Federal Way Violence Prevention Coalition and Federal Way Youth Action Team

Presentation to WA Firearm Tragedy Prevention Network

November 14, 2017
Creation of VPCSC

- The City of Federal Way had 9 homicides in 2016
- In May, 3 homicides occurred in a 48 hour period
- The Mayor announced the creation of a Violence Prevention Coalition Steering Committee in August 2016.
  - The goal of the VPCSC was the liaison with the community and send policy recommendations that would prevent future violence to the mayor and city council.
VPCSCC process
Public Health Model and Community Outreach

• Framed our work in the Public Health Model. Goal is to have an impact in the short term and address some root cause issues.

• Narrowed our focus to 16-24 years old. Those most at risk of being a victim or perpetrator of gun violence.

• Key themes from community meeting held on 10/26/16. were:

  • Better communication
  • Access to youth programs
  • Community education
  • Employment
  • Culturally relevant programs
Primary prevention trends
- When asked if they feel safe in their neighborhood, on a scale of 1–5, the average was 2.93
- Feeling uneasy in major corridors or at night
- Need for increased police presence

Secondary prevention trends
- Community need for training and education
- Need for employment and positive youth activities

Tertiary prevention trends
- Community volunteerism
- Mental health and substance use treatment
- Responsible gun ownership
Positive activities already happening

- More police officers
- Expansion of cameras
- Technology to connect residents (Safe City & Next Door)
- FWPD Positive Ticket Program, School Resource Officers, Explorer Scout Post and Youth Citizen’s Academy
- Federal Way Youth Action Team and the Positive Outcomes Program
- Youth LINC’s work with gang and group-involved youth
- FWPS creating the Mentor & Me program and hiring Restorative Practices Coordinators at all middle schools
- King County Prosecutor’s Office initiative to identify and vigorously prosecute gun violence offenders
- Federal and state law enforcement agencies working together to identify ballistic connections between inter-jurisdictional gun crimes
Recommendation structure

Needed to include all of the following

- Does the recommendation address an actual community challenge?
- Is the recommendation proven to be effective?
  - CDC risk and protective factor framework
- Are there natural partners to help implement a recommendation?
- Does the recommendation have the support of the community?

A start...not a finish

- Need a comprehensive, multi-pronged approach
- Explore other opportunities to prevent violence we may have missed
VPCSC Recommendations

• Bystander Training
  • Green Dot Program from DAWN

• Promote Mentoring and Volunteerism

• Social/Emotional Learning Expansion

• One Stop Resource Center
  • REACH Center model in Tacoma

• Youth Employment
VPCSC Recommendations (continued)

- After School Programs
- Restorative Justice Principles
- Safe Gun Storage
- Youth Substance Treatment
- City Staff Time Devoted to Violence Prevention
Next Steps

- Presented report to City Council on April 18, 2017
- Council committee studied VPCSC report and recommendations
- Full City Council adopted all 10 recommendations on September 2, 2017
Vision for the future

⭐ City of Federal Way makes youth violence prevention a sustained priority

💡 Use VPCSC report and recommendations to apply for grants or advocate for more resources

📣 Advocate for more violence prevention resources in Federal Way

🌱 Find other ways to invest in prevention
Origins

In July of 2016, a group of community members met at Federal Way City Hall

WHY?

• Concern about the recent increase in violence in the city, including three homicides within a 48-hour period in May.

• A desire to address the disproportionate number of school and police referrals to the juvenile justice system, specifically for youth of color.

• A realization that there are severe gaps in culturally responsive prevention and intervention services for Federal Way youth.
The data: alarming

King County Juvenile Court
CY2015 Referrals to the Prosecuting Attorney’s Office from Law Enforcement

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Referring agency</th>
<th>Count of referral number</th>
<th>% of total referrals</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Seattle Police Department</td>
<td>889</td>
<td>21.8%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Sheriff</td>
<td>493</td>
<td>12.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Federal Way PD</td>
<td>419</td>
<td>10.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Tukwila PD</td>
<td>369</td>
<td>9.1%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Kent PD</td>
<td>312</td>
<td>7.7%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Auburn PD</td>
<td>270</td>
<td>6.6%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Bellevue PD</td>
<td>221</td>
<td>5.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Renton PD</td>
<td>177</td>
<td>4.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Kirkland PD</td>
<td>99</td>
<td>2.4%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Redmond PD</td>
<td>77</td>
<td>1.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Burien PD</td>
<td>68</td>
<td>1.7%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>King County Dept. of Adult and Juvenile Detention</td>
<td>61</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Des Moines PD</td>
<td>54</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Covington PD</td>
<td>52</td>
<td>1.3%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Seatac PD</td>
<td>47</td>
<td>1.2%</td>
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<tr>
<td>Shoreline PD</td>
<td>46</td>
<td>1.1%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Snohomish County</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Issaquah PD</td>
<td>40</td>
<td>1.0%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Disproportionate numbers of African Americans from Federal Way are referred to the County juvenile justice system and admitted into secure juvenile justice detention.

Admissions or bookings into secure detention are when a law enforcement agency brings a youth to the secure center and that youth meets the Detention Intake Criteria (attached) and are admitted.

2015 admissions to secure juvenile detention by race by Federal Way PD
Filling a need and getting results

- FWYAT identified the gaps (resource mapping)
- Community engagement to hear and get input from impacted residents on needs
- Organizational outreach (inclusive process), and capacity building
- Creation of programs to address needs
- Intentional culturally responsive programming
- Leadership building
HYPE: Helping Youth Perform Excellence

• HYPE primarily utilizes local leaders of color and the target audience is low income, youth of color/immigrant and refugee youth who may be at risk for contact with the juvenile justice system or being disengaged from local schools.

• HYPE weekend programming is designed to support youth with barriers to success by participating in community projects and skill building workshops that will support them in developing the necessary skills to discover their best self and contribute positively to our community.
HYPE: Helping Youth Perform Excellence

Culturally responsive programs focused on leadership, health and wellness, employment, and education
HYPE: Helping Youth Perform Excellence

HYPE Participant Data to Date:

- 60% have gained employment
- 71% are no longer involved in the juvenile justice system
J.C. referred to POP by HYPE. He was attending HYPE as a part of his probation and was introduced to POP when we presented to his group. J.C. told us that he wanted to be around better friends so that he could make better choices. He also said that he wanted reasons to tell his friends “no” so that he wasn’t pressured into going and doing bad things. After enrolling into POP, J.C. enrolled in pro-social activities including GOL. He also secured employment with the Boys and Girls Club as a Score Keeper during basketball games. J.C. is appreciative of POP staff’s support to stay track with his goals and help him achieve positivity.
GOL: Game of Life

- A ‘gateway program’ (community Intervention outreach model) to other services of the FWYAT and beyond.
- Designed to attract young people at risk through sports, GOL operates within a Motivational Interviewing framework to develop deeper relationships and assess and connect young people to needed services and supports.

Facilitated by a Counselor, Coach and Consultant, GOL serves as a community based therapeutic intervention utilizing credible messengers to motivate youth to their fullest potential.
GOL: Game of Life
150 young men and 23 young women have attended. 22 are now employed, 9 had never worked before. 2 young men have lost 100+ lbs and 4 have lost at least 50 lbs. 8 young men of color went off to college with our assistance.

POSITIVE OUTCOMES PROGRAM (POP)

The Positive Outcomes Program (POP) serves youth and young adults from 12 to 24 years of age who are interested in getting support in one or more of the following areas:

- graduate high school or obtain GED
- enroll in college or a training program
- obtain employment
- find resources such as transportation, school supplies, clothes, housing, or food
- participate in positive activities

Our support staff can assist with mentorship, career and college navigation, job readiness training, and can help you develop the skills you need to succeed.

For more information or to see if you qualify contact:
Will Jimerson, Jr., Andre Bullard, or Evan Cook
(253) 838-6810 or pop@mschelps.org

MSC is an equal opportunity employer and provider of employment and training services. Auxiliary aids and services are available upon request to persons with disabilities.

POP serves youth and young adults ages 12 to 24 years of age that are typically overlooked or underserved, many of whom are at risk of interaction with the juvenile justice system. The program provides advocacy and support to help these youth meet their goals for the future. POP is strengthened by the support and leadership of the Federal Way Youth Action Team, a collaboration of adults and organizations that provide youth development opportunities.

Andre, Evan, and Will visit schools, malls, and locations in the community where at-risk youth are likely to gather. They also connect with youth on a referral basis through other service organizations, referrals for home visits, as well as law enforcement who may provide a referral to the program as an alternative to incarceration.

“We look at what way we can connect with them where they are at, whether that’s basketball or education,” shares Evan. “We build a relationship with them, not bombard them with services, so they will open up and we can show them what we can offer them,” adds Will.

POP provides positive mentorship as well as connections for young people interested in getting support in areas such as graduating high school or obtaining a GED, enrolling in college or a training program, obtaining employment, or finding resources such as transportation, school supplies, clothing, housing, or food. POP also works with families to provide additional support to make sure that the youth in the program meet their goals.

The program is unique because it serves youth as young as 12 and is led by individuals that are representative of the population the program serves.

“This is my life calling. When you look at other groups for marginalized populations, they are usually led by someone from that population. However, when you look at groups for young people of color, they are often led by someone not generally of that same background,” shares Will. “Sometimes we are the first example of a positive role model these kids have had. And, we’re approachable. We dress like them and look like them and are able to connect.”

“This doesn’t feel like a job,” shares Andre. “It feels like what I’m supposed to do. Youth need opportunities and people to support them during important life events.”

“I want to be and give people what I didn’t have,” shares Evan. “I want to help make the community a community. I want people to be proud of where they are from.”

For more info on youth programs visit mschelps.org/gethelp/edemp/youth.
## POP: Positive Outcomes Program

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program Year 2017</th>
<th># of youth contacted through outreach</th>
<th># of youth enrolled in case management (CM)</th>
<th># of youth enrolled in CM who have obtained employment</th>
<th># of youth enrolled in CM who are engaged in pro-social activities*</th>
<th># of youth enrolled in CM who are engaged education**</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Q1 Jan–Mar</td>
<td>107</td>
<td>27</td>
<td>7</td>
<td>21</td>
<td>21</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q2 April–June</td>
<td>73</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>11</td>
<td>28</td>
<td>28</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Q3 July–Sept</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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<td>Q4 Oct–Dec</td>
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</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Pro-social activities are defined as extracurricular activities such as Game of Life, Helping Youth Pursue Excellence (HYPE) weekend programming, sports, clubs, etc.

**Of those in case management who are not engaged in education: 5 have High School Diploma or GED.
More POP success

Collective impact
Partnership development
Community connections
Professional development
Authentic relationships
and culturally responsive
Embracing technology

- A.A. was uncertain about his future and what to do in life. All he knew is that he wanted to make money and didn’t want to do so illegally. At the time of enrollment into POP, the customer was unemployed and not engaged in any pro-social activities. He is now connected to GOL, was assisted with resume development and now has employment as a Stock Worker.
Locally, culturally-responsive works!

Success with HYPE, POP, and GOL

WHY?

- Local, collective impact
- Staff looks like and can relate to the youth
- Provide transportation assistance
- Meet their needs (food, housing, education, employment, social-emotional, parent resources, etc.)
- Connections to other resources
- Sustainable—building leaders
- Community led and supported
- Holistic
- Asset based
- Strengthening the safety net
Vision for the future

If we are able to secure more resources, support, and connections, we can...

- Expand existing programming
- Create more programming for female and immigrant youth
- Create more programs led by local youth and parents
- Increase advocacy for South King County where the numbers reflect the need
- Decrease youth of color referrals to the juvenile justice system
- Decrease youth incarceration
- Decrease the disproportionality of school discipline referrals
- Increase community led solutions
- Create and empower more local credible messengers
What we can’t do alone, we can do together