

CITY OF OAKLAND
AGENDA REPORT

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OAKLAND

2007 NOV 29 PM 4: 24

TO: Office of the City Administrator
ATTN: Deborah Edgerly
FROM: Department of Human Services
DATE: December 11, 2007

RE: A Report And Recommendation Authorizing The City Administrator To Renew For A Second Year Grant Agreements Between The City Of Oakland And Project Re-Connect For An Amount Not To Exceed \$85,000 And The Oakland Unified School District Office Of Alternative Education For An Amount Not To Exceed \$190,000 To Provide Gang Prevention And Intervention Services In Accordance With The Violence Prevention And Public Safety Act Of 2004 For The Period Of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008

SUMMARY

On July 11, 2006 the Public Safety Committee finalized plans for the use of \$1.5 million in carry forward funds collected through the taxes levied per the Violence Prevention and Public Safety Act (VPPSA) of 2004. The plans included \$680,000 budgeted for pilot programs for gang prevention and intervention. A Request for Proposals for Gang Prevention and Intervention programs was released by the City of Oakland, Department of Human Services, in August of 2006 and providers were selected and provided with one year contracts, with one year options to renew. This report recommends exercising the option to renew two contractors for a second year to provide gang prevention and intervention programs:

1. Project Re-Connect for \$85,000 for gang parenting classes
2. A collaborative led by the Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education and California Youth Outreach for \$190,000 for gang intervention and parenting support services.

FISCAL IMPACT

These funds are located at Public Safety Act of 2004 Measure Y Fund (2251), DHS Administration Organization (78111), and Gang Intervention Project (G261272). There is no fiscal impact on the General Fund.

BACKGROUND

On June 7, 2005, City Council approved specific program recommendations for Measure Y funded violence prevention programs. The recommendations included allocating funds to existing violence prevention programs and to community based organizations or public agencies

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through a competitive Request for Proposal (RFP) process. The funding for the contracts awarded through the RFP process started July 1, 2006 and used funds available from FY 06-07, thus leaving \$4.4 million in revenues collected in FY 05-06 available for one-time re-programming. The City Council approved the re-programming of these funds on July 11, 2006 which included the following programs:

- Support for Youth Uprising - \$1,500,000 over 5 years
- Challenge grant for capital costs for Sexually Exploited Minors Safe House - \$225,000
- Gap funding for the Family Violence Intervention Unit for FY 05-06 - \$190,000
- Grantee Data Base Development, Strategic Planning and Technical Assistance - \$150,000
- Reserve Fund - \$860,000
- Community Crisis Response Teams - \$800,000 over two years
- Support Groups for Youth Exposed to Violence and Staffing Infrastructure at the Family Justice Center - \$147,364 over five years
- Gang Prevention and Intervention Parent Education and Support Groups Demonstration Grants - \$300,000 over two years
- Gang Intervention and Prevention Demonstration Grants - \$380,000 over two years
- Oakland Gang Intervention and Prevention Network and Task Force - \$20,000 over two years

The City Council dedicated carry forward funds to Gang Prevention and Intervention programs due in part to a report from the Oakland Police Department (OPD) to the Public Safety Committee on April 11, 2006 outlining rising gang violence in Oakland. The report noted that the number of active street gangs increased from two to four over an 18 month period and estimated that the total number of gang members in Oakland is 1,000 – 1,500. Thirty-eight percent (38%) of homicides in 2006 were attributed to gang violence.

In an effort to address gang violence, on June 7, 2005, the City Council approved the release of a Request for Proposals (RFP) using one-time carry forward dollars for gang intervention and prevention programs as demonstration projects to provide services for one year, with a one year option to renew. The RFP focused on parenting education for elementary and middle school parents living in Central and East Oakland and general gang prevention and intervention programs for gang involved youth or youth at high risk for gang involvement living in Central and East Oakland.

As a result of this RFP, City Council approved two contracts on December 19, 2006:

- **Oakland Unified School District (OUSD) Office of Alternative Education and California Youth Outreach for \$190,000 per one year, for two years.**

Oakland Youth Outreach is a joint effort of OUSD Office of Alternative Education, California Youth Outreach and a collaborative including the Oakland Police Department, Alameda County Probation, and a number of Oakland youth serving agencies. Using trained Youth Intervention

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Specialists working in five of Oakland's toughest alternative schools, it was to serve 75 gang involved youth via Gang Redirect classes, personal and family interventions, case management, leadership opportunities and connections to community support services. The Alternative Education Office assigned a staff person to coordinate services for this project, but the majority of the grant (\$130,000) went directly to California Youth Outreach (CYO). CYO is responsible for the employment of two Youth Intervention Specialists who were to deliver the Gang Redirect classes, interventions, leadership opportunities, case management and implementing connections to community support services.

- **Project Re-Connect - Project P.A.R.E.N.T Program was Awarded - \$85,000 for 2007 and \$85,000 for 2008 by City Council**

Project Re-Connect provided parent education services to 80+ parents of elementary and middle school children and youth at-high risk for gang involvement. The curriculum used was evaluated and deemed highly effective by three independent evaluators. The classes were held one time per week for eight weeks and include sessions devoted specifically to gang awareness and prevention. Two parent educators provided two hours of parent education workshops once per week for a total of 16 hours. Four groups of 20 families (80) will have been served by the end of December 2007. Parents chose to be involved with a support group or a parent peer mentoring component that ran during the eight week class sessions.

KEY ISSUES AND IMPACTS

Outcomes for Oakland Gang Intervention Program led by Oakland Unified School District Alternative Education and California Outreach for 2007 program year

Deliverables As of 10/10/2007 (third quarter) Gang Intervention	Contracted	Actual
# of clients enrolled in violence prevention groups	45	82
# of client hours of violent prevention groups	720	1,312
# of violence prevention groups (# of gang re-direct classes conducted)	55	59
# of clients enrolled in case management	45	112
# of case management client hours	270	290
# of OYO Collaborative Meetings	3	3

Through the combined efforts of both Oakland Unified School District Alternative Education and California Youth Outreach, 112 gang impacted students from five targeted alternative school sites enrolled in services during the 2007 program year. Participating schools included Rudsdale, Dewey, Ralph Bunche, and Emiliano Zapata Street Academy High School, as well as Community Day School. Gang oriented youth were identified at the five alternative education sites through a combination of staff and self referrals for intervention services as well as meeting Measure Y eligibility requirements. On the whole the OUSD gang program is currently

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meeting most contracted benchmarks. The one area of non-compliance is with the clients enrolled in case management services. OUSD felt the need for services were overwhelming and subsequently over enrolled their benchmark. This resulted in a lack of intensity in the number of case managed contacts as shown in their case management hours. In the upcoming year OUSD will only be allowed to over enroll in case management services by 10% to account for recidivism. Eighty-two (82) of the 112 enrolled students received case management services resulting in over 449 case-managed contacts with the Intervention Specialist who spent a total of 290 case management hours working with youth. Twenty six (26) youth were provided referrals to outside agencies for services, including but not limited to mental health, substance abuse, treatment housing, etc. Incentives for client participation included leadership-based diversion activities such as field trips, food, and celebrations of progress. During school hours, students attended a total of 59 gang-redirect classes for a total of 1,312 group session hours and met with the CYO Youth Intervention Specialist for paraprofessional case management. The Youth Intervention Specialist conducted home visits during school and evening hours to address issues of truancy or to provide family interventions.

One of the deliverables for OUSD/ CYO was to organize and facilitate community meetings with other key stakeholders in the community that deal with gang impacted youth. Nineteen (19) agencies including the Oakland Police Department, Alameda County Probation, OUSD, and a broad range of Community Based Organizations worked to establish the Oakland Youth Outreach Collaborative (OYO) to effectively use all available resources to address the gang problem. Quarterly OYO Collaborative meetings which on average have an average attendance of 25 agency representatives have been used as a vehicle to shape priorities, focus on key problem areas, and pool resources. The partner-supplied services or referrals included: gang interventions; case management assistance; individual and family counseling; mental health services; health and pregnancy issues; drug and alcohol services; job experience and employment referrals; education, tutoring; and mentoring. Measure Y staff recommends renewing OUSD’s gang intervention contract for a second year.

Outcomes for Project P.A.R.E.N.T program at Project Re-Connect for 2007 program year

Deliverables As of 10/10/2007 (third quarter) Gang Parenting	Contracted	Actual
# of clients enrolled in support groups (continuing on after 8 week session)	15	19
# of client enrolled in groups (8 week session)	60	48
# of group session hours	960	768
# of support groups	2	3

Due to a late start with the delivery of support services Project Re-Connect is currently not meeting all established benchmarks. Project Re-Connect has submitted an action plan in which they will catch up on the remaining enrolled client groups by the end of their 4th quarter. (Off cycle grantee, 4th quarter ends 12/31/2007). Currently 48 clients have enrolled and completed 8

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weeks of parenting classes focusing on the prevention of youth gang involvement (for 768 group session client hours). Most of the enrolled participants are Spanish speaking parents of children ages 10-15 who are at risk of being targeted for gang involvement. Project Re-Connect staff conducted parenting workshops at various churches and schools mostly throughout the Fruitvale/San Antonio areas. Parents completing the 8 week course came for 8 weekly meetings that lasting two hours in length. The workshops conducted included a standard anti-gang curriculum developed by The Peninsula Conflict Resolution Center and guest speakers such as former gang members who have turned themselves around, as well as other professionals in the field of violence prevention and gang awareness. Nineteen (19) of the enrolled clients who finished the 8 week training went on to join other parent support groups. Many of the parents recruited for these workshops came from the local Neighborhood Crime Prevention Councils (NCPC) at which Project Re-Connect conducts presentations. Measure Y staff recommends that Project Re-Connect be renewed for a second year.

PROJECT DESCRIPTION

During the 2008 program year Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education will continue providing gang prevention and intervention services to 75 students at selected Oakland Unified Alternative education school sites who are gang involved or highly at risk for being recruited into a gang.

During the 2008 program year Project Re-Connect will continue providing parent education workshops to 80 parents of middle school students highly at risk for being recruited by gangs.

SUSTAINABLE OPPORTUNITIES

Economic:

Providing gang intervention and prevention programs for Oakland youth will increase their economic stability by linking them to organizations that can provide them with support services to increase school success and ultimately economic success.

Environmental:

No environmental impacts are expected at this time.

Social Equity:

Measure Y programs assist the youth in Oakland in achieving a greater degree of social equity. Creating programs that decrease gang activity and involvement will increase the likelihood that youth will complete school and avoid arrest and incarceration.

DISABILITY AND SENIOR CITIZENS ACCESS

All programs funded by Measure Y are accessible to persons with disabilities.

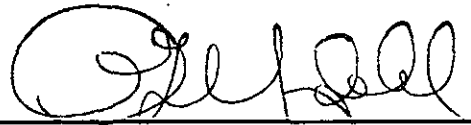
RECOMMENDATION(S) AND RATIONALE

Staff requests that the City Council permit renewal of the two grant agreements recommended in this report. The collaborative and the two agencies and their partners have proven track records and Measure Y staff is confident about their ability to deliver tangible outcomes that will reduce gang involvement in the City of Oakland.

ACTION REQUESTED OF THE CITY COUNCIL

That City Council accept this report and recommendation authorizing the City Administrator to renew agreements between the City Of Oakland and Project Re-Connect for an amount not to exceed \$85,000 and the Oakland Unified School District Office of Alternative Education for an amount not to exceed \$190,000 to provide Gang Prevention And Intervention Services in accordance with The Violence Prevention And Public Safety Act Of 2004 for the period of January 1, 2008 to December 31, 2008.

Respectfully submitted,



ANDREA YOUNGDAHL
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APPROVED AND FORWARDED TO THE
PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE:


Office of the City Administrator

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