

Gang Prevention Subcommittee

Minutes 3.25.22

Attendance: Jeff Sorenson (LPD), Matt Baker (OTP), Steve Solorio (El Centro), Deon Jackson (Dvayne Soulz) Sara Hoyle (Human Services), and Jenni Ryan (Human Services)

Gang Overview – Jeff Sorenson:

Jeff shared a PowerPoint presentation on gang activity and prevention efforts in Lincoln.

- Our goal is to identify the issues here in Lincoln so we can build services around them.
- What Jeff & Matt have identified so far – intensity that we build relationships with youth is key. Youth need more active attention from program staff. They need more than just a safe space to go to socialize. These kids are highly influenced or highly influencing others.
- The older youth get the more gang involved they are & the more intervention/attention they need
 - Will need to use a different approach than other at-risk youth
 - What they value in their lives is significantly different than what we value – remember not to de-value what's important to them.
- Not able to arrest our way into gang solutions
- Over the last 4 years gang activity has been driven by violence
- Over last 2 years primarily dealing with late middle and early high school ages
- Prevention side is a huge piece of what LPD does. Their biggest asset.
- Seeing the impact of youth violence across the country
 - A lot more possession, selling, & using guns
 - See it a lot through social media
 - Did not see this prevalence of gun activity 3 years ago
- Junior high youth rivalries (which are naturally occurring) are now becoming the formulations of gangs
 - Need social service providers to not discount middle school rivalries & potential seriousness of them
 - LPS has concerns about guns being brought to school – there have been 2 occurrences already this year of guns being removed from youth at school
- Important to intervene with youth prior to forming gangs. Look at signs of gang formation, put all our time & resources into these youth.
 - Partner together to create layered approach
 - Need to work harder to keep them engaged
 - Lack emotional regulation skills
- Jeff shared story of 2 gangs: BDB vs. D1B and how a school fight escalated into a bigger fight, gun presence was introduced, and a gun shot in the moment killed one person & sent the shooter to prison, causing 2 lives to be ruined.
- Overall gang numbers are declining due to prevention & suppression efforts. However ages are getting younger and more violent.
- No Name Demons goal is to be the next bigger & badder Day 1 Brothers. One of them killed an officer, have been indicting other members (not the outcome we want but are obligated to do so for community safety).
- Need to be cognizant of the street cred/influence from youth moving here from larger communities
- South Street Winos – most prominent Hispanic gang, have taken a gun onto campus
- No Name Demons are also gathering more Hispanic youth.

- Also seeing people join bigger/badder gangs for protection.
- Park & Irving “Dripset” is potentially a new problem
- Steve asked what we can do to help with prevention?
 - Matt is involved in a lot of schools, more than 1 person can handle
 - Seeing trends from middle school Hispanic youth where they’re trying to associate with other students “like them”, similar home life, etc. Easy for peer groups to get absorbed into gang activity.
 - Would like Jeff or Matt to come to El Centro to interact with the youth there
- Deon asked what program, if any, do they utilize when youth commit a minor crime?
 - Officers have some discretion to not charge a youth & instead get real with them about the path they’re on and the need to change.
 - Youth can sometimes attend a class or something to divert them from the juvenile justice system
 - County Attorney can send to diversion or access services through Probation
 - Deon stated that Dvyne Soulz would be interested in providing services to juvenile justice youth.
- Jeff reiterated it’s important to give more attention and build rapport with these youth in programs who may be gang involved.

Next Meeting: May 27, 2022 from 12-1pm via zoom

Submitted By:

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