THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Workshop Minutes

Thursday, July 17, 2008
War Memorial Building
3325 Zoo Drive, Room 3
San Diego, CA 92105

The meeting was called to order at 5:30p by Chief Lansdowne as Chair Cooper was called to an emergency.

Attending the meeting:

Commissioners

- Chief Bill Lansdowne
- Victor Torres
- Steve Eldred/ TCE
- Alicia De Leon Torres
- Chief Mack Jenkins/Probation
- Christopher Yanov/ Reality Changers
- Jeffery Anderson/Representing District Attorney
- Fred Sotelo

Staff

- Lynn Sharpe-Underwood/ CGPI
- John Minto/ CGPI

Presentation: San Diego County Report Card on Children and Families:

San Diego Children's Initiative (SDCI) Executive Director Sandy McBrayer gave a presentation regarding the San Diego County Report Card on Children and Families. McBrayer gave the example of how they started mapping where incidents occurred for DUI and incidents for a certain age group.

The authors of the report were able to give advisement of what kinds of programs may be useful in different areas. The #1 area in San Diego County for DUI incidents was the unincorporated community of Ramona; the #2 area is the unincorporated community of Fallbrook, and the #3 area is the City of Carlsbad. The issues in these communities were minors drinking and driving, not teen pregnancy.

The report uses new indicators to reflect what is really going on with youth in the community, and these indicators are:

School Attendance
School Achievement
Substance Abuse
Youth Suicide
Juvenile Crime
Youth DUI arrests
Motor Vehicle Crashes

Family and community indicators are:
Poverty
Health Coverage
Domestic Violence
Child Abuse and Neglect
Violent Crime victimization of children
Unintentional injury and death
Child Mortality

McBrayer closed by saying that TCI was to provide 200 report card copies. To date TCI had made 1400 report cards and another 1400 were being ordered. The report is a treasure of policy recommendations of what programs should be offered in the community, as well as how to involve businesses. For instance, one of the recommendations is to provide a place in a business for females to breastfeed. This has long-term affect on a child's potential obesity. Other notes of interest:

Gangs were not included because of the difficulty of collecting such information from a variety of agencies. Domestic Violence is another issue along with including data on incarcerated adults and foster youth.

Presentation: Local Initiative Support Corporation (LISC) Kerry Sheldon Neighborhoods First.

The Local Initiative Support Corporation is a national community development organization with the mission to help neighbors build communities. A year ago, LISC launched a Neighborhoods First initiative with goal to focus on the true nature of what communities are facing. Community research surveys are done in the community to identify informal leaders to hold the torch in the community.

Kerry explained LISC has been focusing on Linda Vista, Mira Mesa, and Colina Park area for the last 2 years. The Corporation has been looking at what the community needs are, and one of the community recommendations is to included using safe passage for Crawford.

Kerry played a video expressing the community`s vision for the next five years.

City Heights Child Development Corporation (Wendy Hope)

From the Community & CDC perspective, it's been slow and steady progress. CDC has been around for 25years, and there are many neighborhood associations. City Heights is a diverse community, and Colina Park has many services that are not connected. According to Hope, the Community didn't feel supported. Wendy described the process as a great opportunity to build relationships. CHCDC started to collaborate, even before the plan was put into action. The residents were interested in being a part of the working groups. High interests in youth activities and safety was on the communities list. Although it is a slow process, changes have been seen. A neighborhood watch for a high traffic drug area near apartment complex has been placed. Results have been satisfactory.

Funding

Funding throughout the course of plan to support programs.

Community Leaders

Community leaders were found from people who were already known in the community. These organizations who they collaborated with also knew who to refer them to. They found this to be challenging because of the diversity within the community.

Probation

Much of the community doesn't understand probation but that it just happens.

Translators

Make sure to have one when communicating to parents or individuals because of challenge.

Documented Gang Members

Concerns about families living in Valencia Park and Emerald Hills. High rate of African American being killed, don't want grand son to become statistic. Documented juvenile gang members. Expose documented gang members just like molesters, killers, etc. are. May be a negative because if gang member gets this information they may do harm to that neighborhood. County wide meeting was suggested. Will take some kind of law change.

There is a state criteria that they have to follow with five different indicators before they document. It's a state file that's not accessible to the public, that's the issue they are dealing with. A written notice is sent to parents, 50% responds to wanting to get their kids into a program the other 50% do not.

Closing comments

No meeting in August, the next meeting will be September 18, 2008 in which it will be televised.