

HIGHLIGHTS: FROM THE STATEWIDE BROADCAST

“Keeping Youth Safe: Strategies That Work To Prevent Violence – A statewide dialogue on youth violence prevention.”

More than 1,300 community leaders from Redding to San Diego joined forces on June 3, 2004 in a statewide videoconference to discuss programs and public policies that prevent violence against young people.

“Keeping Youth Safe: Strategies that Work to Prevent Violence” was broadcast live from Sacramento and Los Angeles and downlinked to sites in Fresno, Long Beach, Redding, Sacramento, San Bernardino, San Diego, San Francisco, San Jose and Santa Barbara. Additional auxiliary sites were organized in Humboldt County, Long Beach and Salinas. Participants included policymakers, law enforcement officials, health professionals, educators and youth advocates. The 90-minute live broadcast featured more than a dozen policymakers who discussed policies that keep youth safe, such as youth employment programs, the future of Crime Prevention Act funding, after school programs, and ways of reducing gun violence. In addition, the broadcast also provided viewers with examples of promising programs that have been successful in reducing violence against youth. The broadcast and panel discussion were moderated by Toni Guinyard, a noted journalist and reporter for “Life and Times,” a Los Angeles-based news and public affairs series produced by KCET.

The event also provided an opportunity for attendees to form new partnerships and prompted a sense of renewed commitment to the problem of youth violence. “What we must remember is that behind every program and policy is the work of dedicated individuals committed to the health and well-being of the young people of this state,” said Gary L. Yates, president and CEO of The California Wellness Foundation.

Community leaders in each region met afterwards to review local policies and programs designed to keep youth safe. The event coincided with the release of a new statewide voter poll conducted by TCWF grantee i.e. communications, which revealed that California voters of both political parties and all state regions strongly believe violence prevention and safety programs for youth should have a high priority for funding. The event provided a rare opportunity for a statewide dialogue in which ideas, resources and strategies were shared throughout the state and within each community.



FEATURED SPEAKERS AND VOICES:

Welcoming remarks by Gary L. Yates, President and CEO, The California Wellness Foundation

Attorney General Bill Lockyer

Senator Dede Alpert, Chair, Appropriations Committee

Senator Sheila Kuehl, Chair, Select Committee on School Safety

Senator Bruce McPherson, Chair, Public Safety Committee

Senator Deborah Ortiz, Chair, Health and Human Services Committee

Senator Jack Scott, Chair, Budget Subcommittee on Education

Assemblymember Judy Chu, Chair, Appropriations Committee

Assemblymember Darrell Steinberg, Chair, Budget Committee

Assemblymember Mark Ridley-Thomas, Chair, Jobs, Economic Development and the Economy

Secretary Kim Belshé, California Health and Human Services Agency

Sheriff Leroy Baca, Los Angeles County

Chief Albert Nájera, City of Sacramento Police Department

Father Gregory J. Boyle, Homeboy Industries

Dr. Deborah B. Prothrow-Stith, Harvard School of Public Health

Gilbert Salinas, Youth ALIVE!

Belinda Smith-Walker, Girls & Gangs

Marqueece Harris-Dawson, Community Coalition

Tammi Wong, Mutual Assistance Network

HIGHLIGHTS: FROM THE STATEWIDE BROADCAST

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“We will never arrest our way out of gang violence or gun problems.”

Sheriff Lee Baca

SOURCE: Butler, Kevin. “Curbing youth violence Panel says prevention more effective than detention, prison.” Long Beach Press Telegram June 4, 2004.

“Prevention is the neglected stepchild of the state of California.”

Rev. Gregory Boyle, Homeboy Industries

SOURCE: Sanchez, George. “Crime fight lacks cash, most agree City leaders join a teleconference on youth violence.” The Salinas Californian. June 4, 2004



STATEWIDE SPONSORS:

California Police Chiefs Association

California State PTA

California Sheriffs' Association

CCS Partnership (joint effort of the League of California Cities, California State Association of Counties and California School Boards Association)

Chief Probation Officers of California

Fight Crime: Invest In Kids

League of Women Voters

Little Hoover Commission

Prevention Institute

VOTER POLL HIGHLIGHTS:

Eight out of 10 voters say youth safety is as important as law enforcement and prisons.

Six out of 10 voters, including 47 percent of Republicans and 72 percent of Democrats, say they would be willing to pay higher state taxes, if necessary, to maintain funding for violence prevention and youth-safety programs.

When asked to rank ways to spend state funds to help protect youths from violence, job training is ranked first, followed by mental health counseling, after-school programs, drug treatment and law enforcement.

HIGHLIGHTS: FRESNO

More than 150 people gathered at the Convention Center in Fresno to examine the status of youth violence prevention services in Fresno and across the state. Co-moderators Phil Kader of the Fresno County Probation Department and Claudia Soria-Delgado of Latino Issues Forum introduced Mayor Alan Autry, who lauded the support the city and county have given to youth violence prevention services. Fresno County Supervisor Phil Larson, representing District 1, also gave a personal address regarding the need for prevention services before the statewide broadcast.

Following the broadcast, Fresno's youth had an opportunity to add their perspective to the gathering. Youth from the Youth Advocate Foundation, Fresno Barrios Unidos and kNOW MORE discussed their experiences with local services they had received and explained how they had overcome problems in their life and wished to give back to the community for the support they had received. The panel was followed by a rousing dance performance from Huron STOP, a project of Huron Middle School.

A stakeholder panel followed this performance. Speakers included Supervisor Juan Arambula, Chief Probation Officer Larry Price and Sergeant Timothy Hahn of the Fresno Police Department, who were each able to address in more detail what their designated agencies are doing to reduce violence against youth. The panel reaffirmed the value of prevention services and explored how they involve in-depth efforts that are specific to the community, but universal in approach.

A final performance by Huron STOP and Sergeant Anthony Dixon concluded the afternoon. The event reconfirmed the value of the work of many of the audience members and highlighted the complexity of serving such a large county, comprising both urban and rural areas that differ greatly in needs and available services.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Mayor Alan Autry; City of Fresno Supervisor Phil Larsen, Fresno County

Moderators: Claudia Soria-Delgado, Valley Catholic Charities; Phil Kader, Fresno Probation Department

Panelists: Supervisor Juan Arambula, Fresno County; Larry Price, Fresno County Chief Probation Officer; Sergeant Timothy Hahn, Fresno Police Department; Larry Carter, Youth Advocate Foundation; Victor, Fresno Barrios Unidos Girl kNOW MORE

Performance: Huron STOP; Sergeant Anthony Dixon, Fresno Probation Department

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Barrios Unidos Fresno
Fresno County Probation Department
Fresno County Department of Public Health
Fresno City Mayor's Office of Education
Fresno County Sheriff's Department
Fresno Center for Nonviolence
Latino Issues Forum Fresno
United Way of Fresno County
Weed and Seed Fresno West

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“You can't just go on arresting the kids and their parents. That cycle has to stop.”

Sergeant Tim Hahn, Fresno Police Department

“The No. 1 role of this probation department is to help young people stay out of trouble. To help keep young people out of the cycle of crime is to keep prevention and early intervention programs alive.”

Fresno County Chief Probation Officer Larry Price

SOURCE: Galvan, Lous. “Video conference focuses on task of stopping youth violence cycle.” Fresno Bee June 4, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: LOS ANGELES

Los Angeles welcomed nearly 200 people to KCET Public Television's community room to watch the panel discussion featuring Sheriff Leroy Baca of Los Angeles County, Father Gregory J. Boyle of Homeboy Industries, Belinda Smith-Walker of Girls & Gangs, and Marqueece Harris-Dawson of Community Coalition, which was uplinked from a studio next door and broadcast throughout the state. Leah Aldridge of the Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women (LACAAW) welcomed the participants with an address about the need to coordinate services, share skills and create awareness specific to the diverse needs of Los Angeles. Los Angeles City Councilman Tom LaBonge also provided welcoming remarks.

The local panelists addressed their efforts to combine frontline work, grassroots activism and policy change. Councilmember Tony Cardenas, one of the original sponsors of the Crime Prevention Act, provided compelling data to demonstrate the value of prevention. Belinda Smith-Walker of Girls & Gangs, a featured speaker from the broadcast, commented on the need for community advocacy on behalf of at-risk populations. Jeff Carr of the Bresee Foundation, also featured in the broadcast, discussed the necessity to invest in programs that provide alternatives for youth.

During the question-and-answer session, many audience members expressed their frustration with budget shortfalls which impact their ability to deliver services for youth. A dominant sentiment was dialogue among peers is important, but those who make funding decisions should be involved in the discussions. Councilmember Cardenas challenged the audience to make it their daily work to "knock on the doors" of their legislators to keep issues of youth violence prevention prominent on the political agenda.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Tom LaBonge, City Councilman

Moderator: Leah Aldridge, Los Angeles Commission on Assaults Against Women

Panelists: Councilmember Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles County, District 6; Reverend Jeff Carr, Bresee Foundation; Belinda Smith-Walker, Advisory Board, Girls & Gangs

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Los Angeles County Office of Education

Sin Fronteras

TEENLINE

Violence Prevention Coalition of Greater Los Angeles

YWCA of Greater Los Angeles

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

"We need to connect with each other and build a sense of community. We need to convince business owners to give jobs to kids and commit to training them, especially ones that are at risk and underprivileged."

Belinda Smith-Walker, chair, Advisory Board, Girls & Gangs

SOURCE: Browne, Phillip. "Prevent Gangs Or Pay, Leaders Warn." The Daily News of Los Angeles June 4, 2004.

"California spends \$5 billion per year on incarceration and only a fraction of that on youth programs. California is officially out of the business of rehabilitation."

Tony Cardenas, Los Angeles City Councilman

SOURCE: Browne, Phillip. "Policymakers Focus on Teen Violence." Pasadena Star News June 4, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: REDDING

The Holiday Inn Convention Center in Redding provided an intimate setting for the nearly 50 audience members who participated in the videoconference. Charlie Menoher, director of the Youth Violence Prevention Council, introduced Councilmember Mark Cibula, who gave the opening address. Councilmember Cibula's welcome presented not only the city's perspective, but also his own as a parent. He emphasized the importance of giving children the opportunity to be children and not grow up in fear of violence.

Following the statewide broadcast, Gary Gunter of KRCR-TV moderated a panel of local speakers. Judge Anthony Anderson of Shasta County Superior Court also runs the youth court for the area. He talked about ways to involve children, noting that youth get in trouble because they don't know they have options. Chief Leonard Moty described youth violence prevention efforts of the Redding Police Department and observed that crime rates have declined over the years. Donnell Ewert of the Shasta County Public Health Department addressed the relationship of suicide rates to gun possession. Karin Dowling, from the Shasta County Health Improvement Partnership, discussed the Search Institute's 40 developmental assets, a set of qualities essential to raising successful young people. Shasta Webb, a 16-year-old student from West Valley High School, spoke about her involvement with Friday Night Live, a program dedicated to reducing the number of deaths and injuries caused by teen motorists driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs, and described its programs and outreach. She took an activist stance on how to be realistic about the levels of drugs and alcohol present in our youth communities, and how to reduce them.

The question-and-answer session that followed focused on specific strategies that could be used in the local community and ways of involving community members in youth violence prevention. For many in Redding, the day proved to be an affirmation of how residents are taking action and finding solutions despite insufficient resources.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Councilmember Mark Cibula, City of Redding

Moderator: Gary Gunter, KRCR-TV

Panelists: Judge Anthony Anderson, Shasta County Superior Court; Donnell Ewert, Shasta County Health Department; Karen Dowling, Shasta County Health Improvement Partnership; Chief Leonard Moty, Redding Police Department; Shasta Webb, West Valley High School

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Youth Violence Prevention Council
of Shasta County
Shasta County Sheriff's Office

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“Make the youth of our community feel more connected.
Give them buy-in into their community.”

Shasta Webb, West Valley High School

“The number-one gun problem in Shasta County is suicide.”

Donnell Ewert, deputy director of the Shasta County Health Department

SOURCE: Lucarotti, Christina. “Youth violence, suicide discussed Police chief, others talk about ways to keep teens out of trouble.” Record Searchlight June 4, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: SACRAMENTO

KVIE Public Television welcomed nearly 200 participants from Sacramento and surrounding areas to watch the televised broadcast with speakers Kim Belshé, Secretary of Health and Human Services, Chief Albert Nájera of the Sacramento Police Department, Tammi Wong of the Mutual Assistance Network, and Gilbert Salinas of Youth Alive!. Councilmember Dave Jones, who represents the City of Sacramento, District 6, provided a welcome prior to the live broadcast.

Following the broadcast, Councilmember Jones joined a panel moderated by Jim Muldavin of the Center of Civic Participation and Youth Development. Bullying had been selected in advance as the focus of the discussion. Each of the panelists briefly discussed their work and how it related to the topic. Audience members were then invited to ask questions and offer their own ideas. Many of the audience members were very enthusiastic and provided their contact information for follow up work on the list of solutions to bullying that was compiled through the discussion. They said that bullying is a major problem in local schools and voiced support for programs that focus on building positive relationships with adults and creating leadership opportunities. They also favored keeping public buildings open in the evening so that students can have a place to gather.

This event represented an opportunity for Sacramento's network of leaders in youth services to come together to confront continuing challenges in youth violence prevention and to formulate new solutions. The audience seemed pleased to have the opportunity to hear what the experts had to say and to confirm their interest in building an even stronger network of youth advocates on the front lines.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Councilmember Dave Jones, City of Sacramento

Moderator: Jim Muldavin, Center for Civic Participation

Panelists: Michael Koerner, San Juan School District; Karen Dodrill, Sacramento Probation Department; Councilmember Dave Jones, City of Sacramento; David Langston, Mutual Assistance Network

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Sacramento Youth Service Provider Network
Sacramento County Office of Education
Greater Sacramento Chapter of Gay Lesbian and Straight Education Network

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“A lot of kids have problems getting school supplies, but they can get guns.”

Gilbert Salinas, Youth ALIVE!

“I think what people walked away with was new insights into youth violence, especially bullying. I think they also concluded that they could collectively help youth build skills and acquire relationships that will not only stop youth violence, but other risky behaviors.”

Bina Lekowitz, Director, Youth Service Provider Network

SOURCE: Crump, Gwendolyn. "Broadcast spurs youth-violence dialogue." Sacramento Bee June 4, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: SAN BERNARDINO

The broadcast and community meeting were hosted at the Hilton San Bernardino and brought in nearly 100 people. Christine Edgecomb, president and CEO of the Family Service Agency of San Bernardino, served as local coordinator. In the welcome address, Supervisor Clifford Young drew on his own experience of growing up in South Central Los Angeles to emphasize the value of education in reducing violence.

The panel following the statewide broadcast was moderated by Linda Probst of Project BRIDGE. Chief Jim Bueermann said that a systematic approach is important in dealing with youth violence. Brian Levin, a criminal justice professor at CSU San Bernardino, spoke about how violence is influenced by racial intolerance and addressed the need to continue communication and education.

Jay Franklin of Project BRIDGE, who works side-by-side with gang members and their families, said that knowing the right steps to take to help youth is crucial. Mary Andrada gave a brief overview of the Family Service Agency Alternative Choice program, citing examples of the successful approach used to reach at-risk youth.

A question-and-answer session followed, during which concerns were voiced about the low grade that the county had earned on the 2002 "Choices for Youth" violence prevention scorecard and ways to improve it, the challenges due to lack of funding, the difficulty of reaching young people and methods of violence prevention program delivery. For San Bernardino, the meeting provided the opportunity for many to learn about local programs and continue the process of connecting local youth service providers to one another.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Supervisor Clifford Young, San Bernardino County

Moderator: Linda Probst, Project BRIDGE

Panelists: Chief Jim Bueermann, Redlands Police Department; Brian Levin, California State University San Bernardino; Jay Franklin, Project BRIDGE; Mary Andrada, Family Service Agency of San Bernardino

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Project BRIDGE, City of Riverside
San Bernardino City Unified Schools
Police Department
San Bernardino County Health and
Human Services

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“You can set up these programs and have it all going, but if it’s not what the youth need, you’re not helping out, you’re missing it. What happens a lot of times is that young people get into trouble and that’s all people see -the trouble; they don’t see the struggle.”

Jay Franklin, Project BRIDGE outreach coordinator

“The role of the police is not necessarily doing things all the time, but serving as a catalyst for the community. I’m a fan of empowering different parts of the community to work together.”

Jim Bueermann, Redlands Police Chief

“The exchange of information on what’s going on throughout the state is crucial, I think. One jurisdiction might have had success with a program or a policy that we’re not aware of.”

Brian Levin, Professor, CSU San Bernardino

SOURCE: Browne, Phillippe W. and Harp, Janet. “Critics pan anti-gang measures.” San Bernardino Sun June 3, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: SAN DIEGO

San Diego welcomed more than 150 participants to the Town and Country Resort & Convention Center, where they heard from policymakers, law enforcement officials, health professionals, educators and youth advocates. Sandra McBrayer, local coordinator and executive director of the Children's Initiative, gave a welcoming address that set the stage for the day, followed by the statewide broadcast. Supervisor Ron Roberts introduced the local panel with a talk that addressed the statewide and local budget crises, and reaffirmed the board of supervisors' commitment to violence prevention services.

The local community meeting following the broadcast addressed best practices with a panel that included Chief Vincent Iaria of the San Diego Police Department; Jean Shepard, director of the Health and Human Services Agency; Lt. Shawna Selby of the SDPD; and Susan Huguenor, presiding juvenile judge of the San Diego Superior Court. With representatives from the courts, probation, health, and law enforcement all on the panel, the resulting dialogue offered a unique opportunity to educate both audience members and panelists in the most effective use of violence prevention programs and the best ways of promoting inter-agency and inter-department collaboration.

The event provided an opportunity for participants to learn more about the many youth service organizations operating in the area and to make new contacts. Local sponsors of the videoconference included the San Diego Children's Initiative and San Diego County Health and Human Services. Participant enthusiasm was encouraged by the statewide poll released at the event, which found that 65 percent of voters said they would approve a half-cent local sale tax increase to support violence prevention and youth safety programs.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Supervisor Ron Roberts, San Diego County

Moderator: Sandra McBrayer, Children's Initiative

Panelists: Chief Vincent Iaria, San Diego Police Department (SDPD); Jean Shepard, Health and Human Services Agency; Lieutenant Shawna Selby, San Diego Police Department; Presiding Juvenile Judge Susan Huguenor, San Diego Superior Court

LOCAL SPONSORS:

The Children's Initiative

San Diego County Health and Human Services

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“San Diego has many proven prevention programs in place that we need to sustain and expand to continue to prevent youth violence and offer positive alternatives for our youth.”

Sandra McBrayer, CEO, Children's Initiative. (from San Diego Press Release)

“Si sales de la cárcel y no tienes ni la capacidad ni la oportunidad para obtener un trabajo ¿qué es más fácil que reincidir en un modo de vida que conoces?”

Para Boyle, executive director, Homeboy Industries

SOURCE: Martinez, Mariana. "Azota violencia a adolescentes" El Diario Latino June 4, 2004.

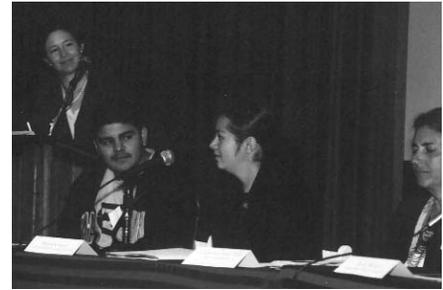
HIGHLIGHTS: SAN FRANCISCO

The Delancey Street Foundation Theater provided an appropriate setting for almost 200 Bay Area leaders to come together in support of youth violence prevention. Local coordinator Christy Haynes of the Matteucci Foundation introduced Gerald Miller, a resident of Delancey Street, who opened the event with a welcoming address that drew on his personal experiences. The local community meeting following the broadcast initiated a spirited debate among participants.

Barrie Becker of Fight Crime: Invest in Kids moderated the discussion, which began with comments from local panelists and also gave audience members the opportunity to weigh in on Bay Area concerns. Panelists discussed how education, job training and peer counseling keep kids from joining gangs and getting involved in other dangerous activities.

Alfredo Merino, 16, a sophomore at Life Academy in Oakland, said his life changed after he joined the Teens on Target program two years ago. The group uses peer leaders to set positive examples for other participants. San Francisco Mission District resident Patricia Gutierrez, 18, also credits a local program with turning her life around. Gutierrez got help through a program at a local Boys & Girls Club. Other panelists talked about their own work, while acknowledging a sense of frustration with many of the long-term problems that exist in the field.

The question-and-answer session generated an intense discussion and brought out a range of issues and concerns from audience members including the challenges faced by local programs without proper funding, and what more can be done to target the communities most in need. Several participants said the best way to keep young people safe is to provide them with positive alternatives, such as after-school opportunities, job training and community-based violence prevention programs.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Gerald Miller, Delancey Street Foundation

Moderator: Barrie Becker, Fight Crime: Invest in Kids

Panelists: Councilmember Nancy Nadel, City of Oakland; Andrea Youngdahl, Oakland Health and Human Services; Josephina Alvarado-Mena, Safe Passages; Dr. Joseph Marshall, Omega Boys Club; Darryl Stewart, Supervisor Miley's Office, Alameda County; Barbara Johnson, San Francisco Probation Department; Alfredo Merino, Youth Alive!; Patricia Gutierrez, Boys and Girls Club

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Alameda County Interagency Children's Policy Council

Alameda County Office of Education

Alameda County Probation Department

Alameda County Public Health Department

California Tomorrow

Community Violence Solutions

Dream Catcher Program of Xanthos

Oakland Councilwoman Nancy Nadel

United Way of the Bay Area

Youth ALIVE!

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“Kids get into stuff because they're trying to survive. But what they're getting is not survival skills, it's death and incarceration skills.”

Joseph Marshall, co-founder, San Francisco's Omega Boys Club

“We've got to focus on employment. We have people coming out of prison and they've got \$200 in their pocket.”

Nancy Nadel, Oakland city councilwoman

“I ended up using drugs. I ended up going into the system at Independence High School. I was home by myself. I didn't have anyone telling me the difference between right and wrong.”

Patricia Gutierrez, senior, Independence High School

SOURCE: Johnson, Jason B. "Gathering highlights best ways to keep at-risk kids safe." San Francisco Chronicle June 4, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: SAN JOSE

The Doubletree Hotel San Jose welcomed close to 100 people who convened to engage in a dialogue on the state of youth violence prevention programs in San Jose and across California. Local coordinators Sarah Jones of the Support Network for Battered Women and Lanie Whittle of the Center for Healthy Development proved able hosts for the event. Judge Richard Loftus of the Santa Clara Superior Court gave a welcome address that drew on his personal efforts to embed prevention services in the community, particularly through the public schools.

The statewide broadcast followed, bringing the efforts and experiences of other cities to San Jose. After a short break, a panel convened, moderated by Eve Castellanos of the City of San Jose. Judge Loftus and Neil Rufino, acting superintendent of the San Jose Department of Parks and Recreation and a member of the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force, provided valuable insights about their efforts on behalf of the City of San Jose, while Supervisor James Beall addressed the concerns of the county as a whole.

San Jose Police Chief Rob Davis acknowledged that police must collaborate with community-based organizations, which work with children as young as preschool age. However, Davis said, the role of law enforcement is to be ready to handle those who reject better options. The perspectives of school staff and students were expressed by Jim Pors, who described his efforts as a counselor at Broadway High School, and Jenny Nichols, a recent graduate of the Peer Ed program.

A question-and-answer session concluded the afternoon, allowing community members and service providers to respond to panel comments and provide feedback on community efforts. It was evident that the community has taken the initiative to address serious youth violence problems and is finding local strategies and programs that work.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Judge Richard Loftus, Santa Clara County Superior Court

Moderator: Eve Castellanos, City of San Jose

Panelists: Supervisor James Beall, Santa Clara County; Chief Robert Davis, San Jose Police Department; Dr. Guadalupe Olivas, Santa Clara County Public Health Department; Neil Rufino, San Jose Department of Parks and Recreation and Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force; Jim Pors, Broadway High School; Jenny Nichols, Broadway High School

LOCAL SPONSORS:

Santa Clara County Health and Human Services
Santa Clara County Public Health Department
Support Network for Battered Women

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“To give all our attention to treatment and intervention programs is not a moral choice for government. Prevention is a moral position for government to take, and it is also fiscally responsible.”

Jim Beall, Santa Clara County Supervisor

“Every class, every school and every kid in California should learn about domestic violence and violence prevention.”

Richard Loftus, Santa Clara County Judge

SOURCE: Early, David. “Poll shows concern for youth violence; Voters Willing To Be Taxed For Prevention and Safety Programs.” San Jose Mercury News June 4, 2004.

HIGHLIGHTS: SANTA BARBARA/VENTURA

Santa Barbara's Radisson Hotel hosted a diverse audience of nearly 100 participants drawn from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties. Prior to the statewide broadcast, Matt Sanchez of AllforOne, a past recipient of the TCWF California Peace Prize, talked about his work and acknowledged Carpinteria Middle School youth in the audience. Karena Jew, local coordinator and director of the Santa Barbara Pro-Youth Coalition, introduced youth programs working to educate the broader community through creative and often unconventional methods. Roberta Payan, of the Santa Barbara Pro-Youth Coalition, spoke about the state-funded Gang Risk Intervention Program (GRIP) and the need for jobs and other alternatives for youth. A former GRIP program participant spoke about the positive impact the program had on her.

Following the broadcast, Ron Whitney of the Oxnard Police Department described his work with youth, including involvement in the PAL program and overseeing police officers on campus. He also described the controversial gang injunction in Oxnard that went into effect May 24 of this year. Sergeant Rafael Molina of the Santa Barbara Police Department said that younger age groups were exhibiting more interest in gangs. Molina noted that this phenomenon was one reason the gang task force, dormant for several years, had been revived. There was also discussion of after-school programs and ways of involving youth in decision making without relinquishing adult responsibility for the environment provided for youth.

Many topics were covered by the panel and question-and-answer session, including the need for parent and grassroots involvement, the balance between corrections and prevention programs and the need for more employment and survival skills training. A common theme of the discussion was the fear of budget cuts and nonprofits' struggle for survival. The meeting provided an opportunity for representatives from Santa Barbara and Ventura counties to acknowledge that while youth violence has receded, it remains a major concern.



PARTICIPANTS:

Welcome: Matt Sanchez, AllforOne Youth Mentoring

Moderator: Sojourner K. Rolle, SKRolle Communications

Panelists: Ron Whitney, Oxnard Police Department; Sergeant Rafael Molina, Santa Barbara Police Department; Babatunde Fodayami, former Santa Barbara City Councilman; Refugio Rodriguez, CAC of Santa Barbara County; Veronica Vera-Vargas, Con Viver; Chris Martinez, Future Leaders of America; Irene Silbert, CATT and youth; Nancy Davis, City@Peace; Robert Payan, Pro-Youth Coalition

LOCAL SPONSORS:

AllforOne Youth Mentoring
Santa Barbara Pro-Youth Coalition
Ventura County Partnership for Safe Families

QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“They aren't your future, they're your now. If you don't do something about it now, then what?”

Roberta Payan, coordinator, Santa Barbara Pro-Youth Coalition

“Some of them we're not able to do anything about. But their younger brothers and sisters we can still do something about.”

Sergeant Ralph Molina, Santa Barbara Police Department

SOURCE: Medina, Hildy. “Steering Children Away from Violence.” Santa Barbara News Press June 4, 2004

HIGHLIGHTS: AUXILIARY SITES

Several communities accepted the invitation to host the satellite broadcast, and some organized their own local meetings afterward. Humboldt County, Long Beach and Salinas were among the auxiliary sites that used this opportunity to engage in a dialogue on strategies to keep youth safe.

The Humboldt County Office of Education provided a forum for local community members to view the satellite broadcast. The nearly 20 participants included representatives from the police departments, public health departments, school districts and county offices of education.

In Long Beach, more than 85 public officials and nonprofit representatives gathered at The Miller Family Health Education Center to watch the telecast and a prerecorded address from Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal. Following the broadcast, participants discussed ways community groups could partner to deliver services. The broadcast viewing was sponsored by the Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force and the city's Commission on Youth and Children.

More than 20 law enforcement and community officials gathered in Salinas. The event was organized by Brian Contreras, executive director of Second Chance Youth and Family Services and a former TCWF California Peace Prize awardee. Anna Caballero, mayor of Salinas, was a featured speaker. The discussion focused on the role of family within the violence prevention movement. Topics included communication and dialogue within families where both Spanish and English are spoken, the effects of discrimination and issues involving parental supervision.



QUOTES FROM MEDIA COVERAGE:

“It seems there are a lot of optimistic people with great ideas, but I heard the need for money, and it doesn't look like there's anything on the horizon for years.”

Monterey County's Chief Assistant District Attorney Terry Spitz

“There are a number of opportunities coming up in the next months because it's grant season. We've got to get creative in finding funds.”

Brian Contreras, Second Chance Family and Youth Services

SOURCE: Sanchez, George. “Crime fight lacks cash, most agree City leaders join a teleconference on youth violence.” The Salinas Californian June 4, 2004.

“Violence prevention programs have never been as important as they are now for the health of our communities.”

Assemblymember Alan Lowenthal, D-Long Beach

SOURCE: Butler, Kevin. “Curbing youth violence Panel says prevention more effective than detention, prison.” Long Beach Press Telegram June 4, 2004.