

South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs Annual Report for 2013

February 2014

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Abbreviations

ADMHS	Santa Barbara County Alcohol, Drug & Mental Health Services
B2R	Santa Barbara County Probation Department Bridges To Recovery Program
BSCC	Board of State and Community Corrections
CAC	Community Action Commission
CADA	Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse
CalEMA	California Emergency Management
CalGRIP	California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Program
CalGRIP I	FY 2008/2009 California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Program
CalGRIP II	FY 2010/2011 California Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention Program
Coordinator	Task Force Coordinator
CUSD	Carpinteria Unified School District
MOU	Memorandum of Understanding
PAL	Police Activities League
Probation	Santa Barbara County Probation Department
SBCC	Santa Barbara City College
SBCEO	Santa Barbara County Education Office
SBPD	Santa Barbara Police Department
SBUSD	Santa Barbara Unified School District
SCTFYG	South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs
SCYIP	South Coast Youth Intervention Project
Sheriff	Santa Barbara County Sheriff's Department
SWOT	Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, Threats
Task Force	South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs
UCSB	University of California, Santa Barbara
YOBG	Youth Offender Block Grant
YSS	Youth Services Specialist

I. Executive Summary

The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs is a regional partnership comprised of representatives from local government, law enforcement, schools and higher education institutions, and non-profit and other community-based organizations. The initiative is housed in Goleta and administered by the Community Action Commission of Santa Barbara County.

The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs is composed of a Council, which meets quarterly to report on outcomes (Attachment D); a Strategy Team that meets monthly to monitor progress on the guiding principles (Attachment C); and a Service Provider Group that meets monthly to foster closer collaboration and to share resources available to youth and families (Attachment S). It has been staffed by a Coordinator for the past three years.

The mission of the Task Force is to eliminate gang activity and help improve the safety and quality of life for youth, their families, and the community in the South Coast region of Santa Barbara County. The vision behind the mission is to foster a caring environment and opportunities for youth to fulfill their educational, employment, and personal potential rather than join gangs (Attachment B).

The Task Force works to fulfill its mission by focusing on increasing partnerships within the community, particularly in the areas of data collection and identifying gaps in services for youth and families. In 2013, approximately 170 youth were under Probation Department supervision and designated by the court as having probation “gang terms and conditions,” meaning these youth had been active in crime associated with gangs. When the regional effort initiated its work in 2009, 307 youth in the South Coast had gang terms and conditions. Based on data from the Probation Department, the South Coast has experienced a 44% decrease in youth with gang terms and conditions. In 2013 the number of youth in the target population for the South Coast averaged 90 youth as a daily rate. Although the daily number fluctuates, this population of young males and females represents the target population for the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs on a daily basis.

This report will highlight the successes of continued coordination, indicate challenges faced in the South Coast, and identify the opportunities for moving forward in 2014. This report also includes intervention data for the programs that share information with the Task Force. In no way is this meant to be an all-inclusive list of the programs that provide benefit to the youth in the target population. There are other programs that provide additional resources to families in need. Our long-term goal is to increase the coordination among all the programs in the community that provide services to the

target population and their families, to decrease gaps in services and lower the number of youth involved as well as the number of youth involved in gang violence.

Highlights for 2013

- The Bridges to Recovery Grant Project helped serve young men returning to the South Coast from Los Prietos Boys Camp. All young men returning to their home environments were enrolled in the program upon their release. Youth and their families were connected to mentoring services, drug and alcohol treatment, and additional resources to ensure their success upon their return to their communities (Attachment P).
- The Carpinteria Cal GRIP Project continued to provide services which were initiated in 2007. The City of Carpinteria, the Carpinteria School District and the Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse collaborated on the two-year grant to continue the efforts of the Safe Schools grant from 2007. The Carpinteria Cal GRIP grant ended on December 31, 2013. It will be continued by a new CalGRIP grant awarded for 2014/2015 to the City of Carpinteria. This project provides in-school gang prevention programming to Carpinteria youth and their families (Attachment I & J).
- The support group for parents continued to work with the parents of youth in the target population. In 2013 families from throughout the South Coast participated in the monthly program. Original funding for the parent group was allocated through the City of Santa Barbara Cal GRIP 2011/2012, Bridges to Recovery, and the Youth Offender Block Grant. Although funding for some of the projects ended the group continues to be convened by the Community Action Commission in the City of Goleta.
- In fall of 2013 three cities in the southern part of the county applied for Cal GRIP Grants 2014/2015. The three cities that applied were collectively awarded \$1.5 million in funds to provide gang prevention and intervention. Coordination took place among the cities to submit proposals which work together as a comprehensive regional approach (Attachment H & J).
- In 2013 female-specific services were in place serving the target population. The Santa Barbara Unified School District hired a female outreach worker to serve female students throughout the district. The Santa Barbara County Probation Department began assigning female cases to a female probation officer who will be focusing on this population. The Casa de la Raza provided the Mariposa female curriculum in collaboration with the Probation Department's Alternative Report and Resource Center. Community Action Commission Las Comadres Program began to implement a one year state grant for female case management services for girls on probation or teen mothers (Attachment K).

- In July 2013 the Santa Barbara Unified School District initiated the Quetzal Academy under the La Cuesta continuation school program. Four single-classroom sites are located in various communities throughout the South Coast to help severely credit deficient students. The sites are a safety net for students returning from Los Prietos Boys Camp or the Santa Maria Juvenile Hall half way through a semester.
- In school year 2012/2013 Santa Barbara Junior High School operated a successful restorative justice pilot program. In fall of 2013 the school district expanded the practices to all junior high and middle schools in addition to Santa Barbara Junior High School. The restorative justice practice pilot generated data reflecting positive results for reduced suspensions and some expulsions. Students who have participated have shown an increase in school participation and engagement (Attachment N).
- In 2013 Teen Court initiated a pilot early intervention project in collaboration with law enforcement agencies. The project allows for law enforcement agencies to refer first time offenders who have committed a non-detainable alcohol or drug related offense directly to the Teen Court program. The objective of this program is to provide swift and effective intervention and/or treatment services resulting in better outcomes for youth. Parents with a child involved in Teen Court are expected to participate in the Santa Barbara Fighting Back Parent Program for additional support.
- The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs Service Provider Group started in fall of 2012. The group continued to meet during 2013 on a monthly basis. The group planned and coordinated the second annual service provider summit in summer of 2013. During the monthly meetings the group discussed program information and program resources (Attachment S).
- The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs held the 2nd Annual Service Providers Summit on Monday July 31st 2013. Over 200 participants from throughout the region attended the conference, which featured 3 keynote speakers, 4 breakout sessions and 1 foundation panel. The conference also helped to introduce service providers who work in the same community to each other.
- In the fall of 2013 UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education assisted with a data-sharing project. The pilot project enacted the sharing of information for youth in the target population between the Santa Barbara Unified School District and County Juvenile Probation. From the start of the effort the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs has made it a priority to collect and document data on the target population to identify gaps in services, increase accountability, and make data-informed decisions.

- In 2013 a subcommittee of the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs met to develop SMART goals for the Task Force. Through feedback gathered from the Task Force through the SWOT analysis conducted in 2012 (Attachment U), the Council expressed interest in having clear, measurable goals. The goals the subcommittee developed were based on Juvenile Probation data for the target population and will need to be reevaluated to align with the longevity of the effort (Attachment W).
- In October 2013 the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs joined the California 13 City Gang Prevention and Intervention Network. The network hosts monthly telephone calls to share data among cities and holds two in-person meetings each year. Cities across the State have shared resources as well as information on funding of programs. The network is currently working to formalize its mission and define its role as consultants to state legislation and various state boards.

Challenges

Below are some of the challenges that were faced in the South Coast in 2013.

- Lack of long term, consistent funding for intervention strategies in the South Coast continues to be a challenge. Funding for projects has been through a number of patchwork grants which leave behind gaps when they end. In 2013 the South Coast did not have a CalGRIP grant providing case management to youth in the target population. A program was not in place which provided case management services to youth who were not part of a probation or school intervention. In the fall of 2013 an additional challenge presented itself: the end of the Bridges to Recovery Program. In fall of 2013 youth exiting Los Prietos Boys Camp no longer had a comprehensive program that helped to reintegrate them into their home environments.
- An additional challenge is the ability to create a database which includes information from various partner agencies and which can help identify gaps in services and opportunities in order to better serve the community. Although MOU's have been established and agencies have been willing to share information, costs associated with this work and access to safe technologies continues to be a challenge in creating a working database. Although steps have been taken towards creating one, the South Coast continues to face new challenges in moving forward.

Goals 2014

These are the goals for the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs in 2014.

- Focus on the Target Population:

We will continue to focus on youth with gang terms and conditions as our target population. The number of youth with gang terms and conditions in the South Coast has decreased by close to half since the start of the effort. Although fewer youth in the community are involved in the juvenile justice system, we will continue to focus on youth with gangs, terms and conditions as our target population.

- CalGRIP Projects

The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will be working close with the two CalGRIP projects in the South Coast to track outcomes. Quarterly updates on project outcomes will be given at Task Force quarterly council meetings. The City of Santa Barbara Cal GRIP grant will provide intervention case management services and serve youth throughout the South Coast who are eligible to participate (attachment#). The City of Carpinteria Cal GRIP is an in-school prevention partnership between the school district and Council on Alcoholism and Drug Abuse.

- City of Santa Barbara (South Coast)

The City of Santa Barbara Cal GRIP Project will be serving 120 youth in the target population throughout the South Coast. It is a two year project which includes services for male and female youth, treatment, and youth employment training. The project has been designed to continue the efforts from previous CalGRIP projects and from Bridges to Recovery, which has ended.

- City of Carpinteria CalGRIP

The City of Carpinteria Cal GRIP Project will continue to serve in-school youth in Carpinteria, providing a prevention program to help youth and families avoid becoming part of the juvenile justice system in Carpinteria.

- Continue to support female-specific services

Though data has shown a decrease in the overall target population, it has also indicated the need to continue to focus on female-specific interventions. The young female population continues to require additional attention and effort in order to begin lowering the number of young females involved.

- Support Santa Barbara Unified School District Restorative Justice efforts

The restorative justice in-school practices have produced a decrease in suspensions, allowing more youth to remain in school. At the root of this effort is an increase in the relationships between teachers and students. The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will support the expansion of

Restorative Justice to all junior high and all high schools for school year 2014/2015. Future plans include expanding the program from kindergarten to 12th grade district-wide.

- Strengthen relationships with school resource officers
The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will be working more closely with school resource officers to connect identified students with the CalGRIP Projects and other case services geared towards the target population.
- Service Provider Group
The service provider group will continue to meet in 2014 to formalize membership, develop an interagency collaboration agreement, and prioritize the focus of group efforts. Outcomes of the planning and work will be reported at the quarterly Council meetings
- 3rd Annual Service Provider Summit
The Service Provider Group will be planning and holding the third annual Service Provider Summit in summer of 2014. The goal will be to build on past work but also to increase membership and access to resources, and provide information on the target population to other service providers.
- Data Sharing
The pilot data sharing project is currently operating and looking at school and probation data for the target population. The goal is to expand the data project in 2014 as well as explore new opportunities and resources for an electronic database.
- Continue to work with the 13 Cities Network
In 2014 The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will continue to partner with other cities throughout the State of California to strengthen our knowledge of potential new funding, new strategies, and new resources which could be available to our communities.

II. Attachments

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