



**Request for City Council Committee Action
From the Department of Health & Family Support**

Date: February 3, 2010
To: PUBLIC SAFETY & HEALTH COMMITTEE
Subject: QUARTERLY REPORT ON YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION EFFORTS

Recommendation:
Receive and file report.

Previous Directives:
(any past Council actions or directions to staff - generally will be "None")

Prepared or Submitted by: Becky McIntosh, Director of Planning & Administration
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Approved by: _____
Gretchen Musicant, Commissioner of Health

Permanent Review Committee (PRC): Approval _____ Not Applicable _____
Policy Review Group (PRG) Approval _____ Date of Approval _____ Not Applicable X

Presenters in Committee: Bass Zanjani, Youth Violence Prevention Coordinator

Financial Impact (Check those that apply)

X No financial impact (If checked, go directly to Background/Supporting Information).

Background/Supporting Information Attached

In 2006, Minneapolis City Council passed resolution 2006R-571 that recognized youth violence as a public health issue and created a steering committee to address the issue. The net result was the creation of the Blueprint for Action, a mix of increased law enforcement and public health strategies to address the root causes of violence that will significantly reduce and prevent youth violence in Minneapolis. The four primary objectives of the Blueprint are:

1. Place a trusted adult in the life of every child
2. Intervene at the first sign of risk
3. Restore youth who have been in the juvenile justice system
4. Unlearn the culture of violence

The Blueprint for Action target population is all youth in Minneapolis from birth to age 24. Specific emphasis, however, is on youth ages 8 to 17 who reside in the selected neighborhoods, who are

experiencing the highest rates of crime and violence and who face factors that place them at higher risk for being a perpetrator or victim of crime, including those who:

- Have been brought to the Juvenile Center for curfew or truancy violations
- Are in family situations that are unstable
- Had one or more encounters with law enforcement or the justice system
- Are gang members, gang affiliates, or gang associates
- Have been suspended or expelled from school
- Are victims or witnesses of violence

Oversight

In 2008, city council amended the resolution 2006R-571 and created a new oversight structure that is comprised of an Executive Committee (EC) that oversees the strategic and fiduciary aspects of the initiative and a Community Advisory Committee (CAC) that helps provide collective input and feedback in the neighborhoods in which the Blueprint is being implemented.

Selected Neighborhoods

Initially, four neighborhoods on the northside that were chosen based on the criterion of homicides that occurred from 2003-2006: Folwell, Hawthorne, McKinley and Jordan. In 2009, the Executive Committee re-examined the criteria to assess the risk levels for violence in different neighborhoods in the city and expanded the criteria beyond homicides to include poverty, violent crime and demographic data. As a result, an additional 18 neighborhoods were chosen to begin to connect community stakeholders to Blueprint related strategies.

The attached map and criteria/rationale are provided for background

Community Impact/Partnerships

To date, there are over 80 community stakeholders that have partnered with the City of Minneapolis to help implement the goals of the blueprint and align their efforts along the 4 goals. The following are examples of the partnerships that have taken place:

Speak Up Minneapolis

In fall 2009, a partnership between Health & Family Support, Minneapolis Public Schools, and the Minneapolis Foundation helped launch a 24 hours a day, 365 days a year anonymous, city-wide tip line for youth.

By dialing 1-866-Speak-Up, youth will access a professional trained crisis counselor who will ask them a series of questions related to the threat. Minneapolis will be the first city to utilize PAX's innovative text messaging technology. The texting service allows students to send an anonymous text message to the hotline and communicate with a crisis counselor via text. The crisis counselor will, in turn, compile a report of circumstances from calls or texts and will send the report to MPD Juvenile Division and MPS district emergency management and safety staff, if necessary, for further investigation.

This program has been successfully utilized in locations across the country, including Los Angeles, New Mexico, Pittsburgh and San Francisco, and will be expanded to other jurisdictions in 2010 including New York City.

Streetreach Outreach

In Summer 2009, Health & Family Support, Minneapolis Park and Rec, and the Minneapolis Police Department collaborated to provide mentorship, support and resources to youth and young adults near parks and recreation sites that have had a history of incidents of violence and negative behavior.

The outreach teams connected with youth who were no longer engaged with services in the parks community service areas but had demonstrated the need to be mentored. Special emphasis was placed on identified youth that have been “kicked out” of programs from other youth serving agencies.

Outreach staff worked as part of a team with police, neighborhood associations, youth and youth-serving agency staff to strategize about methods to dramatically impact youth behavior and engage youth in positive activities.

Minneapolis Youth Violence Intervention Program (MY-VIP)

A hospital-based initiative has been developed to identify and address the needs of youth victims of violence who present to the emergency departments (EDs) of Hennepin County Medical Center (HCMC) and North Memorial Medical Center (NMMC).

The protocol is triggered when a juvenile gun shot victim is admitted to the ED. A hospital social worker is notified upon arrival of the patient. After the medical condition has been stabilized, the social worker meets with the youth and parents and performs a detailed psychosocial assessment. Specific areas explored include issues related to safety concerns, retaliation risk, family, peer group, school/truancy, life skills (anger management/conflict resolution), mental health, chemical dependency, legal concerns and employment.

Based upon this evaluation, the social worker makes appropriate referrals to community-based agencies that provide services to troubled youth. To date, nearly 40 agencies in the metro area have agreed to offer their services in partnership with the MY-VIP program.

CPAV

Community Power Against Violence was an initiative that began in February 2009 through the Extension Center for Youth Development at the University of Minnesota to convene youth and adults from multiple cultural, geographic and affinity communities to design and begin implementation of a media and mobilization campaign in response to this recommendation #4 of the Blueprint for Action. The threefold objectives of CPAV are to:

1. Marketing/Media - Communicate their core message and unifying campaign slogan, “PEACE 24/7: It Begins With You” through multiple city-wide, youth-friendly, and community-based mediums in order to create a “buzz” that helps people feel they are part of a movement and critical mass to make reducing youth violence plausible, recognize that they have a role and responsibility in making this happen, and offer practical information to help them learn how to help make a difference.
2. Community Mobilization - Train and support youth and adult community organizers who will cultivate and facilitate productive dialogue among community members of all ages and cultures through one-on-one conversations, house meetings, neighborhood/community events, and in other places where people gather. Develop curriculum and train trainers to facilitate discussion and collective skill building for organizations and sectors, e.g., schools, the police force, neighborhood associations, parks, libraries, youth orgs, businesses
3. Community-Wide Alliance Building - Create effective ways for programs, coalitions and individuals to connect with, learn from, and take action together to support the work of the Blueprint writ large and Goal #4 in particular

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Staff from Health & Family Support and the University of Minnesota have begun to explore a partnership on the issue of youth violence prevention and leveraging research and other resources at the university that can be translated into some of the community outreach in the new neighborhoods. While still fluid, the parameters of the partnership would include:

- Developing and submitting a grant proposal to the CDC to fund a series of initiatives that address youth violence prevention in the City of Minneapolis;
- Establishing one or more “Engagement Zones” in neighborhoods identified in the *Blueprint for Action* a means to facilitate local community capacity-building for addressing youth violence prevention;
- Developing a set of community-based teaching and service initiatives, including service-learning courses that engage students and faculty in targeted projects that advance the goals of the *Blueprint for Action*.

Measuring Success

Staff rely on data driven tools ranging from student surveys to Minneapolis Police Department data to measure the success of the Blueprint from a quantitative performance perspective. These are found in the Results Minneapolis Report on Youth Violence Prevention.