Suffolk Initiative on Youth Crime Prevention Plan Update

Suffolk City Council

September 1, 2010

Background

- In 2006, the Suffolk City Council appointed a task force comprised of over 30 representatives including city agencies and departments, local law enforcement, youth service providers, business leaders, faith-based organizations, teachers, parents, and youth.
- As a result of City Council's vision and guidance a comprehensive strategy and plan to address youth crime and violence was developed.
- The implementation of this plan has provided greater opportunities for our young people to learn, grow, and become productive members of the community.

Overview

- Based on the findings gathered in each phase of development of the plan, 12 strategic initiatives with corresponding action items were identified
- To date, 71% of these initiatives have been completed through collaborations and partnerships between city agencies and community partners

Accomplishments

2006-Present

✓Secured over $1million in prevention grants

Grant Name	Fiscal Year	Federal Award	Federal Pass Through	Local Match
Justice Assistance Grant (JAG)	2005-2013	$450,532		$36,000
Gang Resistance Education & Training (GREAT)	2007-2009	$136,794		
Suffolk Community Services Initiative	2006-2009		$29,932	$4,978
Suffolk Initiative on Youth Implementation	2009	$200,000		
Summer Youth Work Success	2009-2010		$306,095	

✓Established the Suffolk Office on Youth

- Hired Youth Services Coordinator
- Increased opportunities for youth employment through the Suffolk Work Success Program
- Re-established the Suffolk Youth Advisory Council
- Held two Youth Symposiums
- Implemented the Youth Engagement Services and Counselors in Training Program

Suffolk Office on Youth

✓Continued to fund before and afterschool programs

- Operated a total of 11 program sites for over 1200 youth and teenagers before school, after school and during the summer.
- Enhanced transportation from schools to recreation centers for afterschool programs.
- Distributed over 36,000 meals through the USDA Summer Feeding Program.

✓Developed a mechanism to recognize successful youth

Youth Achievement Awards
Suffolk 2010

- Implemented the first Suffolk Youth Achievement Awards where 15 middle and high school students were honored for their accomplishments.
- Suffolk Redevelopment and Housing Authority sponsors an annual scholar recognition ceremony for their students. This year over 200 youth were honored for their scholastic achievement during the past school year.

✓Implemented Youth Public Safety Academy

- Held annually, 2 days per week from 3:00 -7:00pm

- Emphasizes public service, positive relationships, mentoring

- Graduated close to 50 youth

✓Partnered with Commonwealth's Attorney's Office to implement Town Hall meetings

- Large-scale town hall meetings
    - Kings Fork Middle School
    - Northern Shores Elementary
- 135 civic league/community meetings held to discuss anti-gang solutions

✓Established a task force
(SAN DIEGO MODEL)

- Suffolk Stakeholders:
  - Suffolk Police Department
  - Commonwealth’s Attorney’s Office
  - Suffolk Public Schools
  - Sheriff’s Department
  - Probation and Parole
  - Office on Youth
  - Court Services
  - Community Corrections
  - Western Tidewater Regional Jail
  - Community Services Board
- Meet monthly

✓Continue to evaluate and address truancy

- Police Department Truancy Enforcement
- Significant drop in “official” truancy numbers due to state definition change (from 5,000 to 200)
- Six offenses; school hearing; declaration
- New truancy effort led by Juvenile Court Chief Judge
- Suffolk Public Schools and Suffolk PD are participating

Additional Successes

- **<u>GREAT Program</u>**: middle schools; 2,600 students.
- **<u>CSI Camp</u>**: grades 6-8; careers in law enforcement; stresses teamwork and communication.
- **<u>Summer GREAT</u>**: ages 9-12; teaches GREAT principles at other agency programs.

Additional Successes

- **<u>Fire Life Safety</u>**: assist Fire Department in teaching bicycle safety, canine demonstration.
- **<u>Discover Your Future</u>**: ages 11-15; assist Parks & Recreation in teaching conflict resolution.
- **<u>Commonwealth/SPD Gang Awareness Program</u>**: middle schools; 2,528 students; 18 programs.

Upcoming Initiatives

- Suffolk Protégé Mentoring Program
- Office on Youth Quarterly E-Newsletter
- Empowerment Conference 2011
- Evaluation and Update of the SIY Plan

Questions/Comments

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