

MULTNOMAH COUNTY YOUTH & GANG VIOLENCE PREVENTION

GOAL

Coordinate entry from multiple systems of care and public safety using trauma-informed and data-driven decision making to:

- address root causes of violence in our community,
 - intervene at the first sign of risk and respond effectively when violence does occur,
 - repair, strengthen and restore our youth, families, and communities that have been affected by violence, and
 - reduce recidivism rates for our focus population.
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STRATEGIES

❖ COORDINATED ENTRY

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- intervene at the first sign of risk and respond effectively when violence does occur,
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- reduce recidivism rates for our focus population.

❖ EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

Advocate for year-around access to developmentally and culturally responsive job readiness and placement in employment/internship, including a pool of employers and/or a social enterprise model, wraparound supports, and mentorship for the following populations:

- Youth experiencing risk factors for gang involvement,
- Gang-involved youth who are ready to make a change, and
- Young people re-entering communities from state facilities.

❖ FAMILY ENGAGEMENT

Enhance efforts to protect families against risk factors for gang involvement and identify resources¹ for stability, advocacy and mobilization through expanding the community health worker model for the following populations:

- Focus communities,
- Low-income, first-time parents, and
- Families of gang affiliated youth.

❖ CONNECTION TO SCHOOLS

Coordinate and leverage the efforts of multiple stakeholders to achieve better outcomes for youth.

¹ Through comprehensive advocacy and case management, families should be connected to culturally relevant human service and other resources to improve maternal, paternal, prenatal, and early childhood health and well-being, including but not limited to: mental health support, shelter/housing assistance, parent support groups, healthy relationship education, domestic violence advocacy, transportation assistance, food, after-school and community activities.

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- Connect with efforts which reduce disparities in school exclusion. Expand restorative justice programs in schools².
- Support and enhance recommendations³ regarding current school reconnection strategies to improve outcomes for gang impacted⁴, affiliated⁵ and involved⁶ young people and those vulnerable to risk factors for gang involvement.
- Engage in state level advocacy to require teaching certification programs to include content on trauma informed and culturally responsive classrooms.

❖ MENTORING

Ensure access to developmentally appropriate and culturally responsive⁷ mentors for young people through coordination of recruitment, training and support⁸. These mentors will aid the following populations with re/connection with schools, higher education, training and employment opportunities:

- youth and families experiencing risk factors for gang involvement,
- young people who are being influenced by gangs and gang-related activity, and
- young people re-entering communities from state facilities.

❖ LINKS BETWEEN POLICE, YOUTH & COMMUNITIES

Promote opportunities for police and communities to build positive relationships and establish accountability in the following areas:

- Utilize evidence based, culturally responsive approaches and effective models for engagement and training to improve police-community interactions and address misperceptions
- Address mutual fear and trauma
- Create safe spaces for high-quality interaction and meaningful dialogue between police and youth to increase understanding and build trust.

² This effort will promote empathy and create a climate of safety and respect in school buildings.

³ Collaborate with existing MOU Group and other school reconnection efforts.

⁴ **Gang impacted:** An individual, family or community whose quality of life is affected by gang activity.

⁵ **Gang affiliated:** An individual who associates with gang-involved individuals through family or social networks but does not directly participate in gang activity. These individuals may be involved in prevention, peacemaking, and intervention.

⁶ **Gang involved:** An individual who directly or indirectly participates in gang activity.

⁷ The individual must possess an understanding of gang culture.

⁸ **Recruitment:** Develop a mentor identification program that recruits individuals with gang life experience of the same backgrounds as the most impacted populations from the African, African American and Latino communities. Potentially meet with Oregon Mentors (Institute for Youth Success) to plan a recruitment effort.