

Oxnard ALLIANCE for Community Strength

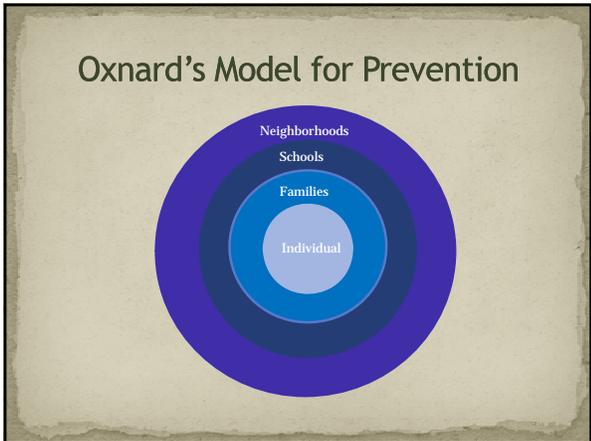
Telling Our Story 2007 - 2012

Prevention and Community Outreach

Barbara Marquez-O'Neill



- ## Oxnard ALLIANCE for Community Strength
- Joint Collaborative with the City of Oxnard and the County of Ventura
 - **Purpose:** To prevent violence in Oxnard through prevention, intervention, and suppression strategies and to better utilize and coordinate resources.



The Vision of the ALLIANCE

A thriving Oxnard in which all people feel safe and all young people have hope and opportunity supported by caring adults, strong families, and empowered communities.

Phase I: 2007 to 2011 Design and Development

- Early ALLIANCE efforts focused on
 - Integration of County of Ventura resources
 - Information gathering
 - Continuum of Prevention, Intervention, Suppression/Enforcement
 - Importance of Community Engagement
 - Cultural Relevancy
 - Strength-based model
 - Continuous Quality Improvement



Partners in Prevention

- California Endowment
- California Cities Gang Prevention Network (13 cities)
 - National Council on Crime and Delinquency
 - National League of Cities
- Prevention Institute

The California Endowment Collaborative

The Partnership

The Designated Child Abuse Prevention Council Learning, sharing tools and advocating for safe families and communities.

The ALLIANCE

Engaging Policymakers, Coordinating Public & Private Sector Activities.

Cabrillo Economic Development Corporation

Oxnard Community Peace Project
Developing Grassroots Leaders

Mission: Realize the power of our combined resources to advance peace & well-being in our communities.

Dr. Roberto Vargas



Creating the Ripple Effect

- **Projects funded by California Endowment**
 - Oxnard Family Power Project
 - Learning Circles
 - Oxnard Community Peace Project
 - Community Consejo
 - Haydock Parent Project
 - Mural Project through Arts4Action



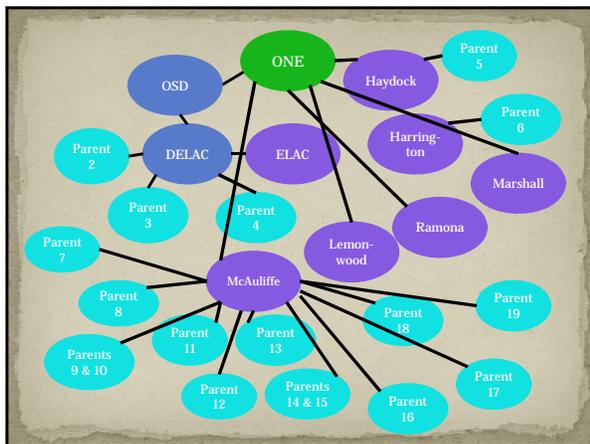
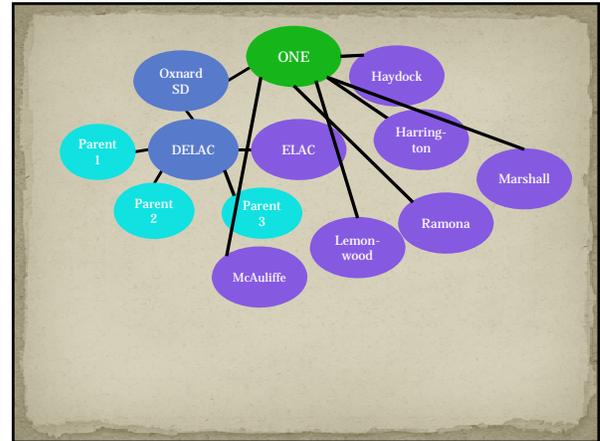
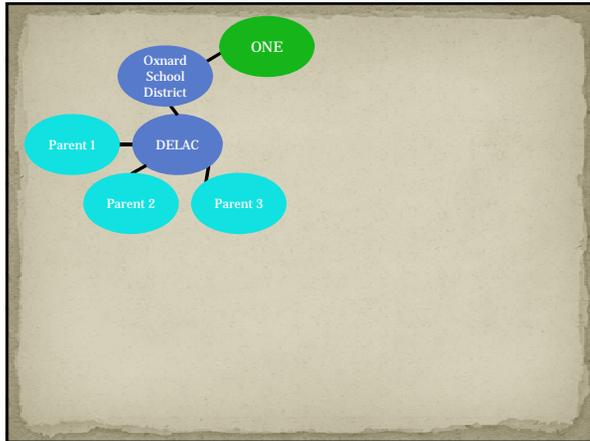
A Culturally Relevant and Sustainable Model in Practice - The Mural Project

Arts4Action brought over 110 Oxnard community members together to address violence. Using learning circles and the talking stick they increased community connection and identifies images for a community mural.



The mural was completed in 2009.

The Power of One...



Quotes from Parents

Self-esteem improved
Belief that they could start a project
Recruited parents
Organize others
Learned how to work as a team
Connect to a city project
Connect to the community in a different way
Hold each other accountable
Everyone grew and expanded their horizons
Helped to work
Each parent has used the tools for different things
Prepare budgets
How to navigate systems in schools
Courage to speak up

Phase II: 2011-Present Implementation

- Focus is on:
 - Implementation of Action Plan
 - Continued integration of City and County resources
 - Continued community building to increase involvement and social cohesion
 - Continued efforts to improve cultural competency
 - Coordination of services relative to Action Plan goals and strategies
 - Supporting Task Forces

Youth and Family Task Force

- **Youth Goal:** Every young person in Oxnard has a caring adult in his/her life
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Quality, affordable after-school activities, such as sports, art, writing, connecting to nature, drama, dancing
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Enhance and support mentoring programs that link at-risk youth to positive adults, experiences, and opportunities

Youth and Family Task Force

- **Families Goal:** Every parent/guardian in Oxnard can foster positive relationships and home environments
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Parents/guardians supporting each other
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Opportunities to learn new parenting skills that include how children learn and develop

Schools Task Force

- **Schools Goal:** All schools have coordinated support for at-risk youth
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Motivational programs for students that encourage personal development
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Identify and support young people at risk of gang involvement

Future Task Forces

- **Neighborhoods Goal:** Highly-impacted neighborhoods in Oxnard are saturated with a coordinated strategy of public and private efforts across the continuum of prevention, intervention and suppression/enforcement
 - **Strategy:** Work with community members, service providers, and city and county partners to prioritize a neighborhood plan that spans the prevention, intervention, enforcement/suppression continuum in each of the selected neighborhoods and coordinates delivery to meet the needs and priorities of community members.

Future Task Forces

- **City-Wide Goal:** Every public and private agency and community member in Oxnard recognizes the importance and power of honoring and embracing cultural strengths and values in their homes, workplace and community to create safe and thriving environments.
 - **Prioritized Strategy:** Foster cross-culture, own culture, and multi-generational understanding and relations through more cultural events, schools, and public arts programs, along with the police being trained to work effectively with people from diverse cultures and traditions.

ALLIANCE Achievements and Impacts

ALLIANCE Achievements

- Developed and completed plans
 - SAFETY Blueprint
 - Consejos Report
 - Action Plan
- Procured \$3.4 M for funding of projects
 - (2) The California Endowment grants - \$641k
 - (3) CalGRIP OGYVP grants - \$1.17M
 - (2) CalGRIP EDD grants - \$1M
 - (2) CalEMA Regional grants - 500k
 - BJA Second Chance Planning grant - \$50k

ALLIANCE Achievements

- Participated in Behavioral Health steering committee for MHSA PEI programming resulting in resources to the Oxnard community
 - **School Based Parenting**
 - Triple P Parenting (\$1.2M Countywide)
 - Olweus Bullying Prevention (\$320k Countywide)
 - **Community Coalitions**
 - City Impact Coalition (\$372k Oxnard Plains)

ALLIANCE Achievements

- Obtained City funding for
 - ALLIANCE implementation support
 - Evaluation of implementation process
 - Translation/interpretation services for meetings
 - Extended hours for summer youth programs
- County contribution for re-entry program
- Began implementation of Action Plan
- Established Task Forces with Co-Chairs
 - Youth and Families Task Force
 - Schools Task Force

ALLIANCE Achievements

- Created assessment tools for schools and agencies specific to the ALLIANCE goals and strategies
- Established relationships with all five school districts
- Continued to integrate City and County resources

ALLIANCE Achievements

- Increased community building through outreach and education
- Increased agency and community knowledge of prevention
- Increased agency collaboration and networking opportunities
- Increased collaboration across disciplines in grant proposals
- Increased youth participation in prevention and intervention planning and programs

ALLIANCE Achievements

- Increased parent involvement in ALLIANCE meetings
 - Child supervision
 - Interpretation at meetings
 - Translation of materials
 - Meeting times
- Assisted Police Department in developing cultural proficiency training
- Created a forum for agencies, organizations and the community to provide input on reducing youth violence
- Succeeded in engaging parents that previously felt unheard

Objectives to be completed by the end of 2012

Task Forces will have:

- Completed needs assessment/gap analysis specific to identified strategies and Action Plan
- Identified and prioritized needed activities and population to accomplish goals
- Identified resource needs for those activities
- Made known to those in need what resources are available
 - City Departments and County Agencies will be aware of the community's youth violence reduction efforts and available programs and how they fit into the plan
 - The public will have information available on what has been done and what resources are available for help
 - Agencies and individuals interested in youth violence will be aware of the resources available and how to access them

“Families are strong when they are supported by safe and thriving neighborhoods and that building socially, economically and environmentally vibrant communities is key to reducing crime and enabling children and families to feel safe at home, at school and in the public.”

- The Family Strengthening Policy Center, National Human Services Assembly in Washington D.C.

Intervention

Mike Matlock

Intervention Efforts

Everything in Partnership

- Operation PeaceWorks
 - Call-Ins
 - Street Outreach
- Awakening Minds/Changing Paths
- Regional Information Sharing

- 56 Dead
- 644 Assaults
- 809 Victims

Suppression



Colonia Chiques gang members arrested on federal drug charges

Operation PeaceWorks

Direct Intervention With Active Gang Members

Intervention

- Group Violence Reduction Strategy



East Palo Alto
Fresno
Los Angeles
Long Beach
Oakland
Oxnard
Sacramento
Salinas
Stockton



PROMOTING INFORMAL SOCIAL CONTROL

The judgment of peers, family members and communities that crime is wrong has been shown to have greater impact on behavior than the threat of formal sanctions.



Engaging the Community's 'Moral Voice'

The Violence Is Unacceptable

Step Away

OPW Target Group

General

- Gang member in Oxnard, Port Hueneme, El Rio
- 12 to 24 years of age
- Active in violence

Detained Juvenile Transition

- Gang member in Oxnard, Port Hueneme, El Rio
- 14-19 years of age in custody at JF
- Sentenced to 90 day commitment
- 5 weeks ART

Call-Ins

- Police Chief
- Gang Officer
- Probation/Parole Officer
- Assistant District Attorney
- US Attorney or FBI agent
- Clergy
- Trauma Surgeon
- Ex-gang members
- Wheelchair bound
- Mothers

Call-Ins

- Community (probationers)
- Juvenile Facility
- Parolee



Oxnard City Corps

- Learning through Work and Service
- Each City Corps project works as a vocational exploration and introduces young people to the world of work and personal responsibility
- **1228** hours of work performed by OPW participants
- Over **150** projects

City Corps Projects

- Storm Drain Keeper Team
- Townkeeper Program
- Community Garden Programs
- Day at the Park – Special need youth
- Neighborhood Cleanups
- Bus Stop Benches/Concrete Can Maintenance
- Food Distributions
- Graffiti Removal
- Farmer's Market Setup
- Ormond Beach Fencing
- PAL Fundraiser Waiters
- Science Fair Logistical Support
- Ball Field Maintenance
- Neighborhood Flyer Distribution
- Ventura County Mock Trial Setup

*“You name it, we’ll do it-
or we’ll learn trying!”*

- Oswaldo Lopez, City Corps Leader

Case Management / Services



Services

- Case Manager
- G.E.D. prep classes
- Job interviewing classes
- Vocational training
- Counseling
- New Fathers Support Program
- Anger management course
- Tattoo removal
- Parenting classes

Monthly Participant Review

Oxnard Police
Gang Officers

Case Managers
•City Impact
•Boys and Girls Club
•City Corps

VC Probation
Officers



City Corps
Coordinator

Juvenile Facility
ReEntry Coordinator



Totals

- **333** Invited to Call-Ins
- **163** Attended
- **61** started City Corps
- Total of **81** received City Impact services

Individual Accomplishments

(through 12/31/11)

Employment Readiness

- **44** participants were employed at some point during the project
- **20** youth participated in vocational and/or on-the-job training
- **5** youth received their Industrial Truck Operators License
- **3** youth completed a 5-month boat building program; launching a 9 foot boat in the Pacific Ocean.
- **2** youth received their Machinist Certification at the Center for Employment Training
- **59** youth were enrolled in City Corps's job training and civic responsibility program; building their resume with volunteer and paid work experience
- **44** youth received paid work experience through unsubsidized work opportunities

Educational Advances

- **48** youth were enrolled at High School or in G.E.D. prep classes
- **5** youth were enrolled at Oxnard Community College
- **17** youth received certificate/diploma/degree: **8** vocational certifications, **3** G.E.D., **6** High School Diplomas
- **14** participants showed an increase in Literacy/Numeracy as shown by increased TABE scores or goals set and attained utilizing the EWIG form
- **29** participants were enrolled at local High Schools for at least two semesters
- **14** youth completed 6-month civic responsibility training

Other Advances

- **10** youth were successfully removed from probation
- **3** youth graduated from the Palmer Drug Abuse Program
- **3** youth successfully completed individual counseling services
- **5** youth participated in a New Fathers Support Program

Is it working?

- **21%** had no arrests or police contacts after Call-In
- Total arrests and contacts
 - pre Call-in: **2929**
 - post Call-in: **355**
 - reduction of **88%**

(through 12/31/11)

Results

- The participants averaged **13** arrests and **12** police contacts, pre Call-In, which dropped to **2.6** arrests and **.46** police contacts post Call-In.

(through 12/31/11)

'The Early Dozen'

- Amongst the first program participants that entered City Corps, **12** have been particularly successful.
- **10** are now working fulltime
- **One** is having his gang tattoos removed
- **3** are attending Oxnard College
- Each one was a very active gang member upon entry into the program, accounting for **125** arrests and **241** contacts pre Call-In. They accounted for **3** arrests and **0** police contacts after their Call-In

Street Outreach



Street Outreach Contacts

- **2444** Target Youth
- **2317** Community Members/Parents
- **103** Businesses
- **1813** Youth at **9** Block Parties/Community Events

Tattoo Removal



Awakening Minds - Changing Paths (AMCP)

- 50 middle school youth expelled, or at risk of, and their siblings
- **Project Components:**
 - Youth assessment
 - Individual mentors for each youth and family
 - Ongoing meetings with school personnel and case manager to assess academic goals

AMCP

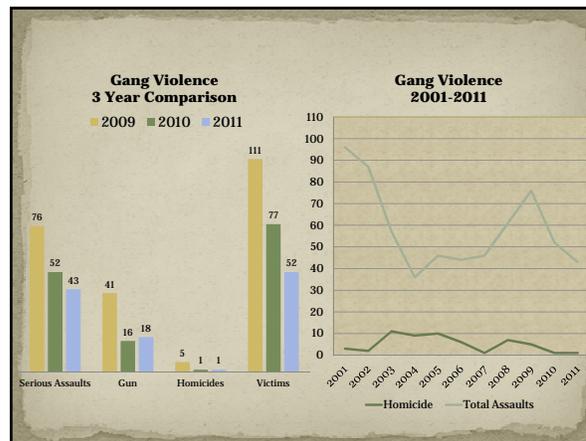
- **Project Activities**
 - Mentoring with positive adult role models
 - Community service learning projects and job shadowing
 - Team-building adventures in learning
 - Kayaking, windsurfing, sailing, ropes course, equestrian activities and boat building.
 - Youth development support circles and retreats
 - Homework study groups

A Collaborative Approach

Results

Gang Assaults: 2009-2011

- Total serious gang assaults - **down 43%**
 - Down 28% from 10 year average
- Firearms involved gang assaults - **down 56%**
- Number of victims of gang violence - **down 53%**
 - Down 32% from 10 year average
- Gang related homicide **down - 80%**
 - Down 83% from 10 year average



Websites

- **TriServe** (*TriServe.Info*)
 - Service Providers
- **End Gang Violence** (*EndGangViolence.Org*)
 - Public
- **TRIGIN**
 - Law Enforcement (secure)

