

LA Making Connections for Men and Boys of Color Work Group Summit:

Improving Mental Health and Community Wellbeing by Addressing the Impact of the Culture of Violence in South Los Angeles and Surrounding Communities

Wednesday, September 21, 2016 at The California Endowment

VPC Making Connections 'LEARNING COMMUNITY' MEETING SUMMARY 09.21.2016

Dear Making Connections Work Group/Learning Community and interested parties,

*MEETING RECAP:*

On Wednesday 9, 21, 2016 - We held a 'learning community' event where we learned more about the social determinants of violence; the LA City GRYD office; LA County probations departments South LA Gang unit; a Social Media App for Addressing PTSD; and, the LA County DA's Bureau of Victim Services.

*Meeting Learning Objectives:*

- 1) Learn more about city/county anti-gang services (i.e. GRYD).
- 2) Hear about the social determinants of violence
- 3) Gain familiarity with services/compensation for victims of violent crime
- 4) See how teens can use a social app/text messaging to cope with PTSD

*Meeting Attendance:* 57 people registered for the event.

53 people attended the event

3 guest speaker + 1 host

Total Attendance = 57 person

*Environmental/Organizational Scan:*

Over 40 organizations were represented including: Prevention Institute; LA County Dept. of Public health; Los Angeles County, Department of Mental Health; mayors office of public safety - gang reduction youth development; HOLMAN UMC; The Reverence Project; L.A. County - Dept. of Mental Health at Los Padrinos Juvenile Hall Mental Health Unit; St. Joseph Center; Student Success GPS; League of Women Voters Community Policing Committee; TL4FCORP'S GANG AFFILIATES AND CRIMINAL OFFENDERS RECOVERY PROGRAM; Helpline Youth Counseling; The Institute for Nonviolence in Los Angeles; City Of Long Beach; Toberman Neighborhood Center';

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Trojan Swim Club; Soledad Enrichment Action; Safe Place for Youth; The GRYD Foundation; Santa Monica Police Department; DHS-Immigration and Customs Enforcement; Youth Policy Institute; LA Reintegration Council; GRYD/USC; The Positive Results Corporation; LAURA; LAC Probation; Overground Railroad; Barrio Action Youth & Family Center; Share Necessities; Mockingbird Analytics; A Window Between Worlds; Journey Out; City of Santa Monica; Watts neighborhood Council; Pasadena Unified School District; FBI; El Nido Family Centers – GRYD; Envision Youth Services, Inc.; Brotherhood Crusade; Helpline Youth Counseling; and, Los Angeles County District Attorney's Office Bureau of Victim Services.

*Geographic diversity: ZIP Codes from all over LA County cities and/or neighborhoods were represented (i.e. 38 separate 'zip codes' were represented at the meeting).*

90002; 90005; 90007; 90008; 90011; 90012; 90016; 90018; 90020; 90024; 90026; 90029; 90032; 90034; 90036; 90043; 90045; 90048; 90059; 90222; 90230; 90247; 90401; 90650; 90731; 90745; 90746; 90806; 90807; 90808; 90813; 91101; 91331; 91346; 91401; 91405; 91731; 92407;

*Scholarships/Community Engagement:*

13 Scholarships were provided to people (i.e. young adults, agency representatives and community members) who requested financial assistance to attend.

*Scholarship Essays:*

Those who requested scholarships were asked to write an essay about youth development or why they wanted to come to the meetings. We received several responses.

"Our organization is interested in partnering with other organizations to more effectively address the issues of community policing and gang intervention. Our Youth Empowerment Committee wishes to support programs to better involve young people constructively in the community."

"Keeping our minority youth engaged in positive programs have become a struggle in our society. In order to make youth feel wanted and engaged in programs or other types of activities , we have to meet them where they are at. We have to put aside our stereotypes and improve diversity within our communities. We can avoid gang involvement by increasing awareness around community partnership and wellness. We have to have one on one conversations with are so called " trouble youth " in order to make them feel comfortable. We have to completely understand their trauma and the trials they face every day. We have to remember that their

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behavior is not intended but an accident that drags along with them due to things they face inside of their homes or their unsupervised communities. We have to become more of a mentor instead of a disciplinarian. Youth need to see sincerity in our hearts and not people who are there to receive a pay check."

"We can help keep youth 12-25 first by providing a safe environment for them to hang out and be creative, providing positive mentors and part-time or full-time employment opportunities. Provide a safe school environment where the adult staff are welcoming on all levels, every youth at a school starting pre-K to high school should have some type of counseling groups on the campus and every student should be required to participate in the groups whether they are At-Risk or not. Parents or Care giver should be required to participate in the Parent Project which should be offered at every school free of charge in every language at all hours of the day until 9:00 PM giving parents that have to work an opportunity and time to attend, morning and noon time classes as well as Saturday classes leaving parents with no excuses as to not being able to attend. This is just a start but would also allow prayer back into the schools."

**Key Take Home Messages**

**Social Determinants of Health:**

Discussed traditional model of disease causation. Contrasted 'classic epidemiology model' with the social Determinants of health approach.

Described social determinants of health.

Discussed how key social determinants impact health across the life course spectrum.

**GRYD:**

LA City GRYD focuses on youth and preventative services;

Most GRYD serviced youth are at lower risk for joining gangs.

Most GRYD youth are most impacted by 'gang culture and gang violence' indirectly.

Mental health impact is greater for most youth than actual physical impacts.

**LAC Probation Department, South Los Angeles Gang Unit:**

Focuses on probation services for youth considered 'hard-core' gang members.

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It's important to remember that these are children/teens/young men - they are part of our community.

Officer Mel Bailey is perfect – he said so himself. By the way – I love his confidence and demeanor.

Note: GRYD and LAC Probation services are not seamless and do not overlap, leaving huge gaps of children with needs to be addressed by non-profits, schools or other entities.

**Mind Right:**

Social media apps are appealing to millennials and can be used as an interim 'mental health care' by teens and others with limited access to mental health care.

User-friendly, very appealing, great potential but needs more pilot testing and user feedback.

Huge upside.

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AGENDA

- 9:00 am Registration/Sign-in
- 9:30 am Call to order/Welcoming Remarks – Dr. Randal Henry
- 9:40 am Self-Introductions
- 10:00 am **Speaker #1: Dr. Randal Henry**  
- *A Public Health Perspective on the Social Determinants of Violence*
- 10:30 am **Speaker #2: Mr. Refugio Valle**  
- *Gang Reduction and Youth Development in the City of Los Angeles*
- 11:35 am Ice-breaker Activity
- 12:00 Noon **Speakers 3 & 4: Ms. Alina Liao & Ms. Ashley Edwards**  
- *MindRight – A Social App/Text-Messaging Platform Can Teach Coping Skills*
- 1:15 pm **Speaker #4: Ms. Shari Farmer**  
- *LA County DA’s Bureau of Victim Services & The Cal Victim Compensation Program.*
- 2:15 pm Break
- 2:30 pm Making Connections Strategic Planning Update
- 3:00 pm Wrap-up/Next Steps
- 3:05 pm Networking
- 3:30 pm Adjourn

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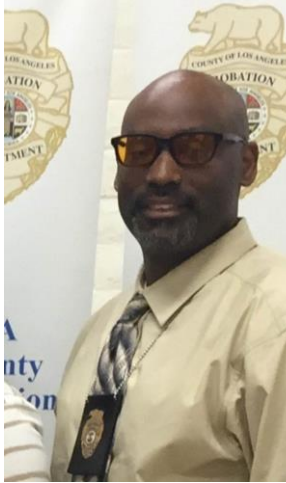

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	Speakers	Biographical Information	Organizational Information
<p>9:30 am Welcome Remarks</p> <p>10:00 am Ice-breaker Activity</p> <p>Speaker #1: 10:30 am Social Determinants of Violence</p>	 <p><b>Dr. Randal Henry,</b> DrPH, MPH <i>Project Leader,</i> <i>LA Making Connections</i> <i>Project</i> <i>Founder and Chief</i> <i>Intelligence Officer,</i> <i>Community Intelligence,</i> Email: <a href="mailto:randalhenry@communityintelligence.org">randalhenry@communityintelligence.org</a> Web: <a href="http://www.communityintelligence.org">www.communityintelligence.org</a></p>	<p>Dr. Henry earned his doctorate of public health (DrPH - UCLA 2006) and master degree (MPH - UCLA 1997) in community health sciences from the UCLA School of Public Health where he received numerous fellowships, was a graduate instructor in health policy and administration courses and delivered a commencement speech (1997). Dr. Henry is an expert in preventing and reducing violence and unintentional injuries and addressing chronic diseases through policy, programmatic, institutional and community improvements, with a particular focus on reducing disparities in multi-cultural and vulnerable populations. Dr. Henry has served as principal investigator on national multi-site research, evaluation and quality-improvement demonstration projects and published research findings in peer-reviewed journals.</p>	<p>Community Intelligence is a community oriented research and evaluation thought partner focused on multisite evaluation, policy analysis and evaluation, logic model development, qualitative data collection and analysis, community engagement, health promotion, health impact assessment strategic planning and multicultural research. Our expertise in community needs assessment and asset mapping, health service delivery, fund development, coalition facilitation and program evaluation has been applied in diverse settings from community and faith based organizations to local and federal government and to a breadth of issues including reducing violence and unintentional injuries among children and adolescents; improving care for homeless veterans; increasing services for women with HIV/AIDS and creating healthy food and activity environments.</p>
<p>11:15 am Speaker #2: Overview of LA City GRYD Program</p>	 <p><b>Mr. Refugio Valle,</b> MSW</p>	<p><b>Refugio Valle, MSW</b> <b>Regional Program Manager</b> Refugio earned a BA from UC Irvine and a MSW degree from UCLA. As a Regional Program Coordinator with the Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development (GRYD), Refugio has worked in the Pacoima, Sun Valley, Rampart/Pico-Union, and Northeast communities, working closely with Gang Intervention and Prevention service providers, and other city partners. Currently, he</p>	<p><b>LA Mayor's Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development</b> GRYD works at strengthening youth/young adults, family, and community resilience to resist the influence of gangs by fostering public/private collaborations and supporting community-based services. The GRYD Comprehensive Strategy involves the provision of gang prevention/intervention services, violence interruption activities, and involvement in</p>

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	<i>Regional Program Manager, Office of Gang Reduction and Youth Development</i>	manages GRYD’s work in Central, East, and Northeast Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.	proactive peace-making activities.
11: 15 am Speaker #3	 <p><b>Officer Mel Bailey,</b> <i>Deputy Probation Officer II South Central Area Gang Unit</i></p>	Deputy Probation Officer M. Bailey graduated from Xavier University and the University of West LA, School of Law and Paralegal Studies. He has been with LA for 18 years. He has taught at West LA College and for the LA County, Office of Education. Mr. Bailey has served on several community outreach programs. He taught Gang Identification classes to several agencies in the Southern California area. He works with kids in our community, both on probation and some who have not reached that unfortunate level. He has worked in juvenile hall as a Detention Services Officer. He quickly promoted to a Deputy Probation Officer I, working at one of the last boot camps. He has also worked with Staff Training. His most previous function was that with the Juvenile Supervision Unit, in which he monitored probationers from a vast array of probation dispositions.	Mr. Bailey is currently assigned to the South Central Area Office as the case manager with the Intensive Gang Supervision Program of the LA County Probation Dept. He supervises approximately 200 different minors a year and is responsible for helping probationers to better their lives, while enforcing the conditions of probation. Mr. Bailey is the only juvenile gang officer who covers the entire cities of Carson, Compton, Lynwood, South Gate and Los Angeles 90059/90061. He, along with the mobile deputies assist families in a variety of ways, from education to housing, from individual counselling to family reintegration.
12:00 Noon Speakers 3&4	 <p><b>Ms. Alina Liao,</b> MBA/MA Mind Right Co-Founder/CEO <a href="mailto:alina@getmindright.org">alina@getmindright.org</a></p>	Ashley Edwards (Co-founder & CEO) and Alina Liao (Co-founder & COO) are recent graduates of the Stanford joint MBA/MA Education program. They have professional experiences in urban education in Newark, NJ and Washington, DC. They received the Stanford Frances and Arjay Miller Social Innovation Fellowship and Social Change Leadership Awards for their work. MindRight was named as a winner in the 2016 UPenn Milken Education Business Plan Competition. Our work is guided by clinical advisors at the Stanford	Facing adversity early in life can transform us into extraordinary leaders. However, without the appropriate supports, traumatic stress from repeated exposure to violence puts youth at greater risk of perpetuating violence and experiencing long-term negative health and education outcomes. At MindRight, our mission is to unlock the talent of at-risk youth by helping them recover from trauma. Our text messaging platform teaches teens positive coping skills grounded in evidence-based practices and connects them with local

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	 <p>Ms. Ashley Edwards, MBA/MA Mind Right Co-Founder/ COO <a href="mailto:ashley@getmindright.org">ashley@getmindright.org</a></p>	<p>Lucile Packard Hospital, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, and the USC School of Social Work.</p>	<p>resources. By using technology, we can meet teens where they are and make a baseline level of mental health support available to all youth.</p>
<p>1:00 pm Speaker #4</p>	 <p>Shari Farmer Community Outreach Coordinator Bureau of Victim Services, LA County District Attorney</p>	<p>Shari Farmer is the Field Deputy for the Los Angeles County District Attorney’s Bureau of Victim Services. Her job includes giving presentations about the program to agencies and organizations throughout the County, attending over 70 regular meetings a month, teaching a 3-hour training to law-enforcement cadets in the Academy, ongoing briefings with law-enforcement to keep the program top of mind and constantly thinking outside of the box for ways to enhance the program. She is the only Field Deputy for the program, so the entire County is her backyard.</p>	<p>The LA County District Attorney’s Bureau of Victim Services is committed to helping victims of crime and protecting their rights. Victim Services Reps with the program provide assistance to victims of crime. These include crisis intervention; emergency assistance; counseling referrals; court escort and orientation; restitution assistance; returning of property; assistance with employers; and case status notification. Advocates can also help get bills and expenses paid that result from certain violent crimes through <b>The California Victim Compensation Program (CalVCP)</b>. CalVCP may help pay for expenses related to a crime such as: Medical and dental treatment; Mental health services; Income loss; Funeral and burial expenses; Loss of support for dependents when a victim is killed or disabled because of a crime; Home or vehicle modifications; Home security; Relocation; Crime scene cleanup.</p>

What’s the goal of the VPCGLA Making Connections Work Group?

The goal of the LA Making Connections for MBOC is to address the mental health impact of gang culture and gang violence on mental health and community well-being by developing



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comprehensive, coordinated, cross-jurisdictional strategies to keep youth engaged/retained in school, sports, after-school, arts and/or other programs. Please go to <http://www.vpcgla.org/makingconnections/> to learn more.

Ice-breaker Activity:

*What can be done to address the impact of gang culture and gang violence on mental health and community well-being?*

Step 1. Pick a partner;

Step 2. Each individual partner will decide if they want to about how either the (a) socio-cultural environment; (b) the physical/built environment; or, (c) the economic environment

Step 3. In turn, each partner will discuss one thing that can be done to address the impact of gang culture and gang violence on mental health and community well-being

Step 4. Participants will share their thoughts with the group