

MIAMI PARTNERSHIP FOR ACTION IN COMMUNITIES TASK FORCE (PROJECT MPACT) [627]

Renee Parker, M.S., Project Coordinator
Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Gang Free Schools & Communities
(Project MPACT), Miami-Dade Schools Police

Affiliates:

Miami-Dade County Public Schools ^a
Miami-Dade Schools Police Department ^a
Miami-Dade Police Department ^a
Miami-Dade Juvenile Assessment Center
Dade County Council/PTA
Miami Bridge
Miami Job Corps ^a
South Florida Workforce
Citizens Crime Watch
Youth Crime Task Force
Switchboard of Miami
Miami-Dade State Attorney's Office ^a
Department of Children and Families ^a
Department of Juvenile Justice ^a

^a This agency participates in the weekly meetings of the Intervention Team.

Session Plan

Workshop Summary

Miami Partnership for Action in Communities Task Force (MPACT) is a school-based gang intervention program located in the community to bring together resources to combat gang violence in and around the schools of a targeted area. The project seeks to demonstrate that youth who are given an opportunity to become productive citizens are less likely to engage in criminal behaviors or activities. It is an effort to cultivate young minds and to offer them opportunities to learn and apply marketable employment skills. According to the assessment and the data compiled to write the implementation plan for this project youth were surveyed and asked what would help them sever their ties with gangs and criminal gang activity. The percentages were overwhelming: 90 percent reported a job and 87 percent stated something to do. Not only did this response come from the youth but the same responses were given by residents and community leaders.

In a community plagued with gang violence, MPACT was able to implement in two senior high schools an On the Training Pilot (OJT) which taught introductory to carpentry theory in the classroom and allowed those students to transfer that classroom knowledge to an actual construction site paying hourly wages. This was a win-win situation for our youth, the builder, and the schools. The youth learn a trade that bolstered self-esteem in a positive way. The builder is able to get free labor due to the funding of a local agency while

mentoring youth and teaching them the art of building. The low income family is able to own a new home for the first time, and the community is enhanced by the completed project.

Original Project Name

The OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model is a demonstration model commissioned in four urban cities in the United States. The four demonstration sites are (Cleveland, Ohio, Pittsburg, Pennsylvania, Huston, Texas and Miami, Florida. Each city was given a four year grant and required to follow the model and implement it based on the information and data collected in a one year assessment. This assessment was based on crime data which outlined a specific area where gang crimes were prevalent and the need for the model to be implemented in four chosen schools within the target community. The model required the usage of the five strategies and each was to be incorporated into the logic model that was designed to measure outcomes and successes. The five strategies are listed below:

Five Strategies

- Social interventions
- Opportunities provision
- Organizational change
- Suppression
- Community mobilization

By implementing these five strategies to address the areas of need outlined in the assessment, the model was successful and because of its success, what began as a project that would address the needs of four target schools in a specific target community is now a project with three 3 additional schools. It was recently adopted by the Miami Dade County Public Schools as an official model to be replicated in nine additional schools for the 2006/2007 school year. This expansion is expected to continue as funds are earmarked throughout the entire county as success continues to prevail. The Miami Dade County Public School District has absorbed the total administrative cost of the project and invested an additional \$500,000 for the expansion of the project into the additional schools. Moreover, the district is seeking ways to train and employ the students to perform the necessary maintenance, building, and repairs to the schools and is seeking assistance in this area by requiring the private contractors to employ these students as a part of the contract bid agreement.

This workshop will focus on the four phases of the project: assessment, implementation, logic model, and sustainability. The presenter will explain each phase of the project and how the model can be replicated. In addition, the presenter will explain the major supporting components of the program and provide examples of how the strategies (above) are applied to each component.

Workshop Goals

Participants will be introduced to a research-based model that can be implemented according to the Gang Free Schools and Communities Comprehensive Gang Model and the results of a thorough assessment which can be utilized as an intervention strategy that works.

Workshop Objectives

1. To provide the participants with a keen insight of what the comprehensive model entails
2. To present and describe five strategies (above), the assessment, and the implementation plan

3. To utilize case studies and group discussion to help the participants understand how the model is implemented and the importance of data collection to obtain sustainability

Workshop Activities

1. History of the project and explanation of the four phases. (30 min)
2. Question and answer period. (15 min)
3. Break into groups and review case study to determine how to measure outcomes of each case as it relates to the intervention strategies. Which of the four components does each case fit into? (30 min)
4. Recap and question and answer period. (15 min)

Assessment

The workshop will be evaluated based on the participants’ ability to understand the model and their confidence in their ability to utilize the information given:

1. Participants will be able to understand the components of a comprehensive gang model.
2. Participants will understand the value of an assessment and how to determine the services which must be offered.
3. Participants will understand how to design an implementation plan that is based on assessment data
4. Participants will demonstrate their understanding of the five strategies and how each one supports the overall goals and objectives of the model.

Resources

<http://police.dadeschools.net>
<http://www.iir.com/nygc>

Reference

The National Youth Gang Center. (2006). OJJDP Comprehensive Gang Model, Planning for Implementation, Available at <http://www.iir.com/nygc>

This page is blank.