

## **Operational Team Meeting Minutes**

**Friday, February 13, 2015**

In attendance: Ben Flores, Lori Perez, (YCOE), Heath Parsons, (Woodland PD), Martina Bautista (YMCA), Hector Molina (WJUSD), Vita Mandalla (Yolo County District Attorney's Office), Marie Bacciarini (Communicare), Jacob Holt (WHS Learning Community Director), Cynthia Anenson, (Yolo County Probation), Louis Pires, (Yolo County Sheriff's Department), Raylene Ewing, (Pioneer HS), William Oneto, (Yolo County Probation), Kimberly Porter, (Communicare), Theresa Smith, (Yolo Health/Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health), Jesse Tafolla, (Cache Creek HS)

Meeting began at 10:35

### **Woodland Chamber Presentation**

Ben gave a brief overview of his presentation to the Woodland Chamber of Commerce. A Power Point presentation was shared and covered several topics of the YGRIP Initiative. During his presentation to the Chamber he said members could help by providing jobs, serving as mentors and by notifying authorities of any gang activity. He mentioned that the owner of Fleet Feet stated that he would donate up to two pairs of running shoes for students who want to run cross country or track and can't afford them. After the meeting, Ben stated he was contacted by Woodland Dignity Health about presenting information to its group as well.

### **Referrals**

Raylene Ewing, Pioneer HS vice-principal, presented two referrals. Both are 15 year old students and are involved in gang activity. Student A is a habitual truant and associates with other gang members. Communicare is to follow up on possible counseling, the secondary SRO will be contacted and asked to make contact with the student and Hector will meet with parents.

Student B – SST has been completed and follow up will occur. Student has gang tattoo on hand.

Raylene believes the student is involved with gang activity as info has been placed on facebook and his cousin was shown with an AK-47. Neither of the students is currently on probation. Raylene asked if there was enough info presented and if these are the types of students that should be referred. The answer was yes. She stated support is really needed and she hoped the group could come up with ideas on how to help these students and other students like them.

Jesse Tafolla, principal of Cache Creek, asked for support in selecting speakers/mentors to speak to kids at his school about the perils of being involved in gangs and to counsel students on how to get away from the gang life. He expressed frustration in there not being more programs to assist students and families and asked the group for suggestions. He does have a possible speaker that is sponsored by the Sacramento County Office of Education, but was advised to be cautious of speakers and to make sure their backgrounds are clean and their message is appropriate.

### **Summer Program Follow-Up**

Heath shared information regarding the Summer Program and said it is shaping up. He will have the outline completed and then present to the WJUSD administrative team. He said he has volunteers to help and that funding should not be an issue. The program will serve 9-12 year old at-risk youth and operate during the mornings. There was a lot of support for his program and he will follow up on progress at the next meeting.

### **PAL Program**

Ben began by stating that he has spoken with the National PAL Organization as well as with the Northern California PAL director. He has invited, Gregg Wilson, the Northern California PAL director to speak to the Steering Committee and invited members of the Operational Team to attend. Ben stated he has received guidelines on how to begin a chapter and many suggestions on how to proceed from Gregg.

There was much discussion on the need for a program such as PAL and several members said they are willing to help and volunteer.

Courtney Jordan, a Social Worker with the Public Defender's Office, gave a testimony about her participation in the Roseville PAL program. She stated that she "lived" at the location and was very involved in the boxing program. She stated the PAL program and its staff helped guide her and keep her away from negative activities. In short, she is a big supporter of PAL and will be available to help get one established here in Woodland.

Heath stated that he believes he can get some volunteers to help and the Chief of Police is supportive of the concept but concerned about staffing. Ray Simmons talked about the facilities that will be built within the next few years and that they might be available for PAL activities. He also stated that he is in favor of the program and could get volunteers as well.

Vita stated there is a need for a program such as PAL in Woodland and that she believes it will address the concern students constantly bring up about not having anything to do in our community.

All members were in favor of the concept and want to move forward with getting a PAL chapter started.

### **GREAT Program**

Ben shared that the GREAT program will be offered to elementary students in the fall. An additional SRO has been hired and his primary responsibilities will be implementing the program at yet to be determined elementary schools.

### **Selection of Student**

Ben stated that in one of the conversations he had with a representative from the OJJDP the representative strongly suggested that the group select one student who is involved in gang activity and provide as much support as possible to the student and his/her parents to get the student back on the right track. There was a brief discussion about this agenda item but it was recommended that Hector Molina be the person who will select the student.

Meeting was adjourned at 11:50

Next Meeting:

Friday, March 13, 10:30-11:45 at the Community Services/Senior Center.