

## MEETING SUMMARY

### REGIONAL LAW SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE

**Thursday, January 29, 2015**

7:30 – 9:00 A.M.

Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room  
600 4<sup>th</sup> Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

#### **Theme:**

This meeting provided a report of the work of the Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs, an overview of the DOC-King County Second Chance Reentry Grant, and a presentation on the City of Tukwila's Community Revitalization project. King County District Court Judge Johanna Bender distributed and briefly presented brochures describing the work of the Regional Mental Health Court and Regional Veterans Court.

#### **Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs**

Justice Bobbe Bridge, Center for Children and Youth Justice

Anica Stieve, Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs

The Suburban King County Coordinating Council on Gangs (SKCCCG) was convened in 2011 under the auspices of the Center for Children and Youth Justice (CCYJ) in response to increases in gang violence in suburban King County. SKCCCG is a collaboration of King County elected officials, local jurisdictions' mayors, law enforcement officials and school district representatives.

In explaining SKCCCG's mission and principles, Ms. Stieve discussed the following:

- They operate in accordance with the Comprehensive Gang Model developed by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, (OJJDP).
- SKCCCG's region is based, not on municipal jurisdiction boundaries, but on school districts. Those are Auburn, Bellevue, Federal Way, Highline, Kent, Renton and Tukwila.
- SKCCCG completed a Community Assessment in 2013. This assessment provided data on the region's demographics, schools and students, gang activity and youth gang participation, and community perceptions.
- Based on the Community Assessment findings, SKCCCG developed a comprehensive implementation plan to address gang violence in suburban King County.

Question: How does SKCCCG leverage other efforts in the region to address gang participation and violence?

- SKCCCG has an ongoing collaboration with the Road Map Project.

- Ongoing cooperation with law enforcement agencies, as noted in the SKCCCG membership
- Ongoing partnerships with service providers and other community agencies for both data collection and direct service provision.

Question: Is SKCCCG developing a model that can be used across the region outside of the designated school districts?

- SKCCCG's current (January-June 2015) activity emphasis is to pilot a multi-disciplinary intervention team.
- After the pilot is completed, it will be evaluated to determine if it is viable and produces successful outcomes. If so, there may be opportunities to market it more widely. The Intervention Team is designed according to the Comprehensive Gang Model, and is intended to be used as a model that can be replicated throughout the region.

Question: How are youth chosen for the program? Criteria are:

- The youth be involved in the criminal justice system. They will be referred by King County juvenile probation.
- 14 – 21 years old
- Voluntary participation

Question: How is this funded? Funding has come from an 18-month grant from the Washington State Partnership Council on Juvenile Justice, and some private funding. SKCCCG is currently working to find ongoing funding.

Presentation handouts, including the, PowerPoint presentation, Community Assessment Fact Sheet, SKCCCG Implementation Plan and council membership are available on the RLSJC website.

## **Second Chance Reentry Grant: Reentry – Current and Future State**

Jim Harms, Washington State Department of Corrections

Robin Halberstadt, King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget

In late 2012, the Department of Corrections and King County Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget (PSB) received a Second Chance Act (SCA) planning grant to conduct a gap analysis of reentry services and develop an implementation or 'action' plan for a pilot project using a continuum of care case management mode. A cross-jurisdictional Reentry Workgroup undertook the development of this reentry action plan with the guidance and feedback from the DOC/KC Reentry Task Force that was also established in conjunction with the planning grant. The Task Force members communicated a strong desire for a more streamlined reentry process that is client-centered and expands community capacity to provide critical services. Also highlighted

was the importance of prioritizing services and resources that directly support reentering participants with grant funding.

In 2013, WADOC/KC were awarded a Second Chance Demonstration Grant to fund the development and implementation of the joint-jurisdictional reentry pilot to improve reentry planning and transitional services for persons currently in prison or jail. The intent of the project is to expand access to reentry resources and build stronger relationships with community providers. The current work plan shifts to implementation of the pilot. The workgroup has already identified 200 eligible individuals who are releasing from one of the 12 DOC institutions to King County within the next 6 months. The Subcommittees and the Work Group are reviewing these cases to determine their needs and services provided and available within the community to determine where best to allocate the Grant funding. The final project planning work is currently being done by the Workgroup and smaller sub-workgroups that are comprised of key subject matter experts,, and hope to be ready to start putting dollars to services by the end of the first quarter 2015.

Question: Will the program be available to misdemeanants? No, this will be for persons convicted of felonies.

Presentation handouts, including the PowerPoint presentation and grant overview are available on the RLSJC website.

### **Community Revitalization – City of Tukwila**

Chief Mike Villa, Tukwila Police Department

Deputy Chief Bruce Linton, Tukwila Police Department

Operation Taking Back Our Boulevard was a huge undertaking of coordination, manpower and initiative that was a pivotal operation in the city of Tukwila's multi-phase community revitalization efforts, aimed at crime reduction and urban renewal. The effort targeted the International Boulevard area, which had experienced a sharp increase in violent crime in 2011-2012, and had support from the mayor and city council.

RCW 35.81, a community renewal law, allows cities to force the sale of properties in areas struggling with crime and blight, and resell the properties for redevelopment. In 2013, Tukwila was granted authorization to condemn and purchase motels associated with criminal patterns in an identified area of International Boulevard. Simultaneously, A police investigation looked at gang and prostitution activity in the area and, in particular, identified three primary motels. These motels established patterns of activity, such as charging for entry onto their property to solicit drugs and prostitution, that resulted in profiting from criminal behavior. The city formed partnerships internally

– law enforcement, city council, court, mayor – and externally, with regional agencies, the US Attorney’s Office and the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF ), to prepare and implement the operation. The success of the operation was attributed to joint collaboration at all levels.

Operation Take Back Our Boulevard (TBOB) was a confidential operation that was carried out on August 27, 2013 in a six-by-five block area of International Boulevard that included all three of the identified motels. The Tukwila City Council was notified just prior to the police action, and was debriefed in detail shortly after the event. At 6:00 am, after the area was cordoned off by law enforcement personnel, simultaneous search warrants were presented at properties within the operation boundaries. The media were notified immediately afterwards. Operations staff then began a room-by-room search of properties in the area, leading to arrests and confiscation of firearms and \$100,000 in cash.

In addition to commercial properties in the area, there were also residences. The operation displaced 23 families. Officials pledged to take care of families and residents who were not involved in criminal activities. This humanitarian effort included communities of faith, the Tukwila Human Services Department, Sound Mental Health, King County Human Services and more. These agencies provided support, transportation and relocation assistance, and food and debit cards.

As a result of the operation, all three motel owners were prosecuted in federal court and forfeited interest in their motel and personal properties. The City purchased each motel, criminal activity in the area has decreased, and citizens report feeling safer. The city has since purchased one other motel within the same block as part of the original condemnation authority. The next step in the urban renewal plans are to demolish and sell the properties, and redevelop and revitalize the area.

The PowerPoint presentation handout is available on the RLSJC website.