



**LB GRIP Advisory Council
Meeting Minutes**

**December 14, 2009
5:30 pm -7:30 pm**

Location: Center for Working Families, 1900 Atlantic Ave.

Attendance:

Advisory Council Members: Sue Baker, Hattie Bass, Rene Castro, Tracy Colunga, Patrick Dyson, Brent Fremming, Anita Gibson, Annie Greenfeld, LT. Ty Hatfield, Dr. Lydia Hollie, Deborah Kearns, Dr. Farah Naz Khaleghi, Megan McDonnell, Lillian Parker, Claudette Powers, Jessica Quintana, Karen Reside, Marc Rothenberg, Dr. James Saucedo, Jud Schoendorf, Sandra Scott, Jerlene Tatum, Claire Vermillion, Cecile Walters.

Staff, Presenters and Affiliates: Kezia Daniels, Teresa Gomez, Brenda Novela, Yvonne Robinson, Linda Woodbury.

1. Meeting was called to order at 5:40 pm by Kezia Daniels. Welcome and Introductions were done; at start of meeting a quorum was not met.

Chair Remarks: Marc Rothenberg gave an overview of LB GRIP. Reiterated we meet quarterly and that LB GRIP is basically the same as the Task Force but with an advisory role to the city concerning the GRIP Grant funds.

- a. **Action Item:** Approval of Minutes from the December 14th, 2009 meeting was tabled as a quorum was not met. Chair Rothenberg and members comment on the satisfaction of the detailed Minutes.

Agenda review-GRIP Clip; Chair extends an invitation for all to submit a clip for the introduction of the meetings. Clips should be consistent with committee's mission statement and what we are trying to accomplish. This meeting's clip was submitted by Dr. Lydia Hollie. The clip showed adults and children screaming mean, hurtful and racial remarks. The Moral of the clip, make your influence positive. Children see, children do. Teach your children the right things to do. Dr. Hollie was presented with a coffee certificate for her submission of the clip.

- b. **Action item:** A request for a Bylaws revision for the discretionary funds was made however, seeing there was not a quorum, the request is being tabled until the next meeting. The chair expresses a need to review and amend the By-laws in an effort to be able to provide more guidance on the discretionary funds that are sometimes held over because we did not have a quorum. Chair announces the Family Preservation Subcommittee has asked to be a clearing house for those discretionary funds. The subcommittee would review request for funds and make a recommendation to the whole council.

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- c. **Action Item:** Chair announces a need for a Strategic Planning Ad Hoc Committee. As the Bylaws allow for the chair to designate a short term Ad Hoc Committee. Dr. Lydia Hollie is appointed chair over this committee. The Ad Hoc committee will provide a strategic plan to incorporate what the Youth and Gang Prevention and Intervention Task Force has done to be able to have it be adopted by the council and move forward. Dr. Hollie accepts and makes a request for volunteers.

Erase the Past Clinic Presentation: Dr. Briana King founder of Erase the Past gave an overview of her, and co-partner Dr. Glassberg's program. The program was founded 1997 in the City of Long Beach. Dr. King partnered with the City, PD, Parks and Rec, and Memorial Hospital, to start a clinic to do laser removal of gang affiliated tattoos. The clinics are conducted on Saturdays and cost approximately \$2,000. Participants must be between the ages of 14 and 28, out of gang activity and are required to volunteer a minimum of five hours in the community in various programs. The program goal is to help at risk youth build self esteem, and to help provide the kids with the capability of being contributing members in society. They are an interventional based program and are always looking for funding. They hope to partner with LB GRIP.

Dr. Hollie commends Dr. King and Glassberg for their work, contribution and for caring. Packets were left with the council. Staff announces they would like to list them as a partner in the upcoming grant proposal. Gomez announces the clip of the program will be emailed to everyone.

LB GRIP Staff Report: Gomez reports we are half way through the budget, we have through December 2010. Next grant is due January 12. A six month report of LB GRIP was submitted with the application. Gomez will provide copies of the report to the board for review.

Daniels reports PeacePartners has conducted an essential training and two parenting trainings, one in English and one in Spanish. They also conducted a Sixth District youth forum in which 200 youth participated. An upcoming workshop is scheduled for December 17 from 8:30-12:30 for all child care providers in 90806 and 90813 zip codes.

Discretionary Funds: Rene Castro gives a past recipient report on the youth leadership conference. Many thanks to LB GRIP for their assistance, the conference was a successful event. PeaceBuilders conducted training while CCEJ did a youth focus group at the conference. Castro reports youth want to see more clean-ups in the alleys, neighborhoods and blighted areas. They don't like the public bathrooms. They would like to see more murals, trees, parks and public spaces. Gangs were a concern. The youth gave suggestions on how to approach gangs. They believe more sports programs, skate parks, and an alternative education for gang members will help. They feel all education should be free especially college. The youth were the facilitators. Castro will provide a more formal report for CAL GRIP.

Chair announces a quorum is met.

- a. **Action Items:** Castro requests \$300.00 in discretionary funds for collaborating with

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youth services gang enforcement and Weed and Seed to do another youth dialog. This is the 5th or 6th dialog in the last year. PD is sending officers who may be a little apprehensive about the dialog but by the third or fourth night officers are identifying where they had some biases or stereotyped a youth and work on better communications. These dialogs are helping to build better communication between youth and officers. A request for funding food at the event.

Motion passed unanimously: Discretionary funds- approved

Discretionary funds: Carolyn Bell, Short Stop- Short Stop is a juvenile crime prevention and diversion program designed for first time offenders. It has operated in the city of Long Beach for over 15 years and has serviced close to 3000 youth and families. Referrals for the program come from the school district, court and parents that are at their wits end. Classes are taught at the Long Beach court house. The goal is to educate youth on the consequences of their decision from a legal standpoint. The youth wear orange jumpsuits to get a feel of their possessions being taken away.

- b. **Action Item:** Bell requests \$300.00 in discretionary funds for meals, transportation, and the cost for the laundry. **Q:** what is the success rate? **A:** LBPD is in the process of doing a new study with LBPD to see what the current success numbers are but in the past, there was a 95% non re-arrest rate. Clientele, over 60% is Hispanic, 20% African American, 9% Caucasian, 4% Asian, and the balance is other races. Majority are 69 % at low to extremely low income families. **Q.** What community outreach is done to inform residents of the program and the success of the program? **A.** Community outreach is one of the areas that we are working on as a board. Typically, letters are sent to the school district, the court system, and speakers go out to different programs throughout the city of LB. Short Stop has been around for 15 years. Strategic development plan this year and one of the things we want to work on is making sure people know we are still here. **Q.** is it volunteers program or only court appointed. **A.** Both. **Q.** how long is the program? **A.** Two 3-hour intense workshops. The cost for the program is \$100.00.

Motion passed: Discretionary funds- approved with two abstentions

Discretionary funds: Ty Hatfield, Parenting Heart, would like to conduct a parent child workshop. He and his wife have conducted workshops over the past 10 years on self esteem, power struggles and teaching a useful behavior. The workshop will take place at the Washington middle school site; no date has been scheduled however there will be three dates set for the workshops. Dr. Hollie states she has attended a parenting seminar given by Ty and his wife in North Long Beach at Houghton Park, where there were several other resource providers there to provide services to the community. It was very beneficial.

Action Item: Hatfield requests \$300.00 in discretionary funds for meals for the attendees.

Motion passed unanimously: Discretionary funds- approved

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The Chair requests past recipients to give reports on events when they have received discretionary funds. Gomez indicates a copy of the sign-in sheet, event flyer, sign-in sheet and a description of the program should be submitted.

Action Item: Motion to have past recipients report out verbally and in writing at the advisory council meeting.

Motion passed unanimously

Community organizations Reports: Millikan Students give an overview of the Milli-CAN program. Students comment on how the program helps them get a different perspective on things in life. Students recently attended the Ellas conference, an inspirational conference. They shared how seeing Latina woman growing and making a difference in the world gave them pride. Students commented on how they appreciate the hard work of the program director Beatriz Nieves. Staff Gomez congratulates Beatriz for all the work she has done. Gomez, shares that we provided Beatriz with \$300.00 to be able to take students to the Ellas conference at Dominguez College. Gomez invites Milli-CAN student to participate on the GRIP Advisory Board. Beatriz thanks everyone for supporting Milli-CAN, and shares that this year they shared the event with the boys. In April the event will be open to both boys and girls. Thanks the council in advance for future support.

Community Organization Report- Centro Cha has served 170 participants to date. The program's friendly staff work and live in Long Beach, they are graduates of the program. Program participants are present and speak on behalf of the program and their success since being part of the program. One student who has been in the program for two years, has completed job training and now works for an insurance company.

Jessica shares that the gang injunction makes it difficult for the participants to move forward and sites there needs to be a pathway out of the injunction. The organization expects a site visit from the Governor's emergency services office to meet with the kids and visit the site.

Dr. Hollie suggests LB GRIP have a presentation on Gang Injunctions, the history of the injunction and why it exists. The issues surrounding the inability to move forward, discussion concerning the gang data base, and is there a relationship or not, as well as what impact does both have on employment and educational opportunity. Chair Rothenberg suggests the Re-entry Committee should look into this topic.

Partner Updates- Ty, LBPD. City wide, in 2007 there were 181 gang shootings and 25 gang homicides. In 2008, there were 151 gang shootings and 16 gang homicides. Year to date, as of December 10, 2009, there has been 136 gang shootings and 25 gang homicides. These numbers are not concrete. Murder in Beats 4 and 5, in 2007, there were 11, in 2008, 12 and 8 year to date in 2009. In all of West Division, is 15 2008, 11 for 2009. West Division is doing better as a whole. In 2007 there were 50 Gang shootings, in 2008, there were 37 and in 2009, there were 30. Things are looking better.

Yvonne Robinson is working with the female academy at the Washington Middle school program. They started out with seven girls and are growing. They will piggy back on the boys program to help mentor the girls. They meet once a week on Tuesday from 3pm to 6pm. The girls are working hard to bring up their grades to be able to go on the field trip. They will visit the range and have dinner. The program is

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only at Washington Middle school. The kids must be members of the boys and girls club. Robinson also works on the Short Stop program. Dr. Hollie thanks Robinson for giving the girls some attention.

Work Force Development (Cecile Walters) - The Community beautification and neighborhood enhancement project serves as a match to the GRIP grant. The project started in 2008. It's a two year project. Reports that in September 2009, the project provided work experience for over 150 youth between the ages of 14 and 24, and paid approximately \$100,000.00 in stipends, wages and supportive services. Right now they are gearing up to solicit projects for the 2009-2010 year. The project will support beautification related projects and youth residing or going to school in the 90804, 90806 and 90813.

Weed and Seed (Teresa Gomez) - Reports computers are up and running at the safe havens at MLK Park and McBride park. W & S currently has six computers at MLK and will be purchasing six more to start a safe haven at McArthur Park. There's approximately \$13,000.00 for computers, school supplies, and equipment for the safe havens. The project should be completed within the next month.

Family Engagement Violence Prevention (Dr. Hollie)- The committee is preparing for peace week. The peace week march and peace week kick-off is January 9th. They are working on a peace rally and police dialog. They have a meeting tentatively schedule January 6 to discuss the use of MacArthur Park as a third W & S safe haven. The committee will begin planning for a parent education form on truancy, drugs and gangs after peace week. A reiteration of the committee's goals- Goal one, to provided educational career preparation of social and economic life skills activities. The objectives, 500 residences in the target area community to be accessed for job training and employment, 50 residences in the target area will complete adult education work skills programs and provide computer training for 50 residences. Goal two, enhance and expand existing services for youth. Third goal, refer and provide services for substance abuse after care.

Media and Community Education (Megan McDonnell) - The committee has been working on getting the word out and getting the youth involved. They will be creating an independent web site so viewers won't have to go through different links to get to the site. The committee will be looking for some discretionary funds next time to be able to complete this task. They are looking to make a peace club at each high school site.

Research and Resource Development (Brent Fremming) - The committee met and discussed the input received from the youth. There are concerns with having better police youth dialog. They assisted with the information for the LB GRIP's six month report. One of the goals set is to identify a few key target grants that we can go after so that the violence prevention will continue to move forward.

Workforce Development and Re-entry (Cecile) - The committee has been meeting monthly, and is continuing to grow the committee. Each month they highlight an agency to get to know them a little better. The committee's goals are to compile a re-entry services guide and are currently working towards that in the area of employment, social service, mental service, workforce development and education. That information will be available to everyone soon as well as the website. They are studying reentry comprehensive services plans so they can create a Long Beach plan. The committee is taking advantage of applying for reentry funding through the Department of Correction and Rehabilitation, to receive

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funding to assist parolees through referral processes to get assistance through job placement. Parolees go through a program prior to being released and then are directly referred to Workforce Development to work with a case manager. Workforce Development recently hired a case manager and is expected to hire another one. They will be reporting more on that topic in the near future.

At the request of W & S steering committee, a community forum on the workforce development and reentry information will be conducted. The information obtained from the Expungement workshop a year ago and a survey conducted from nursing students at LB State identified the community would like to receive information on adult and youth workforce and job training information.

The committee was asked to report on the sustainability of the youth and adult workforce training and placement, types of employment, temporary verses permanent opportunities that have been landed and what the salary is. Staff will report in March.

Announcements-

December 17, the W & S and CNAC are having a Christmas giveaway at the Burnett Library.

December 16, Councilmembers Dee Andrew and Robert Garcia are having a celebration at the Don Chente restaurant.

The Hollie bookmark listing the twenty ways adults can help youth succeed in life were given to committee members, more can be ordered.

Candlelight Peace March is January 9th at MLK Park.

Peace Builders essentials workshop Thursday, December 17 at the Peace Builders office.

Gomez and Parker attended a Youth Solution Forum in Los Angeles that was very informative. Many of the youth were from Long Beach. A youth panel shared their life experiences and how difficulties surrounded their lives. Staff and members received information on the Soledad Enrichment Action Charter High school located in Long Beach, the Bo Taylor Family Foundation, and spoke with gang reduction and youth development persons from the Mayors of Los Angeles office. The youth that spoke on the panel were very candid and shared their feelings on how they felt adults were not hearing their cries. A lot of contacts were made and discussions on inviting some of the partners from that forum to visit LB GRIP. The director of the probations spoke and shared some very good ideas on building solutions.

Meeting adjourned at 7:43 pm

Respectfully submitted by;

Lillian Parker

Secretary

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