



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Albert Balagso

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 05-25-06

Approved

Date

COUNCIL DISTRICT: City-Wide
SNI AREA: n/a

**SUBJECT: SAN JOSE BRINGING EVERYONE'S STRENGTHS TOGETHER PROGRAM
(B.E.S.T) CYCLE 15 MID-YEAR EVALUATION REPORT**

RECOMMENDATION

Accept the summary report on the San José B.E.S.T.Cycle 15 Mid-Year Evaluation.

BACKGROUND

For FY 2006-07, the San José B.E.S.T. program contracted with Community Crime Prevention Associates (CCPA) to conduct an evaluation of the services provided through the B.E.S.T. program and the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF). The MGPTF represents two groups: the Policy Team and the Technical Team. The Policy Team is made up of organization policy makers and is primarily responsible for evaluating emerging trends, setting policy direction, facilitating interagency collaboration and troubleshooting and monitoring the progress of the Technical Team. The Technical Team is made up of front-line staff which provides direct services to youth and families. On April 28, 2006, an Interim Evaluation Report on B.E.S.T services and the MGPTF was submitted to the Policy Team by the consultant Dr. Peter Ellis of CCPA. This memo highlights the results of the interim evaluation.

ANALYSIS

Interim Evaluation Highlights for the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force

CCPA evaluated the five goals identified in the MGPTF Strategic Work Plan titled, *Reclaiming our Youth* since its inception in fall 2004. Overall, 71% of the Task Force members indicated that the Policy Team and the Technical Team have been effective. For FY 2005-06, as a result of the

collaborations within the MGPTF, over 2,000 clients were referred to B.E.S.T. service providers over the first six months of Cycle 15.

Other notable findings from the Interim Evaluation Report, under each strategic goal, are as follows:

- *Develop and implement an “asset-based” service delivery system aimed at connecting, coordinating and leveraging intervention resources.*

Over \$12M in intervention services, serving 11,000 youth, have been provided through the City of San Jose B.E.S.T program (\$3M in City funds and \$2M in Agency matching funds) and other matching funds from the Safe School Campus Initiative (\$2M), Striving Towards Achievements with New Direction (S.T.A.N.D) and the Clean Slate programs (\$1M), and the County of Santa Clara Juvenile Justice Crime Prevention Act (\$4M). Attendance at the MGPTF meetings has grown by 48% over the past 16 months. 96% of the MGPTF members reported that their knowledge of other service providers has increased and resulted in improved communication with them.

For the first half of FY 2005-06, a total of 2,034 clients were served by MGPTF members based on referrals coming from Police (6%); Juvenile Justice (15%); schools (41%); parents (16%); self (18%), and other (5%).

- *Develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy aimed at equipping Task Force members with the skills and resources necessary to re-direct youth.*

The MGPTF hosted a day long citywide Safety Summit for schools and community centers that had 418 participants from schools, Police, Fire, community centers, community-based organizations and other City and County agencies. 80% of participants reported an increase in their knowledge and skills to keep youth safe.

- *Create an education and awareness campaign regarding the risk factors affecting youth and the resources available to them.*

A total of 239 parents participated in four Parent Gang Awareness trainings covering each of the Police districts. 83% of parents attending the trainings have indicated improved skills and knowledge about youth and gangs due to their participation in the workshops.

Interim Evaluation Highlights for the B.E.S.T. Services

The San José B.E.S.T. program continues to be the funding mechanism that advances the goals of the Mayor’s Gang Prevention Task Force. The program focuses on providing services such as Gang Mediation, Intervention, Crisis Response, Case Management, Truancy and Parent Support Groups.

For the first half of Cycle 15, FY 2005-06, San José B.E.S.T. contracted with twenty-four qualified service providers and delivered 162,416 hours of direct services to over 2,000 youth and parent

customers. During this period, BEST service providers served clients who were At Risk (18%); High-Risk (32%); Gang Supporter (29%); Gang Member (12%); and Hard-Core Gang Member (9%). 82% of San José B.E.S.T. clientele are identified as high-risk to hardcore gang involved youth.

Highlights for the period of September 2005-March 2006 include:

- 83% of youth customers were satisfied with the services.
- 89% of parents of youth customers were satisfied with the services.
- For asset development, youth said they improved on 65% of possible changes while parents reported 76%.

The following population results are notable as demonstrated by these indicators:

- San Jose rate of violent crime per 100,000 youth has decreased by 52% since 1994.
- 90% decrease in youth referred to California Youth Authority since 1996.
- 67% decrease in youth referred to Juvenile Hall since 1995.
- 33% decrease in the number of youth of color admitted to Juvenile Hall since 2001.

B.E.S.T Resource Allocation Strategy

As directed by the MGPTF and adopted by the City Council on April 14, 2005, the B.E.S.T program will continue its current resource allocation strategy for the final year of the current RFQ, in alignment with the "*Reclaiming Our Youth*" workplan. An MGPTF retreat is planned for fall 2006 in order to review and develop the strategic plan for the next three years. A new RFQ will be issued in February, 2007.

CONCLUSION

Overall, the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force through the Policy and Technical Teams has been effective in increasing the collaboration between service providers. This effort has increased the capacity of service providers to solve problems related to gang violence. A final report on the evaluation of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and the B.E.S.T service providers will be completed and released by November, 2006.

OUTREACH

An Executive Summary was presented to the MGPTF Policy Team on April 28, 2006 and to the Technical Team on May 10, 2006. A final report will be presented to the MGPTF Policy Team in November, 2006.

COORDINATION

This report was prepared in coordination with the City's Attorney's Office.

COST IMPLICATIONS

The San José B.E.S.T. funding for Cycle 16 is included in the Proposed Operating Budget for 2006-07. This will be considered by the City Council in June 2006.

ALBERT BALAGSO
Acting Director of Parks, Recreation
and Neighborhood Services

For questions please contact Abraham Chacko, Senior Analyst, at (408) 793-3562.