

Minutes
CITY OF UNION CITY
Union City Youth Violence Prevention & Intervention Advisory Committee Meeting
6:00P.M. Wednesday, January 4, 2012
Kennedy Community Center- 1333 Decoto Road
Union City CA 94587

I. ROLL CALL

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES – November 2, 2011

**III. INTRODUCTIONS: Jonathan Pettey, Chairperson/Human Relations Commission
In Attendance:**

Tony Acosta, Leisure Services Director; Jill Stavosky, Leisure Services Manager; Patricia Abadesco, YFS Program Manager; Brian Foley, Police Chief, Sergio Abundis, YFS Case Manager; Emily Duncan, City Councilwoman; John Cabrera, YFS Lead Outreach Worker; Darl Michael, YFS Outreach Worker; Jasmine Valentine, YFS Outreach Worker; Karen Yifru, Parent; Susie Garcia, Todd Benson, COR; Ted Heinz, COR; Community Member; Michelle Matthews, NHUSD Board; Robert Rodriguez, Community Member; Gloria Lopez-Vaughn; UCPD; Mary Schlarb, COR; Yesenia Molinar; La Clinica de La Raza; Zoneil Maharaj, UC Patch.com; Father Jose, Pastor of OLR Church; Toni Aviles, Leisure Services Program Specialist; Helia Jackson, Finance Dept. Administrative Assistant.

IV. GUEST SPEAKER – David Muhammad, Chief Probation Officer, Alameda County

David Muhammad discussed various topics and presented a new philosophy and approach to probation, and especially juvenile probation, in Alameda County. He also advised the Committee on his personal experience with the “cease fire” model of youth violence prevention, and law enforcement in Boston, Chicago, Washington D.C. and New York.

Some statistics were provided about probation caseloads in Alameda County:

- 15,000 adult probationers (felony), with 4,000 under direct supervision
- 2,000 juvenile probationers (felony), with 640 under direct supervision
- Union City residents comprise 3-4% of the juvenile probation caseload in Alameda County (600 adults, and 78 juveniles), with most probationers being Decoto area residents
- Misdemeanor probationers are not supervised by ACPD, but are under Court Probation

The new approach being used by ACPD is a **Risk Assessment model** in which each client is evaluated and placed into a risk classification; High Risk clients are targeted for greater intervention. Intervention is based on **Individual Achievement Plans (IAP)** tailored to each client; 7 elements are evaluated, and the “top 3” are incorporated into the AIP. Each Probation Officer is mandated to prepare, monitor and provide assistance to their High Risk clients using the AIP as the basis for evaluating progress and compliance.

Mr. Mohammad also briefed the Committee on the creation of the “Top 100” and “Top 50” adult probationer program (top 50 and Top 20 juveniles) in which the top 100 most high threat probationers are to focal points for high level intervention (e.g., call-ins) and enforcement (e.g., warrant sweeps). UC residents are a very small proportion of these lists.

John Mein – Assistant to David Muhammad, will be attending the Committee meetings in the future.

Emily Duncan, asked if there are more steps the Committee can use to involve the community with our program. David Muhammad, explained that we need to be clear in what we are doing. Intervention and suppression needs to be clear and we should work on what most of the group agree on, by coordinating and communicating. Some of what YVPIP is doing is not consistent with the “highest risk” model, in that the YVPIP has lower risk clients receiving services. In addition, he recommended that Union City:

- Focus on the highest risk youth.
- Ensure services are provided to highest risk call-in clients.
- Maintain close relationships with PO’s in the area.
- Walk the areas with the most incidents

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Staff requested more referrals from ACPD, and Mr. Mohammad committed to ensuring that this would be done, including direct diversions from the Juvenile Justice Center.

V. WORKING GROUP- Community Forum

a. Working Group Structure and Process – Director, Tony Acosta

1. Technical Group

Tony Acosta discussed how the program operates on a technical working group level with the Police Dept. and now has monthly meetings. These are confidential meetings due to the nature of the information being discussed, and it is not appropriate for the community to participate.

The “open session” Working Group was also discussed, with the Advisory Committee forming this working group. Non-confidential information from the Technical WG is shared with the Advisory Committee and the public, and public feedback is solicited for use in determining program priorities and resource deployment (e.g., where are “hot spots” that need attention).

COR representatives expressed their concern that this model was inconsistent with the Boston Ceasefire program model and “Best Practices” used by other cities. Staff responded by noting that each city is unique, and that Union City is creating a program model that will work in Union City. COR also expressed concern that certain information from the public should not be shared in a public setting due to its sensitive nature; staff agreed and offered to have confidential meetings with anyone who had “confidential information” to share. This is an important issue due to the threat of retaliation against those in the community who might be identified as having “snitched” on local gang members or other persons thought to be involved in violence.

Other discussion included:

- Former UC resident and Youth Violence Coalition founder, Karen Yifru would like to see a map with crime areas pinpointed/marked, to be used as a visual, and have these areas patrolled by YFS staff and PD (staff to see what can be done to accomplish this).
- COR requested an agendaized discussion of Best Practices for Working Groups at the next Committee meeting, and staff agreed to do so.

b. Crime Data Updates – Lt. G. Lopez-Vaughn – handouts

Lt. Vaughn reported on incidents that occurred in Union City: November 12, there was an arrest of intruders; November 27 at Food Maxx, youth were found with guns and drugs. Other incidents occurred which were gang and un-gang related.

c. Street Outreach Update

John Cabrera reported on the December call-in which went well.

Peace Walks- are conducted the first Friday of the month, at 7:30P.M., through the Decoto neighborhood. This walk is to show the community that there are resources available to them, and to show a sense of solidarity between the City and the community. The walk includes the YFS staff, and interested community members; however, the media will not be included. The walk is from OLR Church to Mission Blvd. John Cabrera will lead the walks, but expressed concern that for the sake of safety, young children should not participate in the walks.

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YFS Staff - the staff is conducting home visits with their client's families, to see how things are going, and how they can further utilize their services; they thanked the Police Dept. for their support; and they continue to receive referrals from probation officers.

Sergio Abundis reported on his clients: two have graduated from the Cypress Mandela training academy; three were hired as members of the green team; four clients toured Chabot College and two have enrolled in Ohlone College. The YFS staff attended a transition center open house at the Juvenile Justice Center.

Jasmine Valentine reported on the following: the YFS staff provided holiday gifts to a local family, which were very much appreciated; she is trying to get involved with working/counseling women in female group homes; Jasmine and Darl Michael will be attending a violence prevention class.

Darl Michael is working on organizing a youth basketball tournament in May. He is recruiting youth to participate, and would also like leads for volunteers who can coach and assist in recruiting.

d. Community Feedback

Karen Yifru, expressed concern regarding an incarcerated person soon to be released in Union City. She asked how we will deal with this, and what services will be provided for the person. Staff agreed to follow up on this.

VI. UPDATES

a. Call-In Planning Update

Next call-in date, not yet decided.

b. YFS Team Update

c. FY 2011-12 Line Item Budget – handout

Tony Acosta discussed the "Fiscal Year 2011-12 Program Budget" handout. He reported that we do have unused fund money which is helpful; however we are spending more that we are getting funded for. As of February 1, RDA will no longer be, since this has been eliminated by the State. We are not sure what the final impact is without RDA funding, yet.

1. County Probation contract status

This funding is essential, now that we will no longer have RDA funding.

2. CalGRIP grant application status

The application date for this grant has been extended to June 2012.

3. Medi-Cal billing evaluation status

There was no new information to report.

VII. NEXT STEPS

Next meeting is on Wednesday, February 1, 2012