



PORTLAND POLICE BUREAU COMMUNITY PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM

BECOMING PART OF THE SOLUTION

Portland Police Training Unit
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HOW DID WE GET HERE?

“NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION”

There was limited space at the State Police Academy.

We began losing candidates to other agencies.

We began hiring officers early and “warehousing” them until they entered the Academy.

HOW DID WE GET HERE?

“NECESSITY IS THE MOTHER OF INVENTION”

The Police Chief wanted a more productive experience with an emphasis on the community.

We began to reach out to community members and the reception we received was overwhelming.

In the Spring of 2009, we began placement in community service organizations as well as the Department of Community Justice.

Methodology

The recruits were hired as non-sworn employees with pay equivalent to first step police officers.

They receive orientation and then are placed in a variety of programs while waiting for the Academy:

- ✓ **School based (life skills, sports, mentoring)**
- ✓ **After school (at risk youth, supervision, guidance)**
- ✓ **Social Service (food distribution, transient outreach)**

Methodology

“COMMUNITY JUSTICE WEEK”

The curriculum for this week was developed by Multnomah County's Department of Community Justice and touched on the following points:

- Overview of entire system
 - Interactive seminar format with exposure to entire spectrum of juvenile justice community
 - Site visits: shelters, treatment facilities, detention facilities/programs (electronic monitoring etc..)
 - Culminates in half day @ SEI, the most significant youth development program in the city

Building Relationships

We suggest **POLICE** organizations should:

Acknowledge we have been absent from the table.

Acknowledge that relationships with certain communities are not what they should be – avoid blame and look forward not backward.

Trust that we *CAN* make a difference – dedicate resources to make this happen.

Building Relationships

We suggest the **COMMUNITY** should:

- **Be flexible**
 - Trust the partnership
 - Understand the police mission
 - Understand their level of accountability
 - Accept at what level police can participate in programming

Benefits for the Police

- Stronger, more robust relationships
- Resource development (gives the officer another tool in their belt)
- Valuable collaboration and a voice at the table when decisions are being made
- Renewed awareness and knowing they are not alone, there are others they can call on for “back up”
- A sense of purpose

Future Challenges

Strive to develop and expand partnerships with community providers, such as:

- Homeless/runaway providers
- Immigrant community
- Treatment community
- Gang resources

Be sure to include training to veteran officers by analyzing the feasibility of offering this partnership program as part of their In-Service training