2007 to implement a more coordinated, and collaborative effort between organizations serving at risk youth in the Encanto Neighborhoods. The target area is the Encanto neighborhoods (which are comprised of the sub-communities of Chollas View, Lincoln Park, Valencia Park, Emerald Hills and Encanto), are located in the Southeastern area of the City of San Diego and are part of Council District 4. The neighborhoods are defined by the boundaries for zip codes 92113 and 92114. The specific street boundaries are neighborhoods south of Highway 94; neighoborhoods north of Division Street; with Interstate 805 to the West and 69th Street to the East.

There are existing programs within this community working on these issues. San Diego County's Health and Human Services Agency, Mental Health and as well as Alcohol and Drug programs have funded sites/organizations located in the area. Multiple public and private agencies are also offering services in the Encanto neighborhoods.

The grant is not to provide services but to support the Commission's efforts to coordinate the resources of existing services in supporting youth and family resiliency. The effort is called the San Diego Initiative. The coordinated program goals are:

- To improve coordination, planning and development of gang prevention strategies
- Facilitate development of a community based social market campaign
- Facilitate community discussions on violence and gang prevention
- Reduce delinquency and criminal gang activity
- Enhance prevention and intervention community programs
- Improve youth employment skills

DISCUSSION

Collaboration Partners

To implement this coordinated effort, the Commission has monthly meetings of the San Diego Initiative Collaborative. Information is shared, gang prevention strategies are discussed and organizations discuss youth needs and services. The Commission has a satellite office at the Encanto Boys and Girls Club so that if a family or a youth needs information about the services in the area, they can receive them.

The San Diego Initiative Collaborative is a subcommittee of the existing Southeast Coalition to stay connected with existing services. The Coalition has a membership of over 20 organizations and agencies. The San Diego Initiative Collaborative also works with the San Diego County District Attorney's office that has been the leader in the development of a coordinated referral plan. San Diego Unified School District's Race and Human Relations Department works with the Collaborative as an advocate for youth and is a participant in the truancy efforts of the Police Department.

The San Diego Initiative Collaborative includes the San Diego Police Department, Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF), CHOICE Program and the Coalition of Neighborhood Councils (CNC) to enhance existing services in the area

San Diego Police Department:
Lt. Rudy Tai of the San Diego Police Department co-chairs the monthly meetings. The Juvenile Service Team works with the workgroup and shares information about Truancy Sweeps and provides statistics.

Tariq Khamisa Foundation:
The Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) provides a comprehensive, violence prevention, school program for all the area schools called the Peace Empowerment Project (PEP):

Encanto Elementary
Boone Elementary
Valencia Park Elementary
Fulton Elementary
Audubon Elementary
Bell Middle School
Morse High School

The Tariq Khamisa Foundation to date has reached 4,799 students in the Encanto region under the PEP program. Violence Impact Forum assemblies have been held at Encanto Elementary School, Fulton Elementary School and Bell Middle School.

CHOICE Program
CHOICE Program provides intervention services to the youth in the area. This intervention program aims to stabilize behavior and prevent youth from further escalating into the juvenile justice or children's services systems through structured, swift and intensive community supervision. The focus of the contacts is to reiterate and reinforce the expectations of parents, schools, and courts while providing mentoring support. The service objective is to foster the development of positive life skills and responsible behavior with youth while empowering the entire family. CHOICE received a grant in March of $5,492 from the Jacobs Family Foundation to pilot a mentoring project in Council District 4. The project is also supported with $3,087 in matching AmeriCorps funds. The pilot focuses on referrals from schools located in the Diamond communities. It is expected 20 youth (4th to 9th graders) will be assisted by the project who attend the following schools:

Fulton Elementary School
Porter Elementary School
Johnson Elementary School
Gompers Charter Middle School
Valencia Park Elementary
Chollas Mead Elementary
Keiller Leadership Academy

Coalition of Neighborhood Council
The Coalition of Neighborhood Councils (CNC) Youth PREP Program is an educational completion and employment preparation program for court and gang affiliated out-of-school youth that will provide intervention services for the project. Recently the program won a $50,000 planning grant from the Workforce Partnership on the Morse High School Initiative. This program is to introduce gang prevention and educational/occupational success for freshman students following them until graduation.

Fourth District "I Want to Live" Teen Advocacy Program
This advocacy effort ensures that youth take a lead role in responding to gang violence and making positive choices about their lives. Under the leadership of Council District 4 Representative Derrick White, the group has held 5 events throughout Council District 4 and involved over 200 youth in activities that will include a Youth Job Fair.

Eleven other organizations work with the Collaborative and have signed Memorandums of Understanding or Letters of Support to work with the Commission's effort. These include:

San Diego County Probation Department
San Diego Unified School District
Metro United Urban Ministry

San Diego Workforce Partnership
Second Chance/ Strive
Union Pacific Asian Communities
Reality Changers
Jackie Robinson YMCA
Encanto Boys and Girls Club
Consensus Organizing Center
San Diego County Health and Human Services Agency

Impact of the Collaboration

The San Diego Initiative has impacted the lives of youth at the schools in a variety of ways:

At Bell Middle School, the coordinator reported running a small group session with students who were affiliated with rival gangs. They reportedly respected each other during the group and even demonstrated this respect to others in the group. Each boy was only allowed to speak while they were holding the "talking stick" and respected this rule.

At Fulton Elementary School, the coordinators reported 2nd grade students using "I" messages after they had learned about them during a TKF lesson. Students also shared stories of when they demonstrated empathy.

With the San Diego Initiative in place, the Morse High School initiative has been able to make connections with a variety of community groups and programs easily.

The Impact of the work of the Initiative is best exemplified by this explanation from Laura Smith, Division Director for the Boys and Girls Club:

The San Diego Initiative has strengthened the level of communication and support between community based organizations within the Encanto Community. The Encanto Boys & Girls Club has greatly benefited from the increased communication and collaboration of other community based organizations within the community.

As a result of the San Diego Initiative, the Encanto Boys & Girls Club has linked up with San Diego Workforce Partnership to provide a Work Readiness instructor to teach work readiness classes at the Encanto Boys & Girls Club. These classes cover resume writing, interviewing, and obtaining employment. The teens involved in this program are identified as at-risk youth. In addition, the youth of Encanto will be attending a job fair hosted by San Diego Workforce Partnership. This partnership helps strengthen the skills of our high-risk teens. It prepares them for employment while maintaining the social and emotional support obtained through services at the Encanto Boys & Girls Club.

The San Diego Initiative was able to coordinate community organizations to participate with the Southeastern Division on its Curfew Sweep on April 11, 2008. The four organizations provided outreach and referrals to families and youth.

The San Diego Initiative is a partner with the O'Farrell Community School in its application for the Department of Education's Full Service Community Schools Grant/ that would be $500,000 a year for five years of expanded service in the area.

Overall crime is down in the San Diego. It is reflected in the overall crime in the area as well. A combined effort of suppression, intervention programming and work in the schools seems to have impacted violent (which includes gang crimes) crimes as well:

Violent Crimes (Bureau of Crime Statistics Codes 1,2,3, or 4)

School	Address	Feb-Mar 07	Feb-Mar 08	% Change
Encanto	822 65th Street	23	15	-34.8%
Valencia Park Elementary	5880 Skyline Drive	20	13	-35. %
Fulton Elementary	77055 Skyline Drive	16	10	-37.5%
Audubon Elementary	8111 San Vincente Street	16	17	6.3%
Bell Junior High	620 Briarwood Road	19	10	-47.4%
Morse High School	6905 Skyline Drive	16	5	-68.8%
TOTAL		**110**	**70**	**-36.4%**

CONCLUSION

Over the next several months, the San Diego Initiative will be very active.

Tariq Khamisa Foundation (TKF) is having Violence Impact Forums at the following schools in the area:

Date	Time	Place
April 9th, 2008	7:45 am & 9:15am	Bell Middle School
April 18th, 2008	8:00am	Encanto Elementary (For parents only)
May 27th, 2008	12:45pm	Audubon Elementary

The San Diego Workforce Partnership will have work development seminars at the Encanto Boys and Girls Club during the summer.

The San Diego Initiative is a dynamic collaborative that has affected gang issues within the Encanto neighborhoods within a few short months. The Initiative is the key component to implementing the Commission's strategic action plan goal #1. The collaborative is the cornerstone for future grants, and multi-dimensional strategic action developments seeking to reduce gang involvement, youth violence and overall crime across the city.

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