



# Youth Violence Prevention Update

November 18, 2014

## National Forum Site Visit

Minneapolis welcomed a delegation from the Federal Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency programs on Sept. 23 and 24<sup>th</sup>. The delegation had an action packed day and a half visit with meeting with Mayor Hodges, Chief Harteau, Health Commissioner Musicant and Minneapolis Schools Superintendent Johnson. The visit also included time spent with youth participating in Minneapolis Blueprint Approved micro- grant projects as well shadowing the YCB's youth downtown outreach team.

The feedback we have received to date has been positive. Jack Calhoun, one of the members of the OJJDP delegation commented that Minneapolis is thought of as a leader in its public health approach to youth violence prevention. They were particularly impressed with the detailed nature of our Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence. Our identified strengths are in prevention and intervention and they would like to see us increase our efforts to include more work related to re-entry and enforcement. U.S. Attorney Andy Luger also met with the DOJ delegation. Attorney Luger expressed his concerns about the need to have more focused efforts in our East African/Somali Community. A full report on our site visit should be available soon. More updates to follow upon receiving the report.

## National Forum Continuation Grant

Minneapolis was awarded \$222,200 in funding from the Department of Justice for our participation in the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. In addition Minneapolis was able to roll over approximately \$100,000 from our 2013 National Forum funding that was unused. \$100,000 is earmarked by DOJ to go to a school district to implement Positive Behavior Intervention Services (PBIS). The remaining balance is to be used on the development and minimal implementation of a communications and community engagement plan. The YVP team is still in the process of finalizing a detailed budget and timeline. The final Youth Violence budget and timeline will be provided at the first meeting in 2015.

## Blueprint Approved Micro-grant and showcase

6 agencies were granted \$3,300 dollars each to create a youth lead project and or activity focused on youth violence prevention. Programs started their work in Aug. with a final showcase taking place on October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2014. The showcase was well attended mostly by, family and friends of the participants. The YVP coordinator and other staff had the opportunity to attend most of the groups' individual presentation and the work was very meaningful. Each program designed a unique project that spoke to the needs of their individual communities. Youth reported that the experience was very positive and helped them develop leadership skills around youth violence prevention. The 6 programs funded and a brief description of the project they developed are as follows:

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- **Oasis of Love**  
Conducted a summer workshop experience that included creative dance, spoken word and African drums to show the effects of youth violence. Youth participated in civic engagement and also participated in a 5k run/walk in support of child witnesses to domestic violence.
- **Anika Foundation**  
Created a documentary that chronicled their emersion of creative expression and positive self-image. “Texture”, an esteem and relationship building program was presented as a mini documentary recording the project from start to finish; highlighting how youth violence impacted the program participants.
- **Emerge/BUILD Leaders**  
Hosted “what’s good in the hood”, a back to school family fun day in North Minneapolis. Activities included resource tables, giveaways to prepare youth for school, sports, music and other recreation as a platform for sharing violence prevention messages and promoting violence free activities.
- **courageous heARTS**  
Created a photo project that delves into why young people fight, and for what reasons they choose to fight; it focuses on violence in schools. The project was presented at local Minneapolis high schools.
- **WE WIN Institute**  
Developed and performed “Imagine” a collection of poetry, spoken word, song, and dance created by youth. The performance brought together youth leaders to talk about youth violence and the type of activities that they believe can help end youth violence.
- **YouthCare**  
Hosted a kickball tournament in South Minneapolis and a community vigil against violence. This group also facilitated anti-violence workshops in their community to combat youth violence.

#### East African Consultant

Minneapolis’ YVP team has made numerous efforts to make stronger connections and in roads into the East African/Somali community. We have made marginal contacts but have yet to develop a meaningful relationship with any programs or individuals working on YVP in that Community. With the encouragement from DOJ to put greater focus on addressing YVP in this community MHD has hired a consultant, Kassim Busuri, youth worker and community activist to help us evaluate the needs of this community as it pertains to YVP and to develop a strategic plan that will serve as an insert or addendum to our current Blueprint with specific guidance on working in the Somali community.