

**Family Support and Education Panel**  
San Diego Gang Prevention/ Intervention Summit  
Joan B. Kroc Institute for Peace and Justice  
September 14, 2010

Manny Castro- Interventionalist Specialist for Turning the Hearts

- ✚ Grew up in gangs
- ✚ Was addicted to drugs/alcohol
- ✚ Came to Turning the Hearts because he had to do 30 hours of community service
- ✚ After completing his 30 hours of community service, he began to volunteer, then he became a staff member, and later began creating programs
- ✚ GAME- Gang Awareness through Mentoring Education
  - Established in June 2007
  - Began because there was a need in the community
  - Second Chance helped in starting the program
  - 16 week program, which meets twice a week
  - Youth involved in the program have to follow a strict dress code (slacks and collar shirt)
  - Everyone who works in program is an ex-gang member
  - Expanded to North County (Escondido) and partnered with FIT (Family Intervention Office), San Diego County Office of Education, and Escondido Police Department
- ✚ Gang Parenting
  - Educates parents on gang structure and culture
  - Provides families with support

Dante Dautz- Program Supervisor for ACE (Alliance for Community Empowerment)

- ✚ Grew up making wrong decisions, which caused him to be on probation
- ✚ Has spent 15-20 years of his life working with the community
- ✚ ACE is the newest prevention and early intervention program in San Diego
- ✚ ACE is a comprehensive approach to not only helping the at-risk youth, but the entire family
- ✚ ACE is a partnership of agencies
  - UPAC (Union of Pan Asian Communities)
  - Overcoming Gangs and Beyond
  - Jackie Robinson YMCA
  - Power Mentor
- ✚ ACE has two basic components
  - Mobile Response Team

- ❖ When there are acts of violence in the community anywhere from homicide to bullying, ACE sends a team of individuals to assess situation and see what services and/or referrals to provide victim and their families
- ❖ In the Southeast area, services provided by Jackie Robinson YMCA
- ❖ In the City Heights and Mid-City area, services provided by Power Mentor and UPAC
- Direct Programs
  - ❖ Leadership Academy
    - Facilitated by Overcoming Gangs and Beyond
    - Focus is on 12-17 yr. olds
    - Promotes community esteem, self-esteem, academics, anti-violence, drug awareness, family respect, and communication
  - ❖ Empowerment Courses for parents and teens
    - Educates parents on what behavior and signs to look for in their child and teaches them coping techniques if their child is involved in gangs and/or other negative activity
    - Also teaches parents how to build a relationship with their child
  - ❖ Strengthening Families
    - Focus is on 10-14 yr. olds
    - Parent/child interactive courses
    - Seven week courses; two hour classes
    - First hour child and parent are separated into different rooms
    - Second hour both parent and child are brought back together and go over communication techniques they learned in previous hour
  - ❖ Grief Support Group
    - Families affected by violence
    - Meet weekly

Danny Gutierrez- Director of F.O.C.I.S. (Family Outreach Community Intervention Services) & Project Coordinator for the Jacob's Center Project Safe Way

✚ Started his work in the community by volunteer work through New Harvest Christian Fellowship

✚ F.O.C.I.S.

- Secular program
- Four week program

- Based at New Harvest Christian Fellowship
  - Program is taught through the Success for Teens Handbook
  - Eight chapter handbook; cover two chapters a week
  - Girls and boys are taught separately
  - Offers the state award winning Parents Project, which specializes in parents dealing with out of control adolescents
  - On Friday nights, F.O.C.I.S., San Diego Police Department, and High School Police conduct curfew sweeps
- ✚ Curfew sweeps are a collaborative effort between:
- ACE
  - San Diego Police Department
  - Unified School Police
  - Jackie Robinson YMCA
  - SAY San Diego
  - ICY (Inner City Youth of San Diego)
  - Harmonium
  - Palavra Tree
- ✚ The children who are picked up during the curfew sweeps are given the chance to participate in F.O.C.I.S., which keeps them from being institutionalized
- ✚ Jacob's Center- Project Safe Way
- Stand on street corners in the Southeast community and monitor children on their way to and from school
  - In the last two years where Project Safe Way, F.O.C.I.S., and ACE have collaborated, the crime rate has dropped more than 87%
  - Last summer was the first summer in nine years that Southeast did not experience a single juvenile homicide
  - Project Safe Way also conducts Living Room Meetings
    - ❖ Involves bringing 9 to 10 community members and asking them what issues/concerns they have
    - ❖ One of the big issues they had was the communities relationship with the Police Department,
    - ❖ Through this discussion the community and the Police Department created Safe Talk
    - ❖ Safe Talk develops a positive relationship between our community and the San Diego Police Department

#### Hector Meza- County of Education

- ✚ Hector was involved in gangs early on in his life due to his family's involvement
- ✚ Hector does don't care about statistics, but solutions
- ✚ Need to encourage parents to be involved in their child's life
- ✚ Hector works within the 42 school districts in the county to provide Spanish gang awareness and presentations

- ✚ Hector is involved in many programs
  1. PASS(Promoting Achievement in Student Success)
    - ❖ Identifies students who are at risk of being involved in gangs, drugs, and/or negative behavior
    - ❖ Case load is comprised of 30 students
    - ❖ Hector calls the parents of the 30 students and has them come to the school their child attends to talk with them
  2. Familia Con Valores (Family With Values)
    - ❖ Teaches values, such as love, compassion, respect, dignity, etc.)
  3. LOVE (Leaning On Visions & Education)
    - ❖ Taught in the Chula Vista Elementary School District
    - ❖ Instills in children visions, goals, and education, so that they can become functional members of their own lives