

Youth Commission 2007-2008



Presentation to the Board of Supervisors

June 3, 2008

Background and History

- Adolescent Reports
 - Progress since 2001
 - 2007 report and recommendations
- Youth Commission in San Mateo County
 - Purpose
 - Future expectations

Youth Commission

Who Is the Youth Commission:

A group of youth that advises and creates policy affecting youth in San Mateo County

Advising and Creating Policy:

- 1) Review and make recommendations on policies impacting youth in San Mateo County
- 2) Evaluate, endorse, and make recommendations on programs which serve youth in San Mateo County
- 3) Create a forum that is accessible to both youth and adults to discuss programs and policies affecting youth in San Mateo County
- 4) Engage youth and adults as equal partners to share information and resources to better serve San Mateo County



Youth Commission

41 Developmental Assets

- Youth Development framework
- Works to build all assets, main focus on:
 - Other Adult Relationships
 - Community Values Youth
 - Youth as Resources
 - Personal Power
 - Positive View of Personal Future



Updates on 2007 Adolescent Report

- **Focus on two of the 2007 recommendations:**
 - Violence Prevention
 - Comprehensive Sex Education
- **“Setting the stage” and developing strategies for implementation**
 - What resources are already available?
 - What is working well?
 - What other actions are needed?



Updates: Violence Prevention

Violence Prevention Recommendation:

Initial focus on providing more job training programs for youth NOT on a college track

How we established these strategies:

- Determined what else we need to know
- Gathered information from job training resource providers



Updates: Violence Prevention

Strategies

- 1) Create a youth friendly web-site with access to info about job opportunities.
- 2) PSA campaign to promote this website to target audience.
- 3) Support a *best practice model* which builds skills in these youth.
- 4) Increase the number of paid internships available to youth.
- 5) Promote/support living wages for youth who complete job training courses.
- 6) ROP (Regional Occupational Program) expanded to schools throughout the county.



Updates: Sex Education

Sex and Sexuality Recommendation:

Need for more comprehensive sex education

How we established these strategies:

- Defined “Comprehensive Sex Ed” standards
- Interviewed local experts on the subject
- Conducted a Fishbowl Forum to receive more youth feedback on their experiences with sex ed



Updates: Comprehensive Sex Education

Strategies:

- 1) Providing and endorsing proven curriculum and training educators to deliver said curriculum in culturally appropriate manner.
- 2) Ensuring schools are aware of the reimbursement that the State Department of Education pays to schools that provide HIV curricula.
- 3) Increase the number of peer education programs.
- 4) Explore Daly City Youth Health Center staff as providers to schools in the North County.



Fishbowl Forums

Coordinated five Fishbowls in 2008:

- Mentoring
- Stress
- Sex Education
- Environment
- Violence



Fishbowl Forums

Common Themes:

- Youth want to connect with adults, but building that relationship needs time and dedication
- Youth can learn and get engaged with creative and fun interaction with teachers and peers
- School, family, friends, stress, and violence are part of a cycle
- Creative forms of expression, like music, writing, and art are common ways to deal with stress
- More communication between youth and adults is key in dealing with issues



Acts of Caring Awards, Washington D.C.

Youth Commission won two awards:

- Acts of Caring 2008
- Youth Service Award, 1st Place



Acts of Caring Awards, Washington D.C.



Acts of Caring Awards, Washington D.C.



Next Steps

The Youth Commission will

- Continue to follow-up on the Adolescent Report with youth-centered policy projects
- Reach out to more youth through schools and groups to broaden youth voice and policy advocacy
- Recruit more members to reflect more of the county communities
- Collaborate with County Departments to educate on Youth Development and to help implement the Adolescent Report
- Work closely with the Peninsula Partnership Leadership Council on the San Mateo County Children's Bill of Rights



And..

**Together We WILL
Be the Difference
for Youth in San
Mateo County**

