

CITY OF SAN DIEGO

Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention

Minutes

Thursday, February 21, 2008

The Front

147 W. San Ysidro Boulevard

1. At 5:30 the Chair opened the meeting for reports as there was no quorum.
2. The Executive Director reported on:
 - a. Grants: 2008 MetLife Foundation Community Police Partnership Awards given by the Local Initiatives Support Corporation – due date was Feb. 29th
 - b. January 25th SDSU Community Collaborations event: The Conference was attended by more than 175 people. There were workshops which were standing room only. An appreciation luncheon was held for speakers. Follow up will be reported at the April meeting.
 - c. Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Report : Councilman Tony Young has requested that the Gang Commission come before PS& NS every month to operationalize the Strategic Action Plan
3. Public Comment:
 - a. Benita Page announced that Tariq Khamisa Foundation wants to have a youth summit involving Probation, Schools and have keynote speaker. The Choice program will be partnering with the Foundation in this effort.
 - b. Laverne Mitchell, Phillips Temple: wants to hold a workshop at Phillips Temple to address gang solicitation and gang prevention. Her son was killed by gang violence. She wants to bring attention to alternatives and resources within the community. She needs the support of the Commission and funds to cover the expenses. The event is scheduled on May 17th. Expects to attract 200 youth to the event.
4. The meeting was called to Order at 5:45p.m. In attendance was:
 - Pastor Cooper, Chair
 - Chief Lansdowne
 - Gary Gallegos
 - Benita Page
 - Alicia De Leon Torres
 - Victor Torres
 - Fred Sotelo
 - Steve Eldred
 - Christopher Yanov

5. Minutes for January 17, 2008 were unanimously approved. Chief Lansdowne moved for acceptance, seconded by Benita Page with Gary Gallegos abstaining since he was not in attendance.
6. Current Information Scan – *Commissioner Chief Lansdowne*

January 2008

STREET GANG UNIT CASE STATISTICS

GANG CASES CURRENT MONTH		GANG CASES YEAR TO DATE		
	TOTAL (Month)	TOTAL (2008)	Compare (2007)	Change (2007 to 2008)
187 (Homicide)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-1</u>
664/187 (Attempt Homicide)	<u>0</u>	<u>0</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>-1</u>
245 (Assault with a Deadly Weapon)	<u>20</u>	<u>20</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>3</u>
246/247 (Shooting at a House/Vehicle)	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>1</u>	<u>0</u>
211 (Robbery)	<u>16</u>	<u>16</u>	<u>8</u>	<u>8</u>
10851(Auto Theft)	<u>7</u>	<u>7</u>	<u>10</u>	<u>-3</u>
OTHER (All other Crimes)	<u>54</u>	<u>54</u>	<u>42</u>	<u>12</u>
TOTAL	<u>98</u>	<u>98</u>	<u>80</u>	<u>18</u>
GANG MEMBER DOCUMENTATION CURRENT MONTH		GANG MEMBER DOCUMENTATION YEAR TO DATE		
DOCUMENTED	<u>86</u>	<u>86</u>	<u>41</u>	<u>45</u>
PURGED	<u>27</u>	<u>27</u>	<u>46</u>	<u>-19</u>
TOTAL POPULATION	<u>3762</u>	<u>3762</u>	<u>3614</u>	<u>148</u>

Lt. Andrew Mills introduced Officer Jason Scott who is the Juvenile Intervention officer assigned to the Gang Suppression Team to identify at risk youth before they are identified as gang members. Lt. Mills announced that there are now two gang suppression units. He stated that it was having a positive impact. He then introduced Sgt. Dave Contreras who is working in San Ysidro. There are 19 gang sets in the area; 4 major gangs with one of the oldest having 120 documented gang members. Sgt. Contreras mentioned the special P.A.C.T. meeting held in Chula Vista. They are tracking the attendees to see if there is an impact. He then went over maps which were in draft form and will later be distributed when completed.

Chief Jenkins asked if Probation was providing support. Lt. Mills responded that the support from Probation had been great.

7. Discussion/Action Agenda:

Action Item 4a-

An Ad hoc committee has developed a work plan for the Commission – Commissioner Victor Torres reported on the plan.

The highlights of the plan are:

1. Monitoring the implementation of the Strategic Action Plan
2. Outreach diverse communities
3. Supporting Victims of Gang Violence
4. Celebrate Youth
5. The Commission will also continue to execute its duties:
 - Network with other boards, agencies, and community residents on gang related issues.
 - Promote a strong sense of community through gang solutions.
 - Act as a general information resource on gang issues within the City.
 - Advocate, formulate, and recommend for adoption proactive gang policies, ordinances, and guidelines

Action Taken:

Victor Torres moved to accept and implement the work plan with a second by Fred Sotelo, and it was unanimously accepted to be implemented.

Action Item 4b-

Early childhood exposure to violence and its impact on youth: Presentation by Mark Foreman, Director of the Family Justice Center.

Highlights of the presentation: Exposure to frightening, scary, threatening situations such as domestic violence, community violence, sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse, even neglect has multiple ramifications. These include brain development, psychological development and physiological development. Families and kids suffer and don't function as well, and can end up in unsafe situations. Being raised in an inadequate rearing environment interferes with the ability of a youth making sense of the world, basic trust, attachment separation, family and peer relationships. The name for this is called dysregulation and youth who experience this act in ways or behave in ways to reduce the negative arousal. Yoga has been found as a positive way to deal with dysregulation but more often youth might be involved in alcohol, drugs, and smoke cigarettes, act aggressively and instead of exercise, talking with a trusted friend or reading a book. The experts in this research which is called Adverse Childhood Experiences are Jeffrey Rowe, M.D. and Bruce Perry M.D.

Discussion:

Commissioner Sotelo: You mention that once a youth is in a gang you can not change that. I don't know if you meant that literally.

Foreman responded: Let me clarify that by the time they are gang age changing the development of the risk factors is very difficult. The brain goes through its developmental changes around puberty, and by that time things start to lock down.

If you want to make the most changes the age range 0-5 is the easiest period for these changes.

Commissioner Sotelo: What are the options for teenagers?

Presenter Foreman: Don't give up hope on any one of them. Keep them surrounded with resources.

Chair Cooper: What tests are used to assess a dysregulated child? How do you determine a specific child's disposition? What is the vehicle that is used?

Foreman: Psychological tools are used; there are a variety of tools used by therapists. Teachers can report behaviors and family situations.

Chair Cooper: Gang expert Malcolm Klein says maturity is a factor in changing gang bangers.

Foreman: Maturity is a huge factor in changing youth but the adverse childhood experiences can still impact their behavior. ACE, (Adverse Childhood Experiences) Studied 17,000 Kaiser Patients. This study did not reflect the diverse community. They are trying to change that.

Commissioner Eldred commented that was one of the 17,000 Kaiser patients. The Study was not testing children. It was really looking at adults looking back and assessing current health conditions. The findings are very important. The California Endowment subscribes to this research and it informs how the Foundation is responding to these issues. It doesn't answer everything. It does explain some of the dynamics and influences on behaviors and social networks that are important to include in the prevention process.

The Chair opened up the discussion to the public.

A young man got up and said: There is hope. If I can change my life then others can do it.

Janice Higgins: My experience of violence has impacted my high blood pressure. Maturity and intervention can help change a person. I studied myself and this explains a lot to me.

Chief Jenkins and the presenter got into a discussion about cognitive behavioral interventions and how helpful it can be in these circumstances. There is not a diagnosis for the impact of violence on child development. There is a movement to add a diagnosis to DSM V.

Chief Lansdowne moved that the commission initiate a roundtable with County Mental Health, Child Protective Services and the Commission in April. Commissioner Eldred wanted to include First Five and the Childcare Planning Council in his second of the motion. Chief accepted the amendment. It was unanimously passed.

There was a discussion about making sure that the Mental Health Services Act Prop. 63 surveys go out to a broader group of the community so a larger variety of groups and communities have some input into the discussion.

Action Taken:

Commissioner Page moved that the Commission support a broader distribution of the Mental Health Services Act Prop. 63 survey. It was seconded by Commissioner Sotelo. In discussion, Commissioner Gallegos asked why not just ask that they do a broader distribution. Commissioner Sotelo responded that they lacked a broad distribution. Chair Cooper stated not only do we want it broadened but provide a solution and we are willing to help. The Chair then amended the motion to direct the Executive Director to contact the County Health Human services and ask that they use a broader distribution effort and we will help that through our lists of community organizations.

Action Taken:

Commissioner DeLeon Torres asked that the next meeting would be on March 20th which is a religious holy day. It was moved and agreed to move the meeting to March 27th.

8. Community Dialogue

- a. Nancy Druve on behalf of the youth of San Ysidro. The presentation which talked about yoga and therapy is a good idea. However, it goes in opposition of our culture here. Financially it can be a problem for families. There should be other options or consequences than Juvenile Hall when youth make mistakes. Mistakes don't make a bad person. I want to support what Ms. Paige said about the community because I just heard about the Prop. 63 survey today.

9. Announcements

- o Commissioner Yanov announced that the Reality Changers initiative Education is Bulletproof is having a second meeting on Feb. 28th. The website Reality Changers .org for contribution to the effort and updates.
- o Monica Hernandez of Casa Familiar was thanked for her work for hosting the Commission.

10. Adjournment was at 7p.m.

Public Comment on an Agenda Item: If you wish to address the Commission on an item on today's agenda, please complete a speaker form (on the table near the door) and give it to the Commission's secretary before the Commission hears the agenda item. You will be called at the time the item is heard.

Public Comment on Matters Not on the Agenda: You may address the Commission on any matter not listed on today's agenda at the end of the meeting. During Commission-Community Dialogue. Complete a speaker form and give it to the Commission's Executive Secretary. However, California's open meeting laws do not permit the Commission to discuss or take any action on the matter at today's meeting. At its discretion, the Commission may refer the matter to staff or committee.

Individual's= comments are limited to three minutes per speaker. At the discretion of the Chair, if a large number of people wish to speak on the same item, comments may be limited to a set period of time per item. The information contained in this agenda is available in alternative format. To request an agenda in Braille, large print, or cassette, or to request a sign language or oral interpreter for the meeting, call the Commission office at least five (5) working days prior to meeting.(619-236-5936)