

THE YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE



2013

ANNUAL REPORT



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THE PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY GOVERNMENT

(301) 952-3700
County Council

April 11, 2013

Dear County Executive Rushern L. Baker, III, and County Council Chair Andrea C. Harrison:

The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee was established in July 2010, to encourage continued coordination and intra-governmental collaboration with non-profits, law enforcement, and the education community working toward the prevention of, and intervention in youth and gang violence. The committee was also interested in following the implementation of the Prince George's County Youth and Gang Taskforce Report of 2009 recommendation, available at, <http://www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/government/legislativebranch/CountyCouncil/pdf/2009-gang-task-force-report.pdf>. The taskforce report focused specifically on prevention and intervention strategies, and provided a report with 23 recommendations. The committee met several times over the last two years to discuss implementation of these recommendations and share information. Per CR-62-2010, the committee concluded in December 2012.

As committee co-chairs, we are providing you with a summary of the implementation of recommendations as outlined in the Prince George's County Youth and Gang Taskforce Report 2009. The Committee achieved its primary goal of bringing together numerous agencies and organizations to communicate and brainstorm about youth and gang violence. This, in and of itself, was significant, as a number of agencies and non-profits were unaware of some existing youth and gang-related programs that were being run by others. However, much work remains, and resources will need to be expanded to support tracking, assessment, staffing and expansion of programs. The first, easiest, and least costly change will be to move the Youth Strategies and Programs Division to the Office of Community Relations (OCR). OCR already interacts with the community, is actively involved in the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI), and already partners with local non-profits and faith-based organizations. A holistic approach is needed to ensure that our youth have the self-respect and self-confidence they need to become contributing adults. We hope you will strongly consider these recommendations.

Overall County Accomplishments:

- Increased partnerships, collaboration, and information- sharing
- Establishment of the Prince George's County Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI), launched in 2012. TNI focuses resources in six targeted areas—Langley Park, East Riverdale/Bladensburg, Kentland/Palmer Park, Suitland/Coral Hills, Hillcrest Heights/Marlowe Heights, Glassmanor/Oxon Hill—which overlap the four broader areas of Langley Park, Bladensburg/Riverdale, Kentland/Palmer Park, and Temple Hills/Suitland—outlined in the Prince George's County Youth and Gang Taskforce Report 2009
- Increase in provision of resources and recognition that each organization can assist in the effort
- Increase in outreach efforts led by the Office of Youth Strategies and Program Division
- Overall reduction in crime in Prince George's County in 2011 and 2012

Needs Remaining:

- Establish a gang coordinator position with the authority outlined in the Prince George's County Youth and Gang Taskforce Report 2009 to facilitate partnerships and to implement a comprehensive gang model in the County. Establish a grant writer to work with the coordinator to manage County grant efforts on youth and gang violence and encourage collaboration on grants. This could occur by reorganizing existing positions in the Office of Youth Strategies and Programs to support this role by placing it in the Office of

Community Relations.

- Clarify the mission and purpose of the Office of Youth Strategies and Programs. This Office, previously under the Office of Family Services, is now under the DCAO for Public Safety. In July 2013, the office is proposed to be housed under the Department of Corrections (perhaps due to its work on re-entry). The office has the potential to play an even larger role in addressing youth and gang violence, particularly prevention and intervention.
- Request CountyStat to track and report how FY 2012 and FY 2013 and upcoming fiscal year funds are being allocated to support youth and gang violence prevention and intervention measures, including funding within agencies and specific grants to nonprofits as well as the effectiveness of the programs receiving funding.
- Track all funding on youth and gang violence prevention and intervention measures in other government agencies (Sheriff's Dept., M-NCPPC, PGCPD), and non-profits and faith-based organizations to determine the level of effectiveness of all programs.
- Provide funding to the Prince George's County Schools System to reestablish character education programs at all elementary schools, reestablish peer mediation programs, add counselors in high school, and provide resources to fully implement bullying prevention/gang prevention at all levels.
- Establish a goal to support prevention and intervention initiatives in the four targeted communities (which overlap the new TNI neighborhoods) identified in the 2009 Youth and Gang Violence Taskforce Report. Investment should include funding to support after-school programming, summer programs, and replicate best practice programs that have been under-funded.
 - If funding cannot be directly identified, a plan to raise funds (private, foundations, and government) to support the initiative should be outlined
 - The following criteria for a funded program should be utilized
 - Established organization with a track record
 - Multi-sector partnership and collaboration
 - A program designed to include parents, especially fathers or other male adult family members
 - Clear objectives to ensure accountability and sustainability
- Establish a streamlined Administrative Review Committee (ARC) internal government process to deliver funds to community agencies and non-profits.
- Funding to properly publicize and market existing resources in the County, especially hotlines to report gang activity (1-877-629-4264) and provide crisis services to youth (1-800-516-1540).
- Develop a process for research, outreach, and collaboration with local faith-based and church organizations that concurrently are pursuing solutions to prevent youth and gang violence.
- Provide outreach to youth groups to get their input to prevent youth and gang violence and include youth in future task force meetings and activities.

Thank you again for your good work on youth and public safety, and we look forward to working with you to bring the recommendations of the Prince George's County Youth and Gang Taskforce Report 2009 to fruition.

Sincerely,

Council Member Eric Olson
Co-Chair

Council Member Will Campos
Co-Chair



The following 2012 Report is a compilation of activities conducted and reported by the members of the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee to reach the goals established by the Youth and Gang Violence Taskforce. The report should not be viewed as a complete listing of all activities.

GOALS:

1. Implement a comprehensive gang model focused on community mobilization and awareness; collaboration and coordination; education, training, and employment programs; social intervention; and targeted gang enforcement and prosecution.

Since the taskforce report, organizations have worked to integrate a comprehensive approach within their organization. While more work is needed, significant strides have been made by key partners such as the Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) System and collaboration between partners is occurring more often. To achieve additional success, key staffing, and regular meetings are needed to establish a long-term plan to provide resources.

Some of the items reported include:

- PGCPS has conducted training with all security staff, school counselors, pupil personnel workers, school psychologists, school nurses, and all principals in accordance with the Maryland State Department of Education Requirements. PGCPS has developed and published a guide for Community Support Services

for Families and Students. The guide is available in Spanish and English. PGCPS has also developed an Administrative Procedure, AP 5142, for Gangs, Gang Activity and Similar Destructive or Illegal Behavior and trained staff on procedures for reporting and investigation.

- The Prince George's County Office of Youth Strategies will provide services twice a month to the six turnaround middle schools identified in the County.
- Several non-profit partners also reported moving toward a comprehensive approach. District Heights Family and Youth Services Center (DHFYSC) partnered with the Department of Juvenile Services to present and establish evidence-based clinical Children in Need of Supervision Program, which targets youth and families in Central Prince George's County and offers preventive services to focus on delinquent youth.
- End Time Harvest Ministries (ETHM) has designed and implemented a Turning Point mediations program and mobilized residents countywide to participate in a community-based Conflict Resolution Centers Program. The Young Ladies of Distinction Club at Bladensburg High School (BHS) was a collaborative effort between ETHM, BHS, and community stakeholders to equip girls and their mothers with conflict resolution skills to reduce and prevent gang and other violent behavior among youth. The Town of Bladensburg Police Department and other mediation

contractors began conducting weekly Conflict Resolution Centers Programs in BHS to equip students with anger and stress management skills to reduce and prevent student suspensions and gang activity.

- Derek Anthony Moore Charity Inc. (DAMCI Youth and Family Coalition) sent dozens of children to afterschool programs and summer camps. DAMCI also held community forums that brought youth, families, government officials, law enforcement, concerned citizens and representatives from non-profits and churches to brainstorm and craft solutions to youth violence and youth cyber-bullying. Follow-up forums and private youth and family counseling sessions are planned for the near future.
- The Mediation Division of the Office of Community Relations established conflict resolution and mediation programs in Central High School and in high schools located within Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative (TNI) communities.

2. Develop and implement policies and procedures to ensure collaboration across all sectors to more effectively address the gang problem.

When the Youth and Gang Violence Taskforce was first created, very little collaboration occurred between government agencies and stakeholders. Now, organizations are reporting the following:

- M-NCPPC actively provides training to all staff about No Bullying and has actively expanded its summer programming for teens and other youths to the identified communities. Extreme Teens summer programs have also been enhanced.
- PGCPS Policy #5175 was developed and approved by the Board of Education on June 20, 2011, to begin effective FY 2011-2012. A Memorandum of Understanding signed between the Superintendent and the local State's Attorney's Office, fosters the coordination of gang prevention, intervention and suppression efforts.
- District Heights Family and Youth Services Center has created a collaborative relationship with the Department of Juvenile Services (Children in Need of Supervision (CINS) Diversion Program), Prince George's County Public Schools (CINS Groups,

SMHART Program), and Community Advocates for Families and Youth (violent trauma client referrals).

- ETHM in collaboration with a multi-sector collaborative, Port Towns Community Health Partnership (PTCHP), has launched its Wellness Ambassadors Health Policy Advocacy Program. This program allows youths to work with local, state and national stakeholders to develop wellness policies that increase nutritional foods and physical activities in PGCPS and within community environments.

3. Target programs to Langley Park; Bladensburg/Riverdale; Kentland/Palmer Park; and Temple Hills/Suitland.

Prince George's County launched the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative in 2012, in six specific areas—Langley Park, East Riverdale/Bladensburg, Kentland/Palmer Park, Suitland/Coral Hills, Hillcrest Heights/Marlowe Heights, Glassmanor/Oxon Hill—which overlap the four broader areas of Langley Park, Riverdale/Bladensburg, Temple Hills/Suitland, and Kentland/Palmer Park—outlined in the 2009 Taskforce Report. As reported during the November 2012 committee meeting, TNI is focused on improving the quality of life for residents in the six targeted areas by addressing issues that negatively impact Public Safety, Education and Economic Development.

Resources from the County government and partners (state, private sector, non-profit sector, etc.) are being directed to these targeted areas. The initiative has been successful in addressing quality of life issues, building partnerships, engagement and education. Additional items to work on include: youth programs; gang/violent crime tracking; planning and resources. The Youth Strategies Program Community Developers have actively worked in TNI areas especially Kentland/Palmer Park; Oxon Hill/Glassmanor and Marlow Heights/Hillcrest Heights to initiate mentoring programs, provide outreach materials, create community partnerships and expand programs. The Youth Strategies Program Division has also funded eight weeks of life skills and mentoring for 119 youth in the Southview Apartments and Park Forest areas (Oxon Hill/Glassmanor TNI) in FY 2012.



Additional items to report include:

M-NCPPC has expanded its Xtreme Teens Drop-in program located within community centers in the areas targeted to provide youths with opportunities in safe environments, to build healthy relationships and enjoy enriching activities. Many opportunities are provided free of charge with the M-NCPPC Youth ID Card, which is also free. The Safe Summer Program is a late night recreation program during the summer months that provides youths with fun activities in a safe, supervised environment.

District Heights Family and Youth Services Center offers programming which serves District Heights, Capital Heights, Fairmount Heights, Suitland, Forestville, Largo, Hyattsville and Upper Marlboro.



End Time Harvest Ministries' (ETHM) programs focus on youth and families in the Bladensburg/Riverdale established communities. ETHM help students achieve academic excellence by improving student health. ETHM's in-school programs include Pathways to Career Success, career development and college readiness program, and a Wellness Ambassadors Leadership Program at Bladensburg High School. The Port Towns Youth Council, a youth-led community-based program, consists of students from Port Towns, Rogers Heights, Templeton, and Bladensburg elementary schools, as well as Bladensburg and Elizabeth Seton high schools.



Students participate with their parents in the PTYC meetings and activities. ETHM programs provide a holistic approach to bullying, gangs and other anti-social behaviors.

In Reach, Inc. operates a Youth Ambassadors program for 10th grade students at Parkdale High School. In 2012, the students launched "True Love, True Reality" to highlight the warning signs of domestic and dating violence. More than half of the students surveyed at the school said that they knew someone who had experienced dating violence. For more information, visit www.trueloverealitypgc.inreachinc.org.



Adam's House operates a comprehensive program with Suitland High School and Isaac J. Gourdine Middle School, with Bowie State and University of Maryland interns providing violence prevention, home visits, youth counseling, behavior modification, and GED/employment services to identified at-risk youth.

The Latin American Youth Center provides and supervises an enrichment/after school program implemented with a focus on intervention and prevention services for at-risk youth. The enrichment/after school program provides mentoring, leadership development, life skills, workforce development, academic support, conflict resolution, case management, and linkage to mental health services for youth and families. The Program at Buck Lodge Middle School operates three days a week, from 3:00 p.m. to 6:00 p.m. The program also serves the William Wirt Middle School and surrounding community. The Afterschool Program also operates twice a week at Northwestern and High Point high schools. The average number of students enrolled in the four Afterschool programs is 75.

4. Establish a steering committee.

The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee was established in late summer of 2010 with 26 members. The committee met several times each year to share information and connect on key topics. Established by resolution in 2010, the committee was created under the direction of the County Council effective through December 2012, unless the Council deems it necessary to reconvene.

5. Establish a gang coordinator position to implement programs.

A gang coordinator position as envisioned by the 2009 Task Force Report has not been implemented. However, the Office of Community Relations is one of the lead agencies on the Transforming Neighborhoods Initiative program. A gang coordinator could be assigned to work within the Office of Community Relations.

6a. In targeted communities, there are enhanced programs such as parenting skills programs, education/job training strategies, and social/economic opportunities.

Programs have been enhanced in the identified targeted areas. However, tracking of the programs initiated is difficult and there are concerns about the programs' effectiveness. The County Council has focused (need to find number) in FY 2012 and FY 2013 to programs. It is anticipated that 2013-2014 will see additional County funds directed to the targeted areas under TNI, with closer monitoring to assess results.

Some examples of programs are

The Training Source, a non-profit organization located in Capitol Heights, conducted comprehensive employment training (life skills, professional skills and computer skills development) in 2012, for 41 individuals (age 18) comprising more than 25% of the trained population. They also facilitated a Youth Leadership Program for at-risk youth primarily attending inner-beltway high schools, and received one-time funding to host a successful gang prevention conference in Landover planned by and for youth ages 12-18. Of the attendees, 100% of seniors graduated on time and enrolled in college. Finally, they facilitated weekly life skills workshops, including parenting skills, financial

literacy and employability skills training at homeless shelters in Capitol Heights, Adelphi and Greenbelt.

The Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Program holds parenting classes with parents of children enrolled in the program. The program reaches approximately 400 parents each year.

M-NCPPC provided a series of workshops entitled "Gangs and Go-Go's" that were provided through the M-NCPPC Parent Xchange. These workshops were held at Suitland Community Center, John E. Howard Community Center, Kettering Middle school and John Carroll Elementary school, as well as the Prince George's County Sports and Learning Complex.

District Heights Family and Youth Services Center provides parent support groups, tutoring for elementary and middle school students, and entry-level job opportunities for youth within the City of District Heights.

Little Friends of Peace in Mt. Rainier offers a Conflict Prevention and Resolution Certificate Program to teach residents how to assist others in the community.



Little Friends For Peace

The City of Greenbelt offers GED courses in parts of western Greenbelt where the city has the highest gang tagging and activity. Greenbelt also received grant funds to purchase the Phoenix curriculum and plans to offer gang prevention groups at a local middle school. Greenbelt will open a computer lab in the Springhill Lake Recreation Center and offer a free Saturday drop-in tutoring program and free computer access to residents. Greenbelt offered GED Preparation classes at the Springhill Recreation Center in FY 2011 with grant funds. Greenbelt offered a Strengthening Families Program at Springhill Lake Elementary school in English and offered the same program in Spanish in spring, 2012. Greenbelt has a Delinquency Prevention Counselor who works in western Greenbelt to engage youths who have had contact with the police and other youths in the community who come to the counselor's attention. Individual, group and family counseling services as well as outreach and assistance with coordinating community events are also offered.

- End Time Harvest Ministries' Pathways to Career Success Program and Wellness Ambassadors Programs (in and after school programs) are comprehensive academic, social, moral, economic and environmental life skills programs. Students 10 – 17 years old receive job readiness training, career planning and development, health and wellness experiential learning in and after school, and summer community assets mapping (Geographic Information Survey). Also offered is safety and environmental outreach experience for youths toward positive life outcomes with an emphasis on developing good social behaviors. Parents are encouraged to be involved with their children throughout ETHM programs and events.. ETHM staff meets quarterly with students and their parents to develop Individual Career Development Plans for students, and track student academic and social development progress through graduation. ETHM's primary goal is to strengthen families by educating their children socially, morally, economically and environmentally.

- College Park Youth and Family Services created parenting support groups that focus on parenting skills for Hispanic families. Several are based in schools to also help parents engage with the school system.

6b. Strengthen School System P-Team process and expand to elementary and middle schools

PGCPS no longer implements the P-Team model. Instead, PGCPS uses the SIT and the SST processes to consider academic and social risk factors, and also to develop intervention and support services.

The District Heights Family and Youth Services Center reports that partnering with the Department of Education starting in 2011 and creating an in-school clinical program: Student Mental Health and Relaxation Training. This program provides a licensed therapist at three local area schools once a week: District Heights Elementary, Drew Freeman Middle, and Suitland High, providing individual, group counseling and crisis intervention to students with the greatest need. Their CINS Program provides therapeutic and psycho-educational groups in at least one to three Prince George's County public schools each year. Participating schools included Forestville Military Academy, Gray Elementary, and Gholson Middle School.



The Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Program provides Gang Prevention assemblies to PGCPS middle schools during the 2012/2013 school year. Take Charge will offer six assemblies and 12 information desks where Take Charge literature on Gang prevention tips will be distributed. Take Charge also coordinates Gang Prevention Outreach efforts every Saturday during the year with youths assisting with the distribution of Gang prevention literature as a part of their program sanctions. Funding for this service is provided by a Prince George's County non-departmental grant.

6c. Encourage key organizations in target area to provide additional services, and other organizations operating in other areas to focus resources on target areas

Additional activities provided include:

- District Heights Family and Youth Services Center partnering with Community Advocates for Families and Youth to provide Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy to clients who are victims of crime in Prince George's County.
- End Time Harvest Ministries sponsors Port Towns Youth Council (PTYC) monthly youth-led meetings. Parents attend these meetings with their children. Students lead conflict resolution and stress management topics. PTYC members plan community and environmental outreach experiential learning experiences that promote health and safety in the Port Towns community. This holistic learning and service approach is very effective in helping students manage conflicts and stresses they experience daily. PTYC community-based and Pathways to Career Success in-

school programs, ETHM 1) provides students (their parents) with leadership and character development; and 2) connects students with the community in which they live, attend school, worship, work and play that result in social, moral and economic life skills. Students and parents participate in stress management training, classes and workshops that promote mental, moral and physical well-being.

6d. Create local groups to coordinate activities and share information

Some examples of local groups created include:

- District Heights Family and Youth Services Center established the Community Conversation in 2009 which facilitates communication between City Commissioners, residents/parents, with school administration.
- End Time Harvest Ministries is a key stakeholder in several local collaborative groups, (i.e. PTCHP, Bladensburg "Green Street" project, Sustainable Bladensburg Initiative, Business Networking Roundtable, Youth and Gang Violence County Steering Committee) that helps ETHM procure summer jobs and other social services that help create and maintain a safe and healthy community.

7. Establish a gang outreach presentation team. Give a minimum of 25 presentations a year. Team should include multiple groups.

Since the 2009 Taskforce Report, more outreach by all involved organizations has occurred. Progress still needs to be made to ensure that interested organizations know who to contact for presentations and to ensure that presentations provide direct tools to participants to address issues. A contact sheet should be developed



to make sure the appropriate persons are contacted for presentations.

Some of the activities reported include:

- M-NCPPC: Provided Parent Xchange sessions with the assistance of the State's Attorney's Office, Prince George's County Police, etc.
- The PGCPS Department of Security has developed a Gang Outreach Team and assigned an Intervention Specialist to each County high school. Presentations have been conducted for multiple stakeholders. In 2012, approximately 18 presentations were conducted by School Security and 15 presentations were conducted by the Department of Student Engagement and School Support. Presentations have also been conducted for the Citizen's Advisory Council in each district. 18 presentations were conducted by this group. To date, 51 presentations have been conducted.
- The Office of Youth Strategies provided a total of 128 anti-bullying and gang presentation events with 5,733 participants from July 1, 2011 through December 31, 2012. This included presentations at events hosted by community and faith-based organizations, homeowners associations, and schools. In addition, the program trained and certified additional outreach workers to expand awareness campaign efforts.

8. Re-establish the "tip line" for the reporting of gang activity, graffiti, or tagging. Explore other communication methods.

The tip line for reporting gang activity was reestablished in July 2010. However, the tip line has not been well publicized. M-NCPPC has added the Gang Tip line # on PGXtremeteens.com and other organizations have also added the number. The gang tip line is 1-877-629-4264 (gang). It is important that this number be properly advertised.

9. Devise an awareness campaign for the anonymous 24-hour help line for youth.

In discussions leading to the 2009 Taskforce Report, it was identified that the County operates a variety of help lines, including an anonymous youth anti-violence toll-free 24-hour hotline for dealing with gang intervention as well as other crises in Prince George's

County at 1-800-516-1540. Citizens can also call 2-1-1 to receive information and referral services (this is a state run number). Trained crisis counselors answer this number 24-hours a day. Tips are then forwarded to the appropriate agency. The Hotline is an anonymous method to report weapons on campus, homicidal or suicidal remarks, bullying, and other acts potentially leading to violence. The help line is operated by Community Crisis, Inc. with grant resources. It was recommended that the program design an awareness campaign to ensure that children, parents, educators and others know of this resource.

10. Expand Youth Opportunity Centers or other similar programs.

The County operates the Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center in Langley Park with Montgomery County, which serves over 325 youth and their families. Multiple after-school programs, employment, and training programs provide opportunities and skills to County youth to encourage positive life choices. While Youth Opportunity Centers have not been expanded due to their cost, the County has established Community HUBs, which are multi-service, community-driven intervention centers to connect residents and youth to services. These HUBs are located at Capitol Heights Elementary School; Colmar Manor, Community of Hope AME Church (Marlow Heights); Faith Based Collaborative Outreach Group (Charles Carroll MS); Kentland Community Center; The House of Christian Life Center (Riverdale Park); and Trinity Episcopal Church (Upper Marlboro). The HUBs are open one to two days a week.

The Training Source Inc. is also involved in a faith-based initiative called Merge which was established to provide opportunities for youth to gather, learn and fellowship in a safe setting. Also, M-NCPPC runs Xtreme Teen Drop In at 40 community centers on Friday/Saturday nights from 7 pm to 10pm as well as Xtreme Teen Drop In at multiple sites during the week from 3pm to 6pm.

11. Continue to expand research and program development. Expand partnerships.

While partnerships and collaborative efforts are expanding, research and program development has not progressed. The County recently applied for a research

grant through the US Department of Justice. This grant would allow the County and its research partner, the University of Maryland, to research crime in TNI areas.

M-NCPPC constantly researches and implements programs that apply to positive youth development- such as partnering with Search institute-40 Developmental assets, Ready By 21, etc.

12. Enhance Research to better evaluate effectiveness of programs. For instance, use OJJDP surveys, conduct a needs assessment, review national best practices, and investigate underlying demographic factors.

While some organizations use tools to evaluate their program and some programs offered are considered national best practices, for the most part, research is not integrated into programs. The Office of Community Relations for Prince George's County is applying for grant funding in 2013 to conduct research in its targeted areas to better address crime and safety concerns. However, OJJDP offers many tools that can be used directly from its website to collect more baseline data which will assist in obtaining grants. The CountyStat program should be utilized for program and spending evaluation.

13. Inventory the activities and resources in the County and make these materials available.

The Office of Youth Strategies produces a yearly book of programs in the County that is also available online at www.princegeorgescountymd.gov/Government/BoardsCommissions/YSPD/. A robust, searchable website that is easily accessible to parents, educators, and children would assist in connecting available resources to the community. The County and nonprofits as well as religious institutions provide a host of activities, but it is often difficult to easily find or search for information. Additionally, some resources should be put towards ensuring that the community is aware of all available resources. An advertising campaign will be necessary.

14. Enhance remedial/technical educational programs.

According to PGCPs, the County currently has a technical education program in virtually every high

school. PGCPs is also implementing Secondary School Reform, which elevates the technical classes into academies so that students have a clear trajectory for courses. This way, a group of teachers can follow a cohort of students to provide additional support. In addition, the schools employ Response to Intervention (RTI), a process of identifying critical academic needs and providing targeted intervention to address the deficiencies.

Prince George's Community College has also expanded its workforce development programs and several labor unions offer training academies, and apprenticeship programs. EDC's Workforce Development Office also offers job readiness training. In 2012/2013, this office will offer a series of job readiness workshops and job fairs inside the TNI communities.

15. Establish a case management system so that we can track and measure individual outcomes for those receiving services.

This recommendation was made in the 2009 Taskforce report to encourage better tracking by PGCPs as well as key partners. The same kids who have difficulty in school are likely to need other services, but there was not a fully-integrated model that wraps around services and tracks to show progress. One interesting step forward is that End Time Harvest Ministries (ETHM) is establishing a HEAL data base using wellness surveys, course evaluations, nutrition and physical activities logs that are completed by students, parents, and others who participate in ETHM career development and wellness programs. However, the County and its partners need to do a better job tracking these outcomes.

16. Continue, evaluate, and strengthen Character Education programs in the School System.

PGCPs reported that Character Education programs are no longer funded due to the fiscal constraints in the system. PGCPs Character Education was a comprehensive program built around the universal values of Caring, Respect, Responsibility, Trust, and Family. It is an interactive process of questions, thoughts, reactions and discoveries all woven into existing curricular areas and school activities. By developing positive character traits, students learn important decision making skills that will help them

make responsible choices when faced with situations that conflict with their beliefs.

PGCPs did report that 87 Schools are implementing Positive Behavioral Interventions and Supports (PBIS), a school-wide model for behavior which uses strategies to achieve important social and learning outcomes while preventing problem behavior. These programs are research based and endorsed by the National Blue Prints for Best Practices and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). In 2012, Prince George's County was the joint winner of the Maryland Center for Character Education's school system award.

Throughout 2011 and 2012, M-NCPPC reports that Park Police taught the Gang Resistance Education And Training (G.R.E.A.T.) summer curriculum at summer playgrounds and summer camps to 1,500 youngsters in all three geographical areas of the County. Park Police also taught the G.R.E.A.T. elementary and middle school curriculum at the following schools: Beacon Heights Elementary School, Vansville Elementary School, William Wirt Middle School and Stephen Decatur Elementary School. The curriculum can be found at www.great-online.org/. Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Program also provided its character education program to nine elementary schools in 2012.

Proper funding of the PGCPs and other programs are needed.

17. Maintain and expand after-school programs in targeted areas

Progress has been made, but additional needs continue to be identified. M-NCPPC is operating Xtreme Teen Drop in at several sites from 3pm to 6pm that provides youth with safe places to relax and participate in healthy activities. PGCPs has implemented a grant application process for 21st Century Community Learning Grants. The focus is on after school academic and social enrichment programs in collaboration with local schools. The District Heights Family and Youth Services Center is in the process of establishing an afterschool program within the City Recreation Department. Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Services began a pilot program at G. James Gholson Middle School beginning in February 2012 for 6-8 students to attend the program rather than face school suspension.

Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Program offered a “free” Basketball and Life Skills Camp in the Glassmanor Community Center (TNI Area). The focus of the camp was the achievement of “life skills” and gang prevention. The Prince George’s County Police Department and the Office of the Sheriff were active and engaged with camp participants throughout the week.



We highly recommend expansion of additional programs to more schools. Expansion of additional programs in additional schools is highly recommended. Youths often engage in non-productive activities after school, however, this time also offers an opportunity to provide academic enrichment to students. For additional information about how after-school programs effectively support student achievement and well-being, visit http://www.nasponline.org/resources/principals/Student_Services_-_Oct_2012.pdf

18. Expand safe haven resources for youth seeking refuge from gangs.

Funds provided by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through High Intensity Drug Trafficking Areas (HIDTA)/University of Maryland enabled the Department of Social Services to expand safe haven resources.

19. Start-up the Safe Place program.

The Safe Places program is a national youth outreach program that provides Safe Place locations where youths can receive immediate help and supportive resources. Safe Place locations, such as schools, fire stations, libraries, grocery and convenience stores, public transit, and recreation buildings, display the yellow and black diamond shaped Safe Place sign.

20. Continue to expand School System initiatives to support students and prevent violence (see 2009 Task Force Report for full list).

The following was reported:

- Due to funding pressures within the school system, PGCPD resources such as the peer mediation coordinator positions have been impacted by a reduction in force. The Mediation Division of the Office of Community Relations began an alternative dispute resolution/mediation program at Central High School, and at high schools located in TNI areas.
- District Heights Family and Youth Services Center: See SMHART Program, expansion is necessary and has been requested by other area schools.
- End Time Harvest Ministries created an in-school Wellness Ambassadors FIT 4 Success Program for 9th grade high-risk students. The public policy



advocacy program focuses on preventing and reducing obesity, which helps students increase their academic performance by improving student health. Students acquired public policy advocacy skills, which helped them improve their English, math, reading, writing, history and social studies skills.

- Additionally, ETHM implemented its Wellness Ambassadors Leadership Public Policy Advocacy Summer Camp. This afterschool program furthers student obesity prevention and reduction work. Students participated in a Community Assets Mapping Survey project that focused on surveying work around the Town of Bladensburg’s Green Street initiative. At the end of summer camp, students presented their Community Assets Mapping Survey Report Recommendations to

the Town of Bladensburg, and county and state policy makers. This work is also published in M-NCPPC’s General Plan 2035 as a “Best Practice”.

21. Identify and encourage additional mentoring and recreational programs from law enforcement, fire department, and non-profit and faith based organizations.

Organizations reported the following:

- M-NCPPC worked with the Park Police Volunteer association to host and participate in several programs such as the Kick, Pass and Punt Football Challenge, as well as the Safe Summer Back to School Block Party.
- Public safety agencies in the County also ran programs such as: PGCPD’s Police Explorers Program Academy for young people between the ages of 14 and 20; the Sheriff’s Department Positive Deputies Assisting Youth (DAY) mentoring program, in eight middle schools in the County; and the State’s Attorney’s Office Teen court programs which provide first- time youth offenders an opportunity for diversion from the juvenile justice system.

22. Partner with allies to create a promotional campaign to reach youth.

Several organizations reported creating promotional campaigns to reach youths. However, the original purpose of this recommendation was to create a countywide promotional campaign to reach youths and connect them to the host of resources offered in the County. This effort still needs coordination.

23. Focus County grants where possible on youth services and gang prevention. Seek additional grants.

Prince George’s and Montgomery Counties were awarded a Congressional Earmark award of \$1.2 million, In September 2010. The Bi-County Regional Gang Initiative is a multi-agency project within the County as well as the coordinated effort and commitment of governmental entities and community-based organizations. Prince George’s County has received awards from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) through HIDTA University of Maryland for the coordination and

implementation of services to support their work in prevention and intervention, and suppression of gangs and gang-related activities. Under this grant the following accomplishments were noted in the area of prevention and intervention:

- \$ 300,000 for non-profits providing prevention and intervention services including the Latin American Youth Center (Langley Park, Riverdale); End Time Harvest Ministries (Bladensburg); Gapbusters (Riverdale); Crossroads Youth Opportunity Center (Langley Park); Community-based programs (numerous locations); the Clarice Center for the Arts (College Park); Take Charge Juvenile Diversion Program (Forestville); Mentoring Young Girls Inspiring for Tomorrow; Cultural Academy for Excellence (Hyattsville); and HOTLINE Community Crisis Services.
 - \$100,000 to provide safe haven resources for youths desiring to leave a gang.
 - \$100,000 to fund staff to conduct youth and gang violence outreach
- This grant has concluded and the County plans to apply for a similar grant in 2013.



Conclusion

The Committee achieved its primary goal of bringing together numerous agencies and organizations to communicate and brainstorm about the issue of youth and gang violence. This was a significant effort. However, much work remains and additional resources will be necessary to support tracking, assessment, staffing and expansion of programs. The first, easiest and least costly recommendation is to move the Youth Strategies and Programs Division to the Office of Community Relations, which currently interacts with the community, is actively involved in TNI, and partners with local non-profits and faith-based organizations.

**YOUTH & GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS
CR-62-2010**

DR-1

ERIC OLSON, **CHAIR**
YOUTH & GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION
STEERING COMMITTEE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

KERRY WATSON
COUNTY EXECUTIVE

LUPI QUINTEROS-GRADY
MD MULTICULTURAL YOUTH CENTERS, INC.

WILL CAMPOS, **VICE-CHAIR**
YOUTH & GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION
STEERING COMMITTEE
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

REV. GAIL ADDISON
END TIME HARVEST MINISTRIES, INC.

AMBER WALLER, BOARD MEMBER
BOARD OF EDUCATION

LIZ PARK
CITY OF GREENBELT/GREENBELT CARES YOUTH
& FAMILY SERVICE BUREAU

ACTING LT. JENNIFER BARRETT
POLICE DEPARTMENT

TONI SMITH
IN REACH, INC.

A/LT. COL. M.J. ROCKY ROCCAPRIORE
OFFICE OF THE SHERIFF

EVELYN KIM RHIM
THE TRAINING SOURCE, INC.

DEBBIE TYNER
M-NCPPC

PRISCILLA SOUTO
DISTRICT HEIGHTS FAMILY & YOUTH SERVICES

RASHID MAHDI
STATES ATTORNEY'S OFFICE

MARY PARK
LITTLE FRIENDS FOR PEACE

COL. GREGORY HARRIS
DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS

CHARLES MCCORMICK
PTSO PRES. OF GWYNN PARK HIGH SCHOOL

DR. DENISE GOTTFREDSON
UNIVERSITY OF MD CRIMINOLOGY & CRIMI-
NAL JUSTICE

ERNIE GASKINS
TAKE CHARGE YOUTH DIVERSION PROGRAM,
INC.

DR. JUDY DUBOSE
DEPARTMENT OF FAMILY SERVICES

CALVIN BROCKINGTON
DEREK ANTHONY MOORE CHARITY INC.

JERROD MUSTAF
NAACP

STAFF
DANNIELLE GLAROS
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

LEONARD PRODEN
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY PUBLIC SCHOOLS

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PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

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GLORIA HALL
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

LEROY MADDOX, ESQ.
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

WILLIAM HALL
HEALTH DEPARTMENT

EDWIN H. BROWN, JR.
PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY COUNCIL

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

2010 Legislative Session

Resolution No. CR-62-2010
Proposed by Council Member Olson
Introduced by Council Members Olson, Harrison, Dean, Dernoga, Exum, Bland, Knotts,
Campos and Turner
Date of Introduction July 13, 2010

RESOLUTION

1 A RESOLUTION concerning
2 Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee
3 For the purpose of establishing the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee to
4 encourage continued coordination and intra-governmental collaboration with nonprofit
5 organizations, law enforcement, and the education community working towards the prevention,
6 intervention, and suppression of youth and gang violence.
7 WHEREAS, the Joint County Gang Prevention Task Force was duly established to examine
8 gang prevention, suppression, and youth education strategies; and
9 WHEREAS, the Joint County Gang Prevention Task Force Final Report and Executive
10 Summary was issued in September 2004 included several recommendations to address gang
11 violence; and
12 WHEREAS, in furtherance of the recommendations of the 2004 Joint County Gang
13 Prevention Task Force Report, the County Council Adopted CR-25-2008 creating the Youth and
14 Gang Violence Prevention Task Force to review and evaluate the County's violence-prevention
15 programs and their impact upon County youth and recommend appropriate changes, including
16 measurements of success, to ensure a well-coordinated and systematic violence-prevention effort
17 in the County; and
18 WHEREAS, the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force met bi-weekly from July
19 2008 to November 2008, heard community input, evaluated data, and developed additional
20 recommendations and strategies towards the mission to curb youth and gang violence in the
21 County; and
22 WHEREAS, the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force Report (hereinafter

1 referred to as the "Task Force Report") was presented to the County Council on March 16, 2010;

2 and

3 WHEREAS, the Task Force Report articulated 23 recommendations including the creation
4 of a Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee to help the County coordinate gang
5 prevention and intervention efforts; and

6 WHEREAS, the Steering Committee will be responsible for recommending policy,
7 reviewing activities of the County's Gang initiative, enhancing interagency and organizational
8 collaboration, and continuing the assessment of gang related activities, and

9 WHEREEAS, Section 506 of the Charter provides that the Council may appoint, for
10 designated periods, one or more temporary advisory boards of citizens of the County who shall
11 assist in the consideration of County policies and programs.

12 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's
13 County, Maryland, that the Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee is hereby established
14 to encourage continued coordination and intra-governmental collaboration with nonprofit
15 organizations, law enforcement, and the education community working towards the prevention
16 and intervention of youth and gang violence.

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering
18 Committee shall be composed of 26 members:

- 19 1. The Chairman of the County Council or the Chairman's representative, who shall
- 20 serve as the presiding officer;
- 21 2. A member of the County Council, who shall serve as the presiding officer in the
- 22 absence of the presiding officer;
- 23 3. A representative of the County Executive;
- 24 4. A member of the Board of Education of Prince George's County;
- 25 5. A representative of the County Police Department;
- 26 6. A representative of the Sheriff;
- 27 7. A representative from M-NCPPC Department of Parks and Recreation;
- 28 8. A representative from the Prince George's County Youth Commission;
- 29 9. A representative from the Prince George's County School System;
- 30 10. A representative from the Office of the State's Attorney;
- 31 11. A representative from the Department of Corrections;

1 12. A representative from the Department of Health;

2 13. A representative from the University of Maryland/Department of Criminology and
3 Criminal Justice;

4 14. A representative from the Department of Family Services;

5 15. A representative from the Department of Social Services; and

6 16. A member from the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
7 (NAACP); and

8 17. Ten (10) leaders from the non-profit or civic community who operate youth violence
9 prevention programs, who shall be selected by the Chairman of the County Council.

10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering
11 Committee shall meet in public session on call of the chairman at least quarterly; and

12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering
13 Committee shall report on its activities to the County Executive and County Council, and make a
14 summary available to the general public; and

15 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Council Administrator shall assign appropriate
16 technical and administrative personnel to assist the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention
17 Steering Committee in its work.

18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the County Council of Prince George's County,
19 Maryland, that the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Steering Committee is hereby created
20 under the direction of the County Council effective through December 2012 and shall be
21 reconvened thereafter as needed to continue the charge of the Steering Committee.

Adopted this 28th day of September, 2010.

COUNTY COUNCIL OF PRINCE
GEORGE'S COUNTY, MARYLAND

BY: _____
Thomas E. Dernoga
Chair

ATTEST:

Redis C. Floyd
Clerk of the Council

