


Mayor's Task Force on Community Violence

Recommendations

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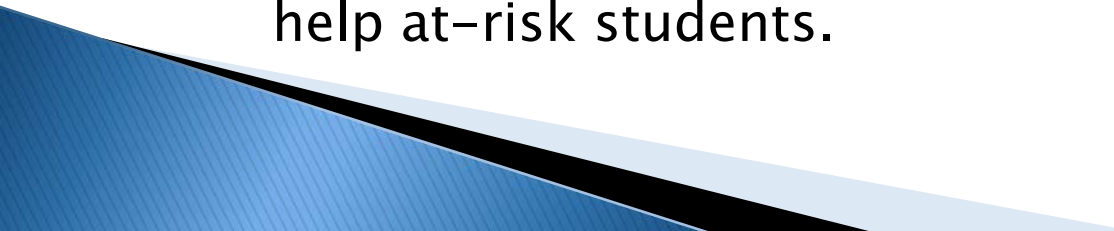
12 Consensus Points

1. Drugs and alcohol are major contributing factors.
 2. There is a negative perception of the police by community members.
 3. Lack of economic opportunity contributes to a lack of hope.
 4. There is a need for adult basic education.
 5. Almost all perpetrators have no job skills.
 6. There is a lack of early childhood education.
 7. Gangs exist in Columbia but it is difficult to tell how much of a factor they are.
 8. Most perpetrators are men in their 20s.
 9. Most homicides are conflicts between people who know each other.
 10. Anti-social attitudes around "respect" and "justice" are a major factor.
 11. We are not instilling in all of our children pro-social attitudes and values as well as an ability to obtain basic educational skills.
 12. A majority of violent offenders have a previous and often extensive criminal history.
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Columbia is fortunate to have many programs that address parenting skills, early childhood education, and job training. The task force sees a need for greater **COORDINATION** and **AWARENESS** of these programs. Coordination between programs can greatly increase everyone's impact on reducing violence. Many organizations that presented to the task force noted that one of the greatest challenges they face is making people who would benefit from their programs aware that they exist.

- ❑ Approach violence as a Public Health issue
- ❑ Coordinate job training programs
- ❑ Create and update communication tools for available programs
- ❑ Host an annual forum to address crime, social issues, and discrimination in our community


Throughout the task force's meetings and especially during the public forums there was a clear need to **CREATE YOUTH FACILITIES** and to **TRAIN PEOPLE** by providing safe places, trusted people to turn to, and engaging community-building programs that are appealing to youth. These facilities and people need to be reflective of our community's diversity so that everyone who uses them feels comfortable and welcomed.

- ❑ Create a Youth Community Cultural Center and Family Access Center
 - ❑ Implement a Violence Interrupters program
 - ❑ Increase the number of available mentors in the community
 - ❑ Increase Columbia Public Schools ability to identify and help at-risk students.
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TRUST between the community and local law enforcement agencies was a very clear theme throughout the task force's process. While the task force agrees the Columbia Police Department is headed in the right direction, there is still work to do to build trust—especially with the African American community. The task force agrees with CPD's push for more officers to pursue community policing, but emphasizes that greater cultural competency training will be needed to make community policing an effective tool to reduce violence.

- ❑ Community Policing Model and positive communication
- ❑ Cultural competency training
- ❑ Greater public involvement and accountability of the Police Department's vision, mission and goals
- ❑ Create greater community appreciation for police officers

There are about 40 ex-offenders returning to Boone County each month and about 20% of those are violent offenders. Those offenders returning to Columbia with a violent history are considered at high risk for future violent behaviors. **A HIGHER LEVEL OF ACCOUNTABILITY FOR OUR HIGHEST RISK OFFENDERS** in combination with greater access to supports and resources can be expected to reduce the likelihood they will reoffend.

- ❑ Identify high risk offenders
 - ❑ Create a City-level re-entry supervision program
 - ❑ Engage City staff in the Boone County Offender Transition Network.
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Beyond the Report

- ❑ Implementation
- ❑ The task force

Questions?