



HOPE, OPPORTUNITY, CHOICES AND CONSEQUENCES (H.O.C.C.) ACADEMY

Presented to: Councilmember Betsy Sundermann

Presented by: The Community Police Partnering Center

The Community Police Partnering Center (The Partnering Center) is a division of the Urban League of Greater Southwestern Ohio. We engage with the community to create community-based solutions to problems related to crime, disorder, and quality of life.

The Partnering Center is currently funded by the City of Cincinnati to address violence reduction through intervention and prevention activities focused on individuals 18 to 39 years of age. The goal of prevention is to discourage violent behavior before it develops by identifying the conditions that lead to violence and addressing them. These individuals have been identified as participating in activities that might result in their becoming victims or perpetrators of violence. The Partnering Center's Community Outreach Advocates (COAs) respond to critical incidents (shootings and homicides) to de-escalate the heightened emotions of family and community. Recently we have responded to the shootings of youth under the age of 16 in neighborhoods such as Winton Hills and West End. Our Community Engagement Specialists (CES) and COAs active in those communities' report there is a need to also focus on youth to interrupt the pipeline of violence.

The Partnering Center would like to pilot a youth mentoring program that is age appropriate, culturally competent adaption of the mentoring program created by the COAs to work with individuals 18 to 39. The youth identified for this pilot will be males that have been involved in general offenses (not violent offenses) to reduce the risk factor for escalating criminal/violent behavior. **The Hope, Opportunity, Choices and Consequences (H.O.C.C.)** curriculum is designed to help participants identify their hope for the future and ground them in the possibilities. The



COAs ask them to bring their **hope**. The COAs commit to **support, guide, and walk** with them to the resources necessary to achieve their **future “opportunities.”** Through group mentoring activities, the COAs will help youth to understand accountability for their actions both past and present and help them develop the skills to evaluate choices that will affect their future.

The restorative justice component of the program is youth engagement with community adults to work on a Community Problem Oriented Policing team. This is to connect them to their neighborhood and the city through civic engagement. Finally, research also suggested that these at-risk youth need of skills development and a legitimate way to earn money. We propose to provide these youth with an opportunity for a summer youth employment experience that helps them develop leadership and employability skills.

The COAs work in the Tier 1 neighborhoods, as identified by the Cincinnati Police Department, that are experiencing the highest incidents of violence in the city. Those neighborhoods are West End, Over the Rhine (OTR), Avondale, North Avondale, Mt. Airy, Winton Hills, Roselawn, East Price Hill, Westwood, and Evanston. Research has shown that communities and neighborhoods where teens live can have an impact that can lead to aggressive behavior. The CDC has identified toxic stress as living in impoverished neighborhoods, experiencing food insecurity, experiencing racism, having limited access to support and medical services, living in homes with violence, mental health problems, substance abuse, and other instability. These Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACES) can have an impact on future violence, victimization, and perpetration. Conversely, a combination of individual relationship, community, and societal factors reduce the risk of youth violence. The COAs will utilize the H.O.C.C. Academy to address some of the factors that place youth at risk for perpetrating violence and promote factors that protect youth at risk for violence and lead to positive outcomes.



- Media Influence. Georgia Court / Getty Images. ...
- Communities and Neighborhoods. Where teens live can also have an impact on them and lead them to act more aggressively. ...
- Domestic Violence and Child Abuse. ...
- Insufficient Parental Supervision. ...
- Peer Pressure. ...
- Drug and Alcohol Use. ...
- Traumatic Events. ...
- Mental Illness

The Curriculum:

The H.O.C.C. Academy Youth Mentoring Program is ten-weeks in length during which time the participants are continuously working on their Life Plan. At the conclusion of the course, they have an opportunity to present a portfolio of their work that includes a detailed plan of education and employment goals. During the 10 weeks they engage weekly in interactive discussion in small groups that culminated in a large group discussion. While practicing social distancing due to the pandemic, we are prepared to engage with participants via Zoom. Virtual engagement has proven to be effective in our 2020 summer youth employment and youth councils. We will be flexible and adaptable and allow the data to drive in person interaction.

Topics for the weekly meeting will include:

- Who Are You?
- Making Choices
- Dealing with Consequences
- Community Relations



- Employment Opportunities
- Entrepreneur Opportunities
- Teenage Pregnancy Prevention
- Personal Appearance
- Anger Management - Nonviolent Solutions
- Health Care
- The Value of a Good Education
- The Value of Life
- Problem Solving

The intended outcomes:

The impact of prevention strategies cannot be appropriately assessed within a short duration from the onset of implementation. Prevention outcomes typically occur over a longer duration, often over the course of a few years. <http://criminology.fsu.edu/wp-content/uploads/Youth-Violence-Prevention-Project-Final-Report-2008.pdf>.

We will utilize a survey created for the Urban League to measure short term and intermediate outcomes.

Reducing and eliminating involvement in the justice system

- No contact for 6 months following completion of the H.O.C.C. 10-week program

Increasing engagement with positive male role models

- Participating in the 10-week program and self-reporting the connection

Youth will demonstrate an understanding of choices and consequences youth accountable for their actions

- Youth will demonstrate an understanding of the connection of choices to consequences



Providing youth with opportunities to connect with services in the community

- Learning about problem solving to engage in addressing issues in their communities as a form of restorative justice - project completed as a team or with community

Summer youth employment opportunities

- Youth stay employed at minimum for 6 out of 8 weeks

Recruitment:

We will partner with the community diversion courts, juvenile court, community leadership, and faith-based organization and the Cincinnati Police Department to identify appropriate youth for the program. *Parent engagement will be encouraged, but not required.*

Budget:

ITEM	COST PER PARTICIPANT	# OF PARTICIPANTS	TOTAL
T-shirts/sweatshirts	\$37.00	35	\$1,295.00
Summer Employment Experience	\$1,688.00 +135.00 (Employee Benefits) = \$1823.00	20	\$36,640.00
Incentives: Pre-summer employment			\$800.00
Supplies	\$35.00	26	\$910.00
Administrative Costs (cover payroll processing)			\$5,900.00
TOTAL			\$45,545.00



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