

NOTES

1. Welcome and Introductions/Reflections Regarding Your Agency's Role

Introductions were made

2. New Website

Teresa Reyburn, City of Santa Maria, introduced the new Mayors Task Force on Youth Safety website. Questions were asked if the website could be in Spanish, be interactive and if it could have links to the members of the Policy Committee. **Teresa said she could look into this and report on it at the next meeting.**

3. Report on Gang Prevention & Intervention Conference

Edwin Weaver with Fighting Back Santa Maria Valley said that he learned the importance of keeping an eye on youth and to keep conversations going. Edwin said he also attended presentations on community violence and trauma prevention and suggested that we need to bring these ideas together.

Teri Zuniga, Victim Witness Unit, participated in several trainings regarding the neurobiology of trauma

Saul Serrano, South Coast Task Force on Youth Safety, said the conference was encouraging.

Dan Cohen said the conference had a wide variety of perspectives.

Teresa Reyburn learned that there is a lot of support out there to help and that intervention with victims' families is important.

SE Ballard with the Public Defender office-Juvenile Division, said that one of the presentations by Thomas Abt focused on what was referred to as the "million dollar block" where violence is concentrated and that bringing in efforts to those small areas you can see a more radical change.

Madame Mayor commented on how important the victims are surrounding youth violence, such as the mother of violence victims. Also re-entry back into the community is also key.

Eddie Galarza, City of Santa Maria, said that the networking and resources gained from the conference was important.

Ernesto Olivares said that we also have an obligation to the victims' families and how these instances affect the community.

4. Review of Objectives and Next Steps

A review of the six objectives that were presented at the last meeting was reviewed. These objectives will be available on the website.

5. Objective 3A

Teresa Reyburn said one on one interviews with Policy Advisory Committee members are being organized. Teresa asked if members could please sign up for interviews or arrange with her by phone/email. These interviews are being held in order to fill the gaps of services and broaden resources. Ernesto Olivares said that the more resources we have the more help we can give. "Two on One" was noted as a resource for prevention and intervention.

6. Objective 4A-Community Forums with Community Leaders

Teresa Reyburn said one of the next task is to develop community meetings, and asked for suggestions.

Cada and Boys and Girls club had a well-attended meeting and could be an example of what we are looking for.

Councilmember Mike Cordero suggested that we may get a better response from community members by not sending out Policy Advisory Committee members but instead send out community leaders.

Teri Zuniga said that PTA is a good place to start, there are some groups that are already meeting that may be helpful.

Mr. Romero from One Community Action Coalition, offered his house as a meeting place.

It was suggested that places where kids gather like central coast future leaders and boys' camp could be helpful in gaining knowledge about the youth community. Juvenile hall and probation were also mentioned.

Accessibility to all this information was mentioned, Instagram etc. is how the younger generations are getting their information.

Ernesto Olivares said to take advantage of the groups that are already getting together. Some questions should include what are the positive things that are keeping kids safe.

It was suggested that a couple of larger meetings should be held to get the word out and Mr. Olivares suggested the timeline should be within the next month.

Dr. Sharkey with UC Santa Barbara has a research study “The Government Alliance on Race and Equity” on racial inequity in the US. It was suggested that we invite Dr. Sharkey to the next meeting.

Mr. Olivares suggested doing “night walks”, going out into the community at night to build awareness of services offered and where to get them.

Downtown Friday’s could be a venue to expose resources and give information out to parents. Eddie Galarza said that talking to parents is key and then talking to kids, some kids listen to outside sources rather than their parents.

Rick Haydon, City Manager, said some parents are uncomfortable meeting at City buildings so suggestions from the group regarding where these forums could be had and how many of them should be held would be appreciated, you could contact Teresa Reyburn with this information.

7. Receipt of Data from Organizations

Jason Stilwell asked if the group could gather data and email it to him or Teresa Reyburn. Jason said input data was important.

Dan Cohen, City of Santa Maria, said that data is important and all organizations have access to data.

Ernesto Olivares said how various data from all the different organizations will help broaden the conversation of gangs.

It was suggested that Pedro Paz with first five be contacted for poverty data.

Madame Mayor asked Rick Haydon if we could get information on slum lords.

Councilmember Cordero suggested the use of the new district maps to enhance people’s ownerships to attend some of these meetings and cultivate more people attending.

Phil Hanson suggested looking at violence within the home as well and start having conversations about home issues.

8. Vision/Mission Statement

Discussion on mission statement was had, it was decided that a combined version of the two mission statement would be best. It should read as follows:

We exist to ensure safe and healthy opportunities for our youth to reduce youth violence by mobilizing and aligning community resources through prevention, intervention, enforcement and re-entry.

The vision statement approved as read.

Teresa Reyburn said she would send out questions for future interviews and then they could set up a time that was convenient for them.

9. Discuss Next Meeting Date

It was decided that the next meeting should be held on June 19th at 1:30 p.m.

10. Public Comment

Mary Jacka said she was pleased with the meeting today. She said the use of the schools or churches was a good idea and is bothered by the idea that people are not comfortable coming to government buildings, we should use our great buildings. She said that “Thrive” is a great program where over 200 a month food and nutritional classes and we should duplicate that effort.

Arnulfo Romero, with One Community Action said that his group and Mr. Flores should have a seat at the table, he thanked the City for moving forward with this project.

Helen Galvan, with One Community Action asked that her group have a place at the table. Helen thanked the Task Force and likes the direction it is going. She said One Community Action is moving forward in their efforts and are focused on the entire community and are not trying to compete or overlap the efforts being made. She would like the councilmembers to also go out into the community to attend these community meetings. It would be helpful to have small block meetings where people feel comfortable together. She would like to see youth here and is happy that they will be included in some way in the future.