

LOCAL PUBLIC SAFETY COORDINATING COUNCIL

Action Plan to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence: *Ensuring Effective Coordination, Oversight, Community Engagement & Measurable Outcomes*

Adopted by the LPSCC Executive Committee, September, 2012

In the last year, the steering committee has met monthly to discuss ongoing, developing and new strategies in Multnomah County to reduce and prevent youth and gang violence. In addition to discussing the intervention and suppression actions of law enforcement and corrections, we have heard presentations and reports on prevention efforts through STRYVE and reentry efforts through VOA and Mercy Corps, we endorsed the use of network mapping software to focus collaborative efforts and resources, we wrote an opinion piece for the Oregonian and recorded an audio version related to community response to violence against and by youth, we supported the efforts of our youth members to engage youth in the discussion of violence in their lives. In order to enhance our efforts, LPSCC's Youth & Gang Violence Steering Committee is recommending LPSCC Executive Committee be more actively engaged in the oversight and coordination of these efforts through regular reports at the LPSCC meetings. The Steering Committee proposes this Action Plan to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence.

LPSCC has a critical role to play in Multnomah County's violence reduction strategies by providing effective coordination and oversight and by supporting community engagement in the development and implementation of these strategies. Due to LPSCC's effectiveness, widespread acceptance and longevity, the Council can also ensure a sustainable process to promote long-term, balanced strategies that many jurisdictions across the country, despite short-term successes, have been unable to maintain.

In January 2011, LPSCC's Executive Committee adopted an earlier version of an Action Plan to Reduce Youth and Gang Violence, which contained some of the actions proposed in this plan. Based on the experience of the Steering Committee thus far, its understanding of evidence-based and promising practices in the field and its vision of a more coordinated and aligned approach to reducing youth and gang violence in our community, the Steering Committee requests the Executive Committee's approval of the following proposed actions that make up this Action Plan:

1. Through the Steering Committee, coordinate and link current youth and gang violence strategies to align policy and practice within Multnomah County and among jurisdictions.

LPSCC's primary function is to coordinate the development and implementation of public safety policies and strategies in Multnomah County. The Council has performed this function in large part by establishing committees and working groups made up of participating agencies and organizations and affected stakeholders and communities.

The effectiveness of Multnomah County's youth and gang violence reduction strategies across the county will be greatly enhanced by charging the Steering Committee with the responsibility of linking and coordinating the implementation of these strategies.

2. Support the use of evidence-based and promising practices to seek a systems level, balanced approach of strategies and actions among suppression, intervention, prevention and re-entry.

Although emphasis on each of the strategies may be different at any given point in time, the Steering Committee will maintain a commitment to engage in efforts each of the four approaches to reducing youth and gang violence.

3. To support and raise up community voice on the issues of gang and youth violence - including that of young people and their families involved in gang and youth violence.

As part of its previous efforts to address youth and gang violence, LPSCC has emphasized the importance of actively engaging communities directly affected by youth and gang violence in the processes of identifying of the communities' problems, needs and assets and of overseeing the development and implementation of evidence-based strategies. The Steering Committee's responsibilities should include the establishment of the means to engage affected communities in those processes.

4. To build shared, integrated, and common investment, values, principles, goals, messaging and measurable outcomes for all youth and gang violence reductions strategies in Multnomah County.

5. Establish a regular schedule for the Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee to report to LPSCC's Executive Committee.

To ensure that the Executive Committee carries out LPSCC's oversight and coordination responsibilities effectively and that the process of developing and implementing violence reduction strategies becomes sustainable, the Executive Committee should establish a regular schedule for the Steering Committee to report to the Committee. While the Steering Committee will no doubt determine the content of many, if not most, of its regular reports, members of the Executive Committee should feel free to request reports on specific subjects of interest or concern and on recent developments involving youth and gang violence.

Conclusion

If LPSCC's Executive Committee chooses to assume a more active role in coordinating and overseeing strategies to reduced youth and gang violence in Multnomah County, it should expect the following benefits:

1. Greater coordination of operations, programs and services among participating justice agencies, community organizations and local governments in Multnomah County and, in particular, between operations in West and East County;
2. The opportunity for line staff and managers of the participating agencies and organizations across the county to keep elected leaders and policymakers informed of ongoing youth and gang violence reduction strategies so those officials can provide leadership, budgetary support and policy guidance to ensure a sustainable intergovernmental structure to support the strategies; and
3. Greater confidence of elected officials in current evidence-based strategies and operations.