

Nashville Community Coalition for Youth Safety (NCCYS)
Safe Places Work Group Meeting
Tuesday, November 27, 2007
Oasis Center
1221 16th Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37212
3:00-5:30 PM

Conversation with Youth

Present: Dan Surface, Jeff Dotts, Marsha Edwards, Christine Jackson, Rev. James Turner, Michael McSurdy, Brandon Hill, four youth from youth United, Vicente Samaniego, and Paul Juarez.

Meeting Opened: 3:00 pm

Adjourned: 5:00 pm

Chairing: Paul Juarez

Agenda	Discussion
Welcome	There were several youth in attendance; hence, we gave them an opportunity to tell us a little about themselves and their role with youth united.
Safe Places Overview (e.g., focus groups)	➤ There was a brief discussion 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; the youth in attendance agreed with most of the results.
Oasis Center Safe Places program	➤ Michael McSurdy gave a brief overview of Safe Places Program at Oasis Center: Oasis Center brought Safe Place to Middle Tennessee in 1986. The idea is a simple one: communities can increase young people’s access to help by creating portals to safety in the neighborhoods where they live, learn, work, and play. Any young person in Davidson, Williamson, and Sumner Counties can get help through Safe Place by walking into one of the Safe Place sites throughout those counties. The readily recognizable yellow and black signs designate sites.
Conversation about Youth Safety	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ We spent most of this time allowing the youth to give us their perspective on safe places w/ emphasis on their definition, people, places, and opportunities. ➤ After a few Q & A, the youth began to open up about their personal experiences with the school system. As they began to speak, it became apparent that their individual experiences were very difference as it relates to relationships with teachers and the way they are treated by “random searches in their school’. ➤ The views of new security measures varied from “they are preparing us for the justice system as we transition to adulthood” to “it helps us feel more secure”
Closing the Gap: Developing a Youth Safety Action Plan	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ 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) ➤ We need to create a resource list of safe places or safe place persons with some definition of what youth mean by safe places.
Adjourn	We adjourned by giving the youth the last word on action steps that need to be taken to help our schools be safer and our teachers more accessible.