

From: L A Hollie [<mailto:lydiahollie@outlook.com>]

Sent: Tuesday, July 7, 2020 6:57 PM

To: Mayor <Mayor@longbeach.gov>; Dee Andrews <Dee.Andrews@longbeach.gov>; Al Austin <Al.Austin@longbeach.gov>; Rex Richardson <Rex.Richardson@longbeach.gov>; Mary Zendejas <Mary.Zendejas@longbeach.gov>; Roberto Uranga <Roberto.Uranga@longbeach.gov>; susie.price@longbeach.gov; Stacy Mungo <Stacy.Mungo@longbeach.gov>; Daryl Supernaw <Daryl.Supernaw@longbeach.gov>; CityClerk <CityClerk@longbeach.gov>; Jeannine Pearce <Jeannine.Pearce@longbeach.gov>

Subject: FW: Agenda No. 25, Violence Interruption Strategy

-EXTERNAL-

Historical Context Matters.

Follow Through Matters.

Dear Mayor Garcia and Members of the City Council:

The City of Long Beach is notorious for its selective institutional memory in it what chooses to recollect or ignore as it revises the historical record regarding the role of community engagement in addressing violence prevention and intervention. There has been a crisis in our human infrastructure that this city can no longer overlook.

- The above referenced Agenda Item 25, Long Beach Violence Interruption Strategy, completely dismisses the vast range viable and proven strategies that yielded quantitative and qualitative results that this city and the community collaborated to achieved for over a decade to reduce violence and save lives. Had city sustained the work the community had in place, this agenda item would not be needed.
- Furthermore, your agenda item does not refer to the Long Beach Violence Prevention Plan (2014). The reasons are clear to me. First, the LBVPP does not specifically acknowledge nor recognize the decade of work Long Beach community engaged to build the foundation upon which the concept of the plan stands. (Email dated, June 21, 2013, LBVVP, Focus Group Input-Lydia Hollie).
- Moreover, the LBVPP was written so obtusely, it offers so real guidance on how to achieve the identified objectives of your agenda item, nor does the articulated goals address the focus of this agenda item. If the City Council would have given the 2010, LB CalGRIP Project Advisory Council Youth Violence Strategic Plan serious consideration at the time it was submitted to you, perhaps you would

have a firmer grasp on the type of approaches best suited to address the problems that are inundating the community at this time.

- The LBVPP SAFE Communities Goals are boilerplate.
 - For example, Goal One does not mention the utilization of pre-existing community-based organizations which have been effective in human infrastructural development in building healthy communities. The California Endowment spent time and money in this city for 10 years on that very subject matter. Literacy and numeracy skill development is fundamental to a quality life. Conflict resolutions and mediation, Trauma and Crisis Response Teams are among the gaps to be filled. This skills and capacities overlap Goal Two and Goal Three.
 - Goal Two does not mention reentry to address a significant underserved constituency (adult and juvenile), full and part-time employment, workforce development, job creation and summer employment an effective program, which we had several years ago.
 - Goal Three does mention the value of Gang Intervention Workers which the community has repeatedly implored this city to utilize as part of its support system over the years to no avail, except during the summer employment program and they help to reduce the summer crime rate to exceptional lows.

Those of us who expressed our misgivings about the LBVPP had been working on the forefront of youth and gang violence prevention and intervention issues for a decade on commissions, committees, councils, community-based organizations, and intervention work. When the community-at-large attended the public hearing to inform you of the inadequacy the plan, you ignored us and approved it in its present form. Now, you are interested in hearing from the community who work you dismissed as irrelevant years ago.

- Ironically, rather than revisit, evaluate, revise, and modify viable strategies previously implemented to address current demands, the city would rather disregard them without review and start over as if the community support you now solicit is unaware of the history it helped to write. Once again, the city trades its responsibility to follow through on previous commitments to reduce crime at sustainable levels is using the community to help the city figure out what to do is characterized as political expediency and opportunism. We have been at moment so many times before and this the usual chorus that the city sings, “come and join the city and we are going to do something...together to stopped the violence.” (Press Telegram (July 10, 2015) Mayor, police chief address violence crime in Long Beach).

- The city has earned the community's skepticism. The solution to all problems requires a cost-benefit analysis. An infusion of funds, a line item transfer of funds, an investment of funds, or divestment of funds from category and a reinvestment of funds into another category, or some other type of manipulation of the budget to satisfy the monetary need. Since the funding to address community violence is based on the negative statistics, i.e., crime rates, arrest rates, homicide rates, unemployment rates, etc., the worse the data indices will incur greater the funding.
- If there is any grant funding involved, the city receives the funding, grants, resources, etc., the lion's share goes to administration, e.g., salaries and compensation, and the remainder goes to the community-based organizations, etc. Usually there is a matching funds arrangement when the funding is not 100 percent.
- However, once that funding has sunset, typically there is no financial incentive to continue those efforts. Whatever gains or improvements were achieved, those funds are not maintained since they are not built into the city's general fund. When that happens, the status quo reclaims the environment. To illustrate, the Weed and Seed Strategic Plan sunset in 2011, its highly effective and successful outcomes could not be sustained without sufficient funding. Since the city had no apparent desire to fund the work even though the continued benefit of reducing violence and saving lives (Weed and Seed Year 4 Evaluation Executive Summary, 2011).
- After 2011, the city saw an increase in the crime rate in the target area and that rate has continued to rise. It was not worth it to the city sustain the efforts that reduced the violence. And now, the City Council is looking to the community for assistance again even though we know once this crisis is over, it will be business as usual if history is any guide.
- In addition, the community has tried without success to research documents about what has previously transpired on this issue. With rare exception over the past decade, the community duly notes that it cannot locate historical documents where the community participated in the process of supporting the city in reducing violence and saving lives and those documents were neither acknowledged or recognized in an identifiable or measurable way.
- Except for newspaper accounts, Google, email accounts, and the Long Beach Main Library (for one document), the city has not maintained any web-based depository or archive where the public can find some research in the field of community violence prevention and intervention in the city of Long Beach. Given the subject of this magnitude of importance, this lack of available research is unacceptable. Only the documents located in the Office of Equity and cited in the Framework for Reconciliation are available because they are the current interest of the City Council and it wants the public to have access. This is the cliff notes

version for the historical context of the relationship between the city of Long Beach and the primary Black and Brown communities in dealing with the issues of community violence prevention and intervention, as well as the lack of accessible research regarding this subject.

- There is a fundamental lack of trust that many in the community have toward city government. We know how the story ends in the short-term, mid-term, and long-term. Each term is correlated to your term in office. Each term based on your word at the moment. Each term is determined by the budget. The community is an important constituency and a key stakeholder. We are not here to be used as your convenient tool and when you have no need for the community's time, hard work, dedication, and commitment for the benefit of our fellow neighbors are treated with disdain.

Lastly, the attached documents provide the accurate narrative regarding the specific direction undertaken by the community-police collaboration which helped to reduce community violence and reclaim our neighborhoods between 2002-2011 as well as bring \$1.4 million (plus leveraged millions more) to the city to assist with ongoing violence prevention efforts. The following community violence prevention efforts were accomplished during my tenure as chair for each entity during that scope of time.

1. The Human Relations Commission Report entitled, An Interim Report and Re-examination of the Program of Youth and Gang Violence in the City of Long Beach (2003). This is the blueprint which provided the city with guidance and specific direction for addressing youth and gang violence prevention and undertaken by the community-police collaboration which has helped to reduce violence and reclaim our youth and neighborhoods. The report was unanimously approved by the City Council and implemented. It was compiled from seven months of public hearings held across the city, 20 drafts written over a three-month period. Nine recommendations included, a Task Force, Violence Prevention Plan, Violence Prevention Coordinator, Gang Intervention and Prevention Mediators. It brought \$1.4 million (plus leveraged millions more) to the city to assist with ongoing violence prevention efforts.

Lastly, the following youth violence prevention efforts were accomplished during my tenure as chair for each entity. This document resulted in the establishment of the Long Beach Youth and Gang violence Prevention Task Force in 2004. The document is available at Main Long Beach Collection (LB 364.3 L84b).

The Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Task Force spearheaded the following grants and secured funding:

A. Weed and Seed Application (2007). The US DOJ awarded the city \$1 million (divided equally between the community and LBPD) for five (5) years for comprehensive and strategic programmatic implementation. The Weed and Seed Program and Steering Committee was formed in August 2007. Due to federal budget cuts, it sunset on September 30, 2011. Violent crime in Police Beats 4 and 5 was reduced by 24% which contributed to an overall citywide reduction in violent crime to its lowest level in 40 years at that time. In its usual form, in the Mayor's report to the city did not recognize the community in incredible effort.

(1) Weed and Seed incubated the PEACE GARDEN (idea by Councilman Andrews and sponsored by CNAC and NAG) that brought national Second Place honors to the city by the Neighborhoods USA this year. A prominent feature was the role of Weed and Seed youth who designed and built the garden under the watchful eye of community elders in less than one year. In addition, 60 families received produce from the harvest by summer of 2011.

(2) Weed and Seed Year 4 Evaluation Executive Summary (2011).

This document provides an comprehensive evaluation of the Weed and Seed strategic efforts with quantitative data that demonstrate the program effectiveness and sustainability efforts.

(3) Proposed Sustainability and Empowerment Plan: The Community Restoration and Revitalization Coalition (2011). This plan aligns the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Strategic Plan goals and objectives with The California Endowment Building Healthy Communities outcomes with the Coalition to continue the “seeding” of the community (September 30, 2011, The CoRR Coalition Final Version).

B. CalGRIP One (2008) (Narrative portion). This grant was produced as a joint effort between the Task Force, Weed and Seed, and LBDP. The city received \$400,000 to fulfill the grant's objectives. The Long Beach Advisory Council was formed in 2009 to oversee the grant. The structure and function of the Advisory Council was patterned after the Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force and the LBDHHS Weed & Seed Steering Committee. I shepherded by transition from the Task Force to the Advisory Council and served as the Chair of the Advisory Council until June 2009 (Primer on Task Force, Weed and Seed, and Long Beach CalGRIP, 2009).

Also, I simultaneously served as Chair of the Task Force as well as the Weed and Seed Steering Committee Co-Chair (with a representative from the US Attorney General's Office, Ted Marquez) until the formation of the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council in 2009 because of the separate of federal and state funded organizations.

Therefore, when the community correlates this agenda item to the Framework for Reconciliation, the community must ask the question, are you reconciling with the community for your failure to consistently maintain a viable strategy to effectively address community violence prevention and intervention beyond a given time frame because historically the city has allow consistently the conditions to revert back to a worse state which requires greater resources to resolve? Is this Violence Interruption Strategy the city's effort to dismantle systemic racism in crime prevention and intervention primarily in the Black and Brown communities? If not, then this agenda item is nothing more than band-aid approach to cover a gaping wound that this city has allowed to fester predominately in the Black and Brown communities for decades. We will no longer tolerate political expediency and political opportunism at our expense.

Respectfully submitted,

Lydia A. Hollie, JD/MAED

Co-Author, The State of Black Long Beach: A Call for Black Agenda (2013)

Former Chair, Human Relations Commission (2001-2003)

Former Chair, Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force (2005-2009)

Former Co-Chair, DHHS Weed and Seed Steering Committee (2007-2011)

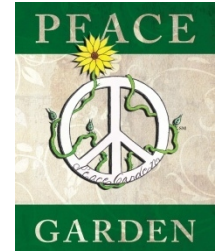
Interim Chair, Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council (2009)

“Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe.” Frederick Douglass (born Frederick Augustus Washington Bailey, 1818-1895), Preeminent Human Rights Leader, 19th Century International Icon, Orator, Writer, Freed American Slave

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10



Proposed Sustainability and Empowerment Plan: The Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition



Presented To:

**City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Weed and Seed Program Steering Committee**

Submitted By:

**The Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition
Organizing Committee**

In Collaboration with the
**City of Long Beach DHHS Weed and Seed Program
Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee**

September 30, 2011

Preface

The Community Restoration and Revitalization (**CoRR**) Coalition Organizing Committee are all community volunteers who have created this Sustainability and Empowerment Plan. This Plan has been designed and developed to support the transition of the community-based, multi-agency collaborative under the City of Long Beach Department of Health & Human Services Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee in order to align and advance existing strategies, goals, and objectives with The California Endowment's Building Healthy Communities Initiative. This Plan will continuously evolve to ultimately achieve a healthier, safer, and more peaceful community in the Central and West Long Beach areas.

The Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition

Organizing Committee:

Annie Greenfeld

Lillian Parker

Deborah LB Kearns, MAED

Stephen Du Prey

Lydia A. Hollie, JD, MAED

September 30, 2011

LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program History

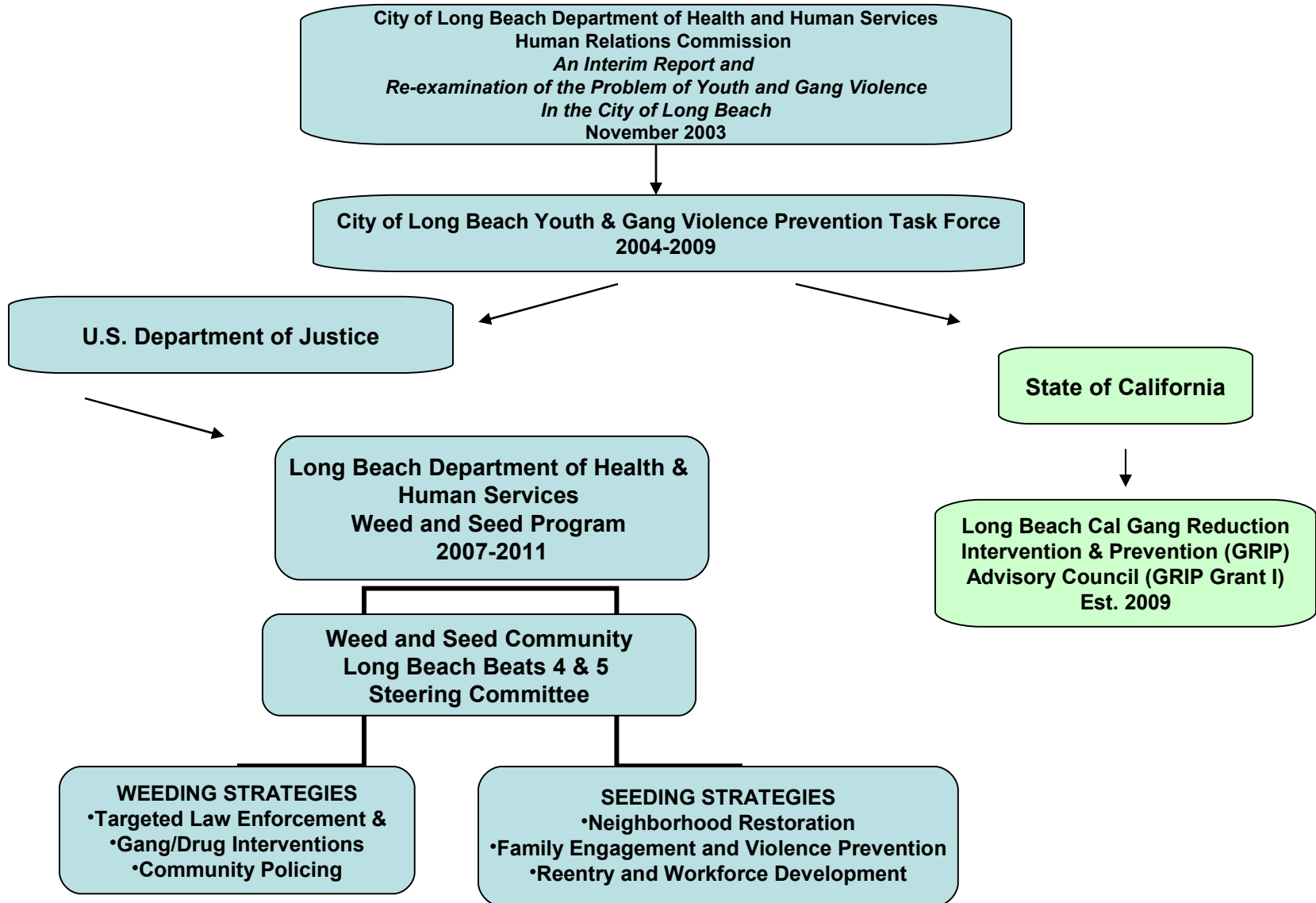
- In November 2003, the City of Long Beach Human Relations Committee presented an *Interim Report and Re-examination of the Problems of Youth and Gang Violence in the City of Long Beach*, which reflected the impacts that youth violence has on the quality of life for youth and human relations in the city. The report was approved by the community leadership, the Long Beach Police Department, unanimously adopted by the City Council, and implemented.
- In June 2004, the Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force (“the Task Force”) convened a group of 40 highly dedicated community members, leaders, and agencies who were dedicated to reducing violence.
- In June 2006, the Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force (“the Task Force”) was approached by the LBDHHS staff to initiate the application process for the USDOJ Community Assistance Grant (“Weed and Seed Grant”). The Task Force spearheaded this effort by establishing an Ad Hoc Subcommittee for the Application of the Community Assistance Grant, which consisted of 45 members who represented diverse key stakeholders.

LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program History

(Cont'd)

- From July 2006 to December 2006, this Ad Hoc Subcommittee, including LBDHHS Staff and Graduate Interns, met on a weekly basis and mapped community assets, analyzed gaps in services/resources, surveyed residents, and explored a myriad of approaches to reducing violence, saving lives, and restoring neighborhoods. 950 community surveys, conducted in English, Khmer, and Spanish, identified the following top five pressing issues: affordable housing, graffiti, gang violence, drugs, and drug dealing. In addition, the top five services the respondents needed were after-school programs, adult employment, affordable health care, sports/recreation programs, and youth employment.
- In August 2007, the data and community input gathered from this ambitious timeline fully informed the proposal to the USDOJ, which was successfully awarded to the City in the amount of \$1 million initially for five years. As a result, the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program was established, the Steering Committee was formed as well as the Seed (Neighborhood Restoration, Family Engagement & Violence Prevention, Workforce Development & Reentry), and Weed (Law Enforcement) Subcommittees.

USDOJ Weed and Seed Program Historical Organization Chart



USDOJ Weed and Seed Program Strategy

- The Weed and Seed Program is primarily a strategy that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The City of Long Beach was selected from a field of 200 cities nationwide for the 2007-2012 funding cycle.
- The LBDHHS administers the Long Beach Weed and Seed strategy in Central Long Beach, which focuses Police Beats 4 and 5.
- Prior to USDOJ Weed and Seed intervention efforts, the target area in Central Long Beach had been plagued with the highest levels of crime in the City of Long Beach.
- Based on effective strategy implementation by the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program, Police Beats 4 and 5 combined experienced a reduction of violent crime by 24% between 2006-2010.

Existing Weed and Seed Grant Neighborhood Restoration Goals/Objectives

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups.

Goal 2: Reduce Graffiti within Police Beats 4 and 5 by increasing the number of PD TAGG system graffiti calls, increasing the number of resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%) and educating the community members on graffiti abatement hotline and utilization.

Existing Weed and Seed Grant Neighborhood Restoration Goals

Goal 3: Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

Goal 4: Increase access to healthy foods in the target area through the creation of a community garden and through the creation of a farmers' market. Educate youth and community members on urban farming techniques.

Existing Weed and Seed Grant Neighborhood Restoration Strategy

- The Neighborhood Restoration Strategy under the LB DHHS Weed and Seed Program accomplished its goals and objectives through the following efforts:
 - Improved neighborhood livability by neighborhood clean-ups, a decrease in graffiti, debris, and nuisance sites, as well as offer community education activities and mega outreach efforts.
 - Increased safety and perceptions of safety in the community.
 - Increased access to healthy foods to in the target area:
 - Incubated a community garden. (**PEACE GARDEN**-est. 2010)
 - Created a start-up plan a **Farmer's Market at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park** (Researched/Created by a UCLA Graduate Intern)
 - Educated youth and community members on urban farming techniques.

Existing Weed and Seed Grant Neighborhood Restoration Strategy

•The Neighborhood Restoration Strategy under the LB DHHS Weed and Seed Program endeavored and have also accomplished the goals and objectives through the following efforts:

- **Long Beach WOW Jam**, held at Long Beach Poly HS Football Field, outreached to approximately 26,000 community members from 2008-2010. It was the largest faith-based collaborative in the target area.
- The **New Generation**, a community-based organization incubated by the Weed and Seed Program, initiated the “The Gift” event in 2009, and has served thousands of residents living in the Washington Middle School area.
- The **Be The Change Transition Team** evolved out of a McArthur Park community survey conducted by LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program Staff, Weed and Seed Youth Leaders, and UCLA MSW Graduate students in November 2010 (more than 160 community members responded), and is now serving community members in the Weed and Seed Safe Haven vicinity.
- **Big Sunday Clean-up**, May 14, 2011, involved 85 volunteers.

LBDHHS

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Statement of Sustainability

- Expanding these collaborative efforts beyond the sunset of the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Weed and Seed Program funding cycle ending September 30, 2011 is fundamental to sustaining the work of the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee.
- The **Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition** has designed this Sustainability and Empowerment Plan to continue to impact the long-term health, quality of life, and resilience of the community by building upon the foundational programs, resources, community-based organizations, and services that were initiated and incubated throughout the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program four-year funding cycle.

Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition

**Motto: "Maximizing Communities
in the 21st Century"**

The CoRR Vision

Our vision is to establish 21st century healthy, active, and vibrant communities that are evolving, thriving, and prospering exponentially as they expand as peaceful and safe social environments that have attained the goals of community restoration and revitalization through reducing violent crime, saving lives, and achieving zero homicides.

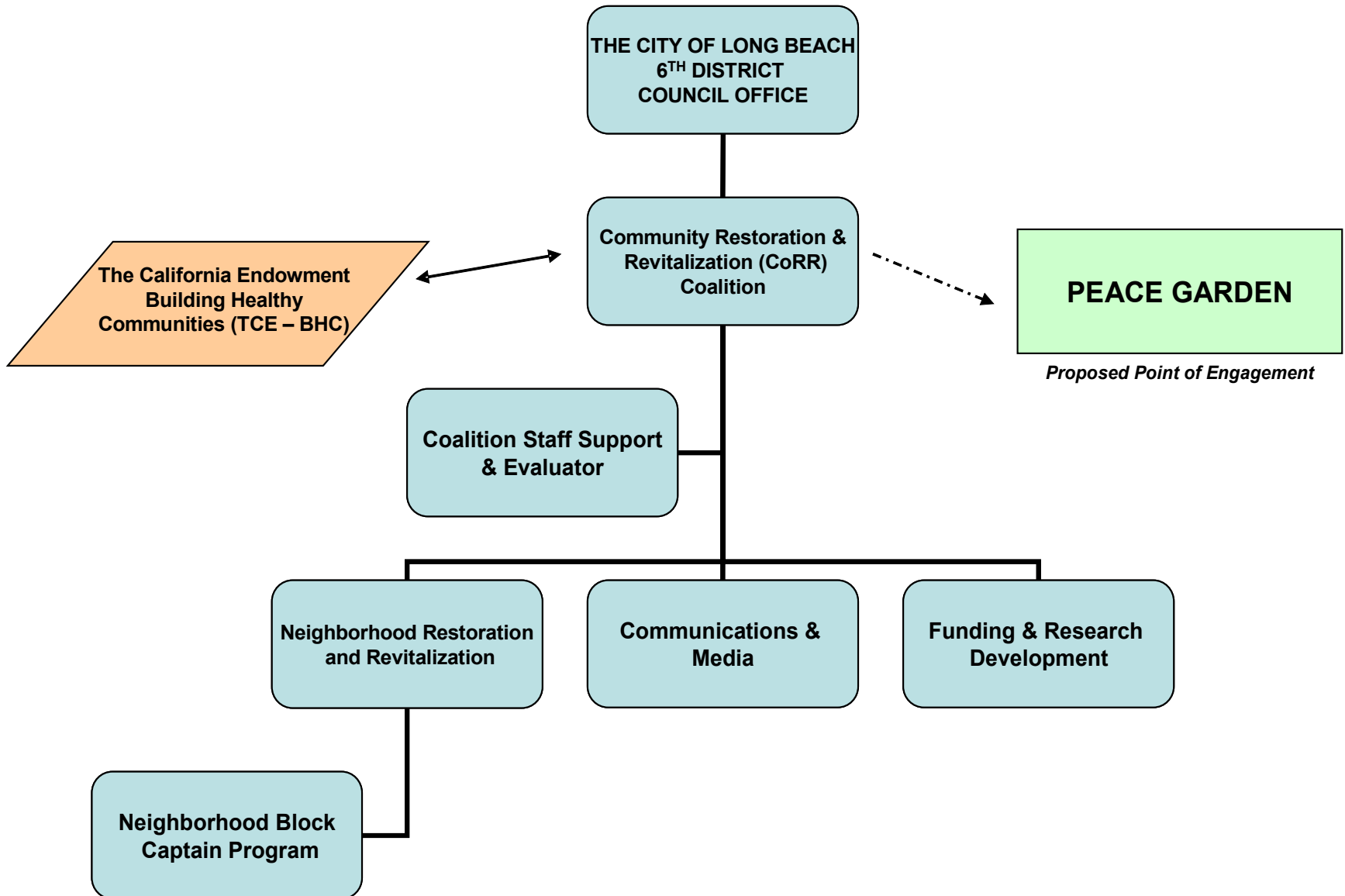
The CoRR Mission

Our mission is to continue to cultivate and strengthen partnerships with community leaders in order to improve the overall quality of life in the Central and West Long Beach areas by implementing strategies designed to achieve the goals and objectives leading to the building of a healthier community through social and economic initiatives.

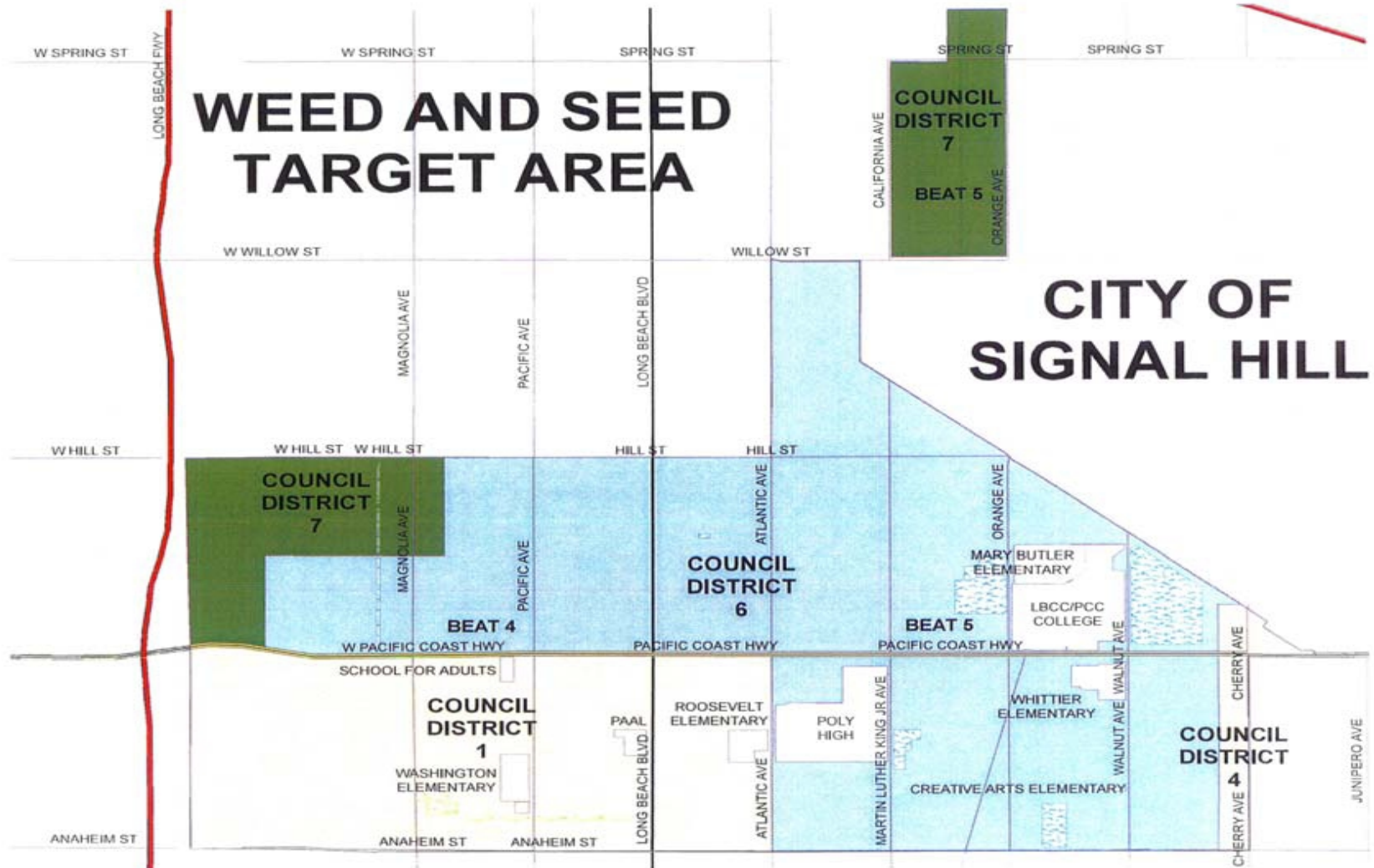
Proposed CoRR Partnering Stakeholders

- Adult and Youth Community Members
- Civic Leadership
- Community-Based Organizations
- Community Intervention Specialists
- Community Violence Prevention Stakeholders
- Elementary and Secondary Schools
- Faith-Based Organizations and Clergy Partners
- Family Engagement Partners
- Health (incl., Mental) Agencies
- Higher Education Partners
- Homeowner Associations
- Law Enforcement Partners
- Local Businesses
- Long Beach City Departments
- Los Angeles County Agencies
- Neighborhood Leadership Partners
- Neighborhood Services Partners
- Non-Profit Organizations
- PEACE GARDEN Partners
- Reentry Partners
- State of California Agencies
- Substance Abuse Providers
- Workforce Development Partners

CoRR Coalition Organizational Chart

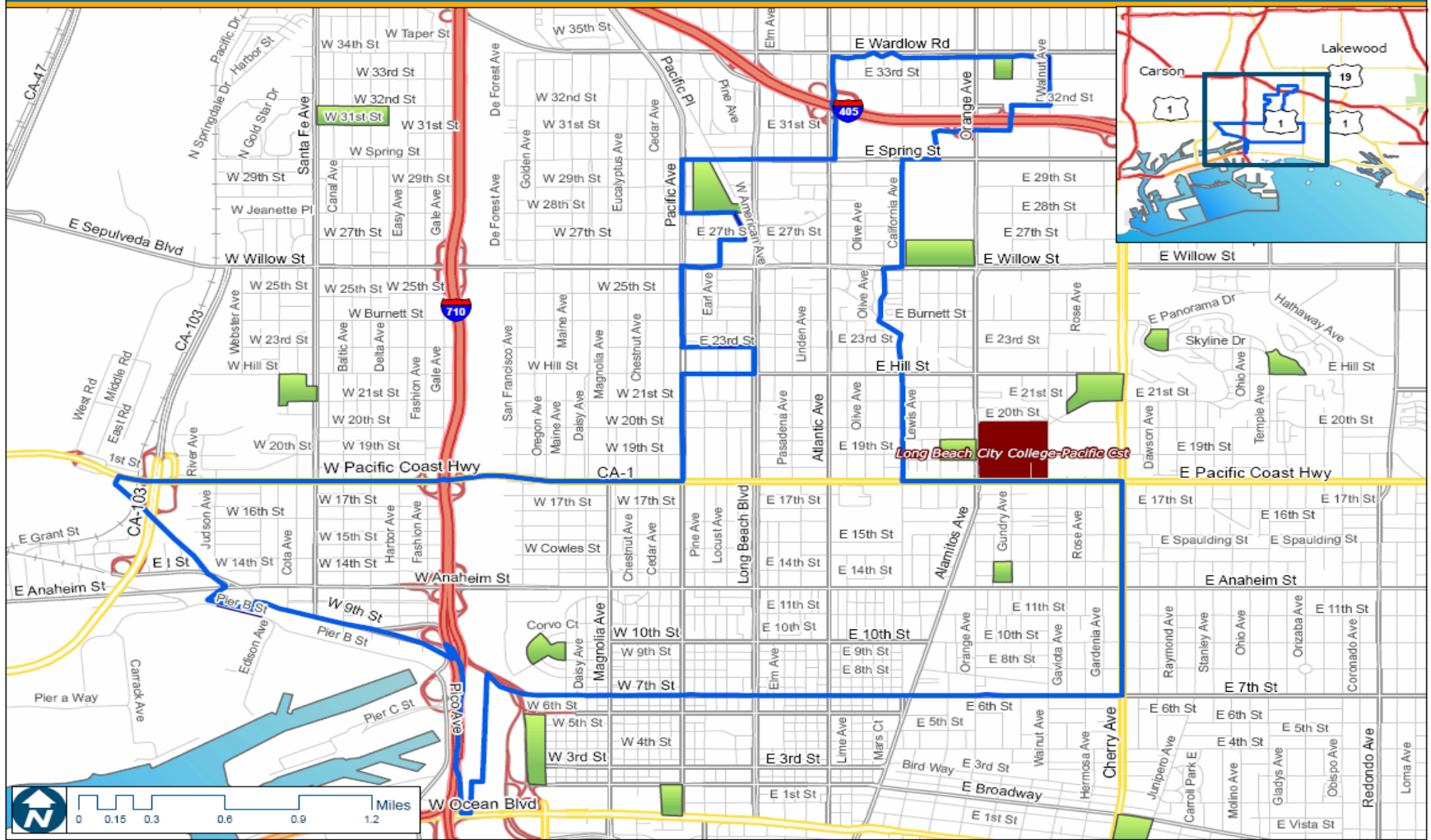


Central & West Areas/Police Beats Map



BHC Boundaries

Central Long Beach



Map Created by Healthy City 1/09
Geographic data from Navteq.



Central Area Demographic Data

- Population: 45,887
- Under 21 years: 22,575
- Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds:
 - Hispanic: 55%
 - African-American: 17%
 - Asian: 17%
 - Caucasian: 5%
 - American Indian: 3%
 - Native Hawaiian: 1%
 - Other, less than 1%
- 37% live below federal poverty level:
- \$21,728 median income
- 52% subsist on \$15,000 or less
- 46% Speak Spanish
- 34% non-citizens
- 11,624 households
- 81% renters
- 19% owners
- 1,017 vacancies

2000 U.S. Census

West Area Demographic Data

- Population: 35,637
- 25 years and over: 19,985
- Racial/Ethnic Backgrounds:
 - Hispanic: 45.6%
 - African-American: 16.4%
 - Asian: 23.2%
 - Caucasian: 23.8%
 - American Indian: 0.8%
 - Pacific Islander/Native Hawaiian: 3.1%
 - Other Races/Two or More Races: 32.7%
- 38.8% live below federal poverty level (Families/Individuals)
- 46% Speak Spanish
- 9,144 households
- 33.2% renters
- 66.2% owners
- 379 vacancies

2000 U.S. Census

Empowering the Community: CoRR Four-Pronged Approach

- **Prong 1**: As of October 1, 2011, the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee will transition into the Community Restoration and Revitalization Coalition (referred to as the “(CoRR) Coalition”) to maintain and strengthen existing partnerships established during the LBDHHS Weed and Seed funding cycle.

- The CoRR Coalition values all accomplishments of the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee and will build upon that work by modifying and expanding those efforts to achieve social and economic growth for the Central and West area communities. CoRR will partner with city staff for technical assistance as appropriate.

Empowering the Community: CoRR Four-Pronged Approach

•**Prong 2**: Through monthly meetings, the CoRR Coalition will collaborate with community members and families, LB Police Department, Faith and Community Organizations, education and business partners, civic and neighborhood leadership, city and county agencies, non-profit organizations, and community intervention specialists within the Central and West areas.

•The purpose will be to continue to formulate, implement, enhance the **Community Restoration and Revitalization Empowerment Plan**, which has been intentionally aligned with LBDHHS Weed & Seed strategic goals and objectives as well as The California Endowment Building Healthy Communities outcomes.

Empowering the Community: CoRR Four-Pronged Approach

Prong 3: The **CoRR Coalition** will mobilize efforts to cultivate new and existing adult and youth community leaders who will initiate and advocate for social and economic policy changes that are focused and designed to improve and develop the human infrastructure as well as enhance the physical environment at the local level.

Prong 4: The **CoRR Coalition**, key community stakeholders, and partnering agencies will work together to sustain efforts that achieve safer, peaceful, and healthier neighborhoods so that community-based restoration and revitalization initiatives and strategies can continue to be effectively and successfully implemented.

Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Sustainability Goals

- ◆ To empower residents through civic engagement and public policy initiatives designed to reduce community violence, restore and revitalize Central and West area neighborhoods.
- ◆ To facilitate communication between youth and residents, organizations, associations, and its partners for information sharing, fostering team work, building trust, and maximizing available resources to sustain beautification efforts.
- ◆ To improve communication networks for educating and guiding youth and adults toward making better choices for leading healthier lives.
- ◆ To unify the Central and Westside communities encompassing the following parks: Martin Luther King Jr., MacArthur, McBride, Admiral Kidd, Silverado, and Veterans, as well as the Washington Middle School and Wrigley neighborhoods, through mutually agreed upon objectives.

Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Sustainability Strategies

- To maintain and strengthen existing relationships with the Weed and Seed Collaborative, which involves all key stakeholders representing faith-based/clergy and community-based organizations, education and business sectors, civic leadership, neighborhood adult and youth leadership, family services, mental health and substance abuse providers, community violence prevention partners, health organizations, workforce development, and reentry partners as well foster new partnerships with certified community intervention specialists and certified community outreach workers to formulate the **CoRR Coalition** and effectively implement its restoration and revitalization sustainability measures.

Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Sustainability Strategies

- To maintain and strengthen the Community-Long Beach Police Department relationship.
- To educate and empower adult and youth community members to determine, develop, and implement effective solutions to community quality of life issues.
- To support and/or initiate public policy advocacy that aligns with **CoRR Goals**.

Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Sustainability Strategies

- To establish a **Neighborhood Block Captain Program** that involves mentoring Junior Captains (ages 16-21) and pairing them with adult Block Captains to address and respond to vital neighborhood and community issues concerning crime reduction, violence prevention and intervention, the elimination of blight, workforce development, as well as economic and job growth opportunities.
- To reformulate and re-establish the Apartment, Neighborhood, and Business Watch programs by utilizing a mixed-use approach to promote community safety and increase effective participation, based on best practices and established models.
- To serve as a clearinghouse where families, individuals, youth, homeowners, and businesses can be connected with local and regional agencies, service providers, and resources.

CoRR Alignment with The California Endowment Building Healthy Communities Outcomes

The **Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Sustainability and Empowerment Plan** is aligned with the following four priority outcomes based on The California Endowment Long Beach Building Healthy Communities (TCE LBBHC) Initiative:

- (4) Residents live in communities with health-promoting land use, transportation, and community development;
- (5) Children and their families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods;
- (6) Communities support healthy youth development; and
- (8) Community health improvements are linked to economic development.

CoRR Objectives Based on Existing Weed and Seed Grant Neighborhood Restoration Goals

- The **CoRR Objectives** that follow include recommended prioritized focus areas for LBDHHS Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee existing goals and objectives as well as from sustainability measures under the 2010 Year Three Weed and Seed Evaluation.
- The **CoRR Coalition** will coordinate with key community partners and stakeholders as well as leverage resources necessary to achieve expected outcomes.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Increase resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%).
- Educate residents on graffiti abatement through quarterly community meetings and workshops.
- Reduce annual code enforcement and nuisance abatement violations by ten percent (10%).
- Conduct semi-annual door-to-door campaigns to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Conduct quarterly community empowerment events and forums based on survey results.
- Coordinate a minimum of four (4) neighborhood clean-ups throughout the year.
- Conduct a survey to determine interest in the development of a **PEACE Town Bikeway** to connect corridors and facilitate ease of travel within the target area and throughout the city.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and their families are safe from violence in their home and neighborhoods.

CoRR Objectives:

- Reduce annual code enforcement and nuisance abatement violations by ten percent (10%).
- Increase resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%).
- Partner with existing service providers to develop a pilot **Neighborhood Family Mentoring and Support Group** in order to foster healthier neighbor relations.
- Identify conflict resolution and alternative dispute resolution resources for appropriate referral.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and their families are safe from violence in their home and neighborhoods.

CoRR Objectives:

- Identify and connect community members with family service providers and violence prevention partners.
- Organize community forums/dialogues in which families can create healthier household environments and neighborhoods.
- Identify and incorporate existing specific key resources in order to develop the capacity to establish **Neighborhood Conflict Resolution Group**.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Conduct quarterly youth empowerment events and forums based on specific survey results.
- Educate youth on community assets and methods of connecting those assets to their peers.
- Incorporate youth in the planning and implementation of neighborhood clean-ups throughout the year.
- Refer youth to existing peer mentoring advocacy groups to support and increase membership.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Incorporate certified Community Intervention Specialists and certified Community Outreach Workers to foster a dynamic and effective relationship between residents and law enforcement.
- Collaborate and connect youth with family service providers that promote community health and provide prevention services for youth and primary care givers.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Collaborate with existing Workforce Development and Reentry partners to address juvenile reentry needs, i.e., life skills management, family reunification, education, job readiness, and restorative justice.
- Identify and connect youth with neighborhood leadership development and health advocacy training.

CoRR Objectives Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 8: Community health improvements are linked to economic development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Conduct door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to businesses and community members on neighborhood restoration and revitalization resources.
- Conduct quarterly community economic empowerment events and forums based on survey results.
- Connect community members with residential and commercial rebates resources to home and business improvement.
- Serve as a neighborhood liaison and network resource.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

- The **CoRR Coalition** proposes to restore and revitalize an effective community program which was designed to strengthen neighborhoods citywide.
- The following framework is **CoRR's Vision** on how to maximize the balance between the neighborhoods and civic leadership to achieve greater participation at the community level, to assist in the ability to leverage resources in order to sustain the efforts of the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program, which are aligned to The California Endowment Long Beach Building Healthy Communities Initiative with integrated expected outcomes.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Conceptual Framework of a *Community-Based Public Safety Approach*:

- Through the gathering, training, and implementation of the **Neighborhood Block Captain Program**, there is a capacity potential of 150-200 Block Captains in the Central and West Long Beach areas.
- Neighborhood Block Captains will exemplify well informed and highly engaged community members who are devoted to securing and sustaining safe and thriving communities.
- The Neighborhood Block Captain Program will enable the community to increase the level of involvement required to effectively address vital quality of life and community violence prevention issues.
- This approach will provide the community with a set of protocols to follow in order to establish confidence in this innovative approach to community-based public safety and to effectuate public policy change.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Conceptual Framework (*Cont'd*)

- Host annual recruitment for Neighborhood Watch volunteers from local residents/community organizations.
- Host annual Block Captain Retreat/Brainstorming and training sessions.
- Utilize professional partners to assist with training/implementation.
- Block Captains will customize the implementation within their respective neighborhoods.
- Seek the assistance of certified Community Intervention Specialists and Certified Community Outreach Workers as needed.
- Host solution-oriented community meetings inviting key stakeholders, such as, faith and ecumenical organizations, homeowner associations, civic leadership, and businesses.
- Youth actively participate and have an integral role in the discussion, development, and implementation of community-based approaches to public safety in their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1 and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

CoRR Objectives:

Incorporate Community-Based Public Safety approaches:

- ***Phase I:*** Organize the Central and West Long Beach areas into manageable quadrants and train **Neighborhood Block Captains**.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1 and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

CoRR Objectives:

Phase II: Carefully cultivate the community organizations and obtain volunteers for Block Captains. Organize quadrants into smaller areas; training Block Captains, thereby increasing the number of community members responsible for their neighborhoods.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1 and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

CoRR Objectives:

- Cultivate emerging leaders from Proposed Neighborhood Block Captain Program, community organizations, non-profits, faith-based organizations, educational institutions, and Neighborhood Leadership Program.
- Involve local businesses, apartment/business owners.
- Partner with civic leadership and other community organizations and stakeholders to institute the **CoRR Objectives**.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed & Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1, 2, and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 2:** Reduce Graffiti within Police Beats 4 and 5 by increasing the number of PD TAGG system graffiti calls, increasing the number of resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%) and educating the community members on graffiti abatement hotline and utilization. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

CoRR Objectives:

- Incorporate community violence prevention training for Neighborhood Block Captains to enhance knowledge to engage proactive measures to appropriately respond to community needs as conducted by qualified Service Providers.
- Partner with appropriate personnel to develop a **CoRR Neighborhood Block Captain Curriculum and Instructional Training Manual.**

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1, 2, and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 2:** Reduce Graffiti within Police Beats 4 and 5 by increasing the number of PD TAGG system graffiti calls, increasing the number of resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%) and educating the community members on graffiti abatement hotline and utilization. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

CoRR Objectives:

- Develop and establish effective and reflective Community rules of engagement in partnership with LBPD.
- Distribute information about crime prevention.
- Distribute information about crime victim resources.
- Develop and establish Community roles in addressing street level social issues and neighborhood crime prevention.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1, 2, and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 2:** Reduce Graffiti within Police Beats 4 and 5 by increasing the number of PD TAGG system graffiti calls, increasing the number of resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%) and educating the community members on graffiti abatement hotline and utilization. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

CoRR Objectives:

- Collaborate with truancy prevention stakeholders to incorporate effective measures which are aimed at reduced the risks associated with chronic truancy.
- Connect with appropriate providers to offer services designed to help parents avert or remove minors’ participation in gang activity.
- Connect families with Anger Management as well as Conflict Resolution through mediation/arbitration Service Providers.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Integrated Expected Outcomes

Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Goals 1, 2, and 3

Goal 1: Improve the quality of life in Beats 4 and 5 by reducing the number of citations for violations and the number of “nuisance sites” by ten percent (10%) annually; provide four (4) neighborhood clean-ups. **Goal 2:** Reduce Graffiti within Police Beats 4 and 5 by increasing the number of PD TAGG system graffiti calls, increasing the number of resident calls for graffiti abatement by five percent (5%) and educating the community members on graffiti abatement hotline and utilization. **Goal 3:** Provide Community Education on Neighborhood Restoration by conducting door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources; and conduct quarterly empowerment events.

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

CoRR Objectives:

- Facilitate events with faith-based organizations and other key stakeholders to continue to build trust and strengthen neighborhood cohesion.
- Facilitate interaction with Block Captains and community members to improve quality of life in target area neighborhoods.
- Partner with qualified Service Providers to initiate dialogues that address: (1) Domestic and Sexual Violence, (2) Youth and Gang Violence Prevention and Intervention, and (3) Conflict Resolution and Creating Healthy Households.

Neighborhood Block Captain Program

Aligned with TCE-BHC

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

1. Linking youth to organizations that provide students with real-world positive experiences.
2. Increasing the capacity of youth to be leaders and advocates.

CoRR Objectives:

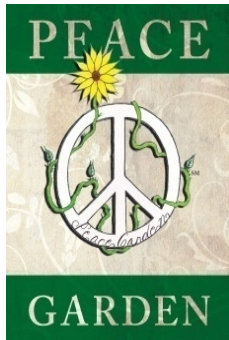
- Develop a process to carefully identify and select youth to shadow adult Neighborhood Block Captains, e.g., Junior Neighborhood Captains.
- **Junior Neighborhood Captains** will gain first-hand knowledge about community leadership, advocacy, and engagement at the local level, e.g., planning, organizing, and mobilizing community members for action designed to make their neighborhoods safer, healthier, and more peaceful.

Establishing a Vital Partnership with the PEACE GARDEN Committee

- The **CoRR Coalition** welcomes the opportunity to establish a partnership with the PEACE GARDEN as a point of engagement for: **(1)** Referral of community youth to the PEACE GARDEN for environmental leadership and health policy advocacy training as identified by the **CoRR Coalition**, **(2)** Technical assistance for restorative land use methods for the broader community, and **(3)** Utilization of the PEACE GARDEN Learning Center for meetings, and **(4)** Other relevant initiatives.
- The **CoRR Coalition** strongly desires to formalize this partnership and will request authorization required from the entities who hold the non-exclusive right-of-entry permit as of October 1, 2011: LBDHHS (or other appropriate city department), CNAC, and South Wrigley NAG.

The PEACE GARDEN: A Point of Continued Community Engagement

The **PEACE GARDEN** will continue to be a point of engagement for the community.



Proposed Sustainability Plan: PEACE GARDEN

Presented To:

City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services

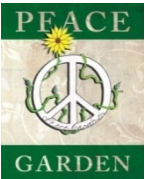
Submitted By:

The PEACE GARDEN Committee

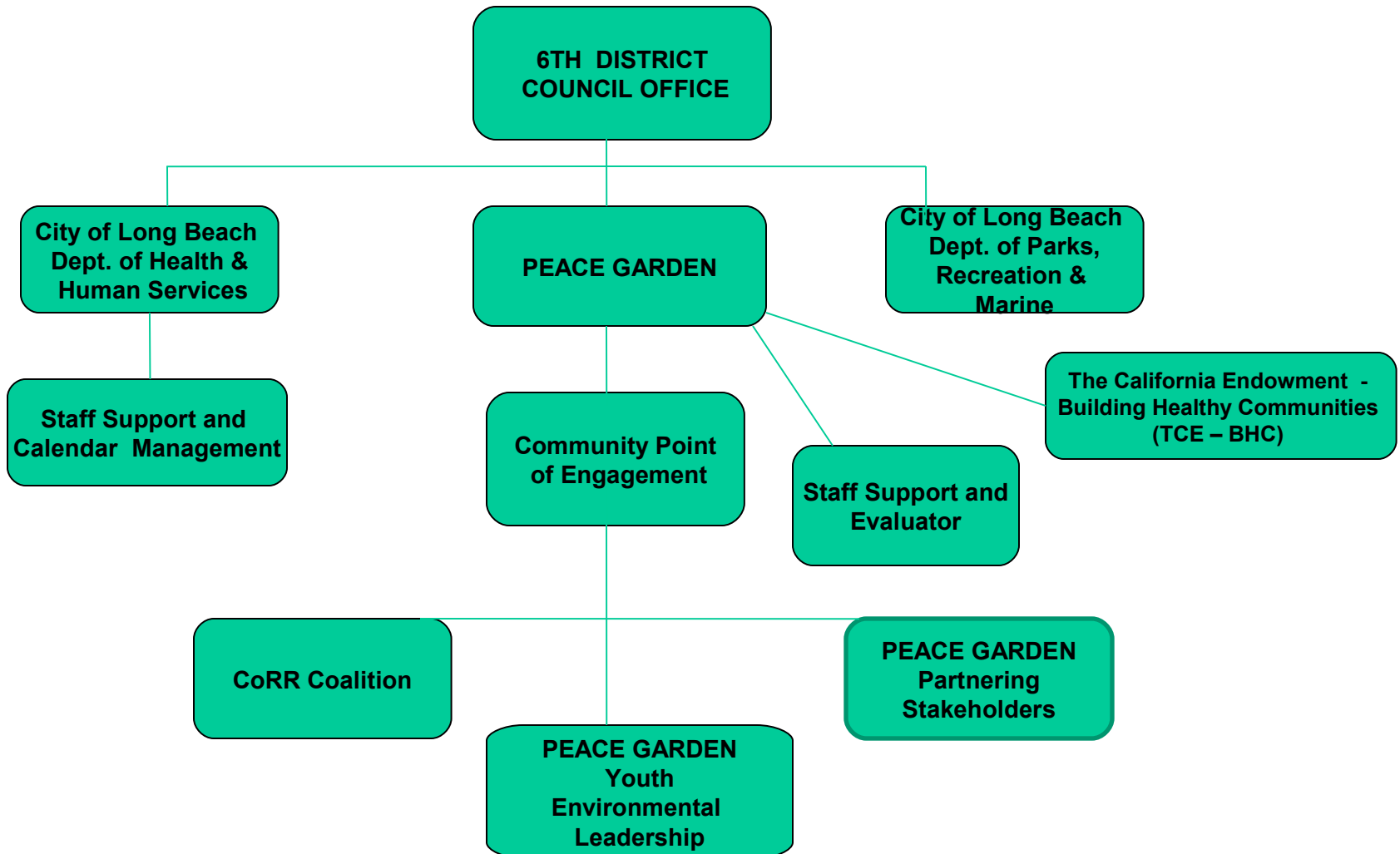
In Collaboration with the

**City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Weed and Seed Program Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee**

September 30, 2011



PEACE GARDEN Operational Organization Chart



The PEACE GARDEN Motto

**“To provide nourishment
for those hungry in body,
and a sanctuary of beauty and peace
for the body, mind, and spirit.”**

The PEACE GARDEN Vision Statement

To cultivate a continuously evolving neighborhood by nurturing values of social, economic, and environmental responsibility where families are engaged in their thriving community, children are cherished, and youth are healthy, safe, and prepared for a productive adulthood.

The PEACE GARDEN Mission Statement

- Integrate a multicultural approach towards creating and sustaining positive social interaction.
- Build a strong foundation that will ensure a healthy community environment focused on inclusion.
- Educate community members on self-sufficiency through urban farming techniques and health-related curriculum.
- Provide innovative approaches to effective activities and mentorship programs for local youth with an emphasis on self-reliance through leadership and policy advocacy training.

The PEACE GARDEN History

- The **PEACE GARDEN** originated with an idea of the Sixth District Council Member Dee Andrews in 2010. This idea was brought to the City of Long Beach DHHS Weed and Seed Steering Committee for consideration as part of its Year Three goals, as the incubating entity, and was approved and delegated to the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee to spearhead the project.
- The **PEACE GARDEN** Committee was developed and carefully designed to incorporate the goals of the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee as part of its foundational framework to restore a neighborhood that was previously blighted with gang activity and crime.

The PEACE GARDEN History

(Cont'd)

The **PEACE GARDEN** Committee, LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program Staff, and Graduate Interns, secured and obtained private grants and in-kind corporate and local business contributions of over \$65,000. The LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program staff and **PEACE GARDEN** Committee interviewed, and the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program intentionally hired a group of ten (10) youth that represented the diverse cultures in the target area to actively participate in the design and construction phase, beginning in July 2010.

- The community youth created the official garden trademark logo, garden design plan blueprint, assisted in the irrigation design and installation and dedicated many more hours to miraculously complete the foundation in less than a month's time!

The PEACE GARDEN History

(Cont'd)

- Still in its capacity building phase, the **PEACE GARDEN** is now serving the community as a point of engagement for local community action groups utilizing the Learning Center, healthy shared access to no-cost locally grown produce, educational programming for youth on urban farming techniques, and a place for positive and peaceful social intergenerational interaction.

The PEACE GARDEN Purpose

The purpose of the **PEACE GARDEN** is multi-pronged:

- *To serve as a catalyst for neighborhood and community development, such as providing technical assistance for youth environmental leadership and health policy advocacy.
- *To provide multiple planter boxes for families to work and grow fruit and produce.
- *To provide the opportunity to organize, offer, and educate local youth on “green collar” jobs.
- *To encourage positive social interaction and build community spirit where gardeners and benefit in raising crops and share gardening tips and advise.

The PEACE GARDEN Produce

- The produce grown in the **PEACE GARDEN** represents the cultures of the Central Long Beach community via designated ethnic planter boxes which include: African-American, Latino/Hispanic, Pacific Islander, Cambodian, a Children's Unity planter box, and an LBPD “Guardians Garden” planter box.

2011 Peace Maker Award

The **PEACE GARDEN** is a recipient of the City of Long Beach 2011 Peace Maker of the Year Award. The **PEACE GARDEN** was acknowledged as a learning center and a community location for peaceful gathering. The staff, youth, and community volunteers were recognized for engaging the public at many inaugural seasonal events and innovative festivals promoting peace, unity, and social equality including:

- * Harvest Hoedown - October 2010
- * Dia de Los Muertos del Mundo (Global Day of the Dead - November 2010
- *Holidays Around the World - December 2010
- *PEACE FEST & Candlelight Peace March - January 2011

2011 NUSA Award National Recognition

- The **PEACE GARDEN** represents a true labor of love from a community that embraced the vision and mission of the LBDHHS Weed and Seed Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee goals and objectives.
- In May, 2011, the **PEACE GARDEN** was nationally recognized as the recipient of the 2011 Neighborhoods USA (NUSA) Second Place Award at the conference held in Anchorage, Alaska.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

The **PEACE GARDEN Sustainability Objectives** that follow were originated and have been aligned with The California Endowment's Long Beach Building Healthy Communities Priority Outcomes and recently approved by the **PEACE GARDEN Committee**.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

1. Increase the use of transit, bicycling and walking.

PEACE Objective (1.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will develop and mobilize a “**PEACE MOVEMENT**” Program which will include, bicycling, running, and walking teams of residents and community members that would focus on health and exercise practices. The teams will be referred to as the “**PEACE Riders/Runners/Walkers,**” respectively. The **PEACE GARDEN** will be used as the convening point for all activities and information education workshops. Community education would include, but not be limited to, the health benefits of biking, running, and walking, healthy eating, and current policies in the city.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 4: Residents live in communities with health-promoting land-use, transportation and community development.

1. Reduce unhealthy activities near schools.

PEACE Objective (2.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will increase awareness and relationships with local schools and higher educational institutions within walking/biking proximity to provide and promote healthy educational activities for youth and families. The **PEACE GARDEN** will develop and maintain collaborative working relationships with administration teams at Butler Middle School, Long Beach City College, and Long Beach Polytechnic High School, etc. Activities will include, workshops on urban farming techniques, sustainable healthy eating and living through its **Youth Environmental Leaders Program** currently in partnership with the local Boys and Girls Club, located at Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, where youth ages 8-12 are receiving educational workshops on urban farming techniques.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and their families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

1. Have schools and communities that promote violence prevention through the arts and cultural exchanges.

PEACE Objective (1.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will use the multi-cultural gardening groups to promote social interaction among multi-age groups within the rich ethnically diverse population that currently exists through shared arts and cultural educational community experiences that will include: activities, music, food, dance, art, and traditions.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and their families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

2. Have schools and communities that promote violence prevention through the arts and cultural exchanges:

PEACE Objective (2.b.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will provide the opportunity for community youth and elders to cultivate enriching experiences through intergenerational dialogues connecting the historical purpose of the food source.

- The youth will document unrecorded gardening experiences through scribing the connection between the oral history and the recipe from the food source.
- These documented stories will serve as a catalyst for nurturing community stakeholders and solidifying community pride, ownership, and the power of self-sufficiency through the gardening experience.
- These recordings will create primary and secondary sources for community posterity purposes as well as motivation to advocate for a violence-free environment so that these experiences can continue for generations to come.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 5: Children and their families are safe from violence in their homes and neighborhoods.

3. Have community and police work together to foster a positive and effective relationship for youth, residents and law enforcement:

PEACE Objective (3.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will create a set day and time for the community to convene and interact regularly with each other and with law enforcement on a monthly basis. The development of the “Garden with the Guardians” Program will be a focus on building healthy relationships and interaction with local law enforcement by engaging in outdoor activities that include: gardening, landscape maintenance and development, dialogue about gang and violence reduction, and eventually policy change discussion.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

1. Linking youth to organizations that provide students with real-world positive experiences.

PEACE Objective (1.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will work with local businesses, neighborhood organizations, educational institutions, and governmental agencies to provide experiences that will increase their knowledge on healthy sustainable lifestyles through positive and peaceful activities.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

2. Increasing the capacity of youth to be leaders and advocates.

PEACE Objective (2.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will focus on the development and implementation of the Youth Environmental Leaders Program to educate youth on sustainable living practices, policy awareness and change, civic engagement, leadership skills, and advocacy training for youth and families.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 6: Communities support healthy youth development.

2. Increasing the capacity of youth to be leaders and advocates.

PEACE Objective (2.b.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will develop and implement a subcommittee to provide local youth opportunities for Small Learning Community Projects for Service Learning educational requirements focused on public policy change and advocacy training on healthy sustainable living practices.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 8: Community health improvements are linked to economic development.

1. ***PEACE Objective:*** The **PEACE GARDEN** will be a leader in Sustainable Development.

PEACE GARDEN

Sustainability Objectives

LBBHC Outcome 8: Community health improvements are linked to economic development.

2. Increase community input into economic development and sustainability projects and policies.

PEACE Objective (2.a.): The **PEACE GARDEN** will offer opportunities for the community to engage in discussions with and to develop a relationship with the City of LB Office of Sustainability to raise awareness and educate residents and local community members about the City of Long Beach Green Programs & Policies and Sustainable City Action Plan (approved by City Council in February 2010) and their impacts on local neighborhoods. Residents and local community members will have the opportunity to participate in community forums and neighborhood leadership opportunities.

Proposed Leadership Education and Policy Advocacy Training

- **This proposed youth leadership development and advocacy training aligns with LBBHC Outcome 6:**

- **Develop programming for the Youth Environmental Leadership and Health Policy Advocacy Training.**

The **Youth Environmental Leadership and Policy Advocacy Training** will help serve as a launching pad to educate community residents/organizations about how to become civically engaged in public policy advocacy for access to healthy foods in the Central and West areas of Long Beach. By developing skills and transferring knowledge, this level of community involvement will continue to fuel authentic change in the Long Beach community and beyond.

Proposed Leadership Education and Policy Advocacy Training

- Develop programming for Youth Environmental Leadership and Health Policy Advocacy Training:

(Cont'd)

- Create new memberships and avenues to participate.
- Develop the Youth Environmental Leadership curriculum and Public Policy Advocacy Training Manual.
- Refer youth over 17 years to the city's Neighborhood Leadership Program for further training.
- Provide opportunities for community-based problem solving, policy advocacy, and influencing effective outcomes.

Neighborhood Restoration Community Empowerment Plan

APPENDIX

An Example of Community Empowerment: Steps to Neighborhood Cleans-Ups and Other Community Activities

Step 1: Identify Boundaries and Stakeholders

- Review District maps.
- Review Central and West area maps.
- Identify the Key Stakeholders within the Central and West area communities.

Step 2: Utilize Community Assessments to Determine Needs

- Use previous data from Weed & Seed surveys
- Drive the area and break up into quadrants
- Communicate with the Resident Youth and Adults
- Communicate with Community Groups
- Communicate with Business Owners
- Communicate with Faith-Based Organizations
- Communicate with Certified Community Intervention Specialists and Certified Community Outreach Workers
- Communicate with City Agencies, LBPD

Step 3: Partners/Contacts/Resources

The **CoRR Coalition** will continue to collaborate and partner with existing agencies and key community stakeholders, in addition to:

- City Council District Offices
- The Neighborhood Services Bureau
- Environmental Services/Public Works
- Homeowner Restoration and Rebate Program
- Graffiti Protective Coatings (CPC
- Long Beach Neighborhood Foundation
- Faith-Based Organizations
- Neighborhood Organizations
- Adult and Youth Community Members
- Certified Community Intervention Specialists
- Certified Community Outreach Workers

Step 4: Community Group Engagement

- Visit scheduled monthly community group meetings to engage discussion and solicit participation in Community Empowerment efforts.
- Give presentation with an overview of community empowerment plan.
- Assist these community groups with volunteer outreach.
- Educate and assist organizations with procedure requests.
- Assist these community groups with request for resources.

Step 5: Selecting an Event Date

When selecting a date:

- Review the calendar to avoid holidays, schools, or pre-scheduled community activities, whenever possible.
- Allow ample time (six to eight weeks) to plan, organize, and coordinate for successful outcome.

Step 6: Completion of Required Applications

Neighborhood Cleanup Event Example:

- Request staff at Neighborhood Resource Center and/or Neighborhood Services Bureau for assistance.
- Request for Dumpster (each neighborhood group).
- Request for equipment (rakes, shovels, brooms, weed whackers, trash grabbers).
- Request for supplies (gloves, trash bags, water, rags, paint brushes, hand wipes).

Step 7: Promotional Materials

Send out a “Save-the-Date” emails four weeks ahead of the event:

- Three Languages:
 - ◆ English
 - ◆ Spanish
 - ◆ Khmer
- Design a flyer and include Sponsors' names and logos, and event details.
- Make copies at Neighborhood Resource Center for distribution.

Step 8: Community Outreach

Utilize pre-existing resources to:

- Coordinate with City Council Offices.
- Solicit Volunteers.
- Inform the Community via Print and Social Media as well as Emails, including, but not limited to, Faith-Based Organizations, Residents, Schools, and Businesses, etc.
- Distribute flyers door-to-door (utilizing Youth Leaders).
- Request donations from local business to feed volunteers.

Step 9: Confirmation of Event

Two to three weeks prior to the event prior to the Event:

- Verify with the District Council Offices that event is calendared, etc.
- Verify with the Neighborhood Resource Center/District Council Offices that all steps are in place to secure equipment, supplies, and services.
- Meet with neighborhood organizations and team leaders for the second time.
- Effectively communicate with volunteers organizational work details.

Step 10: Culminating Group Celebration

After-event celebration occurs at pre-designated location:

- Complete all preparations for Celebration.
- Volunteer Coordinator duties:
 - Ensure water is available.
 - Arrange food/refreshments with Donors.
 - Thank all Volunteers and Participants.
 - Organize afternoon break-down team.

References

- City of Long Beach Central Area and West Area Demographic Data as derived from 2000 US Census (to be updated with the 2010 information).
- Executive Summary: Year Three City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Weed and Seed Program Evaluation (FY 2009-2010).
- Long Beach Police Department Neighborhood Block Captain Program.
- The California Endowment: Building Healthy Communities Initiative: Goals and Outcomes (2009-2010).

Contacts

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**AN INTERIM REPORT AND RE-EXAMINATION OF THE PROBLEM OF
YOUTH AND GANG VIOLENCE IN THE
CITY OF LONG BEACH**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**A REPORT TO THE CITY OF LONG BEACH
MAYOR AND CITY COUNCIL**

RESPECTFULLY SUBMITTED BY:

THE LONG BEACH HUMAN RELATIONS COMMISSION

November 4, 2003

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I would like to thank the members of the Long Beach Human Relations Commission who richly deserves recognition for bringing the issue of youth and gang violence to a heightened level of awareness and deeper understanding. The members of the Commission are: Vice Chair Joe Thompson [District 2]; Commissioner Leslie Patterson [District 3]; Commissioner Kim Campanelli-Trowbridge [District 4]; Commissioner Minnie L. Douglas, Ed.D [District 5]; Commissioner Barbara Smith [District 5]; Commissioner Alta Cooke [District 6]; Commissioner Coqueece King [District 7]; Commissioner John Gailey [District 7]; Commissioner Dona Syes-Ponepinto [District 8]; and Commissioners-at-Large Robert Ellis and Joanne O'Byrne. The information contained in this report was made possible by the Commission's perseverance to finding ways in which this diverse community can peacefully co-exist.

I am indebted to Commissioners Dona Syes-Ponepinto, Coqueece King and Rene Castro, MSW, Program Director, Greater Long Beach National Conference for Community and Justice, for unselfishly giving their valuable time to digest the volumes of documents, transcripts and notes to draft this report. This report could not have been written without them.

I would like to express my sincere appreciation to the City's staff for their valuable input, assistance during the conduct of the meetings and the drafting of this report, including, but not limited to, the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services personnel: Ron Arias, MPA, Director, Corinne Schneider, Bureau Manager, Erroll Parker, Community Services Supervisor, Serafina Sarimiento, Administrative Assistant; Nancy Muth, Deputy City Clerk; and Anitra Demspey, Coordinator, Human Dignity Program.

Also, special recognition goes to Dr. Karen Umemoto, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, for allowing the Human Relations Commission to use her document entitled, "Planning for Peace: Developing a Strategic Response to Racial Violence (2002)," as the working framework for the preparation of this report.

I am profoundly grateful to Police Chief Anthony W. Batts and the exceptional staff of the Long Beach Police Department for responding to the Commission's request for information without which this report would be woefully inadequate.

Lastly, I would like to thank William Barnes, retired Executive Dean from Long Beach Community College and highly respected member of the community, for his wealth of historical knowledge of our City and for being a conduit from the past to the present.

Lydia A. Hollie, J.D., Chair
City of Long Beach Human Relations Commission

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Gang violence among our minors and young adults has resulted in a human deficit that is incalculable. For more than 20 years, the City of Long Beach has been grappling with this issue. However, the scope of this report is limited to 1995 through 2002. In April 1995, the Human Relations Commission (the "Commission") initially reported on interracial gang violence at the request of the City Council. In August 2002, the Commission began a re-examination of youth and gang violence. The Commission acknowledges and commends the vast majority of young people who have made healthy choices to fulfill their aspirations and dreams. On the other hand, the Commission also recognizes that there are many at-risk and troubled youth and young adults that have not been as fortunate in their efforts to live successfully in today's environment. While some progress has been made to address those concerns, the City has reached a point where a coordinated and comprehensive citywide approach must be undertaken to sustain our motto, "Diversity is Our Strength," especially in a climate where violence among our youth and young adult population has continued to take center stage.

Historically, intergroup relations have been tenuous. The extent that racial and ethnic intolerance exists among certain young people range from prejudice, bias, fear, mistrust, lack of awareness and understanding about cultural differences, poverty, high density housing, inadequate workforce skills, unavailability of jobs, inability to mediate disputes without violence, and generational links to teaching violence. The most current re-examination of this issue was undertaken over a seven-month period with a series of public meetings. Differing views regarding the causes and contributing factors for the continuing violence among our youth span across a spectrum: (1) That the violence is primarily motivated by race; (2) That race is factor in some cases, but not always a key ingredient in most cases; (3) That the violence is driven by social considerations, e.g., the inability to resolve conflict without guns or the use of force; or (4) That the violence is stimulated by economic motives, e.g., the drug trade and territorialism. Concerning economic motivations, the public overwhelmingly emphasized that gainful employment opportunities are an antidote for gangs and criminal activity. In view of the City's diversity and present challenges, the entire community must continue its vigilance to insure that increased racial and ethnic tensions do not rise to a sustained level of heightened conflict.

Although the Commission concurs with law enforcement that multiple factors influence the propensity for conflict, the public perceives the presence and availability of guns to be a major contributing factor for increased violence. The degree of attention taken to mitigate the impact that parolees have on the at-risk population is weighed against the influence on others to engage in illegal acts. Public testimony reported that younger offenders do not typically adhere to the advice given by reformed gang members against violent acts. However, law-abiding citizens have a right to expect and demand that conflicting sides reach an agreement to put their guns aside and resolve their

differences without violence. It was also acknowledged that the skills needed to settle disputes without conflict must be taught. Family and educational environments factor prominently in teaching these skills.

Indicators that the larger community has shown a heightened interest in peacemaking include, a positive shift in community attitudes toward greater involvement to achieve solutions, law enforcement's outreach efforts, relationships forged between the Commission and influential community leaders as well as key community based organizations, and the peace marches held in the Ninth and Sixth Districts, respectively, wherein over 1000 marchers participated in both events combined. These efforts have served to increase community awareness and foster a renewed commitment in the community to become more involved in the process of improving present conditions save at-risk young people from the harm caused by ongoing violence.

The following statistics make a compelling argument that community-at-large stands at a crossroads and the time has come for the City to undertake bold initiatives that are designed to liberate the community from violence.

Minor and Young Adult Population

- 40% or 184,800 minors and young adults 0-24 years reside in Long Beach.
- 149,000 or 32% of the total City population are under age 19.
- 26% or 115,600 minors 0-14 years reside in Long Beach.

Likely Age of Incurrigibility

- Chronic juvenile offenders can be identified by age 13.
- Habitual truancy behavior begins by the second grade (ages 7-8 years).
- Prevention measures within the family unit and at the elementary level are critical to offsetting the likelihood of perpetuating youth violence.
- 85% of juvenile offenders are illiterate.

Economic Factors

- Long Beach has the 10th highest level of poverty in the nation.
- 40,000 minors under 18 years live at or below federal poverty levels.
- 60,000 adults 18 years and over live at or below federal poverty levels.
- 14,000 single female head of household families with related children under 18 years live at or below federal poverty levels.
- 14,433 families have incomes based on public assistance, with a per capita of \$19,000.
- 77,000 families have incomes below \$35,000.
- Long Beach has a median income of \$40,000.
- An antidote to gangs and criminal activity is workplace skill development and gainful employment.

Elementary and Secondary School (K-12) Population

- 81% of the 97,000 students in the Long Beach Unified School District are minority.
- Approximately 4,000 students are enrolled at most of the local high schools.
- 45% of middle school students have been in fights.
- 11% of the students have brought weapons to school at any given time.

Guns

- Regionally, statewide and nationally, homicide is the leading cause of death for minors/young adults between 15 and 24 years.
- Youths indicated in a recent local survey that guns are easily accessible.
- The community and police share the belief that guns are settling arguments.

Gang Population and Victimization

- 31 of the 67 homicides were gang-related, inclusive of 15 gang-motivated incidents.
- Gang-related criminal activity is particularly acute among the 18-24 age group.
- There are 90 known gang names with 55 active, estimated and fluctuating organizations (inclusive of 29 non-native gang organizations), and 6,000 gang members across racial and ethnic lines.
- 1,232 gang affiliates/members were victims of violent gang-related crimes between 1995 and 2002.
- 369 non-gang affiliates/members were victims of violent gang-related crimes between 2000 through 2002.
- One gang-related homicide was successfully prosecuted under the hate crimes statute in 2002.

Parolee Population and Victimization

- Citywide, the current parolee population is 3,978.
- 15 gang-related homicides attributed to parolees between 1995 and 2002.
- Parolees appear to be a negative influencing agent among the younger offenders.

The time has come for the City to confront 20th century challenges with 21st century solutions. The future of the City's youth and young adults depends on an expedient, efficient, and effective response that can be sustained. The recommendations that follow are the first step in a long process to establish peace within our borders.

RECOMMENDATIONS

In light of the budget challenges the City is facing, the recommendations below were crafted in a manner to utilize existing resources. However, a coordinator position is needed to sustain the work.

Given the tremendous complexity of this problem, it is the recommendation of the Human Relations Commission that an institutionalized response in the form of a comprehensive community-wide approach be undertaken to develop a strategic response to youth and gang violence.

It is the opinion of the Human Relations Commission that the responsibility to address the issue of violence among certain youth and young adults effectively lies within every major sector of our community: faith community, educational institutions, local government, law enforcement, business and neighborhood organizations, community-based organizations and others. Moreover, this distinguished body must be committed and dedicated to achieving solutions that make sense for the City of Long Beach, taking into consideration our unique, highly diverse sociological landscape. To accomplish this daunting, but surmountable task, it is the recommendation of the Commission:

1. That the City convenes a Citywide intervention task force representative of the major leadership sectors of the community: faith leaders, educational (elementary, secondary, community college and university) leaders, youth leaders, local government (including the City's Youth Library Services, Parks, Recreation and Marine Youth Services, and the Children and Youth Commission), law enforcement, business, neighborhood organizations and community based organizations (including the City's Youth Services NETWORK). Further, that this task force convene for a three-year period which will enable it to monitor and evaluate the effectiveness of any and all subsequent recommendations to address youth and gang violence that will be forthcoming.
 - a. That in partnership with the Human Dignity Program, the leadership base for this task force be formed with representatives from the Chief of Police's current Police Advisory Boards as a means of utilizing the City's existing infrastructure.
 - b. That this task force immediately begins a campaign to get every sector of the community to identify and implement actions for general and targeted populations (See Appendix: K).
 - c. That this task force consider utilizing the intervention framework developed by Dr. Karen Umemoto, Ph.D., University of Hawaii at Manoa, entitled "Planning for Peace: Developing a Strategic Response to Racial Violence, 2002," as a means to develop immediate and long term strategies to address this problem.
2. That the City utilizes the existing service contracts with the Greater Long Beach National Conference for Community and Justice to facilitate the safe and productive communication of the Citywide intervention task force.

3. That the City Council implements the Commission on Children and Youth, and a Youth Advisory Council developed by Cynthia Fogg, Youth Services Superintendent, Parks, Recreation and Marine Department (See Appendix: J).
4. That the City utilizes the Human Dignity Program's Hate Crime Response Team to mediate racialized gang violence, and the Intergroup Conflict Resolution Team be used as resource to mediate intracultural or intercultural gang violence, as appropriate. In addition, that under the direction of the Human Dignity Program, the National Conference for Community and Justice train staff of the City's Gang Intervention and Prevention Program (GIPP) as mediators to be used as a resource for effectuating resolution efforts via the Hate Crime Response Team or the Intergroup Conflict Resolution Team.
5. That the City Council develops a public educational awareness campaign (modeled after the anti-tobacco initiative campaign) to communicate anti-gang messages which de-glorifies and de-glamorizes violence through the promotion of positive character and community and social values, e.g., integrity, responsibility, accountability and respect. The City would work with community based organizations who serve the groups most affected by the violence to develop messages that are culturally and linguistically sensitive to the diverse population in the City, e.g., brochures, billboards, bus stop advertisements and multi-ethnic events.
6. That the City Council allows the Human Relations Commission to research and forward suggestions for the application of funding to offset the cost of some of the recommendations contained in this report.
7. That the City Council strengthens its relationship with ethnic community-based organizations, which serves those groups most disaffected by violence, through technical support and other meaningful measures that are mutually determined to increase the viability of their efforts.

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LONG BEACH GRIP PROJECT
Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention

**Redeeming, Renewing, and Transforming Our Community:
2010 Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan**

Presented to:
**City of Long Beach
The Mayor and the City Council**

By:
The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council

Revised September, 2010

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City of Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council

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City of Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council
 (Continued)

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Forward

"Each and every person living, working, or visiting Long Beach is valuable, important, and necessary to the future vitality of the City."

--Long Beach Human Relations Commission
November 4, 2003

In 2003, the Long Beach Human Relations Commission stated, "The time has come for the City to confront 20th century challenges with 21st century solutions. The future of the City's youth and young adults depends on an expedient, efficient, and effective response that can be sustained." This strategic plan is the continuation of a difficult, but hopeful journey to establish peace within the City of Long Beach.

In 2004, the Long Beach City Council heeded the recommendation of its Human Relations Commission and initiated the Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force as a result an alarming growth in gang violence during the previous year. For five years, the Task Force, civic leadership, and the community at large, especially in the areas that have experienced a greater share of gang violence, grappled with the best approaches to mitigate conditions that had a crippling effect on the growth and development of the City's human infrastructure in those areas. With much needed funding from the Governor's Office in 2008, the Task Force evolved into the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council and it has continued this effort.

Based on lessons learned, this strategic plan is developed as a way to address persistent conditions that undermine neighborhood cohesion by aligning the community with limited resources to interrupt and, ultimately eliminate the cycle of violence on families and the community. The goals of the strategic plan are:

- Develop a sustainable strategic, coordinated, and collaborative effort between the City, school district, law enforcement agencies, social service providers, faith centers, business entities, community members, and other community stakeholders to eliminate youth violence and gang violence in our community.

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- Make recommendations to the City about viable methods for youth violence prevention, intervention, targeted suppression, and restorative justice as well as neighborhood restoration and community revitalization; identify local, state, and federal funding sources; and address substantive health, education, social, economic, public safety as well as other specific policies and systems which directly alleviate social and environmental risk factors that heighten the likelihood of youth violence in addition to the persistence of gang memberships.
- Provide parents of very young with training as an effective youth and gang violence prevention strategy.
- Provide the participating agencies with resources to build capacity to deliver services that will assist youth to become fully engaged in civic life, and thereby lessen the lure of gang membership and the influence of gang activity in the community.
- Expand associations/collaborations with existing or newly-created initiatives which include youth life-skills management and family empowerment programs, mental health and drug treatment service, workforce development, and meaningful employment as a counter-measure to unhealthy lifestyle choices that have a propensity to lead to violence in the community.
- Collaborate with ethnic community-based organizations to break down the languages and cultural barriers.
- Raise community awareness of the challenges youth face and seek community input for effective and sustainable solutions to all forms of community violence.
- Equip and empower community stakeholders to become the change they seek in their neighborhoods.

The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council ascribes the following values:

- All community members have a right to hold each other responsible and accountable for their actions so that everyone can live free from undue harm and violence.
- All community members have a right to access social, educational, and economic opportunities.

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- All neighborhoods deserve to thrive; and the Advisory Council opposes any activity that would devalue any neighborhood in Long Beach.
- All adults have a responsibility to nurture the youth in the community so they can make positive choices to succeed in life and choose paths that will enable them to be productive and contributing members of society.
- Everyone has a right to feel safe in their community and to be treated with dignity and respect.

The motto, "Reducing Violence, Saving Lives," captures the reason why Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council exists.

The Vision ensures that the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council always sees the City's future at its best:

"To envision a community where youth are highly valued, well educated, and skilled for the 21st century workplace, healthy, law-abiding and contributing members of society who respect the rights of others and themselves."

The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council is steadfast in its Mission:

"The City of Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council is committed to eradicating violence among youth and young adults by networking resources, promoting public awareness and educating youth and young adults on their value to the preservation of our human race, thereby saving lives."

The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council is comprised of committed and dedicated community stakeholders who believe that its Vision and Mission will be accomplished by all stakeholders working together to eliminate the impact of youth and gang violence in our community. The Advisory Council's confidence is based on the resiliency of the human spirit to rise above any adversity and soar to new heights. The Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan is a testament that children are the core of a family and families are at the center of any community. We must work together for the good of children, family, and the community.

**The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council
August, 2010**

Long Beach Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force Transitions into the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council

***"Optimism is the faith that leads to achievement.
Nothing can be done without hope or confidence."***

-Helen Keller (1880-1968), American Author, Political Activist, Lecturer

On August 8, 2002, the Long Beach Human Relations Commission initiated a re-examination of its April 18, 1995 report to the City Council on *Interracial Gang Violence*. Long Beach Press Telegram reporters Kristopher Hanson and Paul Young wrote an article, "*Turf Battle Turns Deadly*," published on July 22, 2002, which prompted the review. A subsequent article on August 29, 2002, "*Fighting Gang Terrorism*," reported a total of 70 gang-related shootings and 18 homicides during that year and called for proactive effective measures to stop the violence.

Between August 22, 2002 and February 13, 2003, the Human Relations Commission heard from the community. From this testimony, the Commission submitted "*An Interim Report and Re-Examination of the Problem of Youth and Gang Violence in the City of Long Beach*," to the Mayor and City Council. In 2004, the Long Beach Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force was formed. This 40-member convening body represented every major leadership sector of the community and reflected the demographic diversity of the community. The Task Force labored for five years to lay a solid foundation and to build a sturdy structure to pursue solutions to the wide-ranging quality of life issues encompassing the problem of youth and gang violence. During that time, the Task Force addressed the following core issues: early childhood education and parenting, workforce development and reentry, youth engagement and violence prevention, media and community education, and research and resource development.

The Long Beach Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force examined the myriad of risk factors that give rise to gang activity and membership as well as the critical protective factors needed to combat gang violence. These efforts included:

- Monthly meetings wherein community members became informed, fully engaged, and took ownership of the process of addressing critical issues.
- Connected the community with resources.

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- Convened community forums and workshops covering a range of topics, e.g., parenting and creating healthy households, conflict resolution, mental health for children, education and traditional/non-traditional career paths for teens, expungement, panel discussions.
- Developed broad collaborative relationships through information sharing to develop comprehensive Citywide anti-gang initiatives.
- Partnered with service providers to provide constructive youth activities and meaningful opportunities for young adults to enlarge their role in the civic environment.
- Co-sponsored a a reentry job fair; neighborhood cleanups; a Neighborhood Family Health Fair; Youth and Police Dialogues.
- Supported Peace Vigils to calling to decrease gun violence.
- Co-produced with the Press Telegram and Leadership Long Beach, two "Enough Is Enough" telecasts which included an unprecedented 41-hour telethon that aired on Long Beach Channel 8.

In late 2008, the Long Beach City Manager's Office applied for and received the first CalGRIP award from the State (referred to as "Long Beach GRIP Project"). With this two-year grant, the Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force became the Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention (Long Beach CalGRIP) Advisory Council in 2009. During that time, the Advisory Council was tasked with the responsibility to oversee the grant designed to address youth and gang violence prevention and youth development. In addition, the Advisory Council:

- (1) Refers underserved youth and young adults to positive alternatives to gang participation in a safe environment,
- (2) Promotes community awareness and education through, and
- (3) Enhances the coordination of existing efforts and resources related to youth and gang violence prevention.

The Advisory Council continued to expand its collaborative partner base in the target area and throughout the City with a range of supported activities, including:

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- Weed and Seed neighborhood cleanups.
- the Long Beach Unified School District Male and Female Academies for middle and high school students.
- "It's My Future" Anti-Violence Conference and Peace Rally hosted by Long Beach City College.
- Wrigley Community Garden.
- Mobile Peace Mural, which depicts peace as the tree trunk with roots grounded in the PeaceBuilders, Inc. conflict resolution principles was displayed at City Hall for public viewing.

In 2010, the Long Beach CalGRIP award was renewed for an additional two years. The focus of the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council shifted to implementing model programs in prevention, intervention, targeted suppression, and community restoration. The target population for the grant consists of:

- Youth under 25 years--
 - exhibiting high-risk behaviors, committing intentional acts of violence; exhibiting high-risk behaviors related to gang lifestyles;
 - identified as gang members and/or arrested for gang-related incidents or acts of gang violence;
 - families and peers of gang-involved youth or youth incarcerated for gang-related crimes.

To address the trends in youth and gang violence, a continuum of services including prevention, intervention, suppression, and reentry was developed as a strategy based upon best practices of the U.S. Department of Justice programs, the Department of Children and Family Services, Los Angeles County Probation Department, Long Beach Police Department, and Long Beach Unified School District. The partnership of diverse stakeholders include: youth and adult community members, faith-based organizations, for-profit organizations, community-based organizations, Long Beach Unified School District, Parks, Recreation & Marine, Neighborhood Services Bureau, Long Beach Community College, and California State Universities at Long Beach and Dominguez Hills. This collaboration has developed a strength-based approach by providing wrap-around services to youth and families to help the social-emotional needs for negative lifestyle choices, such as, bullying, tagging, and gang membership. Mostly importantly, through collaboration and coordination, scarce resources could be effectively leveraged to meet community needs, build community capacity, and sustain desired outcomes.

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The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council completes and builds upon the work initiated by the Long Beach Youth & Gang Violence Prevention Task Force in 2004. The 2010 Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan is offered as a blueprint for how the City of Long Beach and community stakeholders will effectively and humanely address the problem of youth and gang violence and restore the community. The challenges ahead are daunting, but not insurmountable. Desired changes will occur when community stakeholders and City government work together with the singular focus to improve the quality of life for youth and their families. Only then will the negative conditions that fuel the undesirable behavior be alleviated. The remedies contained in this plan will redeem lives and transform our community into a place of safety, good health, prosperity, and peace for present and future generations.

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Executive Summary

“Too often we underestimate the power of a touch, a smile, a kind word, a listening ear, an honest compliment, or the smallest act of caring, all of which have the potential to turn a life around.”

--Leo Buscaglia, PhD (1924-1998), Psychologist, Professor, Author, Motivational Speaker

The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council designed this Strategic Plan to serve as a guide for the City of Long Beach to eliminate youth and gang violence in Long Beach by addressing the conditions and factors which contribute to it. The plan focuses on prevention and intervention at the neighborhood level and empowers community members to work with the City to ultimately eliminate the problem on a sustained basis. Community-based policing methods and target suppression strategy will be developed and implemented by the Long Beach Police Department.

The Strategic Plan is based on the following core values:

- ✓ Youth are Invaluable to the Future of the City of Long Beach
- ✓ On-going Feedback through formative evaluations to make appropriate changes and adjustments as required for effective implementation
- ✓ Outcomes can be Delivered and Sustainable
- ✓ Youth-Focused and Family-Oriented
- ✓ Community Asset-Based Approach

The Advisory Council's Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Plan is based on the following key concepts:

1. Life is sacred and must be treated with dignity and respect at all times.
2. The elimination of youth and gang violence is a Citywide goal and requires a coordinated, collaborative effort with strong public support and civic leadership by the Mayor, City Council, and Chief of Police.

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3. Conflict mediation and conflict resolution are essential elements in decreasing violence and mitigating the factors that would lead to violence.
4. Street Intervention Outreach Workers have been identified as a crucial element in gang violence prevention and will be utilized to connect youth with resources, pro-social role modeling, and encouragement to make positive life choices.
5. Imprisoning our youth will not eliminate youth and gang violence.
6. To effectively integrate prevention, intervention, targeted suppression, neighborhood restoration, and community revitalization, a well-coordinated, organized effort among community members, faith-based organizations, community-based organizations, education and private business sectors, City departments, and regional governmental agencies is required.
7. A multidimensional gang strategy must address youth under the age of 25 who exhibit at-risk of high-risk behaviors or have social-emotional factors indicative of future gang behavior.
8. Parental engagement is encouraged at the earliest stages of childhood to effectively avert antisocial behaviors.
9. The cost-benefit to society is immeasurable when parents are actively involved in their children's lives from infancy through adolescence.
10. All youth and young adults will have access to the social, mental health, educational, workforce development support system they need to become contributing members of the community.
11. Youth and young adults are expected to be responsible citizens and will be held accountable for their actions.
12. Meaningful employment opportunities with a livable wage, internships, and volunteering are imperative to establishing a strong work ethic and reinforcing the values of integrity, respect, personal responsibility and accountability for self, family, and community.

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13. Youth and young adults involved in gangs and tagging will be afforded every meaningful opportunity to desist from those memberships and lifestyles in a safe manner.
14. Youth and young adults who remain dedicated to gangs and tagging will be targets for swift suppression activity.
15. Victims of youth and gang violence need the support of the community to heal.
16. Restorative justice will be used to repair harm caused by crime. Offenders are expected to take steps to recognize and repair the harm they have caused to the victims and the community. Opportunities will be available to heal and re-enter society as whole contributing members.
17. Sources of revenue must be identified and pursued to ensure sustainability of the effort.

Over the next two years, the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council will focus on the following six strategic goals:

1. Develop and implement a wrap-around service strategy that is asset-based to deliver prevention, intervention, suppression, and neighborhood restoration services to youth and families in the community, utilizing evidence-based curriculum and best practices.
2. Develop and implement a Crisis Prevention and Intervention Protocol to interrupt, mitigate, and eliminate violent activity.
3. Develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy to equip neighborhoods, community-based and faith-based organizations with the skills and information to redirect youth to positive activities.
4. Create an educational awareness campaign to de-glorify and de-glamorize gang membership and violence through the promotion of positive character, community, and social values (i.e. integrity, responsibility, accountability, and respect).
5. Develop and implement a plan for sustainability of the Long Beach CalGRIP model.

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6. Align City of Long Beach youth and gang prevention, intervention, and suppression strategy with local, state and national initiatives, as appropriate.

The Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council champions the use of nonviolence as the tool to achieve peace in the community. The indelible words of Dr. Martin L. Luther King, Jr., reminds us that, *"We must build dikes of courage to hold back the flood of fear... That old law about "an eye for eye" leaves everybody blind... The time is always right to do the right thing... Peace is not merely a distant goal that we seek, but a means by which we arrive at that goal."*

Introduction

“The circle is a sacred symbol of life...Individual parts within the circle connect with every other, and what happens to one, or what one part does, affects all within the circle.”

--Virginia Driving Hawk Sneve, American writer, Educator

Emeritus Professor Malcolm W. Klein, gang researcher and author of more than 20 books on gangs, classifies levels of gang involvement as:

Core
Active/Associate
Fringe/Peripheral/Temporary
Auxiliary/Affiliates (usually females)
Wanna Bes/Pee Wees/At-risk Youth
OGs/Veteranos (usually over 21 years of age)

The Core group, along with Actives/Associates as defined by Klein, are usually considered street gang members. These groups can include a range of ages. The following are the gang demographics underline the Advisory Council's recommendations:

- Nationally, gang involvement attracts youth between ages 12-24, with the average age between 17-18 years (SafeYouth.org, 2008). Data is unsettled on whether the trend toward younger or older youth gang involvement is greater; however, research has long held that the ages 18-24 cohort is prone to serious and violent criminal behavior (Long Beach Human Relations Commission, 2003).
- Law enforcement data reflects older youth are typically arrested.
- Average length of gang membership is less than three years, and a member leaves without repercussions.
- However, research shows that African-American and Hispanic youth have greater difficulty desisting from gangs (Justice Policy Institute, 2007).

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- Average age for entry level gang membership is ages 13-14. Greenwood & Zimring (1985) and Klein (2006) have found that chronic offenders are identified by age 13 and are more vulnerable to gang involvement (Cited from Long Beach Human Relations Commission, 2003).
- Key reasons cited for entering a gang:
 - Lack of Family/Belonging
 - Status/Respect
 - Protection from Harm
 - Economics/Money
- Key reason cited for leaving the gang lifestyle is the personal impact of violence

California Criminal Code, Section 186.22 defines a gang as:

"An ongoing organization, association or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of one or more criminal activities having a common name or common identifying sign or symbol, and whose members individually or collectively engage in or have engaged in a pattern of criminal gang activity."

The Long Beach Police Department has identified 100 active gangs with more than 7,000 members. It is estimated that gangs account for more than fifty percent (50%) of the violent crimes committed in Long Beach. Early prevention and specific intervention measures are critical for diverting youth away from the gang lifestyle, including the utilization of the ethnic community-based organizations who are conduits to the community can help suppress unwelcomed behaviors through parental involvement. Further, addressing the basic social-emotional needs is critical to any sustainable effort to permanently redirect youth from negative behaviors. Relevant programs, which youth and young adults to enable them to broaden the view of their environment and the world, are also essential to achieving sustainable outcomes. In addition, adequate financial support to sustain a meaningful existence must be addressed as the first line of defense against the influence of the gangs and related activities. These unacceptable statistics mandate strict attention to finding viable solutions and taking immediate action.

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Strategic Goal 1 – Family Engagement and Violence Prevention

"American families have always shown remarkable resiliency, or flexible adjustment to natural, economic, and social challenges. Their strengths resemble the elasticity of a spider web, a gull's skillful flow with the wind, the regenerating power of perennial grasses, the cooperation of an ant colony, and the persistence of a stream carving canyon rocks. This resilience is not measured by wealth, muscle or efficiency but by creativity, unity, and hope. Cultivating these family strengths is critical to a thriving human community."

--Ben Silliman, Family Life Specialist, University of Wyoming's Cooperative Extension Service

Goals

- Develop and implement a wrap-around service strategy that is asset-based to deliver prevention and intervention services to youth and families in the community utilizing evidence-based curriculum and best practices.
- Create a support system for families and youth that provides supportive services before the family goes into crisis. This would create a safety net for all youths and families in the community, decreasing the temptation of youth and families to be gang-involved or engage in any type of aberrant behavior.

Objectives

- A. Develop a method for identifying youth most at-risk for delinquent behavior.
- B. Conduct a Citywide survey to determine community concerns and issues related to family engagement and violence prevention to serve as a basis for improved program and service coordination.
- C. Create a "user-friendly" information and referral system to connect youth and their families to the appropriate resources in a timely and results-oriented manner:
 1. Identify resources to maintain the information and referral system updates on a bi-annual basis.

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2. Administer, monitor and enforce Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) for Long Beach CalGRIP partners with annual updates as a requirement for renewal.
 3. Track youth behavior through an in-take system.
 4. Provide incentives for utilizing referrals.
- D. Integrate the 40 Developmental Assets for Adolescents, Middle Childhood, Grades K-3, and Early Childhood from the Search Institute, as well as elements of the Ready by 21 Strategy of Youth Forum along with personal development and transformation strategies into the Long Beach CalGRIP Prevention and Intervention strategies.
- E. Develop a Citywide mentoring program aligned with best practices.
- F. Identify, support, and provide trauma reduction counseling resources and mental health services to those under the age of 18 who have been traumatized by witnessing or experiencing youth or gang violence.

Indicators

Efforts – Outputs

1. Survey field to identify assessment instruments and bring recommendations to Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council by November 30, 2010.
2. Identify efforts to create referral resources in the community and bring recommendations to Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council by March 30, 2011.
3. Develop a Citywide mentoring program by May 30, 2011.
4. Identify resources for trauma victims to include as a component of resource referrals by October 31, 2011.

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Effects – Outcomes

1. Based on survey results, the best assessment instrument for determining the at-risk population will be utilized in a research design to gather feedback from the sample population. Of those surveyed, 85% will likely respond. A Committee will analyze data and report findings to the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council and the community-at-large. The results will be used to identify the target population.
2. Based on a survey of existing mentoring service providers and an objective analysis, a youth mentoring program will be identified or developed to offer the best approach for the target population.
3. Eighty-five (85%) of the targeted population will participate in the Citywide mentoring program. Seventy-five (75%) of participating youth will not recidivate or have negative experiences with law enforcement.
4. A protocol will be developed to initiate restorative justice opportunities, as appropriate, for victims, offenders, and their families to begin the process for healing themselves and the community.

Strategic Goal 2 – Crisis Intervention Assistance and Crisis Response Protocol

Excellence can be attained if you -- care more than others think is wise -- risk more than others think is safe -- dream more than others think is practical -- and expect more than others think is possible.

--Anonymous

Goals

- Develop and implement a Crisis Intervention Assistance and Crisis Response Protocol to effectively interrupt, mitigate, and eliminate potential violent activity and rumors leading to possible retaliation.
- Establish a Trauma Support Team and Network

Objectives

- A. Develop and implement a Crisis Response Training Module aimed at instructing Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council partners, schools, parks and recreation staff, and community leaders in the activation and implementation of the Crisis Response Protocol.
- B. Establish a team of specially trained Youth and Gang Violence Intervention Outreach Workers.
- C. Develop and implement a Crisis Intervention Protocol for Youth and Gang Violence Intervention Outreach Workers, aimed at interrupting potentially violent activity and initiate conflict mediation efforts..
- D. Maintain open and direct lines of communication between schools, law enforcement, community-based organizations, parks and recreation staff, and community leaders in an effort to ensure effective implementation of the Crisis Response and Intervention Strategy.
- E. Utilize technology to share information. Relevant community partners will be in the communication network.
- F. Encourage City interdepartmental communication procedures on youth and gang violence issues.

Indicators

Efforts - Outputs

1. Survey crisis intervention protocol and assistance best practices and models for adaptation to the community's needs.
2. Survey current training outreach worker programs specializing youth and gang violence prevention..
3. Identify interested community stakeholders to create a team of Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Outreach Workers.
4. Identify certified training programs in youth and gang violence intervention.
5. Identify interested community stakeholders to create and train a Trauma Support Group to provide services, including:
 - (A) Attending to immediate survival and comfort needs (food, clothing, shelter)
 - (B) Activating support systems including family, friends and religious leaders
 - (C) Acting as a liaison between victim, family and emergency personnel including the Police, Fire, Coroner and Hospital emergency room staff
 - (D) Providing short and long term resources and referrals, such as counseling and funeral arrangements.

Effects - Outcomes:

1. Eighty percent (75%) of collaborative partners will be able to implement crisis prevention and intervention protocols within nine (9) months.
2. Secure certified training for Youth and Gang Violence Intervention Outreach Workers and ready deployment as needed.
3. Trauma Support Group will be activated for on-going utilization.

Strategic Goal 3 – Capacity Development

"We cannot seek achievement for ourselves and forget about progress and prosperity to our community... Our ambitions must be broad enough to include the aspirations and needs of others, for their sakes and for our own."

--Cesar Chavez (1927-1993), Community Advocate and Labor Organizer,
Founded the National Farm Workers Association

Goal

- Develop and implement a comprehensive capacity-building strategy to equip community and faith-based organizations and community members with the skills and information to redirect youth to positive activities.

Objectives

- A. Develop a training academy for working with prevention, intervention, and reentry populations using a Best Practices Model.
- B. Develop a parent support program to educate and mentor parents on how to identify the signs of youth violence as well as active gang involvement and how to respond appropriately.
- C. Work with experts in the field and California State University to establish certification in gang prevention and intervention work for nonprofits.
- D. Build technology communication networks within the community to provide instant communication on violence issues.

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Indicators

Efforts– Outputs:

1. Conduct a survey for parent input and present a proposal for a parent support program and data collection by October 31, 2010.
2. Present an outline for a training and certification program to Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council by January 31, 2011.
3. Develop a policy for community communication by March 31, 2011.

Effects – Outcomes:

1. Data will demonstrate Parents are participating in the program and are more able support their children appropriately, reducing the need for intervention services.
2. Community will be trained to effectively implement prevention and intervention strategies, decreasing youth crime.
3. Communication will be improved to capture detailed information about crimes quickly, leading to quicker resolution.

Strategic Goal 4 – Media and Community Education

"Knowledge and human power are synonymous."

--Sir Francis Bacon (1561-1625), Philosopher, British Lord Chancellor

Goals

- Create and execute a culturally competent, multi-media marketing and advertising educational and awareness campaign for available prevention, intervention, and suppression resources and services.
- Create a campaign that communicates anti-gang messages which de-glorifies and de-glamorizes violence through the promotion of positive character and community and social values, e.g., integrity, respect for self and others, and personal responsibility and accountability to self, family, and community.
- Develop a guide to building positive relations between students and law enforcement officers based on the outcomes from the Youth and Police Dialogues, including a ten-point commitment that delineates the ways in which this relationship can be established and maintained.

Objectives

- A. Implement information sharing via all media outlets.
- B. Increase the number of Youth-Police Dialogues and expand the community areas included.
- C. Link websites of community partners to the City's website.
- D. Utilize the Youth Network as the online vehicle for information delivery and promote this relationship in the media campaign.
- E. Provide an annual report to the City on the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council's activities and progress.

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- F. Initiate an annual Gang Awareness Conference with evaluation training and the latest research in prevention, intervention, suppression, and community restoration.
- G. Enhance violence prevention skills through interdisciplinary training workshops and conferences.
- H. Reinitiate conflict resolution and mediation training tailored to de-escalate tension and mitigate violence as a response.
- I. Link the Long Beach CalGRIP prevention and intervention strategy with the Long Beach 2010 Strategic Plan, Youth Services Master Plan, Early Childhood Education, Long Beach 2030 Plan, and other local, statewide, and national prevention and intervention efforts.

Indicators

Efforts – Outputs:

1. A cohesive, strategic marketing and advertising plan to ensure all residents are well-informed about the gang problem as well as ways in which they can participate in problem solving process in Long Beach.
2. An annual Gang Awareness Conference will be held by December 31, 2011.
3. An Annual Report on activities of the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council will be produced by December 31, 2011.
4. A Guide to Building Positive Relations between Students and Law Enforcement Officers by December 31, 2011. Among other items, it will include the salient points raised in the previous and upcoming Youth and Dialogues. This guide will be a joint effort between youth and law enforcement. The guide will be modeled by a similar document developed by the Los Angeles County Office of Education.

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Effects – Outcomes:

1. Long Beach residents and key community stakeholders will be well-informed about the scope and strategy in dealing with both youth and gang violence and prevention within the City.
2. Long Beach will be known as a community of experts on both youth violence and gang activity.
3. Reports by residents of youth violence and gang activity will increase by 20 percent (20%).
4. Youth and gang-related crimes will be solved at a rate of a ten percent (10%) increased rate over current benchmarks.
5. Youth and Police will have a guide to form and foster better relations. The guide will be widely distributed Citywide, e.g., schools, parks, libraries, residences, City Hall, faith-centers, and business establishments. With improved youth and law enforcement relations, negative perceptions will dissipate and lead to a more cooperation and result in less intimidating encounters with public safety personnel, resulting in crime prevention and leading to an increase rate of solving crimes.
6. Conflict resolution and mediation training will be available to residents who desire to learn how to decrease tension at home and in the environment without utilizing violence as a response. Less violence equates to fewer calls for public safety services, resulting in cost savings to the City's General Fund.

Strategic Goal 5 – Research and Fund Development

"We refuse to believe that there are insufficient funds in the great vaults of opportunity in this nation."

--Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. (1929-1968), American Baptist Minister,
Civil Rights Leader, and Nobel Laureate

Goal

- Develop and implement a plan for sustainability of the Long Beach CalGRIP model.

Objectives

- A. Initiate an annual community summit on youth and gang violence prevention with a minimum of 100 attendees.
- B. Develop a yearly grant calendar with potential funding opportunities and deadline dates.
- C. Create and implement a Fund Development Strategy that will generate \$1,000,000 in non-City funding to support prevention, intervention, and reentry work.
- D. Review research and reports on youth and gang prevention, intervention, suppression efforts and report to the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council.
- E. Capture "in-kind" donations toward the reduction of gang memberships and tagging crews, and use gifts as incentives for youth.
- F. Review all sources of fund development efforts in gang prevention, intervention, suppression, and neighborhood restoration, and make recommendations for implementation to the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council.

Indicators

Efforts – Outputs:

1. Track involvement of Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council members in local, state, and national initiatives.
2. The Advisory Council will actively work together to raise funds from public and private sources to meet its goals.
3. The Advisory Council will track the responses to requests for proposals.
4. Allocations for community partners will be included in funding requests when possible.
5. The Advisory Council will issue reports on funding status at scheduled meetings.

Effects – Outcomes:

1. Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council will generate reports on outcomes for the funding agency and the community.
2. By the end of 2012, \$500,000 in new funding will be secured to support the continuing activities of Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council.
3. A minimum of 40 community stakeholders will be involved in Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council.

Strategic Goal 6 – Resource Development

"When every physical and mental resource is focused, one's power to solve a problem multiplies tremendously."

--Norman Vincent Peale (1898-1993), American Protestant Clergyman and Writer

Goal

- Align City of Long Beach gang prevention, intervention, suppression, community restoration strategies with local, state and national initiatives.

Objectives

- A. Send representatives from Long Beach to all regular meeting of the Los Angeles County Interagency Gang Task Force.
- B. Send representatives to the annual Southern California Gang Investigators Conference.
- C. Send a representative to the annual National Gang Conference.
- D. Send a representative to the annual or regional NeighborWorks America Conference.
- E. Send a representative to the annual National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention Conference.
- F. Send a representative to the California Wellness Foundation Violence Prevention Conference.

Indicators

Efforts – Outputs:

1. Maintain records of Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council members who participate in each of the local, state, and national initiatives.
2. Coordinate efforts with other local agencies in the County of Los Angeles.
3. Assist other cities and communities in addressing youth and gang-related problems through the development of their own continuum of solutions.
4. Assist other communities in addressing community building and organization strategies which have proven effective via the Long Beach CalGRIP Project as a critical sustaining element for long term violence prevention.
5. Present the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council information at local, regional, and national conferences.

Effects – Outcomes:

1. Long Beach will become one of the “Safest Large City” in California.
2. Best practices will be incorporated in all Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council planning efforts.
3. Long Beach will be recognized as a local and national leader in youth and gang prevention, intervention, targeted suppression, and community restoration.

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Appendix

**Chart 1:
 Strategic Thinking + Collaborative Approaches = Sustainable Outcomes**

Prevention	Intervention	Suppression
Parents and Families Faith-Based Organizations Community-Based Organizations Schools Workforce Development/Jobs Civic Leadership	Divert youth from violence beginning with elementary school youth After-School Activities Meaningful Civic Engagement Job-Placed Internships Establish adequate funding to support effective violence prevention efforts	Long Beach Police Department L.A. County District Attorney's Office CA Dept. of Corrections & Rehabilitation CA Department of Parole Los Angeles County Probation Dept.
Teach families about conflict resolution/mediation, consequences of youth and gang violence beginning with pre-school youth Promote Developmental Assets	Youth Workers Counselors Outreach Intervention Workers Youth & Police Dialogues to build positive Youth/Police relations	Law enforcement identifies and prosecutes criminals Report "developing" incidents
Connect with youth/families Teach them about consequences Promote Developmental Assets Basic Legal Education	Intervene in pending violence, Refer youth to alternatives, Remove or place youth away in a more appropriate environment where they can get help	Law enforcement identifies and prosecutes criminals Maintain credibility with youth and the community

Adapted from East Strategy Innovative Thinking Model

Year Four (FY 2010-2011) Progress and Outcomes in the
Weed and Seed Target Area: Long Beach Police Beats 4 and 5

Presented To:

The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Weed and Seed Steering Committee

Submitted By:

Katie Virant, M.S.W.
Evaluator
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services
Long Beach Police Beats 4 and 5 Weed and Seed Community
Long Beach, CA

December 6, 2011

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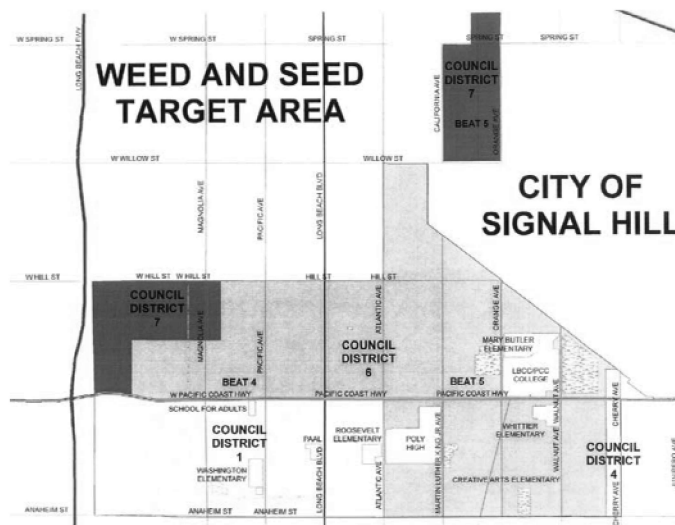
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INTRODUCTION:

Overview of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Strategy:

The Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative is a community-based strategy sponsored by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ) that offers an innovative, comprehensive multi-agency approach to law enforcement, crime prevention, and community revitalization. The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, Bureau of Community Health oversees the Long Beach Weed and Seed grant under its Health Promotion Division. Originally a five-year grant, the Long Beach Weed and Seed Program was required to complete its efforts at the end of four years due to cuts in government spending. As a result, the Long Beach Weed and Seed Steering Committee primarily planned for sustainability of the strategy during its final year of grant implementation, so that the strategic efforts set in motion over the past three years would continue beyond the life of funding from the Department of Justice.

Weed and Seed is foremost a strategy – rather than a grant program – that aims to prevent, control, and reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in designated high-crime neighborhoods across the country. The Long Beach Weed and Seed strategy evaluated in Central Long Beach addresses Police Beats 4 and 5: Los Angeles River to the west; Hill Street to the north; Cherry Avenue to the east; and Anaheim Street to the south.



Before Weed and Seed intervention began, the target area in Central Long Beach had consistently experienced the highest levels of crime in the City of Long Beach. The target area has a population of 45,887, and a large youth population under the age of 21, with 22,575 youth living within the target area's 2.02 sq mile radius. The ethnic make up in the designated site is 55% Hispanic, 17% African American, 17% Asian, 5% Caucasian, 3% American Indian, 1% Native Hawaiian, and less than 1% Other. Cambodians make up a large percent of the Asian population.

It is important to note that the target area experiences the highest concentration of poverty in the City of Long Beach (See Appendix A for a map of the City of Long Beach with poverty and target area distinctions). Thirty-seven percent of residents in the target area zip codes 90806 and

90813 are living below poverty level, with median household income at \$21,728, and 52% earning less than \$15,000 annually. Furthermore, 46% speak Spanish, and 34% are non-citizens. There are 11,624 households in the target area; 81% of residents rent, 19% are owners, and there are 1,017 vacancies.

The level of education plays a significant role in the social and economic problems in the designated area. Nearly 28% of the population has not completed high school. Seventeen percent of the target population have less than a 9th grade education; 10.7% between 9th and 12th grade; 9% completed high school; 10.3% completed some college; 1.4% have an Associate Degree; 1.3% have a Bachelor's Degree, and .78% have a graduate degree.

The national Weed and Seed strategy involves a two-pronged approach: (1) Law enforcement agencies and prosecutors cooperate in "weeding out" violent criminals and drug abusers, and (2) Public agencies and community-based private organizations collaborate to "seed" much-needed human services, including prevention, intervention, treatment, and neighborhood restoration programs. A community-oriented policing component bridges the weeding and seeding elements. The Weed and Seed strategy is a multilevel strategic plan that includes four basic components: law enforcement; community policing; prevention, intervention, and treatment; and neighborhood restoration. Four fundamental principles underlie the Weed and Seed strategy: collaboration, coordination, community participation, and leveraging of resources.

Oversight and Management for the Long Beach Weed and Seed Program:

Local officials, community representatives, community agencies and businesses form a steering committee, which serves as the governing body that manages oversight to the strategy. Community representative, Dr. Lydia Hollie, and local Department of Justice representative, Ted Marquez, co-chaired the Steering Committee during its four years of implementation. The City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) administered the grant and offered valuable technical assistance to implement the strategy. Long Beach DHHS employee Tracy Colunga served as the Site Coordinator. As part of the strategy, the U.S. Attorney's Office facilitates coordination of federal, state, and local law enforcement efforts so that sites effectively use federal law enforcement partners in weeding strategies. In some instances, the U.S. Attorney's Office helps sites mobilize resources from a variety of federal agencies for seeding programs. The Central Long Beach Weed and Seed Site consists of Police Beats 4 and 5, which are patrolled by the Long Beach West Division Station. Please see Appendix C.1 for an organizational overview of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Program.

Long Beach Weed and Seed Partner Agencies:

The Long Beach Weed and Seed Steering Committee is composed of representatives from the partner agencies listed below, who have either signed MOU's verifying their participation in the Weed and Seed strategy or are active members on Weed and Seed Steering and Subcommittees. In order for an agency to be endorsed or funded under the Long Beach Weed and Seed grant, it must be an active member of the Steering Committee and have a targeted population of at least 25% who reside in the target area. Many of these partner agencies were contacted to provide data relevant to their efforts to meet objectives outlined in the Long Beach Community Assistance Grant (City of Long Beach Weed and Seed Grant).

Weed and Seed partner agencies include:

100 Black Men of Long Beach	Long Beach City College
Antioch Church of Long Beach	Long Beach City Prosecutor's Office
Boys and Girls Club, Long Beach	Long Beach Commission on Children and Youth
California Department of Corrections & Rehabilitation	Long Beach Community Action Partnership (LBCAP)
California Conference for Equality and Justice	Long Beach Community Improvement League
California Department of Parole	Long Beach Community Foundation
Cambodian Association of America (CAA)	Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine
Center for Working Families	Long Beach Legal Aid Foundation
Central Neighborhood Advisory Council (CNAC)	Long Beach Police Department, West Division
Centro CHA, Inc.	Long Beach Police Department Youth Services Division
Citizen Police Complaint Commission	Long Beach Public Library
City of Long Beach City Council 6th District Office	Long Beach Unified School District
City of Long Beach Department of Community Development	Long Beach Unified School District Head Start
City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services	Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office
City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation and Marine	Los Angeles County Probation Department
City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau	Mental Health Association
Department of Children and Family Services	Neighborhood Advisory Group (NAG)
Department of Public Social Services	New Generations
Dept. of Health and Human Services Role of Men Program	Office of Samoan Affairs
Faith-Based Collaborative	St. Mary's Medical Center, EM3 Program
Helpline Youth Counseling	Supervisor Don Knabe, County of Los Angeles, 4 th District
George Washington Middle School	Superior Court of California, County of Los Angeles
Goodwill Industries of Southern Los Angeles County (SOLAC)	Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network
Grace House of Hope	Pacific Winds Arts Sculpture Garden
Hashaway Community CME Church	PeacePartners, Inc.
Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention Advisory Council (Long Beach CalGRIP Project)	The Lighthouse/ WOW Jam, Long Beach
	Un Mundo de Amigos Preschool
	United Cambodian Community (UCC)
	United States Attorney's Office United States Department of Justice – Drug Enforcement Administration
	Western Justice Center Foundation

Evaluation of Year Four of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Program:

The following evaluation will use several techniques to measure the status, progress, and effectiveness of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Program now after its fourth, and final, year of establishment. Section One contains the outcome evaluation, or statistics depicting the extent to which Year Four goals and objectives, as outlined in the grant, were met. These numbers are presented in charts, on graphs, and in narrative form and were provided by law enforcement and other partner organizations engaging in weeding and seeding strategies within the target area. The Long Beach Weed and Seed Program's process evaluation is available in Section Two, and contains qualitative data in the form of interviews with key informants involved in the Weed and Seed Strategy. These key informants consist of the Steering Committee Co-Chair Dr. Hollie, Site Director Tracy Colunga, and Subcommittee Co-Chairs. The process evaluation will highlight the Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative's strengths in implementation of Weed and Seed strategies through its success in terms of collaboration, coordination, community participation, and the leveraging of resources. This evaluation will also highlight the efforts made to ensure sustainability of the efforts engaged through the Weed and Seed Strategy by partner organizations to the Steering Committee and its subcommittees. Lastly, a review of the overall strengths and success of the Weed and Seed Strategy and recommendations for moving forward to build upon the foundational relationships, policies, models and institutions developed during the grant will conclude this evaluation.

SECTION ONE: OUTCOME EVALUATIONS

Weeding Strategies: Law Enforcement/Corrections /Prosecution

Objective/Outcome	2006 ¹	2007	2008 ²	2009	2010	2011 ³
Goal 1: Reduce Narcotic Related Activity						
Increase drug-related arrests annually by 5%	316	351	332 - 5.4%	214 - 35.5%	151 - 29.4%	131
Number of drug-related search warrants.	20	21	11	26	18 - 30.8%	36
Number of narcotic related task force operations.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6	4
Number of narcotic related calls for services.	254	210	158 -24.8%	124 -21.5%	103 - 16.9%	56
Goal 2: Reduce Violent Crime						
Reduce Violent Crimes – Part 1 (arrests)	157	164	178 +8.5%	152 - 14.6%	145 - 4.6%	62
Reduce Violent Crimes – Part 1 (incidents)	624	659	588 -10.8%	571 -2.9%	545 - 4.6%	237
Violent Crime Operations	N/A	5	12	10	6	4
Goal 3: Reduce Nighttime Loitering						
Increase nighttime loitering citations annually by 5%	N/A	320	699 118.4%	274 -60.8%	138 - 49.6%	96
Number of nighttime loitering task force operations.	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	4	4
Gang-Related Statistics:						
Increase arrests of gang members involved in violent crimes by 5% ⁴	1022	1135	1240 9.3%	1414 14%	2105 48.9%	984
Number of gang-related search warrants. ⁴	35	116	79	64	64	53
Number of gang-related calls for service.	217	179	107 - 40.2%	145 35.5%	98 - 32.4%	175
Number of gang related task force operations. ⁵	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	6
Truancy-Related Statistics:						
Number of truancy citations/arrests.	82	103	167 62.1%	163 -2.4%	65 - 60%	62

¹ 2006-Sept 2007 are baseline years; The Weed and Seed strategy was implemented October 2007. Therefore, the most accurate changes should be noted starting 2008.

² Rates of change are calculated starting with 2008 numbers because this is the first full year of Weed and Seed implementation.

³ For law enforcement statistics, the most recent data available is for half year, January – June 30, 2011. Percentages are not calculated for 2011 because do not have full-year data to compare to the other percentages calculated.

⁴ Stats are citywide - Data for gang-related arrests and search warrants is not available by police-beat. Furthermore, gang-arrests are for all crimes and are not tracked specifically for violent crimes.

⁵ Did not track until 2011

Number of truancy operations.	7	9	6	0	7	1
<i>Graffiti-Related Statistics:</i>						
Number of graffiti related arrests.	84	123	99 -19.5%	88 -11%	24 - 72.7%	188
Number of graffiti operations.	4	4	4	5	8	0 ⁶
Number of graffiti calls for service.	N/A	2702	2194 -18.8%	1898 -13.5%	3296 73.7%	2493

Evaluator’s Note:

Since law enforcement data is reported in six-month increments and does not align with the Weed and Seed Strategy fiscal year (October 1st – September 30th), the following description of the numerical outcomes above refer to annual years 2008, 2009, and 2010 as these years include the most complete data since strategy implementation began in October 2007.

Also, gang-related statistics are citywide because gang statistics are not tracked by police beat, which would be needed to describe target area-specific gang data. Law enforcement does not have a database that distinguishes between beats when gang arrests occur because it is difficult to obtain accurate data when an arrest is reported as the location where the suspect is handcuffed, not where the crime initially occurred. Furthermore, gang arrests are for all crimes, not just violent crimes.

Goal 1: Reduce Narcotic Activity (Please see Appendix D.1 for Graph):

Drug related arrests have decreased significantly over the past three years, with a net decrease of -57%. Although the measure for reduction of narcotic activity was an increase in arrests for each year of strategy implementation, targeted enforcement (in which there has been an increase in drug warrants and operations) appears to not have had the expected outcome of increasing arrests, but of lowering crime (interpreted through reduced arrests despite targeted enforcement). Since Strategy implementation, narcotic arrests have been declining (-5.4% change in 2008; -35.5% change in 2009, and -29.4% in 2010). The number of narcotic related calls for services has also been declining (with a net decrease of -51% over the last three years), which suggests that the reduction in arrests is actually due to a reduction in narcotic crime in the target area. One theory as to why arrests and calls began to decrease immediately after targeted intervention funded by the Weed and Seed Strategy, is that perhaps law enforcement was engaging the targeted enforcement strategy with other funding prior to Weed and Seed funding (resulting in the increase in arrests the two years prior to strategy implementation), which lead to the logical decrease in crime by the first year of Weed and Seed funded efforts (which would have been the third year of target enforcement).

Goal 2: Reduce Violent Crime (Please see Appendix D.2 for Graph):

Violent crime related arrests and incidents have decreased significantly over the past three years, with a net decrease of -11.6% for arrests (-4.6% change during 2010) and -17.3% for incidents

⁶ Funding no longer available for 2011.

(-4.6% change during 2010). An increase in violent crime operations, which have at minimum doubled since grant implementation, appear to have reduced violent crime in the target area at a rate greater than expected since arrests began to decline after the second year of strategy implementation (we only see the expected increase in arrests during the first year). Interestingly, despite an increase in arrests during the first year of strategy implementation, incidents decreased at the greatest rate during that same year, and have been on a steady decrease over the last two years.

Goal 3: Reduce Nighttime Loitering (Please see Appendix D.3 for Graph):

During the first year of Strategy implementation, law enforcement far exceeded its expectation to increase nighttime loitering citations by 5% by actually increasing citations by 118.4%. Perhaps the strategies implemented in Year One yielded a higher increase of citations, which favorably impacted the issuance of citations during Year Two with a reduction of -60.8%. This reduction was continued into Year Three with an additional reduction in citations at -49.6%. As a corollary, the number of citations during both 2009 and 2010 was less than the number of citations in 2007 prior to Strategy implementation, which suggests that the need has decreased for nighttime loitering citations in the target area. Indeed, nighttime loitering citations have decreased a net of -56.9% over the last three years.

Gang-related Statistics:

Law enforcement has met and exceeded its expectation to increase arrests of gang members citywide over the past three years, with a net increase of 85.5% (with an increase of 48.9% in 2010, the largest over the past three years). Although the measure reads “gang arrests for violent crime,” law enforcement does not discriminate this information as thus numbers represent gang arrests for all crimes. However, gang-related calls for service are available by police beat, and have decreased in the Weed and Seed target area police beat 4 & 5 by -45.3% since strategy implementation in 2007. There is cause for concern, however, that gang-related calls are on the rise as the half-year data available for 2011 shows gang-related calls to be nearly at the same level as prior to strategy implementation.

Truancy-related Statistics:

The measure for truancy includes both citations and arrests because these are considered the same numbers by law enforcement (e.g. an arrest is always accompanied by a citation, even though a citation is not always accompanied by an arrest). During the first full year of strategy implementation, truancy citations/arrests increased by 62.1%, in the target area, and then decreased by -2.4% by the second year, and by a record -60% during the third year. Average daily attendance at Butler Elementary, Washington Middle School, and Poly High School have increased from the 2007–2008 school year to the 2010–2011 school year (over the course of three years) by 2.1%, .78%, and 1.69% consecutively. Despite experiencing the highest number of truancy operations to-date, the number of truancy citations/arrests are at an all-time low, having decreased by -60% in 2010, for a net decrease of -36.9% since strategy implementation began in 2007. However, once again there is cause for concern as there has only been one truancy operation reported during January-June 2011, and the number of citations for this half-year data nearly matches the number of citations given out over the course of full-year 2010.

Graffiti-related Statistics

The number of arrests for graffiti offenses as reported by law enforcement has decreased a net of -80.5% over the past three years of strategy implementation (with a recent decrease of -72.5% in 2010). Despite the decrease in arrests, the number of graffiti operations has doubled in 2010 since strategy implementation. Nevertheless, the number of graffiti-related calls to law enforcement was on the rise in 2010 by 73.7%, and contributes to a net increase in calls by nearly 22%. It appears as if this increase in graffiti calls is a trend that will continue in 2011 as the mid-year mark is already much higher than the mid-year mark for 2010. Despite calls being high in 2010, while arrests were at an all time low, it does not seem that the trend will continue for 2011. The number of graffiti incidents has already increased significantly in 2011 according to half-year data, which already reports 188 arrests compared to 2010's full year report of 24 arrests total. It seems as if graffiti operations have an impact on lowering the number of graffiti incidents experienced in the target community. Perhaps it is the physical presence of cops in the neighborhood that contributes to reducing crime. This theory is derived from noting that the lowest rates of graffiti arrests were observed during years that had the highest number of operations. No operations occurred in 2011 because of lack of funding, and already the number of graffiti arrests are higher than prior to strategy implementation (when operations were steady, but lower than during strategy implementation).

Furthermore, data reported by the Department of Community Development Graffiti Hotline (See appendix D.4), which reports data according to the Weed and Seed fiscal year (October – September) unlike law enforcement, shows that despite a steady decline in graffiti incidents since grant implementation in 2007, there has been an increase of incidences by 20.5% during Year Four of strategy implementation. Nevertheless, when analyzing data by the Graffiti Hotline, we find that there has been a net decrease in graffiti incidences by -37.5% over the past four years of strategy implementation.

Weed Component: Community Policing

Objective/Outcome	2008	2009	2010	2011⁷
<i>Goal 1: Implement the Community Oriented Public Safety (COPS) Philosophy.</i>				
Number of COPS cases within the target area.	23	5	7	69
Number of LBPB officers trained on the COPS philosophy.	N/A	N/A	8	18
<i>Goal 2: Enhance the partnerships between the target community and the Long Beach Police Department.</i>				
LBPB attendance at Town Hall.	5	5	5	15
Number of officers participating in youth-police/community-police dialogues.	N/A	N/A	15	2
LBPB Parent Education/ Family Counseling hours.	334	120	162	6
Support at least 1,000 community members participating in Weed and Seed community empowerment events	2,000	36,653	5314	2735 ⁸

⁷ 2011 Data is for January-September 30, 2011 unless otherwise noted.

⁸ Data is YTD January – September 2011

Number of community empowerment events.	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>N/A</i>	<i>119⁹</i>
Create a safe community atmosphere for residents and law enforcement to discuss community concerns. Number of community events attended by LBPD.	<i>20</i>	<i>64</i>	<i>89</i>	<i>128</i>

⁹ Data is for most recent FY 2010-11 (October 2010- September 2011)

Seeding Strategies: Prevention, Intervention and Treatment

Coordinate and Expand Prisoner Reentry Services.

Objective/Outcome	FY 2009-2010	FY 2010-2011¹⁰
Provide computer-training classes to 50 residents and youth. - <i>McBride Park Safe Haven</i> - <i>Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network</i>	241	<i>Goal sustained</i>
500 residents in the target community will be assessed for job training/employment. - <i>Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network</i> - <i>Goodwill SOLAC</i>	931	<i>Goal sustained</i>
50 residents in the target community will complete Adult Education/work skills programs. - <i>Goodwill SOLAC</i> - <i>Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network</i>	675	<i>594 goal met</i>
Number of reentry and/or ex-offender juveniles and adults receiving case management services. - <i>Goodwill SOLAC</i> - <i>Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network</i>	22	232
Number of grants submitted to fund re-entry services. - <i>Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee</i>	1	2
Number of residents referred to monthly Expungement Workshops. - <i>Goodwill SOLAC</i> - <i>LBDHHS Weed and Seed</i>	N/A	10
Number of residents who completed monthly Expungement Workshops. - <i>Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network</i>	N/A	165

Promote long-term community health and resilience by enhancing and expanding prevention services for youth and families through education and empowerment programs.

Objective/Outcome	FY 2010-2011¹¹
25 youth will participate in Weed and Seed sponsored Academic Coaching Program or a similar program. - <i>LBDHHS Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program</i>	94 (<i>goal met</i>)
Number of classes offered to youth that teach social justice and plan community action projects. - <i>LBDHHS Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program</i>	25

¹⁰ Data for FY 2010-11 (October 1st 2010 – September 30th 2011).

¹¹ All FY 2009-2010 goals and objectives have been sustained; new goals for FY 2010-2011 are listed. Data is most current available for October 1st 2010 – September 30th 2011.

25 youth will participate in Youth Leadership Program community action projects. - <i>LBDHHS Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program</i>	94 (goal met)
20 parents will participate in Parent Education and Empowerment classes. - <i>Helpline Youth Counseling</i>	60 (goal met)
Number of Parent Empowerment class graduates who are trained to mentor inexperienced parents. - <i>Helpline Youth Counseling</i>	44
Number of participants at the First Annual Conference on Gangs, Drugs, and Truancy. - <i>Helpline Youth Counseling</i>	537

Neighborhood Restoration

Objective/Outcome	FY07-08	FY08 - 09	FY09-10	FY10 - 11 ¹²
Reduce the number of citations for code enforcement violations by 10% - <i>City of Long Beach Community Development Code Enforcement Division</i>	N/A	2,306	4,291 86.1%	1,332 -69%
Reduce the number of "nuisance sites" by 10% - <i>City of Long Beach Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Information</i>	11	11 0%	23 52.2%	18 -22%
Provide 4 neighborhood clean ups. - <i>Long Beach Weed and Seed Program</i>	5	4	4	5 ¹³
		FY 2009-2010¹⁴	YTD FY 2010-11¹⁵	
Number of door-to-door campaigns semi-annually to educate businesses and residents on neighborhood restoration resources. - <i>Long Beach DHHS Weed and Seed Program</i>		5	4	
The number of community members participating in the Neighborhood Leadership Program. - <i>City of Long Beach Neighborhood Resource Center</i>		13	9	
Number of home improvement rebates distributed through the Home Improvement Program. - <i>City of Long Beach Neighborhood Resource Center</i>		58	46	
Number of rebates paid to commercial property and business owners through the "Commercial Improvement Rebate Program". - <i>City of Long Beach Neighborhood Services Bureau</i>		24 (totaling \$48,000)	24	
Number of chronic locations for graffiti that are identified. - <i>City of Long Beach Department of Community Development Graffiti</i>		1946	4702	

¹² Data represents part of Fiscal Year 4 of Weed and Seed Implementation (October 2010- September 2011).

¹³ As a sustainability effort, two trained Weed and Seed community members implemented neighborhood clean-ups in their respective neighborhoods using the skills taught by the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee.

¹⁴ Data represents Fiscal Year 3 of Weed and Seed Implementation (October 2009- September 2010). Comparable data for FY 1 and 2 of the grant are not available.

¹⁵ Data represents Fiscal Year 4 of Weed and Seed Implementation (October 2010- September 2011).

<i>Hotline</i>					
Number of youth and community members educated on urban farming techniques. - <i>PEACE GARDEN</i>	N/A			1262	
Number of reported graffiti incidents. - <i>Department of Community Development Graffiti Hotline</i>	Base	FY1	FY2	FY3	FY4¹⁶
	9677	9312	7185	4832	4377
Number of graffiti citations/arrests. - <i>Long Beach Police Department Statistics</i>	'07	'08	'09	'10	'11
	123	99	88	24 ¹⁷	188
Increase the number of resident and business calls for graffiti abatement by 5% - <i>Long Beach Police Department Statistics</i> - <i>City of Long Beach Dept. of Community Development Graffiti Hotline</i> Oct - Dec '10: (585); Jan-Sept '11: (1744) ¹⁸	'07	'08	'09	'10¹⁹	'11
	2702	2194	1898	3296	2493 ²⁰

Evaluator's Note:

The outcomes listed under the Neighborhood Restoration Strategy have been mapped on a graph since they are the only consistent measures that have been implemented since the Long Beach Weed and Seed Strategy began. All other Seeding measures were created especially for Year Four of Strategy implementation, and as a result comparisons in growth or change cannot be made to previous years. It can be noted, however, that all reported Seeding outcome measures were achieved, and in several cases exceeded, during Year Four of grant implementation.

Neighborhood Restoration Outcome Measures:

Code Enforcement (Please see Appendix D.5 for Graph):

The Code Enforcement Division of the City of Long Beach Community Development Department responds to complaints of violations that include substandard buildings, property maintenance, inoperative vehicles, weed abatement and land use violations. The statistics provided by the Code Enforcement Department show that code enforcement violations in the target zip codes 90813 and 90806 increased significantly during Long Beach Weed and Seed fiscal Year Three (from 2,306 in Year Two to 4,291 in Year Three, an increase of 86.1%). Although this initial outcome was not consistent with the Long Beach Weed and Seed goal to decrease code enforcement violations by 10% each year, during Year Four code enforcement violations experienced a decrease of -69%, leading to an overall net decrease of -42.2% since Year Two of strategy implementation (when the most current data is available). This outcome seems to be the result of successful neighborhood restoration efforts to educate the target community about calling the code enforcement hotline to report violations, resulting in an initial increase in code enforcement violations before seeing the decrease in violations as residents learn about code violations and take greater pride in the aesthetics of their neighborhood.

¹⁶ Data represents Fiscal Year 4 of Weed and Seed Implementation (October 2010- September 2011).

¹⁷ Law enforcement data is full year 2010.

¹⁸ Numbers provided by the Department of Community Development Graffiti Hotline were not included in the total numbers here because previous years are not available for comparison. LBPB calls are the most consistent data

¹⁹ LBPB graffiti call data is full year 2010 and City of Long Beach data is for October 2010-Dec 2010.

²⁰ LBPB data for January-June 2011

Nuisance Sites (Please see Appendix D.5 for Graph):

Nuisance sites refer to violations such as junk and debris in yards, outdoor storage of household items, excessive weeds, temporary signs in yards, and major auto repair in resident districts. The statistics provided by the City of Long Beach Neighborhood Nuisance Abatement Program show that nuisance sites in the target zip codes 90813 and 90806 increased significantly during Year Three of strategy implementation (by 52.2%), but decreased during the most recent Year Four of implementation (by -21.7%). As a result, Year Four met Long Beach Weed and Seed's goal to decrease nuisance sites by 10% each year, despite a net increase of 63.6% since strategy implementation began in 2007. Similar to the case with code enforcement violations, this net outcome may be the result of successful neighborhood restoration efforts to educate the target community about calling the nuisance abatement hotline to report violations. If this is indeed the case, an increase in nuisance sites would be more representative of successful Weed and Seed efforts during the first few years of strategy implementation, and the trend seen in Year Four with the decrease in nuisance sites is right on target as residents take greater pride and personal responsibility over the aesthetics of their neighborhood and thus make less offenses.

Graffiti (Please see Appendix D.5 for Graph):

Separate from the full-year data available through the Long Beach Police Department for graffiti incidents in Police Beats 4 & 5, the Long Beach Department of Community Development is able to report graffiti incidents based on the fiscal year of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Grant. This data shows that despite a steady decline in graffiti incidents since grant implementation in 2007, there has been an increase of incidences by 20.5% during Year Four of strategy implementation. Nevertheless, when analyzing data by the Graffiti Hotline, we find that there has been a net decrease in graffiti incidences by -37.5% over the past four years of strategy implementation.

SECTION TWO: PROCESS EVALUATION

This section will integrate interviews and reports by key informants on the Long Beach Weed and Seed Steering Committee to evaluate the extent of which the Central Long Beach Weed and Seed Strategy accomplished four fundamental principles: collaboration, coordination, leveraging of resources, and community participation.

Promoting the long-term health and resilience of a community is a true goal of the Weed and Seed strategy, so sustainability must be a key part of a site's structure. The foundation for sustainability involves maintaining the steering committee as a mechanism for ongoing implementation of the Weed and Seed Strategy beyond the life of the grant and identifying and securing existing and new resources and funding sources. The Long Beach Weed and Seed Program was required to plan for the final sustainability of its efforts during Year Four of grant implementation, when notified by the Department of Justice that limited funds led to the grant being discontinued before its normal conclusion in Year Five. As a result, this evaluation of Year Four will highlight the sustainability efforts of the Long Beach Steering Committee and its subcommittees so that the Central Long Beach community will continue to benefit from the progress made over the past four years of strategy implementation.

First, an overview of the roles and responsibilities of each key informant will be provided. This will be followed by the key informant's description of Long Beach Weed and Seed efforts accomplished during Year Four of grant funding. Finally, each Long Beach Weed and Seed entity's success in achieving the four fundamental principles (collaboration, coordination, leveraging of resources, and community participation), as well as its sustainable efforts, will be evaluated.

Steering Committee Co-Chair Dr. Lydia Hollie and Site Coordinator Tracy Colunga provided interviews with an in-depth overview of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Strategy, and their input will be used to inform the process evaluations of the Steering Committee and its subcommittees.

Long Beach Weed and Seed Steering Committee:

Local officials, community representatives, community agencies and businesses form a steering committee, which serves as the governing body that manages oversight to the strategy.

Community representative, Dr. Lydia Hollie, and local Department of Justice representative, Ted Marquez, co-chaired the Steering Committee during its four years of implementation. Below are the accomplishments, limitations, and sustainability plans for the Steering Committee, primarily informed through interviews by Steering Committee Co-chair Dr. Hollie and Site Coordinator Tracy Colunga. Full written responses by Dr. Hollie can be found in Appendix E.1

Accomplishments 2007-2011:

- Sponsored a diverse network of law enforcement, city agencies, community organizations and residents to work together towards the common goal of reducing violent crime, gang activity, and drug abuse in the target area, and offer social services to build and strengthen the health and long-term resilience of the community.
- Established three Safe Havens (Martin Luther King, Jr. Park, MacArthur Park, and McBride Park);
- Developed tools to increase resident participation, such as, the Comprehensive Services Guide and the Long Beach Weed and Seed Monthly Calendar used to assist partner organizations to reach out and educate the public about social services offered in the target community.
- Under the direction of the Site Coordinator, at least five community assessment surveys were conducted in collaboration with CSULB Dept. of Nursing and UCLA Department of Social Work and Public Policy. The surveys provide current data about the neighborhoods in the Weed and Seed target area. Organizations now have valuable information available which can be used to inform requests for funds to continue to address quality of life issues;
- Sponsored well-attended community forums and events, including the Easter Egg Hunt and Cinco De Mayo Celebrations at McBride Park (1,000 and 800 attended, respectively), co-sponsored a Community Forum on Parenting (175 attended) as well as two Community-wide Expungement Education Workshops (120 and 140 attended, respectively), and Martin Luther King, Jr. Peace Week, including a candlelight peace vigil.
- Incubated the New Generations's "The Gift" each year, which has served several thousand community members in the Washington Middle School Area during the holiday season;
- Sponsored and supported the accomplishments of each of its subcommittees: Family Engagement and Violence Prevention; Reentry and Workforce Development; Neighborhood Restoration; and Weeding/Law Enforcement.
- Assisted many partner organizations to leverage funds to continue and expand those social services that are in alignment with the Long Beach Weed and Seed goals and objectives

(Please see Appendix B for a list of funds leveraged through Long Beach Weed and Seed to-date).

- Offered valuable technical assistance to the members of the Collaborative through the City of Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services, including covering the cost of permits (which provides an in-kind resource to partner agencies looking for space to serve the target community) and linking partner organizations and subcommittees to academia through graduate intern assistance (which aids organizations in fine-tuning their practices and tailoring them to meet the needs of the target area).
- Internationalized recognized by the official visits by representatives from the city of Mombasa, Kenya, Republic of Ireland, and Northern Ireland.

Limitations:

Site Coordinator Tracy Colunga noted that she was in charge of two large grants during the first three years of Weed and Seed Strategy implementation. Both of these grants required the attention of a full-time coordinator due to their varied strategies and subcommittees, and as a result, the Site Coordinator faced several limitations in implementing the Weed and Seed grant. The Site Coordinator notes that if she had more time, she would have implemented the following changes during the four years of the grant:

- Ensured that new Steering Committee and Subcommittee members receive a thorough orientation to the Weed and Seed Strategy. Also, subcommittee chairs should have had a separate, focused training on their roles and responsibilities as leaders of the strategy to be prepared, supported, and knowledgeable in their efforts.
- Re-organization of the Steering Committee, in which meetings would be attended only by its Co-chairs, Subcommittee co-chairs, and program staff so that all other partners in the collaborative could focus their limited time and efforts on subcommittee meetings working directly at the ground level to implement the strategy.
- Provide more thorough administrative oversight of the Steering Committee, including updating role sheets and membership after consistent follow-up calls are made to members with low attendance to first address any needs or concerns that may improve over-all attendance in the future. Also, the Weed and Seed Steering Committee failed to hold an election for the second term of the community co-chair position, as is requested by the Department of Justice after two years of leadership (in which the current co-chair has the opportunity to be elected for a second term).
- Organized targeted campaigns to recruit new members to the subcommittees, including community residents.

Once again, it can be seen that the resource of time was essential to being able to effectively implement the activities above, which Site Coordinator Tracy Colunga noted as important to preserving the Steering Committee's coordination, collaboration, and community involvement

efforts. The source of the issue was limited funding by the DOJ to fund a full-time coordinator based on the costs of hiring a qualified professional under the City of Long Beach, California.

Dr. Lydia Hollie also noted limitations she faced in her position as co-chair to the Steering Committee. These limitations stemmed from having restricted time available to oversee the strategy through active engagement on the subcommittees, which according to Dr. Hollie would have been the ideal situation. Being a full-time educator in the LBUSD, Dr. Hollie was only able to attend subcommittee meetings over the summer months. Similarly, her ability to educate the wider community and participate in outreach/recruitment efforts during the school year were also limited. Nevertheless, Dr. Hollie notes that the Steering Committee had a strong foundation of partners at the table due to their past involvement on the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force that preceded the Weed and Seed grant. Furthermore, efforts were made during Year Four to strengthen the ability of those partners at the table to lead the Weed and Seed Strategy in the future. This was accomplished by having an individual from the Steering Committee shadow the co-chair in creating the agenda and facilitating the Steering Committee meetings. As a result, Dr. Hollie notes that where there was a lack in ability to increase outreach efforts, attention was given to developing the skill set of those already at the table to ensure longevity of Weed and Seed efforts as collaborative partners continue their work in the community.

Sustainability Plan:

Despite the limitations listed above, the Steering Committee Co-chair and Site Director were able to navigate the strategy and guide collaborative partners to achieve great success through the accomplishments of its various subcommittees. The overall success of the Weed and Seed Strategy in the Central Long Beach target area was recognized by the City of Long Beach Development Services, which has committed to developing a City-wide Violence Prevention Plan under its Neighborhood Services Bureau. The Weed and Seed Site Coordinator will be directing development of this project, which she sees as the ultimate long-term sustainability effort for the Weed and Seed Strategy. Tracy Colunga's experiences coordinating the Long Beach Weed and Seed Strategy will inform development of a Central Steering Committee for the City-wide Violence Prevention Plan, which will oversee smaller committees focused on different areas of violence prevention. In the meantime, each Weed and Seed subcommittee will continue its efforts in the community, and then eventually reconvene as part of the larger City-wide Violence Prevention Coalition by serving as expert committees in their area of violence prevention (such as Truancy, Reentry, or Neighborhood Restoration).

Weed Subcommittee (Law Enforcement and Community Policing):

The Weed, or *Law Enforcement Subcommittee*, is responsible for law enforcement, community policing, problem identification, program development, implementation and evaluation to work with local residents to weed out criminal activity in the target area. Joint task forces of law enforcement agencies from all levels of government aim to reduce both crime and fear of crime, which gives back hope to residents living in distressed neighborhoods and sets the stage for community revitalization. Community policing embraces two key concepts – community engagement and problem solving. Community policing strategies foster a sense of responsibility within the community to be first responders for solving crime within their neighborhoods, and help develop cooperative relationships between the police and residents.

Please see Appendix C.2 for an organizational overview of the *Law Enforcement Subcommittee*. The *Law Enforcement Subcommittee* representative on the Weed and Seed Steering Committee, Lt. William Lebaron, who joined the strategy in February of 2010, was asked to respond to the following questions:

1. *In your observation, what has been the true impact of the Weed and Seed Strategy on the target community of Police Beats 4 and 5? For example, what positive changes have you noticed in the community?*
2. *How has the strategy assisted the Police Department to reduce violent crime, gang activity, drug abuse and other important crime statistics in the target area?*
3. *What resources or strategies in particular do you attribute to the positive changes in the community?*
4. *Have you faced any barriers in implementing the strategy?*
5. *How does the police department plan to sustain the strategy, if at all?*

The results of the interview are summarized below. Full responses can be found in Appendix E.2. An evaluation of the *Law Enforcement Subcommittee's* efforts during year four of grant implementation follows the summary below:

Lt. Lebaron recognizes an improvement in community relations since Weed and Seed implementation, noting that “pride, commitment, and relationships” have flourished due to the collaborate efforts of the Weed and Seed strategy. Lt. Lebaron notes the impact of relationship building in solving problems in the community, as organizations and individuals are more ready and able to come together when a problem presents itself. One example of this occurring in the target area was when a dangerous incident involving a youth occurred at the Weed and Seed Safe Haven location at Martin Luther King Jr. Park. The Site Coordinator was able to call a meeting with key stakeholders at the safe haven, which included representatives from Parks, Recreation, and Marine, the Boys and Girls Club, the Community Pool, Law Enforcement, a LBUSD counselor, and service providers at the park to streamline communication and implement a zero tolerance policy for violence at the park.

Lt. Lebaron notes that improved community relations, resulting from improved mutual trust between police officers and community residents, has resulted in “crime [being] reported more often, more accurately, and... being handled more effectively and with better results” because

residents trust law enforcement to serve their needs, and police officers “take extra care to ensure the problem is resolved because they know the person being affected by it.”

Lt. Lebaron noted the community activities sponsored by Weed and Seed and credits these successful events for providing the opportunity for the residents and law enforcement to develop positive relationships. Some of these events include the monthly Steering Committee meetings, neighborhood cleanups, PEACE GARDEN events, WOW Jam, Summer Night Lights and Youth-Police Dialogues. Lt. Lebaron asserts, “They sent a message to those who used fear as a tactic to commit crimes that there is safety in numbers. And they²¹ were interacting with each other in social settings that carried over into the professional realm as well. With so many personal relationships and experiences being shared I know that the positive changes in the community grew exponentially.”

Lt. Lebaron reported that the greatest barrier to implementing the strategy was based on the fact that police officers are responsible for ensuring safety in areas of Long Beach outside of the Weed and Seed target area, so the increase police presence, targeted operations, and support of community efforts in the target area must be balanced amidst the many other responsibilities asked of the officers.

The police department will continue to sustain the Weed and Seed strategy by offering support to community partners in their efforts to make progress utilizing the Weed and Seed strategy, either by serving on the sustained subcommittees or through the assignment of a Patrol Resource Officer to the target area to continue to monitor quality of life issues. Currently officers are engaged with the Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee to address the parole reentry population that will be entering the community with unique needs based on their current status, and the Family Engagement and Violence Prevention’s sustained efforts through its Long Beach Truancy Conference Work Group. Furthermore, Lt. Lebaron notes that, “Officers are more aware of their responsibilities...and will be held to a higher standard in their work.”

Process Evaluation:

Discussions with Safe Haven Park Directors, Subcommittee Co-Chairs, Long Beach Weed and Seed Community Co-Chair and Program Coordinator have confirmed that law enforcement efforts to develop strong relationships in the community through community policing strategies have been a success. Accounts by those involved in Seeding efforts and those involved in Weeding efforts consistently allude to the positive changes taking place in resident-police relationships, which suggests that law enforcement’s Community Policing efforts are being coordinated to successfully bridge Central Long Beach Weeding and Seeding efforts and yield positive outcomes in the community. The fact that overall narcotic, violent crime, night-time loitering, and graffiti crime statistics have been reduced in the target area since strategy implementation in October 2007 is further evidence that Weeding strategies are being implemented effectively. Law enforcement has been a strong presence in Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative efforts with consistent attendance at Steering Committee meetings and community events. A more detailed analysis of law enforcement’s weeding and community policing strategies is provided in the previous “Outcome Evaluation” section of the report.

²¹ Referring to Weed and Seed partners, consisting of community residents and service providers

Seed Subcommittees Overview:

Members of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Steering Committee may volunteer to participate on one of three “seeding” subcommittees: *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention*, *Neighborhood Restoration*, and *Reentry and Workforce Development*. These subcommittees are key in developing projects, events, and interventions that will fulfill the Long Beach Weed and Seed grant’s objectives and measures. Subcommittees may reach out to agencies both within the Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative, and those that are not, to participate in Weed and Seed Projects. New partnerships may be built through this process. Each subcommittee provides an update on its progress at the monthly Steering Committee meeting.

During the final Weed and Seed Steering Committee meeting, each subcommittee reported on its accomplishments and sustainability plans. Both the accomplishments and sustainability plans of each subcommittee are summarized next, followed by the process evaluation (analysis of how the Long Beach Weed and Seed’s four principles – Coordination, Collaboration, Leveraging of Resources, and Community Participation – were applied in each subcommittee). Furthermore, where applicable, information from Steering Committee Co-chair Dr. Hollie and Site Director Tracy Colunga’s interviews will be used in the process evaluations of the Steering Committee and its subcommittees, as well as the final sustainability plans. Interviews with these two leaders of the strategy provided an overview of the strategy by addressing the following three questions:

1. *What major impact(s) were made due to the resources and strategy provided by the Weed and Seed grant in the Central Long Beach area?*
2. *What limitations were experienced in implementing the grant.*
3. *How do you see the strategy being sustained in the future?*

Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee:

The *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee (FE&VP)* serves to fulfill grant objectives listed under the prevention, intervention, and treatment component of the strategy. This component concentrates an array of human services in the target area and links law enforcement, social services agencies, the private sector, and the community to improve the overall quality of services to residents. In order to better coordinate violence prevention efforts in the target community, the *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee* is a hybrid of the Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention (Long Beach CalGRIP) Advisory Council and the Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative partner organizations. With the same target area, similar goals and objectives, and shared partner organizations, these collaboratives decided to merge into one subcommittee to spearhead family engagement and violence prevention efforts in the target community. Please see Appendix C.3 for an overview of the *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee*'s makeup and accomplishments to date.

The *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee* Co-Chairs are Dr. Farah Khaleghi, Executive Director of the Long Beach Community Improvement League and representative from the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council, and Jeff Farber, Executive Director of Helpline Youth Counseling and representative from the Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative. Co-chair Jeff Farber provided the report out to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee regarding the subcommittee's accomplishments during Year Four and sustainability plans for the future. Both are summarized below, and integrate additional information provided through interviews with Dr. Lydia Hollie (Steering Committee Co-chair) and Tracy Colunga (Site Director), followed by the process evaluation.

Accomplishments:

- Parent empowerment classes were offered consistently at the Martin Luther King Jr. Safe Haven, which have expanded since Weed and Seed implementation to be offered in English, Spanish, and Khmer, the three major languages used by residents in the target area. In addition, during Year Four of implementation, graduates of previous parent empowerment classes have been trained and served as parent mentors in their community.
- Developed a Youth Leadership Program and curriculum to develop leadership in social, economic, and environmental justice issues.
- Spearheaded a literature review through funding awarded by Kaiser Permanente to determine best practice approaches to curriculum promoting the healthy development and empowerment of young men of color in disadvantaged communities. The literature review and report was conducted by a Ph.D student from the Dept. of Criminology, Law & Society at the University of California, Irvine.
- Incubated the I Am S.H.A.N.T.E. (Seeking Her Ambition Necessary to Excel) nonprofit organization, which focuses on the self-awareness, empowerment, professional and

leadership development of adolescent girls from 13-19 years old in the Central Long Beach Area. Subcommittee partner Helpline Youth Counseling provided valuable staff support, as well as building space, to assist in implementing the nonprofit's summer pilot program that utilized the Be Strong curriculum originally piloted through the Long Beach Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program. Sponsorship by Weed and Seed allowed I am S.H.A.N.T.E. to provide its services both at Martin Luther King Jr. Park and MacArthur Park Safe Havens free of charge through Parks, Recreation, and Marine.

- Established a Truancy Conference Workgroup to coordinate the first annual and highly successful, "On Time, Every Time" Truancy Conference at Cabrillo HS, attended by 537 individuals total, including parents, youth, and service providers. The Truancy Conference Workgroup consists of civic and community leaders, juvenile attorney representative, and personnel from the Long Beach Unified School District, Long Beach Community College, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office, Los Angeles County Office of Probation, Long Beach City Prosecutor, and the Sixth District City Council Office. The inaugural conference was well attended and the evaluations were highly favorable, indicating that it was informative, educational, and very helpful²². These efforts are designed to increase graduation rates and decrease truancy and dropout rates as well as reinforce the value of a superior education and its linkage to meaningful, well-compensated employment. Funds were generously provided by the Small Business Owners Association and The California Endowment.
- Successfully completed, and often times exceeded, all seeding outcome measures involving increasing prevention and intervention services to youth and families in the target area.

Sustainability Plan:

- ***The Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee incubated The Long Beach Truancy Conference Workgroup.*** Annual conferences will continue to avail opportunities to students, parents and community leaders to participate in engaging dialogue about ways to prevent truancy and create a success oriented school learning environment that focuses on preparing students for a positive future. The Long Beach Truancy Conference Workgroup will regularly convene to plan and organize future conferences.
- ***Helpline Youth Counseling will carry on with the Parent Empowerment Workshops in English, Khmer, and Spanish,*** which utilizes an evidence-based curriculum. The current parent graduates will continue to mentor incoming parents to the classes.
- ***Long Beach Weed and Seed youth education and empowerment efforts will be***

²² Results below are from 50 evaluations collected. Conference highlights include: 1) On the Likert Scale (1-5), the combined overall Satisfied (4)-Very Satisfied (5) rate: 4.2; 2) The Likert ratings range from 4.22 to 4.52 3) The combined overall Satisfied-Very Satisfied percentage: 86%; 4)The percentages range from 84% to 94%. 5) 28 respondents provided favorable-highly favorable additional comments.

continued by youth-serving organizations, now strengthened by academic advances and incubation efforts spearheaded by the subcommittee. Youth programs serving young men of color (EM3, Centro Cha, Male Leadership Academy) in the community will be supported to integrate the findings from the literature review of best practices in curriculum to educate and empower young men of color in healthy development and coming of age processes. I am S.H.A.N.T.E. (Seeking Her Ambition Necessary to Excel), incubated over the summer by the subcommittee, will continue its efforts to educate and empower young women in the community through its best practices approach initiated during the Long Beach Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program. Lastly, Long Beach Weed and Seed Youth Leadership graduates have continued on to find jobs or leadership positions on the California Endowment Youth Leadership Committee or Youth Media Team. In addition, ten graduates who were 18 years or older joined the adult leadership program provided by through Long Beach Development Services Neighborhood Resource Center to continue to strengthen their skills and engagement in their community.

- **Youth-Police Dialogues will continue to be provided by California Conference for Equality and Justice (CCEJ).**

Process Evaluation:

Coordination, Collaboration, and Community Participation:

The *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee (FE&VP)* has engaged in the process of coordination and collaboration with law enforcement, city agencies, and nonprofit organizations in the community to improve several of its intervention efforts and leverage resources. Both the accomplishments and successful sustainability plans described above would not have been possible without strategic coordination and collaboration with all parties involved. Key relationships that experienced the most progress during Year Four included those strengthened with the Long Beach Unified School District (LBUSD) and the Faith-Based Collaborative Kingdom Causes initiated during the previous year. The addition of Birney Elementary School educator and Community Peace Garden Manager Deborah Kearn as the LBUSD liaison greatly contributed to Weed and Seed's relationship with LBUSD. Deborah Kearn was also utilized during the summer Youth Leadership Program to co-develop and facilitate the Long Beach DHHS Weed and Seed Youth Leadership curriculum focused on social, economic, and environmental justice issues. Furthermore, Site Director Tracy Colunga was key in spearheading efforts to engage the Faith-based Collaborative in Long Beach Weed and Seed efforts. These new institutions strengthen the subcommittee's ability to provide educational outreach and social services to the target community through the newly developed Truancy Conference Workgroup and Youth Leadership Program efforts.

Other examples of successful coordination, collaboration, and community participation by the *FE&VP Subcommittee* over the past four years include:

- Coordination with youth-serving organizations to offer free trainings and services to youth in the Long Beach Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program, including the Boys and Girls Club, YMCA, The State of the Art Project, and The Long Beach Shakespeare Company;

- Coordination with Helpline Youth Counseling to provide Parent Empowerment Classes in English, Spanish and Khmer and integrate best practices for how to empower and teach skills for parents to be effective leaders at home and in community settings;
- Coordination with the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine to use its Recreation Hall and other facilities for community events and classes, at no cost to the Collaborative;
- Partnership with the University of California Los Angeles and University of California Irvine to engage graduate level students who provided technical assistance to the Subcommittee as a well as a link to academia to inform the development and implementation of Subcommittee efforts;
- Leveraging the Long Beach Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program to 1) increase youth participation in the Youth and Police Dialogues, coordinated by California Conference on Equality and Justice (CCEJ) in partnership with law enforcement in the target area 2) create a leadership curriculum focused on social, economic, and environmental justice issues for use by other leadership programs serving the community 3) incubate programs continuing with the philosophy and focus of the leadership program 4) propel youth graduates to the next level through participation with the California Endowment Building Healthy Communities Initiative or Neighborhood Resource Center's resident leadership program.
- Partnership with the LBUSD to inform the Subcommittee's Truancy Conference planning and reinforce its implementation, along with a variety of its other collaborating partners: Los Angeles Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS), Los Angeles County Probation Office, the Faith-Based Collaborative and other community-based youth and family-serving organizations.

Leveraging of Resources:

The *FE&VP Subcommittee's* successful efforts to coordinate and collaborate with various organizations in the target community contributed to the leveraging of resources to strengthen violence prevention and intervention activities. Additional funds in the amount of \$10,000 (provided by the Long Beach Community Foundation) was leveraged for the Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program during Year Four, to supplement the \$39,300 leveraged in funds the previous year, provided by the Leadership Long Beach Connected Corridor Project (\$14,000), State Farm Strong Neighborhoods Grant (\$5,000), Kaiser Permanente Violence Prevention Grant (\$5,000), and Long Beach CalGRIP Youth Beautification Project Grant (\$15,300).

Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee:

The *Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee* serves to fulfill grant objectives listed under the prevention, intervention, and treatment component of the strategy, especially those pertaining to the reentry population. This subcommittee may work closely with the *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee* as many of their objectives are closely related. Similar to the *Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee*, the *Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee* is a hybrid of the Long Beach Gang Reduction, Intervention, and Prevention (Long Beach CalGRIP) Advisory Council and the Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative partner organizations. With the same target area, similar goals and objectives, and shared partner organizations, these collaboratives decided to merge into one subcommittee to spearhead reentry and workforce development efforts in the target community. Please see Appendix C.4 for an overview of the *Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee's* accomplishments to date.

The *Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee* Co-Chairs are Cecile Walters (Pacific Gateway Workforce Investment Network) and Ben Espitia (Goodwill of Southern Los Angeles County). Cecile Walters represents the Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council, and Ben Espitia represents the Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative. Cecile Walters provided the report out to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee regarding the subcommittee's accomplishments during Year Four and sustainability plans for the future. Both are summarized below, supplemented by interviews with Steering Committee co-chair Dr. Lydia Hollie and Site Coordinator Tracy Colunga, and are followed by the process evaluation. The projects and activities spearheaded by the Subcommittee can be viewed in Appendix C.4.

Accomplishments:

- The *Reentry and Workforce Development Subcommittee* developed the precedent-setting reentry plan, The Long Beach Reentry Navigator Project, which fits into the city's larger plan for public safety through a sustainable evidenced-based, holistic approach to: (1) prepare ex-offenders for release and reintegration into society community; (2) promote workforce development and meaningful employment opportunities; (3) develop basic literacy and academic skills, in addition to vocational training; (4) coordinate referrals to well-qualified substance abuse and mental health agencies to curb recidivism; (5) establish and promote life and skills programs designed to change behavioral and cultural patterns, and improve family stability after reentry; and (6) restorative justice.
- Utilized the Reentry Employment Initiative Technical Services Grant awarded in March 2010 from the U.S. Community Capacity Development Office to receive in-depth training and technical assistance with the Comprehensive Reentry Services Plan.
- Engaged reentry individuals and service providers to understand current strengths and gaps in services currently being provided to the Long Beach reentry population. Four forums were hosted to engage the community: 1 and 2) targeted men and women, respectively, who have reentered the community, and their perception of the services available to them 3) targeted employers, both open to hiring employees with backgrounds

and those not open, to understand the best lines of communication to debunk myths about hiring ex-offenders. 4) targeted faith based organizations and realized that they did not currently have the tools needed to serve the reentry population.

- Consistently offered monthly expungement workshops to the reentry population.
- Goals were met or exceeded for job training/employment, completion of adult education/work skills programming, and expungement workshop participation outcome measures stated in the Weed and Seed grant.

Sustainability Plan:

The Reentry and Workforce Development subcommittee will continue its efforts under Goodwill Serving the People of Southern California (Goodwill SOLAC). The well-established nonprofit organization will serve as the fiscal agent when funds are secured, as well as continue to serve as the site for reentry committee meetings. These meetings will be co-chaired by the Goodwill SOLAC Director of Development and a formally incarcerated person. Cal GRIP (Gang Reduction, Intervention and Prevention), a state-funded collaborative, has committed to support the development of the Long Beach Reentry Navigator Project, and the subcommittee has applied for the U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Reintegration of Ex-Offenders – Adult Program Grant to fund its “Re-Entry Navigators Program”.

Process Evaluation:

Coordination, Collaboration, and Community Involvement:

With the aid of USDOJ technical assistance, the Reentry and Workforce Development Committee spearheaded a citywide Comprehensive Reentry and Demonstration Project designed to aid juvenile and adult reentrants in making a seamless transition back to the community, while minimizing reincarceration, keeping families intact, and maintaining stable neighborhoods. The Co-Chairs have intentionally engaged the reentry community members and other key stakeholders (including service providers, employers, and the faith-based community) to fully examine the best approaches to mainstreaming this underserved population into productive and contributing members of society. This is clearly seen by the diverse focus groups initiated to inform the Project, as well as the subcommittee’s decision to continue with a formerly incarcerated person as the Co-Chair.

Leveraging of Resources:

Since the subcommittee was awarded the Reentry Employment Initiative Technical Services Grant from the U.S. Community Capacity Development Office in March 2010, the subcommittee has applied for one grant in the amount of \$1,169,221 to The U.S. Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration Reintegration of Ex-Offenders – Adult Program Grants for its “Re-Entry Navigators Program” and is still awaiting confirmation of its award.

Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee:

The *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee* serves to fulfill grant objectives listed under the Neighborhood Restoration component of the Long Beach Weed and Seed Strategy. Through coordinated use of federal, state, local, and private-sector resources, neighborhood restoration strategies focus on economic development, employment opportunities for residents, and improvements to the housing stock and physical environment of the neighborhood. Please see Appendix C.5 for an overview of the *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee's* accomplishments to date.

The *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee* appointed new Co-Chairs during Year Four of strategy implementation: community residents Annie Greenfeld and Lillian Parker. The co-chairs reported out to the Weed and Seed Steering Committee regarding the subcommittee's accomplishments during Year Four and sustainability plans for the future. Both are summarized below, supplemented with information provided through interviews with Steering Committee co-chair Dr. Lydia Hollie and Site Coordinator Tracy Colunga, and followed by the process evaluation. The projects and activities spearheaded by the Subcommittee are available in Appendix C.5.

Accomplishments:

- Initiated and coordinated quarterly neighborhood clean-ups and community empowerment events. Quarterly clean-ups engaged residents and youth in cleaning up their neighborhoods and educated residents on resources available to keep their community clean, such as the Nuisance and Graffiti Abatement Hotlines. Community empowerment events engaged the community to develop positive relationships with one another as well as police officers in attendance, to become educated about resources available in the community, and provided safe, productive activities for residents.
- Supported the Community PEACE GARDEN and assisted in the coordination of community empowerment events and celebrations developed by the PEACE GARDEN committee. Through events sponsored and coordinated by the PEACE GARDEN, residents can come together to learn about each other's cultures, grow healthy food, and learn about nutrition and green gardening practices. It also served as a safe space for community empowerment events and an educational tool for youth of all ages. Community empowerment events have included: *Harvest Hoedown/Build Day*, *Dia De Los Muertos del Mundo Harvest Days*, *We Love Long Beach Community Breakfast*, *Inaugural Peace Fest*, *Youth Environmental Leaders Workshop Series (consisting of 10 classes)*, *Junior League of Long Beach 6th Annual Kids in the Kitchen: Healthy Eating and Exercise Fair*, *Community Education/Workdays (8 total)*, *NRC Neighborhood Resource Center – NUSA Recognition and Community Presentation*, and *a Juneteenth Plant Sale*. In total, these events have served over 1,200 youth and adult members of the Long Beach community.
- The Community PEACE GARDEN became the first community garden in the city to receive national recognition as a recent recipient of second place honors at the 2011

Neighborhood of the Year awards in the Multi-Neighborhood division.

- Completion of the Community PEACE GARDEN Policy, which outlines the unique model of community gardening represented by the PEACE GARDEN. Rather than individuals owning their own garden plots, the garden consists of six plots, each of which represents a different ethnic community residing in the Weed and Seed target area. The garden beds are designed to be monitored by Cultural Subcommittees: Cambodian, Pacific Islander, African American, Latino, a Children's Unity Plot for school aged-children, and a Protector's Plot maintained by the West Division Police and local Fire Department together. Each Cultural Subcommittee's task is to create a design for their plot that includes the display of cultural art, decide which items to plant, and educate the community on what is being grown and how it represents the culture. Not only does the model bring residents of different ethnicities together in the same space towards a common purpose, but also each individual entering the garden will be educated on the culture of the plot they are viewing. All food harvested from the plots are shared with the entire community during harvest day events; to-date, at least 60 families have received bags of produce for their homes from the garden. The PEACE GARDEN Application/Operating Policy and Procedures draft, which was presented to City of Long Beach staff for review in September 2011, is currently being revised into its final draft by PEACE GARDEN management based on feedback from City of Long Beach staff.
- The PEACE GARDEN completed their project with local Boy Scout and the City of Long Beach Water Department to develop a drought tolerant perimeter landscaping of the garden to serve as a model to educate residents about drought resistance planting.
- Fostered a Faith-based community partnership through the highly successful WOW Jam community outreach wherein approximately 26,000 people attended over the last three years (2008-2010) on the Poly Football Field without incident or police intervention.
- Engaged Neighborhood Development Bureau NIS (Neighborhood Improvement Strategy) Coordinators in monthly meetings and connected them to key stakeholders (such as park directors and church leaders) in the target area so that they could increase their reach into the community with satellite office sites to improve the impact of the NIS strategy towards reducing the Weed and Seed outcome measures focused on graffiti, code enforcement and nuisance abatement.

Sustainability Plan:

- ***NIS (Neighborhood Improvement Strategy) Coordinators from the Neighborhood Development Bureau will continue their efforts in the target community to implement community clean-ups and reduce instances of graffiti, code and nuisance site violations.***
- ***The community PEACE GARDEN will continue to provide service to the community through the growth and harvest of free organic food, education focused on nutrition and sustainable gardening, cultural celebrations, and other community empowerment events.***

- ***The Community Restorative and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition will build upon the accomplishments of the Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee through the formulation of the Community Restoration and Revitalization Empowerment Plan,*** which is intentionally aligned with LBDHHS Weed & Seed strategic goals and objectives as well as The California Endowment Building Healthy Communities (BHC) outcomes. The CoRR Coalition will be applying to The California Endowment BHC Initiative for funds to implement its Empowerment Plan once it is complete. More information about CoRR and its Empowerment Plan can be found in Appendix F.

Neighborhood Restoration and Peace Garden Subcommittee Process Evaluations:

Coordination, Collaboration, and Community Involvement:

The *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee* has engaged in the process of coordination and collaboration to develop many first time partnerships with the faith-based community, city agencies, nonprofit organizations, and businesses in the community to leverage resources for its community empowerment events and establishment of the PEACE GARDEN.

Examples of successful coordination and collaboration over the past four years by the *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee* and its *PEACE GARDEN Committee* include: 1) strong partnerships with city agencies and local business to leverage resources and establish the Community Peace Garden; 2) partnerships with city agencies, nonprofit organizations, and the Faith-based Collaborative to plan and implement community empowerment events; 3) partnership with the California State University Dominguez Hills to engage a graduate level intern who provided staff support to the *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee* and *Peace Garden Committee* as well as linkage to academia to inform the development and implementation of Subcommittee efforts; 4) partnership with NIS (Neighborhood Improvement Strategy) Coordinators from the Neighborhood Development Bureau to reduce instances of graffiti, code and nuisance site violations 5) coordination with the Weed and Seed Youth Leadership Program to engage community youth in community clean-up and PEACE GARDEN efforts; 6) quarterly community clean-ups to encourage residents to take ownership of their neighborhood through engagement in beautification efforts and education about graffiti, code, and nuisance reporting hotlines.

Leveraging of Resources:

Over the past two years, the *Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee* and *PEACE GARDEN Committee*'s successful efforts to coordinate and collaborate with various organizations in the target community contributed to the leveraging of resources to support neighborhood restoration projects. Partnerships with local city agencies assisted the *Peace Garden Committee* in leveraging resources to establish the Community Peace Garden, including partnership with the City of Long Beach Redevelopment Agency to legally establish the Garden, the City of Long Beach Department of Parks, Recreation, and Marine to provide land and insurance, and the Department of Health and Human Services to pay the water utility bill for the Garden. Partnerships with local businesses such as The Green Plummer and Home Depot provided the labor, expertise, tools and building materials need to create the Garden. Lastly, grants written to community organizations, such as the Neighborhood Partners Program (NPP) and Pacific Gateway Workforce Development Network (Long Beach CalGRIP Youth Beautification Grant), helped the *PEACE GARDEN Committee* leverage additional funds. The total amount of funds leveraged by the PEACE GARDEN, in business/organization donations, matching funds, volunteer/donated labor, and monetary contributions, is reported at \$57,561. Although no additional funds were leveraged in Year Four, a strong foundation has been formed to create the CoRR Coalition, which will be applying for funding from The California Endowment BHC Initiative to sustain its future efforts.

Conclusion and General Recommendations:

The Long Beach Weed and Seed Process Evaluation showed that each Long Beach Weed and Seed Subcommittee successfully applied the Weed and Seed Strategy's four principles – Coordination, Collaboration, Leveraging of Resources, and Community Participation – to an impressive extent in their planning and provision of services. Since this evaluation reviewed the conclusion of the Weed and Seed Strategy four-year implementation as funded by the U.S. Department of Justice from 2007-2011, the following recommendations are intended to guide future efforts to build upon the foundational relationships, policies, models and institutions created over the last four years to reduce violent crime, drug abuse, and gang activity in Central Long Beach. The recommendations may also inform efforts to develop a City-wide Violence Prevention Plan for the City of Long Beach, as is currently spearheaded by the previous Weed and Seed Site Coordinator and current employee of the City of Long Beach Development Services, Neighborhood Services Bureau.

Strengths for Continued Efforts:

- The community relationships fostered with the Long Beach Police Department, especially the West Division serving the Weed and Seed target area, has arguably been the strongest in the community's history. Having built upon the relationships developed during the Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force that preceded the Weed and Seed grant funding, the public now has valuable access to law enforcement statistics affecting the target community and collaborative members have partnered in several community policing efforts that will continue beyond grant funding.
- Long Beach Weed and Seed Collaborative members have benefitted from improved relationships with City of Long Beach institutions, and by continuing to strengthen these relationships, are able to streamline their services with partnerships that promote the efficiency of serving the target community (examples include continued City support of the PEACE GARDEN and youth programs serving the target area at the Safe Havens.)
- Several best practice models were developed to strengthen service efforts in the target community, utilizing the expertise of collaborative members as well as interns from institutions of higher education. Models on youth leadership, reentry services, and community gardening were developed and efforts are being continued to share and implement the models in the target community. In addition, in-depth research on best practices for truancy and addressing healthy youth development of young men of color will inform future efforts in these areas.
- The formulation of Weed and Seed subcommittees targeting a specific area of violence prevention in the target community has established expert committees focused on truancy, reentry services, and neighborhood restoration that will continue to meet and eventually join the City-wide Violence Prevention Coalition to contribute to the knowledge base and efforts of the Coalition. Having these committees established prior to the Coalition's formation will contribute to a strong foundation for the Coalition, much in the same way that the Youth and Gang Violence Task Force contributed to the strong foundation, and ultimate success (ahead of expected outcomes), of the Weed and Seed Strategy by forging the relationships and expertise necessary to successfully implement the strategy prior to grant funding.

Recommendations for Improved Efforts:

- Future community collaboratives may consider streamlining their Steering Committee to include leaders from each subcommittee so that residents and other partners can focus their time and attention on subcommittee efforts and more easily engage in activities on the ground level.
- Leadership to the Steering Committee and its subcommittees should be elected; however, certain qualifications should be in place to ensure that experts in the field lead a particular area of focus. Examples include education or work experience in the focus area of the committee they are to lead, as well as prior leadership experience. Community residents of all ages should be engaged by offering insight and taking an active role in implementing committee activities, to ensure that activities are indeed relevant to the communities they are meant to serve.
- Secure ample resources to allocate toward implementation of the violence prevention strategy, being careful to not overlook or undervalue the importance of expert leadership and the time required to effectively oversee the strategy and respond to concerns, provide administrative and technical assistance, including thorough training to leaders and orientation of new members, and recruit new participants.
- Determine effective strategies to link different committees and their efforts so that all parties involved benefit by strengthening their body of expertise, increasing their ability to foster new relationships, and improving the impact of their activities through meaningful partnerships.



The Target Community's Perspective: Highlights of the Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Weed and Seed Program 2007-2011

Long Beach CalGRIP Advisory Council Meeting

Center for Working Families

Long Beach, California

Presented by:

Lydia A. Hollie, JD/MAED

Former Co-Chair

LBDHHS Weed and Seed Program Steering Committee

January 23, 2012

Attaining Excellence

“Excellence can be attained if you:
Care more than others think is wise,
Risk more than others think is safe,
Dream more than others thinks practical, and
Expect more than others think is possible.”

An unknown philosopher

Civic Engagement

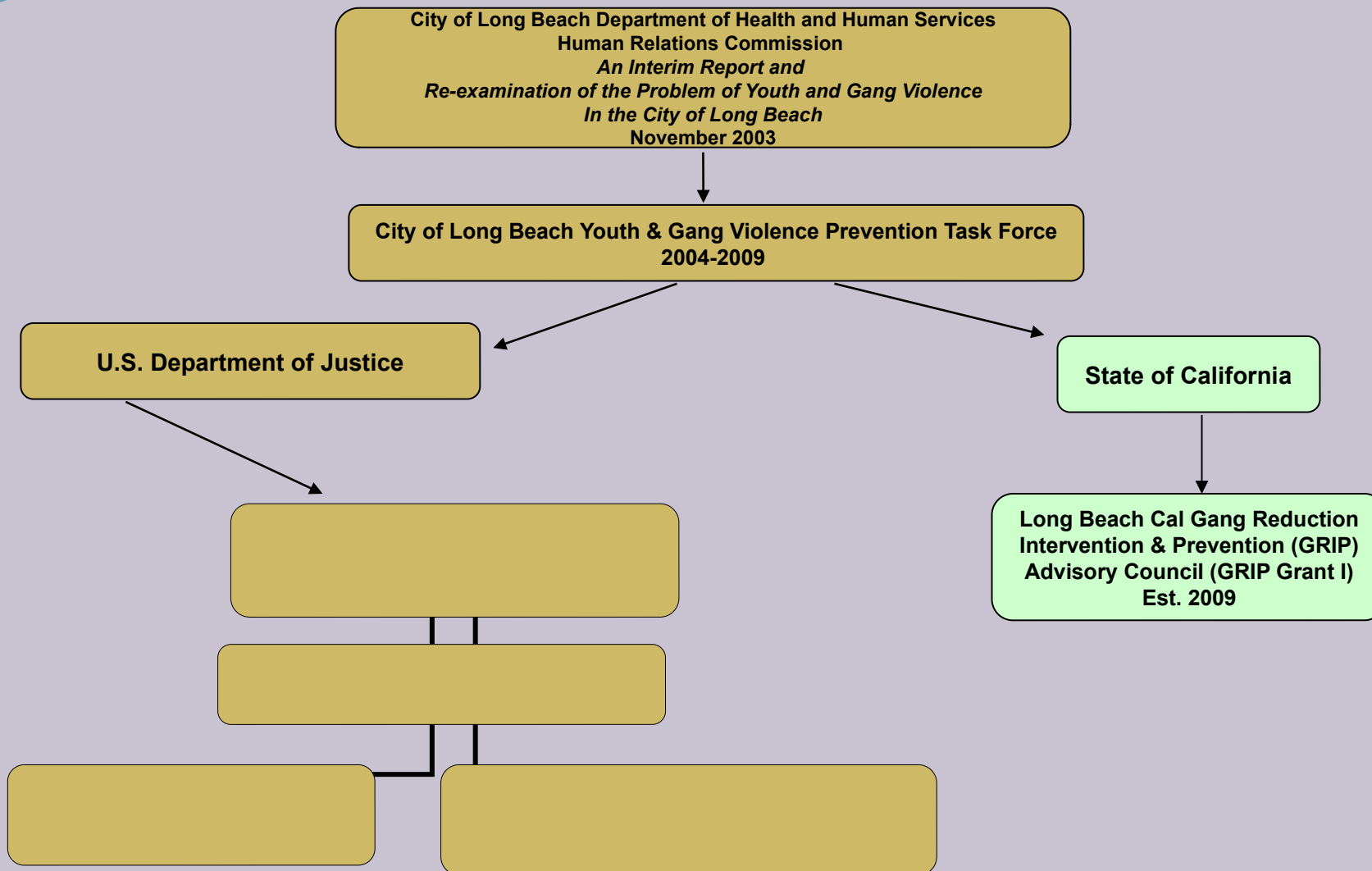
- What is Civic Engagement?

“It is working to make a difference in the civic life of our communities and developing the combination of knowledge, skills, values, and motivation to make that difference. It means promoting the quality of life in a community, through both political and non-political processes.

A morally and civically responsible individual recognizes himself or herself as a member of a larger social fabric and therefore considers social problems to be at least partly his or her own; such an individual is willing to see the moral and civic dimensions of issues, to make and justify informed moral and civic judgments, and to take action when appropriate.”

Professor Thomas Ehrlich, Senior Scholar
Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching

USDOJ Weed and Seed Historical Organizational Chart



City of Long Beach

Department of Health and Human Services

Weed and Seed Program

Motto:

**“Establishing Model Communities,
One Neighborhood at a Time”**

Unique Among Weed and Seed Sites

- Spearheaded by the Long Beach Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Task Force, Long Beach competed against hundreds of cities nationwide, and was one of 38 sites selected for an initial award of \$1 million (\$500,000/community and \$500,000/law enforcement) five-year funding cycle (2007-2012).
- Unique among the Weed and Seed Programs across the nation is that it was administered by the city's Department of Health and Human Services.
- This approach recognized that youth violence and prevention are health issues that implicate appropriate community-based as well as law enforcement responses through a variety of strategies which aim to reduce violent crime and restore neighborhoods in Police Beats 4 and 5.

The Target Community

- The Weed and Seed target area served was north to Hill Street, south to Anaheim Street, east to Cherry Avenue, and west to the Los Angeles River.
- With a population of nearly 46,000 citizens:
 - One-third reside below poverty levels with an annual median household increase of \$21,000 for a family of four.
 - One-half of this community live on \$15,000 annually.
 - Over one-half have completed high school and less than ten percent are high school graduates.

Who comprised the Steering Committee and Collaborative Partners?

- The Weed and Seed Steering Committee and Collaborative Partners were comprised of over 40 members:
 - Community members, businesses, educators, governmental agencies, law enforcement agencies, non-profit organizations, community-based and faith-based organization, reentry community members, families, children, and youth.

Menu of Options

- These key stakeholders willingly came to the table of community engagement to change the menu of options that the Central Long Beach community now has available and marvelous outcomes have emerged.
- As a result, the Central Long Beach landscape has been reconfigured and reformulated into a more vibrant, self-reliant, healthier, and safer community, wherein new and innovative programs and services are emerging and prospering.
- City staff, graduate interns, and community members associated with the Weed and Seed Program have benefited in measurable ways, such as, relevant experience and enhanced skill-set, acknowledged expertise, promotion, incubated new community-based organizations, and national and international programmatic recognition for the city of Long Beach, California, to name a few.

Five Basic Weed and Seed Strategies

- The foundation for building the program's capacity to navigate a paradigm shift from conventional approaches to public safety informed the following five strategies:
 - Prevention/Intervention/Treatment
 - Targeted Law Enforcement
 - Community Policing
 - Comprehensive Workforce Development and Reentry
 - Neighborhood Restoration

Highlight of Accomplishments

- Established three Safe Havens (Martin Luther King, Jr., MacArthur Park, and Ernest McBride Park).
- Conducted at five community assessment surveys in collaboration with CSULB Dept. of Nursing and UCLA Dept. of Social Work and Public Policy that provide current data about the neighborhoods we have served. Organizations now have valuable information available which can be used to inform requests for funds to continue to address quality of life issues.
- Held two Comprehensive Strategic Planning Retreats.
- Hosted the City Council Delegation from Mombasa, Kenya.

Highlight of Accomplishments (cont'd)

- Hosted a U.S. State Department-sponsored Delegation of dignitaries from the Republic of Ireland and Northern Ireland.
- Sponsored well-attended community forums and events, including Easter Egg Hunt Celebration (1,000 participants) and Cinco de Mayo (800 participants) Celebrations at McBride Park.
- Co-Sponsored Community-wide Education Forum and Expungement Workshops, where more than 200 reentry community members attended and learned about the process as well as to complete their petitions properly.
- Incubated the New Generations, “The Gift,” which has served several thousand community members in the Washington Middle School Area during the winter holiday season.

Highlight of Subcommittee Accomplishments

- *Law Enforcement and Community Policing:*
 - There has been an reduction in narcotic related activity, violent crime.
 - An increase in gang related arrests, reduction in the gang-related calls for service, search warrants, truancy citations, graffiti related arrests, and an increase in graffiti calls for service.
 - An increase in COPS cases within the target area, and the most recent "Take Back Our Streets," which was a police-community event which approximately 100 residents joined together to reclaim their neighborhood.

Highlight of Subcommittee Accomplishments

- **Law Enforcement and Community Policing:**
 - Since its inception in 2007 to 2010, the Weed and Seed Program's community-police collaboration has achieved a 24% reduction in crime, which substantially to the city's overall reduction in violent crime to its lowest levels in nearly 40 years.
 - Given the fact that these beats are well known for historically high violent crime rates, that double-digit drop is significant and noteworthy. We recognize downward trends are in the right direction, however, community residents and their partners will not be satisfied until zero homicides are achieved.

Highlight of Subcommittee Accomplishments

- **Family Engagement and Violence Prevention Subcommittee:**
 - Established the Truancy Work Group to coordinate the first annual and highly successful, “On Time, Every Time” Truancy Conference at Cabrillo HS, attended by over 300 parents and youth.
 - Youth-Police Dialogues.
 - Established a Youth Leadership Program and curriculum to develop competency in social, economic, and environment justice issues.
 - Parent Empowerment Workshops conducted in English, Khmer, and Spanish, which graduates community parent mentors.
 - Incubated I Am S.H.A.N.T.E. nonprofit organization which focuses on the self-awareness, empowerment, professional and leadership development of adolescent girls from 13-19 years old in the Central Long Beach area.

Highlight of Subcommittee Accomplishments

- **Workforce Development and Reentry:**
 - With the aid of USDOJ technical assistance, developed a citywide Comprehensive Reentry and Empowerment Services Strategic Plan and demonstration project designed to aid juvenile and adult reentrants from camps, jails, and prisons, in making a seamless transition back to the community, while minimizing re-incarceration, keeping families intact, and maintaining stable neighborhoods.
 - The Co-Chairs have intentionally engaged the reentry community members and other key stakeholders to fully examine the best approaches to mainstreaming this underserved population into productive and contributing members of society. This Subcommittee will continue with a formerly incarcerated person as the Co-Chair. Goals were met or exceeded for computer training, job training/employment, completion of adult education/work skills programming, and expungement workshop participation.

Highlight of Subcommittee Accomplishments

● *The Community PEACE GARDEN:*

- Incubated 6th District Councilman Andrew's idea,
- Designed and built by Weed and Seed Program youth leaders under the guidance of community elders, which fostered and strengthened intergenerational relationships.
- Received national recognition as a recipient of Second Place honors at the NUSA 2011 Neighborhood of the Year awards in the Multi-Neighborhood division. Over 1,000 visitors.
- Established as an authentic place of active community engagement where youth and adults learn about have access to healthy produce, including, MLK site Boys and Girls Club, LBUSD elementary students, and is utilized by FAMILY Foundation, a community-based organization as the location for mentoring youth males of color.
- More than 100 families received bags of produce without cost.

Highlight of Subcommittee Accomplishments

- **Neighborhood Restoration Subcommittee:**
 - Fostered a Faith-based community partnership through the extraordinarily well-attended WOW Jam community outreach wherein approximately 26,000 people participated from 2008-2010 on the Poly Football Field without incident or police intervention.
 - Neighborhood Clean-ups.
 - Incubated The Community Restoration and Revitalization (CoRR) Coalition to sustain and advance the work of the Subcommittee after the September 30th sunset.

Parting Thoughts

- The Long Beach Department of Health and Human Services Weed and Seed Program and the Steering Committee deepened the foundation for "Establishing Model Communities, One Neighborhood at a Time."
- It helped to shape the Long Beach Model for youth and gang violence prevention. This city is a much safer and more peaceful because of these approaches.
- Through these efforts, the new status quo is active community engagement, new and lasting relationships have formed, and community-police relations have strengthened due to a greater understanding that there must be a mutual respect for both the "weeding" and "seeding" processes in order to stabilize neighborhoods where people can grow, thrive, and prosper.
- Through this extraordinary collaboration, we have helped to save lives, reduce violence, restore neighborhoods, and revitalize the Central Area community.

With Gratitude

With heartfelt gratitude,
it has been my distinct pleasure to serve as the
Long Beach Department of Health and Human
Services Weed and Seed Program
Steering Committee Co-Chair (2007-2011)

Lydia A. Hollie, JD/MAED

January 23, 2012