

# **South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs Annual Report for 2012**

**January 2013**

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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 comprised of representatives from local government, law enforcement, schools and higher education institutions, and non-profit and other community-based organizations. The effort is headquartered in the City of Goleta at the Community Action Commission administration building.

In 2012, the second year of operating with a Coordinator, the Task Force developed its mission to eliminate gang activity, thus improving the safety and quality of life for youth, their families, and the community located in the south coast region of Santa Barbara County. The vision behind the mission is one of fostering a caring environment and opportunities for youth to fulfill their educational, employment, and personal potential rather than join gangs. (Attachment B) A Strategy Team meets monthly to monitor progress based on the guiding principles of the Task Force. (Attachment C)

The Task Force has worked to fulfill its mission by coordinating and increasing collaboration among the membership, particularly in the areas of data collection and identifying and filling gaps in services for youth and families. In 2012, there were approximately 130 youth under Probation Department supervision and designated by “gang terms and conditions,” meaning these youth have been active in some form of gang activity. Although the actual number fluctuates, this population of young males and females represents the target population for the South Coast Task Force.

This report will feature highlights of the successes of the increased coordination, indicate what challenges we have faced, and what opportunities we have in moving into 2013. The report highlights the programs/interventions which share information with the Task Force. In no way is this meant to be an all-inclusive list of all the programs that provide benefit to the youth in the target population. There are other programs that work as well and provide additional resources to the family and schools where youth attend. Our goal is to increase the coordination with all the programs that service the target population and their families.

## Highlights for 2012

- The California Gang, Resistance and Intervention (Cal-GRIP) program completed its final year of work in the South Coast providing case management services to 120 youth. There are overwhelming positive outcomes from the youth participating including increased school attendance, improved relationships with their families and a desire to not be involved in future gang activities.(See Attachment F).
- Through Cal-GRIP, all parents of the youth were directly provided the opportunity for parent support programming on a weekly basis. 30 parents chose to regularly attend the group meetings held in the City of Goleta. This was a very important enhancement of the case management services. The issues faced by the youth always affect the family. All the parents that participated expressed a noted improvement in the relationship with their child. (Attachment G).
- As a result of coordination on the Task Force, the City of Carpinteria and City of Lompoc were able to secure Cal-GRIP funds for intervention services in their communities for youth.
- The Santa Barbara Unified School District continued to provide services at all of its high schools, including El Puente and Los Prietos Boys Camp. Outreach Coordinator Ismael Huerta worked with 125 youth in the schools. A new service was started in the last quarter of 2012 by the School Coordinator targeting Franklin Elementary School. A Restorative Pilot program began at Santa Barbara Junior High which has been successful with plans to expand this next year.
- As part of a State grant awarded to the Tri-County region of San Luis Obispo, Santa Barbara and Ventura, the Task Force coordinated two conferences which were held to improve coordination as well as provide current information for participants. One was a Law Enforcement Summit for 75 officers representing all the law enforcement agencies in the County. The other was a “Service Provider Summit” joined by 150 service providers in the Santa Barbara County (40% from the South County, 40% from the North County, and 10% from the Lompoc area). Panels were held on Drug Treatment, Family Service Providers, and Law Enforcement. As a result of these conferences, a group of service providers in South County are currently meeting to coordinate efforts and make improvements in serving the target population and their families. (Attachments H and I)
- The South Coast Youth Intervention Project (SCYIP) further developed and began to partner with Human Tools, a new nonprofit database group, which will

be data host for the pilot project in 2013. This project will enhance the coordination of services provided to youth. Assessments will be used to guide treatment and evaluate the quality and success of services. (Attachment K).

- An in-depth survey was conducted by the SCTFYG and the SB County Probation Department which captured the voice of the young men at Los Prietos Boys Camp. A new extensive report was produced by UCSB Gevirtz Graduate School of Education faculty member Dr. Jill Sharkey and her staff. They applied various research methods including support from literature on the topic. This final report was presented at the Council quarterly meeting in October. (Attachment L)
- Bridges to Recovery is an innovative program for all young men serving in the Los Prietos Boys Camp who reentered the community after completing their 4 – 6 month commitment at the Camp. The project is led by Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Department from the County of Santa Barbara in collaboration with UCSB, CADA, CAC and the SB County Probation Department. The youth receive treatment services, they are case managed, and take part in a GAIN assessment at intake, 3 months, 6 months, and a year later. UCSB conducts the evaluation for this project. (Attachment M).
- In order to bring school services into the neighborhoods where the youth live, the SB County Office of Education has two additional Summit schools in the South Coast. These schools provide independent study in a small group setting for youth that have not had success in the schools up to now. One school is located at the Police Athletic League's building and the other is in the City of Goleta at the CAC administration building. Youth that have been attending the program have shown a 90% success rate of becoming credit compliant. (Attachment N)

## **Challenges**

At moments the work of the Task Force faces challenges that take time to work through and at other moments the challenges affect coordination efforts to meet the vision. Here are some of the challenges that presented themselves in 2012 that have changed and shaped that way the Task Force conducts business and will work in 2013.

- The South Coast has had the Cal- GRIP program for four years, but, unfortunately, it was not refunded for the year 2013. Not having a specific grant which focuses on case management services for target population will be a challenge for service delivery to youth and families. (However, the City of Carpinteria has a second year Cal-GRIP grant, Attachment O.) This is a challenge and an opportunity. Engaging the Service Providers through the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs Service Provider group in 2013 will be critical

to maintain momentum of intervention services and avoid gaps or interruption in direct program efforts.

- UCSB helped the Strategy Team submit a grant for funding of the South Coast Youth Intervention Project (SCYIP) in order to offset costs associated with getting the program up and running for the partner organizations. The funds were not awarded which will be a challenge in getting some CBO's prepared to participate in the SCYIP. We will be continuing to apply for grants in order to ensure a smooth process to getting this pilot running.
- In 2011 some members of the Task Force expressed a lack of engagement with the process as well as with information. As a result we established a monthly update. Members requested even more timely information, so in 2013 the Task Force will be issuing a bi-monthly update to members allowing for more current and consistent information.
- The task force has not provided enough information for the general public to be aware of the efforts of the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs and other resources for youth and their families. Efforts in 2012 were conducted via the web page, updates to city and county councils, through community meetings at schools and programs. As a result to this challenge the Task Force will be issuing a number of stories in 2013 via local media to reach the general public.

### **Goals 2013**

These are the goals that the Task Force on Youth Gangs will be focusing on in 2013. A work plan is included at the end of this section highlighting some of the work that will be taking place in the upcoming year.

- Engagement of Service Providers  
At the end of 2012 a service providers planning group was convened to bring providers together with the intent to maximize collaboration. The group has identified a need to work toward establishing a Service Provider Group that focuses on sharing resources, information, support, and work towards supporting agencies and efforts in place. This group will meet on a monthly basis and other service providers will be invited to become part of this group. (Attachment P)
- Support Restorative Justice Implementation in Schools  
Santa Barbara Junior High School began implementing the Restorative Justice philosophy at the beginning of the 2012-13 school year. The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will continue to support the effort as well as to help districts to expand services to three junior high schools and Santa Barbara High School for the next school year.

- Strengthen Law Enforcement and Juvenile Justice Connections  
In 2012 the South Coast Task Force worked with Law Enforcement to share resources and information. However this effort was not at the level that it needs to be and in 2013 will be working closer with School Resource officers, Gang Suppression teams, Sheriff deputies, to strengthen coordination with available Service Providers. The goal is to reach youth and families before youth become involved within the Justice System by being able to provide resources youth and families can utilize proactively.
- Implementation of the South Coast Intervention Project  
In 2013 the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will continue to work on the South Coast Youth Intervention Pilot Project. The Task Force will work closely with UCSB and Human Tools to get this project going and have the initial agencies sharing information by spring 2013.
- Public Awareness Campaign  
In 2013 the South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will be implementing an Information Campaign “Telling our Story”, though the Task Force is not a direct service provider it coordinates amongst services and strategies, four articles will be published in different media outlets.
- Seek Funding for Services  
The South Coast Task Force on Youth Gangs will be working with cities and community based organizations to apply for funding for intervention services (Cal-GRIP) in 2013.

In 2013 the South Coast Task Force will continue to engage important stake holders in the process as well as look for way to include other partners as part of the effort. A work plan highlighting some additional work that will be taking place is also attached (see attachment T) for further details.



## **II. Attachments**

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