



THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO
REPORT TO THE CITY COUNCIL

DATE ISSUED: March 4, 2013 REPORT NO: 13-23

ATTENTION: Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

SUBJECT: Informational Report from the Commission on Gang Prevention & Intervention

REQUESTED ACTION:

This is an informational report. No Action is required on the part of the Committee or the City Council

STAFF RECOMMENDATION: ACCEPT THE REPORT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY OF ITEM BACKGROUND:

Since 2006, the Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention has been serving as the official advisory body to the Mayor and the City Council on policy issues relating to gang prevention and intervention. Annually, the Commission presents to the Committee collaborative community initiatives and recommended strategies for impacting gang violence within the City. The Commission's Strategic Action plan (Accounting for Success) focus for 2012-2013 reflects the collaborative initiatives to be implemented this year and those that were initiated last year to impact the level of violence. These four areas of focus are:

1. Employment (training as well as placement)
2. Integration of services
3. Facilitation of youth activities
4. Collaborative Accountability

This is our annual report with details on each of the focus areas.

BACKGROUND

A Public Health Approach to Gang Violence

The reduction in gang-related deaths following the establishment of the Commission and greater collaboration between law enforcement and community stakeholders has encouraged Commission representatives' efforts to foster partnerships at the community level. This emphasis on community-based collaboration is a key element in what has become the national trend to a "Public Health" model for addressing public safety--a shift from depending on a specific

program to impact violence to a holistic view that incorporates community conditions and engages community members in changing those conditions.

This reframing provides an informed, immediate context for implementing the continuum of the Comprehensive Gang Prevention Model—prevention, intervention and suppression---as promoted by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). In our previous Plan we outlined the organizations and the efforts in detail; many of those efforts are ongoing and integral to our current planning.

The following discussion highlights the initiatives in the 2012-2013 Strategic Action Plan and the workplan that specifies implementation of these initiatives.

DISCUSSION

Focus 1: Employment

RISEN: Employment for youth as well as those who are re-entering the community as a result of the State's realignment of prisons (moving prisoners back to their local county jails and facilities) has underscored the urgency for Counties to engage in job placement, training and education. The Commission has joined with a group of pastors and advocates working on a HomeBoy Industries like project to train, counsel and work with in youth and reentry adults. The project is called RISEN. Organizations and Churches involve include:

Pastor Bowser (Commissioner)
Greater Apostolic Fellowship

Pastor Sandoval
New Harvest

Kelly Shields
Community Activist

Ricky McCoy
Community Activist

Danny Villarreal (Commissioner)
Center for Employment Options

Stacy Butler
Community Advocate

The group is working with Price Charities and engages in conversations with other local advocacy groups and educational institutions. The goal is engage youth and adults by this spring in a work-training process.

Focus 2: Integration of Services

The Commission continues to support San Diego Police Department's collaborative curfew sweeps. This year the divisions will be engaging the youth and their families through resource fairs and resource speeches at their diversion classes.

Southeast Division has initiated mini-resource presentations at their diversion classes. Social service agencies come and speak to the youth and then to the parents. This has served to expand the knowledge of the families. MAAC project, ACE, HomeStart have participated in this effort.

Mid City has initiated full resource fairs with a presentation by Probation. The first resource fair was organized by the Juvenile Services Team and held at Cherokee Point Elementary School. Attendance included more than 50 families (147 individuals) with 21 community based organizations supporting the effort with tables and activities to support the family learning. The event was well organized and received by the participants. Cherokee Point's Principal Higa actively supported the event by outreaching to his students and their parents to attend and participate. This was a perfect illustration of integration of services.

Focus 3: Facilitation of Youth Activities

Park Extended Hours: The Commission continues to advocate for extended hours at San Diego Park and Recreation facilities. This year the Council set aside funds for summer hours. The Commission will continue to support the effort by referring resources and participating in whatever way is needed.

Focus 4: Collaborative Accountability

The Commission's priorities have been influenced by the feedback and input of community members through summits, workgroups, and focus groups sponsored by the Commission. Over the past six years, the Commission has facilitated collaborative discussions between community organizations and community members. This exciting and dynamic process has been instrumental in serving as a vehicle for exchange of information, shared resources, and improved coordination of activities. The Commission's work has been effective in facilitating collaborative projects that have improved use and efficiency of limited resources and better serve our communities. (i.e. San Diego Police Department, San Diego City Schools and San Diego County Probation). As a result, specific initiatives such as Safe Passages and Project Safeway emerged as a response to the needs of specific geographical areas.

The fundamental question remains, "How effective is the collaboration?" Commission members are committed to accountability and assessing the effectiveness of these efforts has been added as a performance measure of the Commission. For the purpose of common definition:

Collaborative accountability differs from bureaucratic accountability both on what is assessed, and how it is assessed. Collaborative accountability is an assessment based on contribution, by driving strategic awareness throughout the system, and by connecting rewards and sanctions to these broader themes.

Over the next year, the Commission will evaluate the effectiveness and impact of its collaborative efforts by using a tool from the California Endowment.

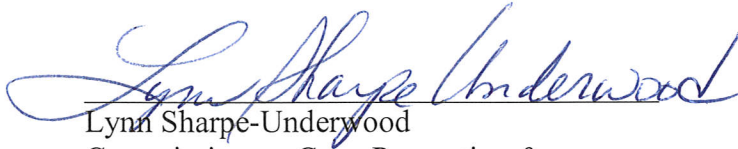
COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION AND OUTREACH EFFORTS:

The University of San Diego hosted the third bi-annual San Diego Gang Prevention Summit in the Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace & Justice on Wednesday, April 25th, 2012. Entitled: "**Building Community Connections**" **Learn Share Connect**, this county-wide event was sponsored by the City of San Diego Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention,

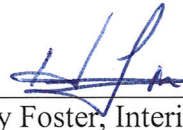
University of San Diego's Joan B. Kroc School of Peace Studies, the Leichtag Foundation, San Diego County Office of Education, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, County Health and Human Services Agency Behavioral Health/Alcohol & Drug Services. More than 300 attendees participated in the conference.

The Summit was an experiential opportunity to learn from communities and agencies about their priorities. Responses from roundtable sessions at the 2012 Gang Summit suggest community members support a wide variety of initiatives that would encourage community collaborations and sustainability.

Approximately 75% of participants believe establishing an effective collaboration process would impact gang activity citywide. Participants believe collaboration would encourage agency accountability and create an atmosphere of understanding. The community also feels that collaborative efforts should focus on building trusting relationships, fostering commitment to reach goals, effective and efficient decision-making, creative solutions, and focused communication.



Lynn Sharpe-Underwood
Commission on Gang Prevention &
Intervention



Henry Foster, Interim Director
Administration

Attachment(s):

1. Accounting for Success (Commission's Strategic Action Plan)
2. Commission's Workplan Matrix