



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

SUBJECT: SEE BELOW

DATE: 07-30-04

Approved

Date

**SUBJECT: REPORT ON BLUEPRINT FOR BRIDGING THE DIGITAL DIVIDE
FOR FY 2003-04 ACTION PLAN**

PURPOSE

This report will review the progress made under the *Blueprint for Bridging the Digital Divide in FY 2003 - 04*.

BACKGROUND

The Youth Services Master Plan, *Blueprint for Bridging the Digital Divide (Blueprint)*, was developed in 2001 and outlines a broad continuum of individual, family and community service approaches for developing San José youth from “cradle to career.” These services are designed to intentionally create developmental changes in attitudes and behaviors of children and youth between 0-23 years of age.

ANALYSIS

Over the past three years the *Blueprint* framework has been accepted as a theoretically-sound and comprehensive approach for servicing youth and is closely aligned with other community wide initiatives such as the County’s Juvenile Detention Reform efforts and the YMCA’s Project Cornerstone. The *Blueprint*’s efforts alongside partners such as schools, law enforcement, community based agencies, and private industry have all contributed toward making our community a safe place for children to grow up in. Over the past few years the following community indicators have shown we are on the right track:

- San Jose Schools have improved their Academic Performance Index by 8% since 1999.
- San Jose Schools have reduced dropouts from school by 67% in 2002 since 1996.
- The rate of violent juvenile crime has declined by 53% in 2002 since 1994.
- Juvenile Hall admits have decreased by 53% in 2003 since 1995.
- Referrals to CYA have decreased by 77% in 2003 since 1996.

Internally, PRNS has continued to integrate the *Blueprint's* development framework into the delivery of many of its programs. In particular has been its implementation through San José Smart Start, Department Grant programs, and San José Afterschool.

San José Smart Start

Over the past year, the *Blueprint* identified certain skills that children 0-5 need to learn in order to enter kindergarten ready to succeed academically. San Jose Smart Start is currently creating 2,100 new early care and education center placements by 2006. Over the past year there have been three new Smart Start Centers opened, and 230 new childcare slots. Since the program started in 2000 there have been 13 Smart Start Centers developed and 1,417 new childcare slots created. This effort will continue through the Library's management of the Early Care programs.

Grants

The *Blueprint* emphasizes the need for all future funding of City contracted services allocated for youth and families to be aligned with the Blueprint goals. The latest HNVF Request for Proposals required applicants in the Education and Health categories of the Healthy Neighborhood Venture Fund process to demonstrate their alignment to the *Blueprint* by stating how their program would direct services to impact the three Long Term Blueprint Outcomes (children will enter kindergarten ready to succeed; elementary/middle school children will be educationally at or above grade level; and teenagers will have a sense of purpose with a plan for higher education or career preparation). Each contracted agency will develop measurable intermediate goals that will be tracked and reported to staff twice a year.

San José BEST Program has also incorporated the developmental framework in agencies' contracted goals and performance measures. Current grantees are evaluated on the amount of change they have produced in a young person's resiliency assets. The latest Cycle XIII interim report shows positive growth in the productivity scores as compared to the same period last year.

The *Blueprint* piloted the "School Community Innovation and Cooperation Program" for three different strategies of school-based programs which focus on increasing the academic success of elementary school youth. All three pilot programs improved the reading level of the targeted students, by 1½ - 2 grade levels. These three schools exceeded the target of 5% growth in their Academic Performance Index (API) with school performance showing 6-8% growth.

San José Afterschool

San José Afterschool continues to develop as a leading model for afterschool programming in the state. Over the past year the program has implemented the Level I, II, and III structure to better tailor programs based on individual school needs. The program has also developed a combined Evaluation and Annual Report, added eight additional Level III sites, and adopted the following four Developmental Assets to intentionally focus on: Youth As A Resource; Adult Role Models; Homework; and Reading For Pleasure.

The above are some examples of the efforts initiated by PRNS to implement the goals and objectives of the *Blueprint*. In developing and operating these new programs, it has become clear that the *Blueprint's* developmental framework has allowed PRNS to be more intentional about operating programs so that program activities clearly focus on building certain assets and

have performance measures to track youth's progress. The goal is to expand this intentionality to cover all youth-related programs that the City currently provides, within PRNS and other Departments.

Next Steps:

Blueprint as a tool for enhancing the HUB Model

The *Blueprint's* developmental framework will be an important element in helping each HUB provide services to youth that intentionally build their skills and strengths. This strategy will result in consistently higher standards of center programming and greater employee competency in addressing the developmental needs of youth and families in the center. The HUB model also includes City and non-City services, such as CBO-provided youth counseling and leadership programs that will benefit from the direction provided by the *Blueprint*.

Re-structuring of the City's Community Intervention Strategies

In coordination with the Department's HUB model, the City's overall youth intervention strategies are being restructured to provide services based out of the HUB as well as provide a greater response to the surrounding community. This community response service will be modeled from the City's nationally recognized Safe School Campus Initiative, and create a continuous support system to respond to acts of violence in schools, around schools, and in the surrounding neighborhoods. Another major component for the Intervention Strategies is the newly restructured Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and the intervention-focused San Jose BEST funding source. This intervention model directly promotes aspects of the *Blueprint* by providing resources to stop youth violence and stop the recruitment of gangs. These efforts will continue to be evaluated by City staff and its consultant "Community Crime Prevention and Associates".

Develop an Oversight Body

To facilitate the *Blueprint* as the "One Voice" for youth service delivery, PRNS will convene an oversight body that will include management-level representatives from different City Service Areas (CSA's) to provide direct and indirect services to youth. This body, in coordination with the Youth Commission, will serve as a steering committee, implementing the *Blueprint* goals and objectives on a Citywide basis.

Coordination of Education efforts

The department is currently supporting efforts, through the Mayor's office, on two National League of Cities projects. The first is a technical assistance effort to decrease high school drop out rates, and the second is a case study on disconnected youth and the San José BEST model to service them.

COST IMPLICATIONS

There are no general fund cost implications associated with this memo.

All Children Achieve Committee

Subject: Report on Blueprint for Bridging the Digital Divide for FY 2003-04 Action Plan

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COORDINATION

This report was coordinated with the City Attorney's Office.

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and Neighborhood Services