

Gang Prevention Subcommittee

Minutes 2.25.22

Attendance: Ryan Dvorak (Human Services), Matt Baker (OTP), Steve Solorio (El Centro), Natalie Wiebelhaus (Asian Center), Deon Jackson (Dvyne Soulz) Sara Hoyle (Human Services), and Jenni Ryan (Human Services)

Stockton Visit:

Sara, Matt & Jeff visited Stockton, CA to see their Operation Peacekeepers program.

- Program has been around for about 20 years. They started the program working with youth, transitioned to 18-22 year olds and are now just starting to expand back to youth again.
- We are seeing the same gang trends as they do; younger ages, hybrid gangs (multiple gangs joining together). For them it's created an uptick in violence, which we've begun to see here as well.
- An intervention piece is needed here. We lack the manpower for it though.
- Their program operates separate from the police but they share intel weekly.
- Utilize a point system to help prioritize outreach
- Outreach workers are from the area and have wide diversity of backgrounds to help connect to youth
- Found a way to hand-pick people to do the work rather than going through a formal government hiring process, which tends to screen out the best people.
- They have about 20 times the resources to do this work than we do. Their fulltime staff aren't reliant on grants, they are actual city employees.
- They were also very interested in hearing about Matt's work in prevention with OTP.
- Peacekeepers are able to go to crime scenes as well
- Ryan asked what programming they have that we could put into place. A lot of their work is about building trust and relationships.
- They are in crisis mode all the time, harm reduction efforts like removing guns from homes, etc.
- They use Healthy, Wealthy, & Wise curriculum as well as pieces of WhyTry for youth.

Next Steps:

- Steve mentioned wanting to attend a Gang Specialist Training Conference in Chicago in August.
- We will have Jeff Sorenson present gang data at our next meeting.

Next Meeting: March 25, 2022 from 12-1pm via zoom

Submitted By:

Jenni Ryan

Lancaster County Human Services