



Nashville Community Coalition for Youth Safety (NCCYS)

Friday, January 18, 2008; 12:00-1:30 PM

The Frist Center for the Visual Arts

The Richter room, first floor

919 Broadway, Nashville, TN

MINUTES

Present Kimberly Bess, Stephanie Davis, Eric Tesdahl, Rev. Minnie Mitchell, Doug Perkins, Paul Speer, Yolanda Voughn, Brad Major, Anne Henderson, Brenda Scott, Todd Lake, Andrea Steele, Lorraine Greene, Mitch Fuhrer, Ralph Thompson, Margaret McCain, Ivy Jeffries, Dewayne Holman, Yvonne Joosten, Brenda Morrow, Maury Nation, Neely Williams, Vicente Samaniego, Brenda Scott, Jeff Dotts, Karen Browne, Beverly Taylor, Anthony Hall, Brandon Hill, Denise Bentley, Cesar Muedas, Owen Johnson, Ellen Zinkeiwicz, Otis Lee Jones, Brenda Venson, Lindsay Daly, Paul Juarez, Emily Hall, Shawn Giles, Andre Rudloff, Jim Williamson.

Opened: 12:00

Adjourned: 1:30 pm

Chairing: Rev. Williams

Agenda	Discussion
Welcome	Members introduced themselves and stated what organization they represented.
Research-Focus Org. Network Findings	<p style="text-align: center;">Douglas Perkins, Kimberly Bess, Paul Speer & Eric Tesdahl Center for Community Studies, Vanderbilt University Website: www.peabody.vanderbilt.edu/css/</p> <p>Major Findings:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Community environments matter, but are not adequately addressed: ➤ Youth violence disproportionately impacts minority communities. ➤ Most youth homicides involve firearms. ➤ Tennessee is one of the leading states in deaths and injuries due to firearms, and for adolescents carrying guns and other weapons. ➤ Most young violent offenders do NOT go on to violent or criminal careers and their family, school, and community environment (especially availability of guns, drugs, and alcohol as well as gangs and climate of bullying) play important roles in promoting violent behavior. ➤ Very little funding and attention go to community level interventions even though they can have the greatest impact. <p>Nashville Organizations addressing Youth Violence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Are strong in number and diversity. ➤ Have strong connections between larger government agencies, human services, and youth organizations. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to connect grassroots, immigrant, neighborhood, and faith-based orgs. • Schools report few YVP connections: none with other and few with other orgs. • Have extensive information and resource collaboration ➤ Need for more advocacy/policy work. ➤ Focus on prevention and changing community conditions varies WIDELY. ➤ Work mainly at the individual, family and school/peer level ➤ Need for more community-level work.



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Research Update (Cont.)	<p>➤ Bullying Prevention- Coordinators have been actively involved in assessing 4 middle schools, and have developed action relative to each of their schools. They have engaged several community organizations in providing services to students within their schools, and have established monthly provider meetings to develop the joint goals for promoting positive school climate. In conjunction with the United Way, and Healthways Foundation, the coordinators are now able to assist some agencies in accessing funding to provide services within their schools.</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <u>Evaluation</u>: More than 3,800 students were surveyed in May 2007 on several criteria related to bullying, and school climate. Analysis of individual questions found areas for improvement for AES schools as well as suggesting that positive changes may be beginning to emerge on several dimensions. 2. <u>Perceptions of School Behaviors</u>: The results indicated that certain behaviors were still more of a problem at AES schools than the controls. These problem behaviors include fighting, disrupting class, and participating in gang activity. ES students reported fewer gang signs and symbols than control schools. 3. <u>School Climate</u>: Relative to school climate, students in AES schools reported that the hallways were cleaner, and that there seemed to be more spirit at their schools than at control schools. Also, in a question that asked overall how they feel while they are at school, AES student reported significantly more positive ratings. <p>➤ GIS and Asset Mapping- Update: All 9 focus groups were completed on August 31, 2007. Preliminary analysis of data were completed in mid October and presented at a conference in Ohio and at the last coalition meeting. <u>Next Steps</u>: In February 2008, the walk arounds will begin. Walk arounds, where youth (accompanied by an adult) will walk around their neighborhoods and identify locations they consider to be assets to promoting safety. Youth will be given a GPS device and data sheet to record the locations and will be given instructions/training on its use with the 3x3 matrix as a guide identifying community assets.</p>
Work Group Updates	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All work group meetings are open to all interested members but need to RSVP via email to: vsamaniego@mmc.edu. ➤ Safe Places Work Group- There was a brief and overview about some of the results from the focus groups we did last summer w/ a special emphasis on safe places. The general consensus was that Safe places are not always a geographic location, but an individual/person. It was clearly understood that we need to look at ways different ways to get the safe place message to our youth by asking agencies, businesses, and churches to put the message on a visible location (e.g., window). <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting- Monday, January 28, 2008, Oasis Center, 1221 16th Ave. S, 2-3 PM ➤ Adult Mentors Work Group- There was some discussion about a pilot project that would involve assessing agencies with current mentoring programs and look at: type of services they provide, eligibility criteria, org. capacity, etc. in order to create a matrix identifying these agencies' mentoring programs; this will allow others to query them based on specific needs. There was a brief update on the web-based interface that would include everything from mentoring programs (with queries based on information gathered from the pilot project), to safe places and job placement/internships/workshops. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting- Friday, January 25, 2008, IMF P Office, 1219 9th Ave. North, 1-2 PM



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Work Group Updates (cont.)	<p>➤ Employment/Job Opportunities Work Group- We briefly discussed some of the short term wins, progress that has been done, and working on developing a youth-friendly employer bank, a list of employers willing to hire youth. Oasis Center has been working on the “Safe Place” survey (aka- barriers to employment survey) and some of the initial results show that the main barriers to employment for youth were Age and Networking</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Next Meeting- Friday, January 25, 2008, Nashville Career Advancement Center, 621 Mainstream Drive, Suite 210, 3-4 PM
Advocacy/ Policy Work & Next Steps	<p>➤ Yvonne Joosten led the discussion about Advocacy and/or policy work that the coalition can start thinking about doing with the work being done by the work groups and the research core components. Among the many ideas mentioned, they included:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Community orgs partnering with Metro Police around prevention activities (e.g., GREAT, presentation & discussion around gangs at schools). 2. Mentoring for kids in the juvenile justice system/detention centers. 3. Advocacy for better schools- funding for “low-income schools”. 4. Create a stronger network between orgs members and other advocacy groups. 5. Look at other resources (e.g., Media, TV/News) to get the message out. 6. The need to look at family/system that effects inner-city at individual level. 7. Doing something about recent crimes (e.g., home burglaries) and out of school youth. <p>➤ There was a brief discussion about the impact that the coalition can have an addressing this topic but it should be discussed during the work group meeting for follow up steps and/or implementation on how to move forward.</p>
Next Meeting	Next meeting is scheduled for April 18, 2008, 12-1:30 pm at Martha O’bryan Center, 711 South 7th Street . Further details TBD via email.