

THE CITY OF SAN DIEGO, CALIFORNIA
MINUTES FOR COMMISSION ON GANG PREVENTION AND INTERVENTION
MEETING
OF
THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 16, 2010
AT 5:00 P.M.
GARFIELD ELEMENTARY SCHOOL AUDITORIUM
4487 OREGON STREET (BETWEEN MEADE & MONROE)
SAN DIEGO, CA 92116

CHRONOLOGY OF THE MEETING:

The meeting was called to order by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper at 5:03 p.m. The meeting was adjourned by Chair Pastor Harry Cooper at 6:38 p.m.

ROLL CALL

Chair Pastor Cooper called the roll:

ATTENDANCE:

- (1) Commissioner Williams
- (2) Commissioner Cervantes
- (3) Commissioner Lansdowne
- (4) Commissioner Yanov
- (5) Commissioner Jenkins
- (6) Commissioner De Leon Torres
- (7) Commissioner Silverman
- (8) Commissioner Lozada
- (9) Commissioner Eldred
- (10) Commissioner Kowba
- (11) Commissioner Villarreal

Chair Pastor Cooper acknowledged that the commission will soon be transitioning Commissioner Steve Eldred. He was awarded a certificate of appreciation for all that he has done in serving San Diego. Commissioner Eldred stated his appreciation and thanked the commission for their guidance and thanked Executive Director Lynn Sharpe Underwood.

Pastor Cooper acknowledged former Commissioners Victor Torres and Kevin Henderson who were not present. Pastor Cooper then welcomed new members Carol Williams (Untied Way); Ed Martinez (San Ysidro Health Clinic) and Joyce Abrams (retired teacher).

APPROVAL OF MINUTES

Pastor Cooper asked for the approval of minutes from July 22, 2010. The motion was to approve the minutes. Motion was made by COMMISSIONER LANSDOWNE TO ADOPT. Seconded by COMMISSIONER LOZADA.

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COMMUNITY INFORMATION SCAN (CIS):

a) Gang Statistics-Chief Lansdowne and Lt. Jorge Duran

Lieutenant Jorge Duran from the San Diego Police Department (SDPD) Gang Unit presented a report on current statistics from August 2010 that involved the City of San Diego. There was zero gang related homicides, total for the year is 2 compared to 7 homicides last year. There were also 22 aggravated assaults in August; total for the year is 134 compared to 158 the prior year. Out of those aggravated assaults for August, 4 of those were shootings, 16 were stabbings, and 2 were other (including the use of blunt objects). On the suppression side there were 106 gang arrests which of those 94 being adults, 12 were juveniles, 15 on probation violations. There were 15 firearms recovered from these gang members on the street.

Commissioner De Leon Torres asked if Lieutenant Duran had any news regarding the shooting in Mira Mesa in September. He stated that they are working with the homicide unit and there are leads on that case.

Pastor Cooper asked how many registered gang members are in the city of San Diego and Lieutenant Duran stated there were about 4,000 documented gang members in the city and has remained steady, changing month to month due to an automatic purge, where a person is automatically dropped off of the list after 5 years. Lieutenant Duran did not have the number of those purged.

b) Probation Information- Chief Jenkins

Chief Mack Jenkins apologized that the probation representative was not present and probation did not have a report at the time. Chief Jenkins stated that he would try to answer questions pertaining to the map provided to the commission.

Commissioner Yanov asked about the low number of documented gang members. Jenkins said that the map reflected the number of youth on probation who are in California gangs but does not reflect the number of youth on probation who may have one or more gang conditions of probation. Juvenile gang case load is about 300 and adult gang case load is about 400.

Commissioner Lozada discusses the zip codes labeled on the map and that the map was a very helpful and useful document to help educate what is going on in each zip code.

c) Parole Information-

Report from parole was given by Manuel Guerrero. The San Diego Parole Department has approximately 54 gps gang members monitored in North and East San Diego County. In the last 2 months, there have been no new CDCR prison terms for gang members monitored by gps. The

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department has a limited number of gps devices due to the budget but is working on getting more.

Chief Jenkins asked how long a gps unit stays on. Mr. Guerrero said that they are on a “rotational” basis because of the limited number of units. If a person on parole is doing well and not doing anything, then they will rotate that off of a low level parolee and put it on someone else. He said that it is hard to say what the term is. Jenkins then asked if the parole department is tracking crimes or violations by parolees being supervised by gps. Mr. Guerrero said that they are.

Mr. Guerrero said that the gps has been very helpful in tracking parolees who are out at 3:00 am when they are not supposed to be.

ACTION ITEM A:

a) **Report from the Ad Hoc Committee on the New Direction Report**

Gang Commission Executive Director Lynn Sharpe-Underwood stated that Chief Lansdown and Chris Yanov made a thorough presentation and made the changes that were required and now need the final blessing from the commission. Lynn Sharpe-Underwood mentioned that the 13-cities network consulted and helped shape the process and Mrs. Underwood thanked Jack Calhoun.

Discussion

Commissioner Jenkins wanted to clarify that the probation map will be an attachment of the report and she confirmed that it will be.

Recommended Action : To accept the report so that it can be presented to eth Public Safety and Neighborhood Services November meeting and then forwarded to the Mayor and City Council for acceptance.

Commissioner Kowba motioned to accept the report. Commissioner Lansdowne seconded the motion.

Commission approved unanimously. Pastor Cooper thanked the committee who worked so hard to pull it together.

ACTION ITEM B:

10 to Succeed Program: San Diego Unified School District’s Superintendent Bill Kowba will be continuing the 10 to Succeed program during this school year. The Commission’s support of this effort is important and is highlighted in the New Direction Report.

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Commissioner Kowba gave an overview of the 10 to Succeed program and the history of the program. This is the third year of 10 to Succeed involving three high schools across the district in an engaging mentoring program.

Becky Phillpott introduced Principal Richard Nash and his students and Derek White from the Youth Action Board. Becky Phillpott showed the Commission a picture from an outreach service. Mr. Nash thanked Executive Director, Lynn Sharpe Underwood, for supporting the students outside of the school.

Principal Nash explained that 10 to Succeed began with 10 students who were underperforming in both school attendance and academics. The focus of the program was to make sure students were at school and understood the steps to be successful. They adopted four tenants that are respect, responsibility, integrity and tolerance.

A group of students selected on their performance coming into high school were presented to give their perspective on the program. One student, a young man, stated that the program had been life changing for him and that if it were not for this group he would probably be out somewhere and not doing homework. It has taught him to be a leader and not a follower. He did not pay attention to negative things going on around him and go onto something positive for himself and those around him

Another young man spoke about not being able to play football because of grades and Mr. Nash helped him understand that it is a lot easier to do your work, then to not do any work at all. If you actually apply yourself it is a lot easier than just sitting there. He now feels a lot better about his school work because Mr. Nash has helped him with his tutoring and has been there for the group. He considers Mr. Nash a father figure in his life.

Becky Phillpott introduced Derek White, a mentor from the Youth Action Board and his graduated students from Morse, Lincoln and Crawford. Those high school graduates are now mentors at these schools. A young man, who is now in his third year of college and had graduated from the program, praised the program for helping him out. Now he wants to give back and help others.

Commissioner Lozada asked the students who were currently in high school what their goals were beyond high school. One young man said that he plans on attending college and the other young man said that he wants to graduate from San Diego State and get into a career of interoperating sign language.

Commissioner Jenkins asked the young men what their favorite subjects were. One said History by far and learning about what we had to go through to get to where we are now. The other young man said algebra.

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Commissioner Yanov asked them if they felt the success of the program was because they were being steered away from something or being steered toward something. Both young men said toward something by being pushed toward their potential; from the gang life to the college life. Pastor Cooper asked the young men what they would say to students that are on the borderline of not getting into the program. One young man said having the will to want to change and if you really want it, to pursue it with the right attitude. Becky Phillpott explained the capacity of the program's schools and staff aims to expand the program to more students in the future.

Commissioner De Leon Torres asked them what their "ah ha" moment was. One young man said summer school, when he got an A and B in his hardest classes. Another young man said his moment was when he went to a college and thought to himself that he could actually one day be there. The third young man said when he went on a college tour and saw the college culture he had his moment. Lastly, Becky Phillpott said that next time she would try to have the girls groups attend.

Recommended Action:

- (a) Create and Ad Hoc Committee to choose two schools to focus on this school year and work with all Commissioners to be guest speakers and participate in various ways including the End of Year Celebration.
- (b) Plan to have the January Commission meeting during the day at one of the schools involving the youth in the planning of the presentations including the Community scans.

Moved by Commissioner Silverman and seconded by Commissioner Jenkins.

Chair Pastor Cooper asked the Commission if there was any discussion on the item.

Commission moved unanimously.

Commissioner Lozado, Commissioner Williams and Commissioner Cervantes volunteered to be on the Ad Hoc committee

ACTION ITEM C:

County Health and Human Services and County Mental Health-HHSA Central Region and County Mental Health are working together on a county-wide healthy environment plan. A presentation was made that detailed the focus of the effort "Building Better Health" and tied how the Gang Commission can partner with the County.

The project includes addressing gang violence. County HHS Deputy Director, Rene Santiago (Central and South Regions) and County Mental Health Services Director, Alfredo Aguirre, LCSW, highlighted projects like Alliance for Community Enhancement (Union of Pan Asian

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Communities) and the Institute for Public Strategies (IPS) where the Commission could partner and work together.

Rene Santiago, Deputy Director HHS, gave special thanks to Pastor Cooper, Chief Lansdowne, and Chief Jenkins. Mr. Santiago discussed Building Better Health in southeast San Diego. Mr. Santiago shared their 10 year plan that was approved by the Board of Supervisors. He followed a PowerPoint and handout that was presented to the Commissioners.

Mr. Santiago discussed the purpose of Building Better Health. The first is to update the public on HHS efforts to advance the health and safety of San Diego Residents. The second is to identify the areas of convergence with the City of San Diego's Commission on Gang Prevention and Intervention. The third is to identify future strategic and collaborative opportunities.

On July 13, 2010 the Board of Supervisors approved the Health Strategy Agenda, the County's 10-year strategic plan. There are four major themes. The first is building a better system for people to have access to health care. The second is supporting healthy choices, providing the latest information to residents. The third is pursuing policy change for a healthy environment. The last theme is improving the culture from within. Mr. Santiago explained the nexus between safety and health. When community residents experience or perceive gang or community violence, community residents feel unsafe and do not want to go to parks or other open spaces. They do not allow their children to play outside, which leads to a lack of physical activity due to perception of safety and leads to a sedentary lifestyle. This could lead to chronic diseases such as obesity or diabetes. When community residents perceive that they are safe, they are more apt to form social connections in their communities and thereby engage in healthy lifestyle activities and choices. It has been shown that there is a social dimension to obesity.

Curley Jordan, from HHS Health Promotion discussed the Preventing Violence and Healthy Eating Active Living (HEAL) Initiative. The initiative's aim is to reduce violence by implementing strategy and policy changes that affect the environment in a way to make it easier for residents to live an active life by visiting parks, living in safe apartment complexes and having access to safer trolley stations. The initiative received a grant from the National Conversion Partnership to prevent violence and promote active living. The grant focuses on the western part of Chula Vista, including one apartment complex and three trolley stations that have been identified as "hot spots" where violence frequently occurs. Another part of the grant is safe routes to schools. To make sure that crosswalks and sidewalks are safe for children to cross. They want to create a buffer for traffic in order to keep children safe. Safe passages will be beginning at Bell Elementary and the county will be a part of that effort.

Director Alfredo Aguirre from Mental Health Services gave the commission an update on partnership with the Commission. He began by discussing Proposition 63 in prevention and intervention efforts. In addressing the issue of gang violence prevention, Mental Health Services began by working with the families in the community. Issues in need of innovative solutions include: alternative role models for children and youth, truancy as it contributes to delinquency and behavioral disorders, empowering youth to develop skills away from gangs and violence,

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utilizing libraries as “safe zones” in trauma exposed regions, and sexual exploitation and trafficking of children.

Specific programs that Mr. Aguirre explained would directly impact gang violence are Prevention and Early Intervention (PEI). The first one is Alliance for Community Empowerment (ACE), which is a mobile outreach to children and families exposed to gang violence. The other one is Families As Partners (FAP) that is an assessment and treatment for children and families involved in domestic violence. Mr. Aguirre passed out flyers about these specific programs.

The next strategy they will be embarking on will be working with Chief Jenkins and focusing on public safety.

Commissioner Lozada mentioned that Mental Health is often overlooked and there is an opportunity to move in the right direction as efficiently and effectible as possible. She also said she hoped that the programs would be culturally relevant.

Commissioner Yanov asked about the programs involvement with gang violence. Mr. Aguirre said that having a broader definition of patient doctor relationship and looking at these youth from the beginning. A more multi disciplinary approach nested in the medical and health care field.

Commissioner De Leon Torres asked about past funding going to South Central San Diego and South Bay. She mentioned that Mira Mesa has high risk of pedestrian related accidents because traffic is horrible. Additionally, she mentioned that they had a shooting two weeks ago. Mira Mesa is very large and has the highest amount of gang activity. She wanted to know if a community with the definition such as Mira Mesa would be able to be provided with the services discussed. Mr. Santiago said that Building Better Health is a countywide strategy and each region is having their own forums. In different communities there will be different strategies.

Commissioner Eldred thanked Rene and Alfredo and Curley for attending the meeting and wanted to mention that what was spoken about tonight is the cutting edge future direction for public health.

Chair Pastor Cooper asked if there were any more questions and there were not.

Recommended Action: Create an Ad Hoc Committee to work with the County’s management team to bring back to the Commission specific initiatives and collaborative strategic actions.

Moved by Commissioner De Leon Torres and seconded by Commissioner Villarreal

Ad Hoc Committee will be Commissioner Cervantes, Commissioner Del Leon Torres and Commissioner Lozada

Community Presentations

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Hire-A-Youth and Gang Prevention Program Summit Update-Commissioner Mark Cafferty

Jared Aaker with San Diego Workforce Partnership wanted to present the Gang Prevention Program Performance Report. This program is a school based, youth workforce development program for gang-involved youth or those at risk of becoming gang involved. It is an intensive, year -long program. The report is from the program year 2009-2010. The program has seen some great success. The Youth Programs Core Components include work readiness training, work preparation, work-based activities, educational activities, and youth development activities. Performance Outcomes are measured by placement in employment, literacy numeracy gains, degree/certificate attainment and placement in post-secondary education or advanced training. Great success has been seen in literacy and numeracy gains, 82%. Currently there are 102 youth served in two programs. There are currently 83 youth in juvenile justice system aversion, 51 youth in satisfactory school attendance, 48 youth with GPA increases, and 90 youth in grade level achievement. The characteristics of the participants include 19% are ages 16-17 and 81% are 14-15 years of age. 65% are males and 35% are females, and 94% of them were at risk of dropping out of high school. 18% are youth with disabilities and 51% are currently involved with gangs. 51% are Hispanic, 20% are Black, 1% is American Indian, 3% are Asian/Pacific, 11% are multiple ethnicities, and 14% are white. The program is managed by Willy Wallace.

Commissioner Jenkins asked what exactly is meant by the juvenile justice system aversion. Jared Aaker responded that it means the youth have not entered into the juvenile justice system.

Hire-A-Youth Program

Funded by American Recovery and Reinvestment Act and began in February of 2009 by President Obama. The summer job program was given \$3.915 million to run the program and 5,000 teens in San Diego County have been placed in summer jobs in the past two years. This summer, a private campaign went underway to gain funding for the program. There were 120 teens that found youth employment. This year, there are 9 providers. The plan going forward is hoping that the Workforce Investment Act (WIA), which ends in June 2011, will be re-authorized and the private campaign can be expanded.

Commissioner Lozada asked if there was anything that the Commission could do to continue tracking the program and support its continuation.

Executive Director Lynn Sharpe Underwood responded that this issue will be discussed at the October 21st Commission Meeting.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

Commissioner Jenkins wanted to remind the Commission that they had their 2nd Annual Passport to Life Program, where the Probation Department and the Juvenile Court gave the opportunity

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for up to 900 youth on probation to go the college environment. Teens were provided with informational packets on financial aid and job applications, as well as other informational materials. Feedback from youth was that before the opportunity of Passport to Life, they never even envisioned themselves on a college campus. One of the highlights included the youth on probation that held a fashion show on how to dress properly for a job interview and how not to dress for a job interview. Chief Jenkins said that it was a tremendous success and there will be third Passport to Life Program event.

Commissioner Silverman mentioned the Gang Summit at USD and what a success it was. There were over 350 people registered and the networking and partnerships that went on were very cool. It was really great to watch and see people work together and there was tremendous press coverage. He received great feedback about what a great place it was to sit and network with one another. Commissioner Silverman mentioned that next year it would be wonderful to get a bigger venue and have thousands of people attend.

Commissioner Lozada clarified that the Summit was designed to bring communities together and focus on networking.

Commissioner De Leon Torres said that Mira Mesa will have a monthly meeting at Harmonium.

Jack Calhoun was given a chance to discuss his effort in working with youth and gang prevention and his success in 13-cities. He said he was amazed with the Commission's work. He discussed power and each individual having to control their lives.

ADJOURNMENT

Chair Pastor Cooper made the motion to adjourn the meeting at 6:38 P.M., seconded unanimously and was approved unanimously to adjourn the meeting.

Next regular meeting: Thursday October 21, 2010 @ 5:30 p.m.
City Hall 12th Floor Closed Conference Room
202 C Street
San Diego, CA 92101