

# MONTHLY UPDATE

## South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs

October 2011

TO: Leadership and Executive Council Members  
FROM: Saul Serrano, Acting Task Force Coordinator  
Fran Forman, Executive Director, Community Action Commission

Dear Leadership and Executive Council Members,

To keep you informed on the work of the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs, we will send you a "Monthly Update." This is the first issue. This and future updates will keep members informed on the work completed, underway and future plans.

The update provides highlights of our work. More details will be provided at upcoming meetings and expanded upon in our annual report. We would appreciate your reaction to this format and suggestions for improvement. Our goal is simply to keep you informed.

Sincerely,

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Meeting Schedules: <http://youthgangtaskforce.org/how-we-work/meetings>

Web-site: [www.youthgangtaskforce.org](http://www.youthgangtaskforce.org)

### **ORGANIZATIONAL UPDATES**

- **Saul Serrano appointed acting coordinator:** Acting Task Force Coordinator, Saul Serrano has been visiting and strengthening linkages and coordination with other agencies. Saul is being supported by Carolyn Contreras, who is responsible for Youth and Family Services and Fran Forman, CAC Executive Director.
- **Second year funding approved:** We wish to express our gratitude to the City Councils of the City of Carpinteria, City of Goleta, City of Santa Barbara and the Santa Barbara County Board of Supervisors for approving a second year of funding for the South Coast

Task Force on Youth Gangs. Community Action Commission continues as the host agency with additional in-kind support.

- **Strategy support team established to improve coordination:** Saul is working closely with this group to develop milestones, program objectives and strategies. The team includes:
  - County Probation – Steve DeLira
  - Santa Barbara County Office of Education – Fred Razo
  - Carpinteria School Districts – Sharon Velarde
  - UCSB – Dr. Jill Sharkey
  - Santa Barbara School Districts – Marlin Sumpter
  - Community Action Commission - Fran Forman and Carolyn Contreras
  - City of Santa Barbara – Marcelo Lopez and Lori Pedersen
  
- **Baseline information:** Development of baseline information on the number of youth in gangs and at risk of being involved in gangs in the south coast is underway. Close coordination with the Sheriff and Police Departments is anticipated. Steve DeLira from probation is leading the effort.
  
- **Los Prietos Boys Camp survey:** We are compiling the results of a survey of youth at Los Prietos Boys Camp, conducted this year. The survey includes questions on how to get out of gangs, what the community could do to reduce gang problems and offer alternatives, how to improve interaction with law enforcement, among others. Initial results are candid and substantive. Dr. Victor Rios, UCSB Sociology Assistant Professor has graciously agreed to oversee the development of a summary report. This information will be used to evaluate and design service strategies.
  
- **Tri County Efforts:** We have been coordinating with a regional effort between SLO, SB and Ventura Counties and recently met with Mr. Mark Matlock who is leading this work from Ventura County.

## **CLIENT SERVICES**

- **Enrollments:**

In the South Coast, CAC has enrolled youth involved in gangs, at risk of being involved in gangs, or with gang terms and conditions in the following programs:

- CalGRIP – 60 youth with a goal of 120
- Bridges to Recovery – 30 youth
- Youth Offender Block Grant – 25 youth
- Juvenile Justice Coordinating Council – 17 youth
- Teenage Pregnancy and Parenting – 40 youth
- Youth Corps – 30 youth

In some cases there are overlapping and combined enrollments. This helps take advantage of the services available in one program and perhaps not in the other. With

these programs we have the potential of serving 262 youth over the next year and we can only count on funding of these programs on a year to year basis. More information in future updates will be provided on the outcomes and current enrollment of each of these programs.

There are other programs that are serving youth for which we're still collecting program objectives. These include The Casa de la Raza, Palabra, AllForOne, CADA, Santa Barbara Junior and High School Core Programs, Outreach by Santa Barbara School Districts Outreach Coordinator, Ismael Huerta, among others. We will update this list in future reports.

**Website presence:** We completed the first phase of our website [www.youthgangtaskforce.org](http://www.youthgangtaskforce.org)

- The second phase will include the information in Spanish with an estimated completion of October 30, 2011. The primary objective of the website is to provide a summary of services, contact information for youth and families seeking services. Secondly, it is to highlight and summarize the goals, objectives and work of the task force.
- **Client Program Inventory:** We completed phase one of an updated client program inventory so that youth have access to client programs in one location –

[Youth Services Inventory 2011](#) (pdf)

In the second phase, we will include family services. Lori Pedersen was the lead on this project.

## **LINKAGES AND COORDINATION**

- **Partnering with County Probation, local schools, non-profits and UCSB** –We are working on a Memorandum of Understanding between the schools, County Probation and non-profits to share information in an effort to develop a database under the stewardship of UCSB. This will improve information sharing and ultimately client services to youth. It has been tentatively named the South Coast Intervention Project. UCSB's Dr. Jill Sharkey is leading this effort.
- **Law enforcement contact youth and family services card:** We developed a "program and services inventory card" that law enforcement officials could distribute to youth and families during contacts. Chief Cam Sanchez has agreed to field test it with his gang enforcement officers. The idea is to distribute contact/program information to be linked to youth and family services.
- **Community Leadership Summit:** Saul Serrano and Carolyn Contreras were active participants in the *Santa Barbara Campaign for Youth and Families Project* sponsored by the Bower and McCune Foundations and the Fund for Santa Barbara. The project

conducted a series of meetings with youth and parents to gather information, ideas, and solutions from persons impacted by youth violence. UCSB's Dr. Victor M. Rios lead a team that produced a report entitled *Community Summits Report*. We are seeking permission to link the report on the Task Force Web Site. Raquel Lopez, Executive Director of Casa De La Raza and with leadership responsibility for this effort has offered to provide a special presentation of the report to the Task Force. We will arrange this shortly.

## COMING ATTRACTIONS...

- **Annual report:** To be presented at the January 2012 combined meeting of the Leadership and Executive Councils.
- **Goals, objectives and performance measurement system:** At the January meeting we plan to provide an overview of program goals and the elements that we propose to use to measure outcomes. Examples include but are not limited to: Met gang terms and conditions; became credit compliant or showing progress; increased skill levels in reading, writing and arithmetic; improved school attendance; graduated or on track to graduating ; attending post secondary education; mentored; in job training program or employed; among other categories.

For more information contact:  
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