

COORDINATION OF PROGRAMS TO PREVENT YOUTH VIOLENCE

Strategy Planning Committee Workplan

Mission:

- **Represent** youth and family service providers, education institutions, government agencies and community foundations.
- **Provide support** to key agencies and organizations who are working to produce a comprehensive directory of youth and family services available on the South Coast.
- **Provide leadership** to determine the framework for, and then to initiate, a foundation process for engaging the community in developing a strategic plan to comprehensively address youth violence issues for implementation by an institutional structure charged with that on-going responsibility.
- **Initiate immediate actions to improve coordination** of activities and programs that are currently underway to focus more successfully on at-risk kids.
- **Establish and appoint a Steering Committee** to follow-through on the direction from the Strategy Planning Committee.

Objectives:

1. **Provide support for production of a Comprehensive Services and Resources Inventory:**
 - Receive progress reports from the Family Service Agency/CRIS Directory Staff and from the Juvenile Justice Commission on Violence Prevention/County Probation Division concerning their work to compile current information;
 - Provide feedback, as may be needed, to insure that the product of their work will be in forms available and readily accessible to at-risk youth, their families, and to the many agencies and organizations that have front-line staff working to assist them; and
 - If resources are needed, provide recommendations to potential funders as to the importance of completing this inventory.
2. **Develop a framework for and initiate a Strategic Planning Process:**
 - Discuss and reach consensus on the following:
 - That the initial priority of this planning process should be on prevention strategies focused on gang members, their affiliates and those kids who are most at-risk; and,
 - That the plan should be initiated and completed as soon as possible.

- Review the previous Pro-Youth Coalition Implementation Plan (PYC Plan) and the process used to develop it.
- Determine the adequacy of the PYC Plan's content and scope. Identify what's missing and what needs to be updated.
- Determine the basic framework for a process to update the PYC Plan or to develop a limited or more focused plan including:
 - Drafting Guiding Principles and objectives for the process;
 - Identifying key stakeholders/participants;
 - Projecting a schedule for completion (e.g. end of summer); and
- Initiate the planning process by:
 - Obtaining upfront buy-in from key agencies, service providers and community foundations;
 - Identifying sponsors/conveners for the process;
 - Identifying facilitator(s);
 - Developing a budget and identifying a funding source(s).
- Identify next steps following completion of the community process as to who will prepare the final draft of the plan, how will the plan be presented for adoption/approval from agencies, service providers and community foundations, etc.

3. Develop initial recommendations for institutionalizing the community's commitment to prevention of youth violence:

- Develop and present an initial recommendation for an organizational structure for institutionalizing the implementation of the strategies in the plan, as well as for future updates; and
- Identify potential opportunities or sources of funding that could provide permanent revenue/funding for on-going implementation of the strategic plan.

Note: Prior to proceeding with formulating a recommendation and identifying potential sources of funds, the Committee should first determine whether or not this work is appropriate given the scope and framework of the Strategic Planning Process that is developed and initiated through the work described in # 2 as outlined. For example, the Committee might conclude that it would be premature to make recommendations in this regard without first knowing what might result from the Strategic Planning Process.

4. Identify and support new coordination opportunities that are ripe for implementation:

- Study existing coordination networks, teams, formal relationships, etc.;

- Identify opportunities to build on these to improve effectiveness of programs and activities;
 - Identify missing linkages; and
 - Make recommendations (who, what, how, etc.) that will result in more effective delivery of existing services and access to programs and activities for at-risk youth and their families.
5. **Create a Steering Committee to provide leadership for this collaborative work at least through the next phase of the planning process:**
- Appoint membership comprised of 5-7 executive level staff from key agencies, service providers and community foundations to serve on the Steering Committee; and
 - Identify the agency, organization or individual that will provide staff support to the Steering Committee.

The Steering Committee's mission will be to provide continuity with the direction and activities initiated by the Strategy Planning Committee. It will monitor progress and provide further direction or problem-solving on matters related to implementation of the plans, recommendations and activities described above.

Work Products:

1. Support for the completion of a Comprehensive Inventory of Services and Resources available to at-risk youth, their families, and the agencies and organizations that have front-line staff working to assist them.
2. Development of a framework and initiation of a Strategic Planning Process.
3. Initial recommendations for a structure to institutionalize, and for on-going funding to support, the community's commitment to prevent youth violence.
4. Facilitate immediate implementation of new coordination efforts to improve services and activities for at-risk youth and their families.
5. Establish a Steering Committee to provide leadership through the next phase of this work.

Projected Timeframe: 3 or 4 worksessions to be held from March to May 2008.