



Memorandum

TO: ALL CHILDREN ACHIEVE
COMMITTEE

FROM: Sara L. Hensley

SUBJECT: SAFE SCHOOL CAMPUS
INITIATIVE ANNUAL REPORT

DATE: March 6, 2003

Approved

Date

PURPOSE

The purpose of this memorandum is to present the status report on the Safe School Campus Initiative for FY 2002-2003.

BACKGROUND

In 1996, the San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force (MGPTF) Annual Work Plan identified a trend of escalating youth violence in and around high school campuses and the need to develop a programmatic response. The Department of Parks, Recreation and Neighborhood Services, in partnership with San Jose Police Department and the local school districts, began to work on shaping such a program. At the time, communication and collaboration with the school campuses were minimal at best. Issues of student confidentiality, lack of communication, and differing rules and protocols prevented mutual coordination and collaboration between the schools and the MGPTF. A *crisis response protocol* that would enable both schools and entities within the MGPTF to communicate, collaborate, and respond to incidents of youth violence in and around high school campuses was piloted in East Side Union High School District in the 1996 school year. With the successful completion of the pilot phase and further refinement of the program, the crisis response protocol evolved into the more comprehensive *Safe School Campus Initiative* (herein referred to as SSCI). The SSCI is a comprehensive system of service response protocols and follow up resources. As part of the SSCI, the City has entered into agreements with school districts to enable schools, law enforcement agencies, and other gang specialists of the MGPTF to collaborate as a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) and share confidential information as allowed under Section 830.1 of the State Welfare & Institution Code for the purposes of prevention, identification and control of youth violence in and around high school campuses. Through prevention, intervention, and management of critical incidents, schools are able to maintain a safer environment for students and staff.

The SSCI was piloted into the East Side Union High School District (ESUHSD) in 1997-98 and is currently fully implemented. In FY 1998-99 it was expanded to service all high schools in the City of San José. In FY 2000-01 the program was again expanded to incorporate all of the City's middle schools.

The SSCI has two major components of its service: 1) training and school support, and 2) critical incident response and follow up.

Training

All schools receive the SSCI training in the communication and activation protocol and Code Red drills. Schools are trained to deal with earthquakes and fire but have not been prepared to deal with incidents such as active shooters on campus, hostage situations and/or bomb threats. Staff from the SSCI (PRNS and PD) work with schools to develop their *School Site Safety Teams* in accordance with state regulations (SB 187) mandating school districts to institute comprehensive school safety plans. These trainings consist of providing each schools safety team the tools needed to 1) create a comprehensive safety program; 2) activate the SSCI protocol; and 3) utilize the Code Red common language emergency system for school lockdown procedures. These trainings allow all high schools and middle schools to have a complete understanding of the response initiated when calling in an emergency. By having all schools trained in this common protocol and language, the communication and role definitions between the schools and the response teams is clear and direct. Currently every middle school and high school in San José has received training in this protocol (10,000 - 15,000 educators).

The SSCI along with the ESUHSD Office of Safety provided the first opportunity to conduct a school based safety simulation, *Operation: Safe Campus* in May of 2000, at W.C. Overfelt High School. From the simulation, an extensive assessment identified the need for common protocols and extensive training. The San Jose Police Department teamed with East Side Union High School District to help develop the Code Red Training, which created joint protocols between Police and schools to formalize lockdown procedures, classroom management and evacuation. San Jose Police further found that a new 1st responder protocol and training were necessary and all 1,400 Officers have received that training so that police response is immediate. The school and Police trainings have now spread to other cities, including unincorporated areas of Santa Clara County, Campbell and Santa Clara.

Another school-based simulation was conducted on February 11, 2003, at Mount Pleasant High School. With support from a grant from the Mayor's Office, *Project: Safe City Schools* practiced the existing protocols and tested the effectiveness of newly developed joint protocols for a multi-agency response to a Code Red Critical Incident. These protocols involved Joint Incident Command with police, fire and education, joint protocols for safe/staging areas off campus, joint protocols for parent notification of injured students, joint protocols for mental health and witness interrogation, and developing a process for student/family reunification following any emergency incidents. The next steps are to form an assessment team to assess procedures and protocols among all agencies, encapsulate the 6,000 individual assessment sheets completed during the simulation, and produce an overall report summarizing its findings. It is anticipated that the initial collection will be completed by mid March, and the written recommendations completed by the end of May 2003.

Response Mechanism

The critical incident response and follow up are the primary functions of PRNS' SSCI Community Coordinators, its Right Connection Outreach teams, and the SJPD Police/School Coordinators. Within this role, the SSCI team is responsible for providing regular visits and assessments to schools, responding to calls of incidents, providing mediation and counseling services, as well as coordination of on going support services to prevent retaliatory incidents from occurring.

Consistent communication between the schools, PRNS, and SJPD are key to the success of this program. By utilizing a system built through direct connect phones, on going trainings, and regular assessment and contacts with schools and youth in the community, key members of the SSCI (PRNS Community Coordinators, PRNS Right Connection response teams, SJPD Police/School Coordinators and School Administrators) are able to quickly communicate in times of pending crisis or to circumvent events that may lead to violence. This capability facilitates the quick initial evaluation of current circumstances and the immediate deployment of appropriate resources directly to the campus. It also facilitates the direct contact and sharing of information with site administrators, who are typically on the campus or in the surrounding community-addressing student and other school issues.

SSCI protocol utilizes a coded response format to alert all partners to the level of response to be initiated.

Level 1 - Incident in Progress -During the current incident

Police are primary responders and handle situation (911)

Level 2 - Immediate -Incident likely to occur

Intervention services with law enforcement patrol are primary responders

Level 3 - Potential -Incident may occur

Intervention services are primary responders

ACCOMPLISHMENTS

The SSCI program utilizes multiple ways to measure the success of its program via performance measures and data collection, customer satisfaction surveys and school administration assessments, and reviews of available crime data.

Response Mechanism

The SSCI responded to a total of 463 total incidents in FY 2001-2002. Of those, 213 were high school safety incidents and 250 middle school incidents. See Attachment A for further breakdown of data.

Between July 02 – December 02, there have been a total of 227 incidents. Of those, 127 were high school incidents and 100 middle school incidents. See Attachment A for further breakdown. In comparison, the number of incidents for the same period between July 01-December 01, were a total of 169 incidents with 87 at high schools and 92 at middle schools. We are expecting to continue this incident growth for the remaining of the school year in which our most active time is spring. Of those incidents we have met 100% of the “responding within 30 minutes” performance measure.

Overall we have been utilized by 17 school districts this year, and have provided services to 66 different schools.

The SSCI program also measures that “conflicts are resolved and no further escalation of violence erupted for 14 days after the initial incident. In FY 01-02 we met 100% of that performance measure. The following is the breakdown of calls responded to by the SSCI. The desired outcome of each respondent call is that no further escalation of violence ensues.

R: 1 = Deter, no further action needed (181 actions)*

R: 2 = Referral(s) and After care services provided (73 actions)*

R: 3 = Mediation (provides formalized and scheduled mediation services between either groups or individuals) (101 actions)*

R: 4 = Intervention (provides immediate staff presence to de-escalate problem between groups or individuals) (55 actions)*

R: 5 = Suppression (Police/Probation made arrests) (92 actions)*

R: 6 = Injury (students involved sustained some type of injury during initial incident) (4 actions)*

***Discrepancy between total number of actions and total calls is not equal since some calls will generate more than one result.**

School and City Crime Data

The SSCI also utilizes customer satisfaction surveys from the school sites to measure how safe the schools are based on staff feedback. From our first set of evaluations sent out in December 2002 (47 of 66 schools returned surveys):

- 94% rated the City’s efforts toward keeping schools safe as “very good and/or great;”
- 89% rated the City’s effort toward keeping youth out of gangs as “very good and/or great;” and
- 94% rated the overall satisfaction of the City’s safety services provided as “very good and/or great.”

Included as Attachment B, you will find Customer School District Comments regarding the SSCI Program.

Another marker the SSCI uses to see how progress is being made toward the overall safety of our youth is juvenile arrest data and school crime reports. SJPD reports that between FY 2000-2001 and FY 2001-2002, juvenile arrests have dropped by 5% from 6,850 to 6,509.

In FY 2001-2002 the greatest amount of juvenile arrests were generated in police districts (police Districts overlap Council Districts) Paul (CD 8), X-Ray (CD 2, 7, 8 & 10), Yellow (CD 2 & 10), Charles (CD 5, 7 & 8), and Mary (CD 4 & 5).

In FY 2000-2001 the greatest amount of juvenile arrests were generated in police districts Paul (CD 8), Adam (CD 9, 10), X-Ray (CD 2, 7, 8 & 10), Charles (CD 5, 7, 8), and Lincoln (CD 3, 7, 8).

Staff also looks at reported school crime and comparisons on a yearly basis. However, there was no data assessment reporting by school district or school developed by the State of California for the year 2001-02, due to the discontinuation of the state safe school data program. Staff will discuss with school districts local data collection sources to gather school crime data for FY 2003-2004.

PUBLIC OUTREACH

- In the East Side Union High School District there is a Parent Safety Council, which is unique to Santa Clara County. The Parent Council is made up of school site parents and other parent groups. This parent group has become an influential force in addressing safety concerns and plans within the District. Currently, the Parent Safety Council is reviewing the school site safety plans for the District. Staff provides a report on safety issues at their monthly meetings.
- The Schools/City Collaborative standards working group has incorporated the on going work of the Safe School Campus Initiative.
- Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force is an on going collaborative made up of over 30 community partners whose strategic plan identifies promoting SSCI services.

COORDINATION

This memorandum has been coordinated with the San José Police Department and the City Attorney's Office.

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and Neighborhood Services