

SOUTH COAST TASK FORCE ON YOUTH GANGS

Executive Council Meeting Summary

Monday, November 7, 2011

1:30 – 2:30 p.m.

Faulkner Gallery

Main Library

40 East Anapamu Street

Santa Barbara, CA

Members Attending:

Vyto Adomaitis, Director, Redevelopment, Neighborhood Services and Public Safety, City of Goleta

Claudia Armann, Executive Director, McCune Foundation

Jim Armstrong, City Administrator, City of Santa Barbara

Juan Pablo Herrada, Executive Director, Palabra

Marcelo López, Assistant City Administrator, City of Santa Barbara

Raquel López, Executive Director, La Casa de la Raza

Terri Maus-Nisich, Assistant Chief Executive Officer, County of Santa Barbara

Fred Razo, Administrator, Juvenile Court and Community Schools, Santa Barbara County Education Office

Camerino Sanchez, Police Chief, City of Santa Barbara

Jill Sharkey, Academic Coordinator, Gevirtz Graduate School of Education, UCSB

○ WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Mr. Armstrong gave introductory remarks and asked attendees and guests to introduce themselves.

○ PRESENTATIONS

- Introductory Remarks and Introduction of Dr. Rios
Claudia Armann, Executive Director, McCune Foundation, introduced the Santa Barbara Campaign for Youth & Families and Dr. Victor Rios, Associate Professor, University of California, Santa Barbara
- Campaign for Youth and Families Community Summits Report
 - The Executive Council received a presentation from Dr. Rios.
 - The purpose of the youth and family summits was to gather information, ideas, and solutions from individuals in the community who were impacted by youth violence.
 - 41 youth and 58 parents participated in the youth and parent summits.
 - Key Findings from Youth Summit: Violence is normalized, violence is direct and indirect, violence is everywhere, and preventing violence is not as difficult as we might think, but we have to include young people in the solution.
 - Solutions Suggested by Youth Summit: Need for spaces of empowerment and affirmation and need for positive interactions with authority figures.

- Key Requests by Parent Summit:
 - Establish more culturally-relevant support groups for parents to discuss their challenges,
 - Establish more supportive parenting programs that help parents understand their children's struggles, and
 - More positive interactions from school personnel and police.
- Researcher Recommendations:
 - Invest in training school personnel and law enforcement officers in positive interactions with Latino/a youth and their families,
 - Expand Restorative Justice approaches to dealing with school discipline and delinquency,
 - Hire more culturally-relevant school and law enforcement personnel, and
 - Replicate culturally-relevant parent/family/youth support groups across institutions.
- DISCUSSION
 - The next step is to bring youth and their families together with law enforcement and school officials to have an open conversation.
 - Parents/families admit fault in not having a role towards getting rid of violence. They admit they need to learn how to parent and understand what to do with their children.
 - Understanding how to keep youth from getting into gangs is also important
- NEXT MEETING
 - Combined Leadership and Executive Councils Meeting
Wednesday, January 18, 2012, 3:30 – 5:30 p.m.
Canalino School Auditorium
1480 Linden Avenue
Carpinteria
- ADJOURNMENT