LPSCC

Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee Meeting

Public Safety
Coordinating
Council of
Multnomah
County

Summary Minutes for July 11th, 2013

Welcome and Introductions

Subcommittee Attendees

Baruti Artharee, Policy Advisor - City of Portland, Subcommittee Co-Chair Rod Underhill, District Attorney, Subcommittee Co-Chair Scott Anderson, Troutdale Police Chief Harry Bradshaw, Oregon Youth Authority Sharon Darcy, Pathfinders of Oregon Antoinette Edwards, Youth Violence Prevention Office - City of Portland Lt. Jeff Hershman, Oregon State Police Lieutenant Ken Johnson, Fairview Police Chief Craig Junginger, Gresham Police Chief Ron Livingston, Portland Police Bureau Amanda Marshall, U.S. Attorney Joe McFerrin, POIC/ Rosemary Anderson High School

Maureen McKnight, Judge
Christina McMahan, Assistant Director, Dept. of
Community Justice, Juvenile Services Division
Julia Mitchell, POIC
Scott Montgomery, Portland Police Bureau
Erika Preuitt, DCJ
Kirsten Snowden, District Attorney's Office
Sheriff Dan Staton, Multnomah County Sheriff
Craig Ward, Troutdale City Manager
Joel Wendland, Troutdale Police

LPSCC Staff

Abbey Stamp, LPSCC Executive Director Lauren Brown, LPSCC Staff Matt O'Keefe, LPSCC Staff

Subcommittee Co-Chairs Rod Underhill and Baruti Artharee, along with meeting host Troutdale Police Chief Scott Anderson, welcomed everyone to the meeting

Discussion regarding the challenges surrounding youth and gang violence

Co-Chair Underhill requested updates on the current status of gang activity and prevention strategies within each jurisdiction from the representatives of the law enforcement agencies operating with Multnomah County.

Gresham Police Chief Junginger updated the subcommittee on the status of youth and gang violence in Gresham. Gresham had seen an influx of gang associated residents, especially in the Rosewood and Rockwood areas. The demographics of the gang associated individuals had changed from primarily Hispanic to primarily African American in the last five years. Most individuals involved in gang activity within Gresham were the same people active in Portland. Public transportation, especially MAX, had helped increase the geographic range of gang activity. The gang activity had changed from being primarily turf wars to drug offenses and commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC). Gresham participates in the East Metro Gang Enforcement Unit (EMGEU). Gresham lacks many of the resources available in Portland for prevention and intervention.

Troutdale Police Chief Anderson updated the subcommittee on the status of youth and gang violence in Troutdale. Troutdale was concerned about maintaining public safety and livability standards. Troutdale would like to focus on how to prevent gang crime and to keep gang activity out of the city. Current actions aimed at prevention include two gang resources officers at Reynolds and gang education at Walt Morey Middle School.

Fairview Police Chief Johnson updated the subcommittee on the status of youth and gang violence in Fairview. The most recent homicide in Fairview was gang related. Additionally, there is an apartment complex where 100 documented gang members reside. Chief Johnson expressed support for the three prong approach of prevention, intervention, and suppression of gang activity.

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Agencies in
Multnomah
County

Multnomah County Sheriff Staton updated the subcommittee on the status of youth and gang violence in East County. There had been a seasonal increase in crime in East County as the weather improved. The Sheriff's department had been working on data analysis projects to better understand the characteristic and location of crime in East County.

Lieutenant Hershman updated the subcommittee on the activities of the Oregon State Police in East County. OSP has a small footprint in East Multnomah County but is glad to be included in this discussion and would like to be part of the solution.

Representatives from the Portland Police Bureau updated the subcommittee on the status of youth and gang violence in Portland. The PPB had seen a reduction in gang enforcement officers due to budget cuts. PPB is part of the Metro Gang Task force which includes the FBI. There had been an increase in shootings and other gang activity as the weather had improved. There is a concern the activity will continue to increase, especially as the PPB has decreased resources to investigate incidents and prevent retaliation. PPB had noticed the increase of activity on the far Eastside and had been collaborating with GPD on investigations. There had been an increase in violence between individuals associated with the same gang. Both CSEC and activity at transit stations were mentioned as areas of concern.

Joe McFerrin updated the subcommittee about the activities of the Portland Industrialization Opportunities Center (POIC) and Rosemary Anderson High School. A new school and community center have been opened in East County. POIC currently does gang outreach up to 162nd and having been collaborating to support the GPD.

Discussion regarding the five prong approach to gang violence

The subcommittee discussed adopting a five prong approach to gang violence: prevention, intervention, suppression, prosecution, and re-entry.

The first aspect of the five prong approach discussed was prevention. Aspects of prevention include the outreach to high risk families, outreach in high risk areas, programs including STRYVE, POIC, Pathfinders of Oregon, & 1145, addressing the issues with public transit, working with the schools, developing more resources in East County, coordinating these resources, and having a crisis response person in East County.

The second aspect discussed was intervention which included expanding the GIFT program to East County, tracking high risk people/families, crisis intervention, programs that work with gang members such as VOA, education and job training for gang members, services for CSEC victims, and improved communication & coordination.

The third aspect discussed was suppression. This included increase enforcement on public transit, training gang enforcement officers and district attorneys to be cognizant of CSEC and DV activity, collaborating with School Resource Officers, Project Safe Streets, focus on females associated with gangs, trauma informed intervention, and using evidence based models. Prosecution was discussed as potentially either being a fourth prong or included within suppression.

The final prong discussed was re-entry. Re-entry includes expanding GIFT, working with state prisons to connect incarcerated gang members with social, educational, & behavioral services, the repercussion of HB 3194, identifying the skills incarcerated individuals need to leave prison with in order to succeed away from the gang life, Pathfinder of Oregon program, and advocating for hiring former gang members in the community.

Next Steps

The Youth and Gang Violence Subcommittee will meet at 9 AM on the first Thursday of every month at a rotating location. The August 1st meeting will be held at the Gresham City Hall.

A meeting of research analysts from DCJ, GPD, LPSCC, MCDA, MCSO, & PPB will occur prior to the next subcommittee meeting. The subcommittee would like analysts to produce maps that show eastward movement of gang activity over the past 10 years within the County.

NEXT MEETING – Thursday, August 1st, 2013