

Parent Project

Presented by the District Attorney's Office in partnership with the City of San Jose and the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force, School Districts, and Counseling Agencies

Introduction: Parent Project

- National program created by and for parents with strong-willed or at risk teens
- Provides proven strategies to deal with adolescent issues and the most destructive behaviors
- Empowers parents to make changes at home

Parent Project and MGPTF

Aligns with the Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force's Strategic Work plan - Action, Collaboration, Transformation (ACT)

Parent Project - ACTION

Action – Equip parents with parenting tools

- Town Hall Meetings reinforced desire and need for PARENTING programs
- Parents asking for help in DA truancy mediations and juvenile court
- Parents must be part of the SOLUTION

Parent Project - COLLABORATION

Collaboration –

Partnership between:

- County of Santa Clara (DA's office, juvenile courts and probation) **AND**
- City of San Jose (MGPTF, City, SJPD)
- Schools, CBOs, faith-based organizations and counseling services

Parent Project - TRANSFORMATION

Transformation

- “I was feeling down, but when I come to this class I feel stronger. . . . I’m going to make my action plan as soon as I get home.”
- “This class has been so informative. I wish I would have known this before.”
- Josie’s story (Graduation) Teen runaway returns home

Parent Project - DVD



Course Structure: Parent Project

- 12 week program
 - 3 hour class once a week
- Facilitators teach the parents specific step-by-step strategies to identify, intervene, and prevent destructive behaviors

Key elements of Parent Project's success

- Solution-focused
- Activity-based instruction
- Community collaborative approach
- *Built in support group component
- Instills a strong sense of hope

Trained Facilitators Teach Curriculum

- Facilitators trained through National Program
- Each class has one law-enforcement facilitator paired with one facilitator from non-law-enforcement (City Staff, CBOs from Mayors Gang Prevention Task Force, Educators)

Addresses most difficult “acting out” behaviors

- Poor school attendance and performance
- Behavioral issues
 - both at school and at home
- Gang involvement
- Violence
- Alcohol and drug use
- Running away
- Early teen sexuality
- Suicide (threats and attempts)

Other topics addressed:

- Internet, music, and media influence
- Friendships, dating
- Other destructive behavior

Parent Project's results

- Roseville, CA: Huge reduction in calls for service after families attended Parent Project classes
 - 15 families generated 87 calls for service, 6 months after classes, the same families generated only 4 calls for service

Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP)

- 33% reduction in juvenile petitions filed
- 20% reduction in juvenile probation drug violations
- 17% drop in school dropout rate
- 72% drop in school expulsions
 - Statistics from OJJDP 2004 Juvenile Justice Journal

National Recognition

- Named a model Community Policing Program by the California Attorney General's Office

Classes Offered Countywide

- Currently 5 classes in San Jose (2 in Spanish)
- Classes offered at school district offices, school sites, and community centers
- Food provided for parents through donations
- Other cities include Palo Alto, Mountain View, Sunnyvale, Morgan Hill, Los Gatos, and Santa Clara

Program Costs (Parents)

- \$120.00 for class registration
average of \$10.00 per class
- Includes cost of workbook which participants keep (\$35)
- Accommodations made for financial need

For more information

- Registration and information:
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- Visit the national website at
www.parentproject.com