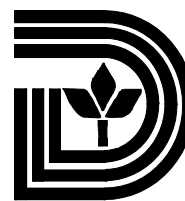


Memorandum



CITY OF DALLAS

DATE November 5, 2021

TO Honorable Members of the Public Safety Committee

SUBJECT **Violence Intervention Program Update**

The purpose of this memorandum is to provide an update to the Public Safety Committee of the Dallas City Council on the implementation, operations, and next steps of the City's Violence Intervention Program, Dallas Cred, which is operated by Youth Advocate Programs, Inc.

Background

In May 2021, the City Council authorized a two-year, \$1.6M contract with Youth Advocate Programs, Inc. (YAP, Inc.) for the operation of a violence intervention program which serves four geographic areas identified by the Dallas Police Department in alignment with the Violent Crime Reduction Plan. The model of the Violence Intervention Program further supports the Violent Crime Plan's Focused Deterrence model.

The philosophy of the program is to prevent violence by addressing:

- Social and economic inequality and instability
- Creating trust within communities
- Creating opportunity within communities
- Mentoring individuals at highest risk for being a victim or perpetrator of violence

The Violence Intervention program is operated by 12 staff serving the four focus areas of:

- Illinois & Overton
- Loop 12 & Jim Miller
- Webb Chapel & Lombardy
- Camp Wisdom & Gannon

Success Metrics

The table below represents the outcomes reported by the program to date:

City Funded Violence Intervention Programs		
Activity	October	Year to Date
Violence Interruption Contacts	135	264
Mentoring Contacts	3	193
Social Service Referrals	31	97
Employment Opportunity Referral	8	69
Community Engagement Events	7	37
Coordination Meetings	13	33
Youth Programs	4	10

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Actions Taken

The Dallas Cred, Violence Intervention Team, have taken several innovative and proactive steps to engage and serve members of our community in alignment with the program philosophy, these actions include:

Focused Street Outreach: By staffing individuals that live-in and are known as credible within the four focus areas, Dallas Cred has quickly established relationships with members of the community and property management groups at multi-family complexes where violent crime and social service needs exist. Focused street outreach includes mediation of conflicts, identification of community needs, public education, and identification of precursor indicators of violence, response to victims of violent acts to provide immediate and long-term support and organizing community vigils following acts of violence.

Steering Committee Advisement: Monthly steering committee group meetings of invested individuals coming together to identify ways they can work together to reduce violence in the community has guided our program towards specific areas and methods of serving the community, linked Dallas Cred to upcoming community events, and provided collaborative services to members of the community in our focus areas.

Group Sessions: Weekly open group sessions for anyone in the community to come and discuss issues related to violence, bullying, or trauma that they have witnessed or seen in the community allows for safe spaces for mentoring and mediation of conflicts to occur. Dallas Cred has launched these sessions to identify and serve community members that are at-risk of violent acts or future interaction with the criminal justice system. By mentoring, Dallas Cred can impact the course of a person's life and direct them away from negative future outcomes.

Parent and Care-giver Support: By providing safe settings to surviving family members of victims of violent acts, Dallas Cred has provided comfort, support, and social service referrals to facilitate healing, discourage retaliation and investment in the lives of community members during difficult times. Parent and Care-giver support sessions also serve to create opportunities within communities for social, environmental, and economic investment.

Community Events and Retreats: Dallas Cred has focused significant time and effort on creating trust within historically underserved communities through community engagement events. For example, recent planning with LULAC to support the Hocus Pocus Halloween event. Dallas Cred has also hosted community events such as Teen Nights, hosted by Dallas Park and Recreation, back-to-school fairs, community vigils, neighborhood clean-ups, and participated in national night out. In addition, Dallas Cred recently hosted its first quarterly retreat. This event was a fishing trip for youth. This event provided a getaway, support, and fun for youth in the four focus areas.

Case Management: Most critically, Dallas Cred are creating opportunities, promoting equitable services, and mentoring through long-term case management and social service referrals. The program has accepted its first 15 clients into the 12-month program of support. Rapid expansion efforts to reach 100 total clients is in progress and will positively impact members of our community that are most at-risk of being impacted by violent acts.

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Next Steps

The program will continue to expand critical services in the four focus areas by:

- Expanding opportunities for face-to-face and virtual groups to serve surviving family members of victims who've been impacted by gun violence
- Participating and supporting the DISD Conflict Resolution, Anger Management, and Self-Esteem (C.A.S.E.) curriculum in schools
- Joining Teen Youth Programs, sponsored by the *Stewpot*, to serve and deflect youth from violence in program focus areas
- Planning and launching our next quarterly retreat (Tentative: January 2022)
- Integrate with the Metro Dallas Homeless Alliance referral process to serve persons experiencing homelessness in focus areas
- Continue Food Drive Outreach and Education through the Holiday Season:
 - North Texas Food Bank
 - DISD "Feed the Kids"
 - Clean the Block Initiative – Turkey Giveaway

We look forward to continuing to serve our community through this very important initiative.

Thank you,

David Pughes

David Pughes
Director
Office of Integrated Public Safety Solutions

c: T.C. Broadnax, City Manager Chris Caso, City Attorney Mark Swann, City Auditor Biliera Johnson, City Secretary Preston Robinson, Administrative Judge Kimberly Bizer Tolbert, Chief of Staff to the City Manager Jon Fortune, Assistant City Manager	Majed A. Al-Ghafry, Assistant City Manager Joey Zapata, Assistant City Manager Dr. Eric A. Johnson, Chief of Economic Development and Neighborhood Services M. Elizabeth Reich, Chief Financial Officer M. Elizabeth (Liz) Cedillo-Pereira, Chief of Equity, and Inclusion Directors and Assistant Directors
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