



LB GRIP Advisory Council Meeting Minutes

September 14, 2009
5:30 pm -7:30 pm
Minutes

Location: Center for Working Families, 1900 Atlantic Ave.

Attendance:

Advisory Council Members: Sue Baker, Hattie Bass, Rene Castro, Patrick Dyson, Brent Fremming, Gus Frias, Anita Gibson, LT. Ty Hatfield, Dr. Lydia Hollie, Ted Hollister, Nancy Ke, Dr. Farah Naz Khaleghi, Brenda, Knepper, Patricia Lee, Lillian Parker, Sara Pol-Lim, M.S., Claudette Powers, Jessica Quintana, Karen Reside, Hillary Rivers, Marc Rothenberg, Matt Saldana, Dr. James Saucedo, Jud Schoendorf, Jerlene Tatum, Betty Jean Thompson, Claire Vermillion, Charles Wade

Staff, Presenters and Affiliates: Jenifer Alvarado, Monica Andrews, Carrie Cesar, Antoine Cofield, Tracy Colunga, Peter Ek, Tim Goddard, Annie Greenfeld, Teresa Gomez, Randall Hausauer, Debra Kart, Linda Parrott, Angela Reynolds, Marybeth Walker, Linda Woodberry.

1. Welcome and Introductions: meeting was called to order by Monica Andrews; Introductions were done; At start of meeting 28/44 Advisory Council (AC) members were present. A quorum was met.
2. **Chair Remarks:** Marc Rothenburg gave an overview of LB Grip. Reiterated we meet quarterly in hopes it will make it easier for everyone to make a commitment and ensure we have a quorum each time to be able to handle the business at hand. He thanks everyone for coming and explains this group used to be The Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force, which was a volunteer group. The Task Force sunset out, and became LB GRIP. Because the State gave the City the GRIP Grant, the grant requires an advisory council. The makeup of the advisory council is similar to what the Youth Task Force was so we morphed into the advisory council. We came up with committees, which were consistent with the same committees that the Tasks Force had. There is no longer a Task Force however; the LB GRIP is basically the same as the Task Force but with an advisory.
3. **Action Item:** Approval of Minutes from the last meeting on June 8th, 2009.
 - a. Motion passed unanimously; Minutes - approved
4. A Video clip message inspiring and encouraging positive communication and interaction between parents and children. Cautioning that the things you say and do children watch and listen to. It cautioning parents to be vigilant about the company their children keep and places they go. Reminding that abused children become abusers, and that it is better to give them the love and respect they deserve, educate them and they will enrich our world. They are our tomorrow.

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Everyone was encouraged to bring in video clips that are inspiring to the next meeting.

5. **LB GRIP Staff Report:** Teresa Gomez issues a self explanatory printout of the LB GRIP budget and indicates we have spent approximately \$64,000.00 to date. She shares that two requests were submitted to the State for reimbursement, both request have been paid. And, encourages anyone to contact her if they have any question.

There are two new requests for discretionary funds that members can approve up to \$300.00 per request. We have a budget of about \$9,000.00 with a balance of \$6,300.00 for discretionary funds to last us to December 2010. Everyone is reminded that a request form must be completed for consideration, and that projects must be within the targeted area, which is the main requirement. The target area zip codes are 90806 and 90813.

- a. Rene Castro request funds for a Youth Leadership Conference. As a way to draw youth to the conference, we would like to provide free breakfast. We worked out an agreement with Long Beach City College that they will provide a BBQ lunch free for the kids. The event is for this Friday. Other partners are Sixth District Council, Weed and Seed, LB Grip, LBCC, CCEJ and many more. There will be entertainment and LBCC will conduct on the spot sign-ups that day.
- b. Anita Givens request funds for a follow-up conference that is done in the spring. Approximately 200 youth attend to look at alternatives to violence and take that information back to their communities. It is joint with same partners Rene spoke about. They request \$300.00 to purchase incentives to but gift cards. As the students take risk as they participate and offer information, they will receive a reward of a \$10.00 gift card. It fosters taking a risk, asking a question and giving information.

Discussion– Q. Is this the same event? **A.** It's the same event but for separate purposes, one is for breakfast and the other is for incentives. **Q.** How are students selected to attend? **A.** There are 200 students invited, 20 from the Wilson male academy and Cabrillo. The Washington Middle school has already assigned 40 students to attend and Weed and Seed is bringing about 40. The students from the beatification project will be invited also. The Six District will be contacting Poly to invite the schools. The counselors at the schools select the kids. Students must attend school or live in the targeted area. **Q.** Are the invitations disseminated to reflect the parity of the community? **A.** As far as ethnic/race, no. **Q.** Is this during school hours? **A.** Yes. **Q.** How will students get to event? **A.** LBUSD will provide transportation to and from the event. **Q.** How is it connected to the curriculum? Will students be writing a paper to report out in some kind of way? Students should report to their peers what they learned and share what got out of it, as a way to lay the groundwork for future participation. Will high school students get service hours? **A.** We will be providing service hours. The organizing committee is meeting tomorrow and that is something we can talk about. **Q.** I am from the Poly male academy and was wondering if we can bring some more representation? **A.** Poly male academy has been invited. **Q.** Are you saying they have to be from the male academy not just from the district? **A.** Poly male academy has been invited to select 20 students; the school will be contacted through the Sixth District. If there are additional students you would like to

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invite, you can email Monica so she can register them **Q.** So, the Council office is responsible for inviting the schools? **A.** Right. **Q.** So has that happened? **A.** Yes, it has happened.

Tracy- I think what we really tried to do is build in some continuity with leadership development by developing leadership hubs were youth that are already participating, like in the beatification project, or the male academy, or somehow already linked into building the “at promise” student and really building those leadership skills well beyond. This conference is that next step, and I’m willing to work with these youths that live in the targeted area to go on to college and to really hand hold them these next few years to be leaders in our community. This is the first of many linking youth to the wonderful programs that exist in the community.

6. **Action items:** Approval for \$300.00 discretionary funds for the Youth Leadership Conference breakfast dated September 18, 2009.

a. Motion passed unanimously; Discretionary funds – approved

Approval for \$300.00 discretionary funds for the Youth Leadership Conference

b. Motion passed unanimously; Discretionary funds - approved

7. **LB GRIP Staff Reports Site Visit:** The staff visited other agencies’ sites that received GRIP money to see how they were spending their money. One cite visited, Pada Los Niños, is located in LA, serve 60 students and their focus is on the art of music. It’s a safe haven where kids go after school and meals are served. Students are required to attend the program at least three days a week. A display of artwork made from attending students was shown. The site is equipped with a game room, art, music and computer classes, as well as a gym. A planned field trip to visit colleges this week will give students an opportunity to have a personal view of what it’s like to go off to college. Students must earn this privilege by attending the center, participating in activities, getting good grades and for good behavior. Staff will follow-up to report out on their field trip. LB GRIP Members are encouraged to attend future site visits with staff.

The Boyle Heights Recreation Centers, Summer Night Lights Program photos where shared. The program serves food for approximately 600 people every night; the food is donated by the Hungry Hog restaurant. There were lots of activities going on such as indoor soccer, basketball, and a skateboard ramps being used. They had free softball and baseball programs, free movie nights at the park, and families were having picnics. The most impressive thing was the peaceful feeling you received. Gang Intervention Officers meet with gang members prior to the Summer Nights program session to sign peace treaties, and officers were present at the park nightly. Crime statistics are utilized to determine the programming they do.

Q-Is this the Summer Nights Program funded by Jeff Greer, out of the Mayor’s office **A.** Yes. **Q.** Didn’t they seek to hire some of the individuals (gang members) to incorporate them into the overall process so that it would be more meanable to creating a safe place for those families? **A.** Correct? **Q.** I think they had over 187 former gang members to help basically police to patrol the park. **A-** Yes, exactly. They did higher some kids similar to the Pacific gateway. **Q-** How long was the program? **A-** Approximately from May/June to September 5th.

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Since the last GRIP meeting, there were two Peace Builder parent trainings and two essentials training for youth, residents, and caregiver providers from the targeted area. There were two peace coach trainings for youth, and beatification projects completed. Staff advised that Peter, who is through the Pacific Gateway program, has been working with them a few days a week as a resource assistant putting together a resource guide for youth.

The sub-committees have all met and will be reporting out. Teresa and Monica met with the Technology systems personnel and received training so they will be able to get the website out and keep it current. That will happen within the next few weeks. The site will have linkage to upcoming events and be really informative.

- 8. Community Based Organization-** Jessica Quintana provided an overview and reported out for CBO, Central Cha (CC). In March of 2008, the City was awarded over a million dollar half of that money went to The City of Long Beach the other half, \$499,000.00, went to CC, in partnership with Pacific Gateway network. CC has serviced 80 youth to date and focuses on youth gang member's in LB but can also serve LA County residents, people who currently are on gang injunctions, gang files or live in a high gang area, which is called a GIGA area. Those GIGA areas have been identified as the West and East side of LB. The CC program goals are performance measured and participants are required to perform in GRIP programs. Participants must perform basic skills enrichment, improvement of reading or math with an increase by two functioning grade levels and take POST test, and receive certification in career interest. The program offers supportive services such as stipends' for housing, clothing, food, and transportation for up to six weeks. To date, the programs expenses total \$263 thousand; \$85,000.00, participant services, \$112,000.00, four staff, \$16,000.00, professional consultant, \$8,000.00, supplies, \$29,000.00, program rent and utilities, \$2,000.00, traveling expenses, and \$5,000.00 on insurance. The program has received a total match dollar amount of \$82,000.00, from other programs such as the Legal Aid Foundation, for assistance with expungement, Pacific Gateway program, and the drug and alcohol programs provides onsite service.

The CC program hosted three workshops; a Gang Expression Art workshop, Human Relation, a No Hate workshop with the LA County Commission, and a Peace Builders workshop.

- 9. Police updates-** Crime overall for the City is at a 2.3 decrease compared to last year. Beats 4 and 5 are still up when it comes to violent crime but is on a downward trend. Seeing a decrease of about 16.4 percent in gang related crimes and shootings. Unfortunately, gang murders are up 50 percent. **Q.** What's that in terms of numbers? **A.** This year there are 18 gang murders to date. Our gang members have become transient and are moving out of the City, as well as some out of towners moving in. Beat 4 is still our highest in gang related shootings with 12. Through the last couple of months the Task Force is focusing on repeated offenders and on getting guns out of the hands of the people who are doing the bad stuff. **Q.** Do you see a bump for violent crimes when school starts? **A.** Generally get a bump at the end and the beginning of the school year. That's why Youth Services does the Safe passages, and curfew sweeps. We want kids to feel safe at school. We use a lot of police visibility at the school site. The Gang detail pays attention to sports event to provide additional staffing at games. **Q.** Are there any plans for officers to visit team practices to talk with athletes' to encourage them about not be coerced into hanging out with gang

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members, and the cause and effect of the choice to. Maybe officers can share with them that they are on a road to success and give examples of some of the things that have happened right here. **A.** No, but that's a good idea. I would like to partner up with the schools to do some of that. **Q.** Is there a school District representative here that can ensure that happens? Maybe news paper clippings can be shown as a visual or show athletes some statistics of some of the positive as well as the negative things that have occurred. **A.** We try to do some role model stuff many of the officers are alumni's and have coached. **Q.** *At what point and time are we going to be willing to sit down to discuss the concept of intervention workers here in Long Beach?* **A.** Tracy- The school district already has intervention workers. **Q.** Where are they and who are they? **A.** Tracy- There is three that work closely with some of the officer. **Q** – *I would like to see something along the lines that the City of LA Human Relations Commission, Jeff Carr, and the County of Los Angeles has done. I would like for us to get trained individuals like the Summer Nights Program.* **Q.** - What are we doing to integrate parolee's in the age group of twenties, back into the community? **A.** That is not the priority age group. The mid-Night basketball program is geared more towards that age group. The work force development and re-entry sub-committee can report on that.

Male Academy- Students from the male academy report that the academy helps them make positive decision under the direction of school staff. Students are selected by school staff and peers. They shared their experiences and appreciated learning more about different cultures and background. They expressed how they learned their lives are similar in that they all experience tragedy and endure pain. They like the bonding that occurred during the two day camp and learning about colleges, and how to make their community a better place. Students feel that being part of the academy helps them take positive action when negative things are happening.

The Jordan and Cabrillo High campus have reduced violence by over 50 percent, and 33 of 35 Wilson students improved their overall GPA.

- 10. Work Force Development** – Employed 115 youth in the ages of 14 to 24 years this summer, they are working in various programs. Youth that are age 20 to 24, are serviced through the Youth Opportunity Center located off of Atlantic and Wardlow.

Youth from the beatification program spoke and shared how they attended and worked neighborhood feedings, clean-ups and participated in community gardens, as well as painted two murals. They participated in the Latin American parade and were interviewed by The LB Magazine.

- 11. Weed and Seed-** Safe Haven expenditure purchased one computer, one printer and software for the King Park Safe Haven program. There is a balance of \$3249.00 for this fiscal year. The internet activity is taking some time but is being worked on. School supplies; McBride has spent about \$200.00 on arts and crafts, paints and pencils. Educational Activities; 20 kids went to the science center this summer from McBride, 40 kids went to USC and another 40 went to the Museum of Tolerance. All of these kids are from the targeted area. A purchase of over \$120.00 on educational games went to the King Park Recreation Center.

- 12. Reentry sub-committee** – The committee has combined the Workforce Re-entry program with the Weed and Seed so efforts are not duplicated. The focus plan is to put together a re-entry resource guide so any resident can search and access that site for post incarceration information.

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Next event is to create a strategic plan about a comprehensive coordination of re-entry services. They look to submit a draft template of a reentry plan by May or June. The committee can then apply for federal and state dollars to implement that plan. *Our goal is to fund our own Intervention Workers, as Dr. Hollie inquired.*

13. **Family Engagement and Family Prevention sub-committee** – Two committees have combined, they will attend youth forms to report out and discuss the topics brought out at those meeting by the youth. Projects will come from the information received from those meetings. Suggestion to invite a representative from the California Endowment to attend youth dialogs with sub-committee so they can incorporate that information into the ten year strategy as well.
14. **Media and Community Education sub-committee** – The committee is chaired by two youth. They reviewed goals, and came up with an idea of having the high schools participate in a contest with the graphic arts design class. Winners will have their art work posted on the side of a bus, a t-shirt or a TV commercial from Charter. Members feel it will reduce gang violence by keeping youth busy and will showcase their talent, helping them to express themselves. They are planning to create a face book page so youth can keep in touch with what is going on in the community. They have scheduled a monthly event for September 28. **Q.-In the direction that the media and community education sub-committee is taking, are you utilizing as a part of the framework the work that has already been undertaking towards crafting a media campaign that is responsive to the goals that have already established?** **A. - Yes.**
15. **Research and Resource sub-committee** – The committee has received and is reviewing the evaluation reports given to them by staff, and are working on funds development by looking at different networks to see what’s appropriate. They are looking for venues where they can better implement opportunities for youth. They are also looking at things for the re-entry programs and at some aspects of human mapping. Many of these projects are funded through the California Endowment, a partner they are looking to work with, and are trying to figure out where these things fit best for direction for proposal development. The committee will be attending the Boys and Girls club event, as well as a homeless round table discussion to gather information.
16. **Announcement-** the next LB GRIP Quarterly meeting Dec 14, 2009.
 - a. There is a Six District Youth Form Friday the 18th
 - b. Peace builders essentials, September 29, is a free workshop scheduled from 12:30 to 4:30 pm
 - c. Centro Cha awards celebration on Oct 8th at the Grand
 - d. The Boys and Girls Club of Long Beach will be celebrating a National Day for Kids on September 19, at the Westside location across from Cabrillo High school, from 10:00 a.m. to 2:00 pm.
 - e. Lt. Levy will speaking at the second annual Hate Crime Conference at Coastline Community College in Garden Grove on Oct 9th, flyers are available on the back table.

Suggestion- The Hispanic community youth are really being impacted by a movie that is out called “Su Nombre”. It’s available at the local video stores. Guest would like the group to do an

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analysis of the movie because there are plenty of lessons to be learned in the movie.
Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: Lillian Parker, Community Member

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