

Gang & Youth Violence Commission Meeting in St. Helena August 15, 2012

[Minutes prepared by Kerri Thompson]

ATTENDEES

Brad Wagenknecht	Gary Lieberstein
Ivan Chaidez	John Robertson
Eric Dreikosen	Jean Donaldson
Alicia Jarmillo	Richard Melton
Alfredo Pedroza	Jackie Rubin
Charles Rose	Jonathan Mills
Vanessa Luna Shannon	Cindy Coffey
Melanie Fae Garrett	Rich Hall
David Rodriguez	Amanda Gibbs appearing for Mary Butler
Dr. Patrick Sweeney	

ABSENT

Amanda Bevins Peter Mott Caterina Sanchez Wesley Simpson Barbara Nemko

- I. **Meeting called to order** at 6:05 p.m. by Chair District Attorney Gary Lieberstein
Pledge of Allegiance/Roll Call taken by Commission Clerk
- II. **Welcome comments by Chair District Attorney Gary Lieberstein.**
- III. **PUBLIC COMMENT**

Cameron Jones, Pastor/Teacher at "The Rock" Church & Training Center, Napa

He is involved with the youth at his church and the schools. He is aware of the issues that face the youth in our community. He wants to be helpful to youth that are in trouble and need guidance. He would like to know how best to lend his time toward helping youth in our community. How does the Commission see the faith-based community being involved in this effort to assist the youth of Napa County? Would people of faith be allowed to share their religious beliefs with the kids? Some kids will at some point ask about religion and faith or have questions that might be answered with faith-based responses. Would there be boundaries as to how people of faith can help?

RESPONSES:

Calistoga City Councilmember Karen Slusser: The golden rule is a place to start and the rest is up to you.

Charles Rose: He advocates for a faith-based representative on the Commission. He believes that the additional input and the dialogue are important.

David Rodriguez: He feels that we need to be inclusive and supports the addition of a faith-based rep. He believes that this commission should be part of breaking down barriers. We need to focus on

helping each other and try to put labels and categories aside (i.e. gang members, ex gang members, etc.) We don't need to perpetuate this but we need to rise above it.

Gary Lieberstein: He attended a meeting recently in Los Angeles on restorative justice. It was sponsored by the Catholic Diocese. It's a worthy concept. One aspect is the victim's family meeting face to face with the killer of their loved one. Another aspect is that there are evidence-based programs in the juvenile arena which have been very successful--Alameda county for example. The faith-based community is very interested in this concept. There were 500 people attending this conference from different backgrounds. This is all inclusive. Faith based organizations have the ability to reach these kids in ways that we cannot. St. John's Catholic in Napa is raising funds to build a Youth Center. The purpose is just to offer another alternative to youth. The purpose is to have safe havens and being inclusive of all members of the community whether or not they are members of the church community.

Question - Alfredo Pedroza : What are the youth expressing to you as some of their primary challenges?

Answer - Cameron Jones: - One of the biggest challenges is fatherlessness. Boys especially are lacking male role models in the home. Boys in middle school yearn for a father-son relationship to where they seek attention from male teachers. Another challenge is bullying and acceptance from peers.

Alfredo Pedroza: What can we do to address that need?

Answer--Cameron Jones-- It goes beyond what the Commission or county programs can offer kids. Mr. Jones had a wonderful father. There isn't any truly sufficient substitute to replace this relationship. Boys and young men are not growing up to be responsible men and fathers. Many aren't family oriented and they become abusive or absent. The solution to the problem is not simple or self evident, but the root of the problem is fatherlessness.

Vice-Chair Vanessa Luna Shannon: Faith-based organizations are a huge component to gang violence suppression and prevention --an insulating factor in preventing kids from getting into gangs. These organizations are also an important influence on people trying to get out of the gang life style as well. My muse is Father Greg Boyle who has a business in East Los Angeles called Homeboy Industries. 11 years ago, Gary Lieberstein and I met Father Boyle in Florida at a national gang conference. His organization has evolved into several businesses. He employs only ex-gang members and does not turn anyone away. She suggested that Pastor Jones should become familiar with Father Boyle and his business model because it has helped many youth and young men.

Gary- It is difficult for a young person who has a conviction or prison record to reintegrate into the community. There is a void and a need for programs that assist people trying to get back into the community. The Salvation Army is an organization that aims to assist those in this situation and have partnered with the District Attorney in San Francisco to do so.

IV. Approval of 5/16/12 minutes.
Minutes approved unanimously.

V. Laura Mooiman, Program Specialist for Positive Behavior Intervention & Support

She has been at this position for 4 years. Prior to this, she was a school social worker for 10 years at Los Angeles Unified School District. She has worked with Probation as well as Child Protective Services, and

Child Crisis where she assessed kids for being at risk for suicide or homicide. She has a mental health background which is useful in her current position. NVUSD has made significant progress in changing the school climate. Rob Horner, University of Oregon quote – “There are more of them than there are of us. The only real change comes from the entire school environment. It cannot be one child at a time.” The whole school needs to change in order to make a collective change for kids so that everyone feels safe and respected. Mr. Horner is a researcher who has implemented Positive Behavior Intervention & Support – “P.B.I.S.” The website is PBIS.org. This is a movement and there are thousands of schools in the United States that are utilizing research to change how schools should operate. Last year, NVUSD saw a 26% reduction in office referrals that would lead to suspension. There was a 33% reduction in number of days that students were absent from school. For the last two years, there has been a 36% decline in expulsions. The last statistic is so significant that the school is failing to fill spots for this funded program. There are only 30 students in the program and the contract will need to be renegotiated next year. The achievement gap chart (Powerpoint) – shows White vs. Latino Students. This chart documents nine years of growth. In 2010, Latino students are shown at a 198 point difference in performance from the performance of white students. This gap has narrowed by almost 50%. There are lots of “data points” such as achievement and discipline referrals. In our district, the training program for teachers is called BEST. The motto is: “Be Safe, Be Respectful, Be Responsible”. Teachers give out “positive tickets” to the students. At teacher training, the teachers are instructed to anticipate that 10% of the students will have conduct problems. Approximately, 17% of students will need mental health services. Approximately 8% of students cause the most trouble. The district is trying to move away from the paradigm where teachers say, “No, No, No” to kids. In brain science studies, if a child is told “Don’t run” he or she hears only the word “run”. Instead, it is more effective to say “Walk please.” In teacher trainings, teachers are shown how to speak with and correct students. In June of last year, the school board passed a policy stating that all school in the Napa Unified School District need to adopt P.B.I.S.

Schools should be positively reinforcing appropriate behaviors demonstrated by students. It’s important to reward students for this. It is required that all schools have Classroom management trainings and also implement logical, meaningful and consistent consequences including restorative practices. Every school requires teachers to have positive expectations. Kids will perform what they are taught to do. It can’t be assumed that kids just know what to do. There is quantifiable data at NVUSD for the last 3 years that Ms. Moorman has been the P.B.I.S. coach. The number of suspensions has steadily declined over the past 3 years. Three years ago, the number of days that kids were absent from school came to over 5,000 days per school year. Last year, the number was just over 2,000 days per school year. Most often when students are suspended they are still on school grounds. They are still around peers and still in an academic setting. Most importantly, they are not excluded. Research has shown that punitive actions and off-campus suspensions equals higher rates of dropping out, vandalism and truancy. There has been a decline in expulsions at NVUSD. 4 years ago, there were 60 expulsions. Last year, there were only 24. Napa High School has adopted the “beeline approach”. The office has been reorganized so that the deans, psychologists, and counselors are in the same area. This is a wrap-around approach. This offers supportive responses to student issues and problems. Ms. Moorman wanted to track if P.B.I. S. at Napa High is affecting all students or just some students? From 2009-2010, White Student suspension vs. Latino Student Suspension gap is shrinking. In 2011, it is shrinking more drastically

In the past, schools have been good at imposing sanctions. Now we are trying to implement “restorative practices” or “the 3 legs of the stool.” : 1) Treating kids. Look for reasons as to why a student is behaving in a particular way. 2) How to repair the environment 3) Sanctions – Napa High School example: Some students vandalized a deli across the street from the school. Instead of suspension, students apologized to the store owner. Students were required to volunteer some of their time to make the school community safer. They volunteered for college night. Finally, the students

wrote papers about what they learned. The students expressed that they benefited from their volunteer time. Some decided that they wanted to attend college and some even felt strongly about certain career options. The experience positively impacted these students. Sometimes, the volunteer work may involve getting a student's parents involved. [See Handout] Speaking to the gang issue, NVUSD had Francisco Reveles, writer and professor from Sacramento State University, advised the district on changing district policies to have more inter-agency and agency collaboration, and adjust hiring practices. The district is trying to move away from the "strategic tactical response" where an SRO is sent right away when a kid does something wrong. The office had a binder with mug shots so that the student in question could be identified quickly. The district is moving away from this approach. The SROs are important but they need to do what they are good at and the rest of the school staff needs to support them. Staff should not lean so heavily on law enforcement when issues arise. Staff should support the kids first and offer their assistance before calling in SROs. We need to have more inter-agency collaboration. There are more candid site leadership discussions to discuss, for example, hiring practices. We need a more representative population of teachers for the students. There is more training and education for the staff. Professor Reveles has been to Napa on several occasions to speak at the magnet schools. The schools have partnerships that support these efforts. What is hopeful is the district's approach for all kids is specifically benefiting Latino kids as well.

QUESTIONS/COMMENTS

Ivan Chaidez, NVUSD: Collaboration is a big part of this approach. In some ways, our county has too many resources. Sometimes the problem becomes making a determination as to what agency or program would be best suited for a particular student and his or her family. Should he or she be sent to COPE, Aldea or The Wolfe Center? The P.B.I.S. approach has been a significant cultural change in Napa. Vice Principals and Principals do not resort to suspension as an initial response to a student's behavior. The P.B. I. S. approach has been a "game changer" for the district. On the first Friday of each month is the "School Law" meeting from 9-11 at the district center. These meetings involve SROs, school staff, and representatives from Probation, Diversion and the District Attorney's Office. Topics include what is going on in the community, what types of drugs are present and current gang activity. There is no agenda or minutes and all talk candidly with each other. This is an opportunity to take a proactive approach to what is happening.

Councilmember Slusser – She thinks the program sounds wonderful. When her son was suspended, he thought "it was a gift from heaven." This of course, is not what is needed to guide and instruct our children. Kids should remain in school. Kids make bad decisions and it's upsetting to her when they are treated like criminals. We owe more to the kids to find out what is going on in their lives and understand the reasons why they act out.

Laura Mooiman - Suspension is an unequal punishment. It depends on what the family structure is. If the mother is at home, the student might feel it's the worst day of his life to be at home with mom. If a student has one or two parents not present at home, suspension feels like vacation.

Alfredo Pedroza – He congratulated the school district on the implementation of P.B.I.S.

Laura Mooiman: This is also the evidence based prescription for bully-prevention as well.

Councilmember Slusser – Are they bringing this to the Calistoga schools?

Laura Mooiman– They have contacted her about setting up trainings. She trained the St. Helena schools last year.

Jesus Hernandez - member of the public – St. Helena schools are having an issue with bullying currently. Some of the instances may appear to be minor instances but if ignored, they lead to bigger problems in the future.

Laura Mooiman – Bullying is everywhere. We are preventing it by creating environments that are inhospitable to this behavior. There is a district-wide training in September to educate staff on state laws that recently have been passed addressing the issue of bullying. The training will help staff respond appropriately when they hear of or witness instances of bullying. Teachers sometimes view bullying as “peer conflict” rather than what it really is – an “imbalance of power”.

Eric Dreikosen, Napa Boys and Girls Club - He thanked Laura for the trainings that they have attended.

Gary Lieberstein –(question for Heather-Diversion) In the diversion programs that you run in St. Helena and Calistoga, is this an issue that you are dealing with?

Heather, SHPD Diversion – This is a big issue, especially at the middle school level. In St. Helena, RLS has a Safe School Ambassadors Program. Teachers do not know how to respond to bullying. They may even be afraid to intervene. Proper training is needed to show school staff how to respond. In Calistoga, the bullying is physical and involves pushing and shoving. In St Helena, the bullying is more verbal. There are more instances of cyber- bullying which involves threats made to kids who are on Facebook. This is a huge problem in the community.

Napa Police Chief Rich Melton –There was a study recently published called “De-policing in the Schools “. The study showed the number of schools and the increase in SROs over time. From a discipline standpoint, the SROs were getting more involved in situations where their involvement may have not been appropriate and intervention from other staff may have been more suitable. Having different programs and agency involved to address these diverse problems makes sense. SROs and law enforcement are dealing with kids when they are not in school.

Laura Mooiman – Laura and Ken Chapman, Napa H.S. SRO, have had some debates about how to handle situations. But now they have worked to figure out where he is needed and want to support him in his position. There is an understanding that SROs need to be given support and staff needs to do what they do best. An automatic response to sending students to SROs as a first response should be discouraged. Staff members should try to resolve issues with alternative resources that are available. The restorative practice part of P.B.I.S. is new and the statistics are encouraging. She would like to see a new Juvenile Restorative Practices component here. In New Zealand, there is no more juvenile crime due to implementing a restorative practice program.

Dr. Patrick Sweeney, NVUSD – We have a multi-year design on teaching differently. Students are working on projects together. There are 4 desired outcomes. 1) Students should communicate well. 2) Critical thinking 3) Be creative and 4) Be collaborative. We are developing ways to measure this. What we are seeing in the schools that are using project-based learning is that students are less inclined to get into arguments or fights because they are collaborating on real-world projects together and developing good relationships with their peers and their instructors. No Child Left Behind has done some good things and some bad things. One of the bad things is that it made it important that a student passes a

test in writing, reading and math. The teachers are so focused on that test that we have taken some of the joy out of learning.

VI. ROUNDTABLE DISCUSSION

Delaney Creswell – She remembered attending middle school and witnessing bullying. She believes the Commission should focus its attention at this level since this is where a lot of problems begin. It is important to get the message to our youth that bullying is not okay. As a high school student, she has observed bullying among her peers. She has observed that faith-based outreach does work.

Gary Lieberstein – question to Delaney: What voices are kids in middle school and in high school mostly likely to respond to?

Answer – She participated in the school ambassador program. They would reach out to the incoming freshmen. They would show them around campus and ensure that they knew where their classrooms were located. “We helped them feel more comfortable.” There was also a group called W.E.B. (Where Everybody Belongs). This was a group of 8th graders selected who were selected by their teachers to be leaders and mentors for 6th graders coming into middle school. The 8th graders were available for their assigned 6th graders to listen and help them with a variety of issues or concerns. In turn, the 8th graders could bring these concerns to school staff.

Gary Lieberstein: In Napa, there is a group called Layla and it’s located in the McPherson school area. There is a heavy Latino population here. This program is similar in concept to the programs that Miss Delaney mentioned. Is middle school too late? Should programs like this be implemented at the elementary school level to address problems of bullying and truancy? What is the appropriate age difference between students?

Answer – She is not sure what the best match up is but she remembers a program called Big Brothers, Big Sisters. When she was in 7th grade, high school students came after school to her school once a week. The high school aged students would be assigned to younger students. The point was to build friendships. The younger kids would hopefully feel like they could talk to their older “brothers” and “sisters”. She remembers that it was nice to have someone to talk to and she remembered a group outing to 6 Flags.

Gary Lieberstein: Volunteering is one of the cornerstones of community participation. High school students are looking for ways to build their resumes for college. When school resources are limited, it might be effective to have a counselor oversee this type of program where the main participants are high school students who want to help younger students. I’m not sure if there are liability issues with this but maybe students could also earn school credits for this as an elective.

Delaney – 50 community service hours are a requirement in order to graduate from high school. If a student accrues more than 180 hours of service time, he gets a cord for graduation ceremony and possibly some scholarship money.

Gary Lieberstein – This also may be an area where the faith-based community could fill a void.

Alicia Jaramillo – The Napa Department of Education is attempting to create a program to help a group of female Mariposa students train to be mentors to their peers. Alicia and Leslie Severe, D. A. Gang

Investigator, are a part of getting this program started. They gave a presentation where Alicia focused on cyber-bullying while Leslie focused on gangs.

Vanessa Luna Shannon – Vanessa was the coordinator for this program. It is called “A Community Challenge Grant” and also known as a Teen Pregnancy Prevention program. One of the goals was to focus on a leadership component by helping young people become peer mentors. Grant money was cut for this but it would appear that other resources are being explored to fund the program.

Gary Lieberstein –(Question to Brad Wagenknecht): Is this what the Board of Supervisors is looking for as far as brain storming and how to go to the next level creating prevention infrastructure without costing money?

Supervisor Brad Wagenknecht – Yes. All of the agencies involved in this effort are spending money. There isn't extra money but it is important to figure out the right way to spend the funds on the right program.

Jesus Hernandez, Member of the Public – Bonds were approved in St. Helena and these bonds funded complexes where programs could be held. It seems that there should be a male counterpart program to the Mariposa program. He has been trying to find a point person in St. Helena and Calistoga to suggest such a program or locate one already in existence.

Heather's Response: Calistoga has the SAPP (Student Assistance Program), CLARO and CLARA. Hopefully, this program will come back this year. Currently a new SAPP Coordinator is being sought out. In addition, there is Hospice, Mental Health Counseling and Mariposa on campus. All of these are in St. Helena as well as The Wolfe Center in Napa at the middle and high schools. At St. Helena High School they have a mentoring program that pairs up seniors with freshmen. Almost all seniors participate in this program.

St. Helena Police Chief Jackie Rubin – The bullying issue is pervasive and is present even at the elementary schools. She has visited the schools and the Boys Scouts to discuss the issue. She asked the members of the Boy Scouts about witnessing or being the target of bullying. Almost all of the boys said that they had witnessed or been the target of bullying. How many stood up for someone who was bullied? – none of them. None of them told teachers or parents about these instances either. Kids said they did nothing because they did not want their parents to get the bullies in trouble and they did not want to be labeled as snitches. Kids did not want to defend the bullied kids because they feared that they would be the next targets.

Jesus Hernandez, Member of Public – As a former employee of ParentsCAN, he has read many studies that indicate that children should be mentored at a very early age. Additional efforts should be made to let residents of St. Helena know that there are programs out there for their children. In Calistoga, families are aware of these programs. They have a SAPP representative work next to the Principal and Vice Principal. This person is bilingual and bicultural. If a student has problems he will be in that office with the SAPP Representative. In St. Helena the new SAPP representative, Debbie, is not bilingual. Most schools have a large Hispanic student segment. It's important not to ignore this fact when hiring program personnel.

Councilmember Slusser – Question: Is there a Calistoga Leadership Program? 13 years ago when her daughter was a student, there was a mentoring program in place that was quite successful.

Response, Heather – The Calistoga Leadership Program has rallies. There is also the INTERACT program. At the Calistoga elementary schools, older students are paired up with younger students. Heather will be teaching prevention in St. Helena at the 5th grade level this year. She will be teaching prevention, inclusive of social skill and life skill development in Calistoga at the 5th and 6th grade levels as well. She utilizes second step and choice theory.

Gary Lieberstein - Question for Dr. Sweeney: Is there a regular meeting where district heads and superintendents meet at the county level and share best practices and discuss important issues and try to learn from each other?

Dr. Sweeney – Yes. The Superintendents meet monthly. They discuss a wide range of topics. Gary – Maybe you could share some of the issues the Commission has raised at these meetings. Then you could share with the Commission some of their comments and best practices. The Commission might be able influence what happens in the schools by recommendation.

Eric Dreikosen –People are always looking to the schools for the answers. The schools are losing funding. Layla and On The Move were programs mentioned tonight. Outside providers may have additional opportunities to fill in the gaps and offer wonderful opportunities. There are collaborative grants where the schools do not always qualify but outside agencies do. Some of these outside providers, including Boys and Girls Club, can offer kids something to do year round. There are successful models throughout the country that demonstrate that collaborative efforts work well.

Councilmember Slusser – There are a lot of programs and many have been mentioned. We need to identify those programs very specifically; otherwise there is a lot of confusion as what is out there.

Gary Lieberstein – He mentioned the idea of forming subcommittees. Cindy Coffey, Melanie Fae Garrett Eric Dreikosen and Alicia Jaramillo expressed interest in leading or participating in subcommittees. He asked Cindy Coffey to chair the subcommittee and initiate meetings. We need to reach out to the schools through the superintendents' meeting. Each district should identify what efforts they are putting forth. Contact needs to be made within our community, including faith-based organizations. It's important to identify best practices. After efforts from each entity are identified, the different organizations can begin to collaborate and work together so that efforts are not duplicated.

American Canyon Vice-Mayor Cindy Coffey - She expressed an area of concern. There is a real problem with kids that are not attending school. Some are drop-outs, and many of them are frustrated. Many of them are unemployable. There are no activities or support for this group of young people. Many of them are older siblings who are setting the example for their younger siblings. The Commission's name includes the terms gang and youth but it is important to address the older population as well. They might be easier to help find a more positive path in life. They could be positive examples of change. It is important to look at the big picture and it is important to inventory programs and look at best practices. What works in one town may not work in another. We need to address the unemployment situation. The problem will get worse with the closing of Dey Laboratories. Kids cannot afford community college and many lack family support systems.

Gary Lieberstein – VOICES is an organization that is trying to address these problems. The target demographic is ages 16-25. The foster youth are heavily represented in our criminal population. David Rodriguez and I were talking last night and he recognizes a void of activities for kids who ages 12 to 18.

David Rodriguez – Yes, there is a void for kids who are in the 13 to 18 year old range. The community does not offer anything for them. When I was growing up there was the Boys & Girls Club. It was great to go there and participate in the activities and Teen Night. Kids were there until midnight and then bussed home. It is a good idea to reach out to the older gang member in Juvenile Hall and county jail. It is possible to turn some of them around to a new way of life. Kids are impressionable and follow the example of older kids. “I know from my own experience. I followed older kids.” When he was in prison, he saw people bring each other down. It was a negative environment that bordered on genocide. People were labeled and grouped off by ethnicity or gang affiliation. It was a big jumbled mess. “If we don’t reach out to kids in trouble, our gang problem will only get worse.” Gangs are expanding and are inclusive of the very young as well as those who are older. He lives in the Wilkins area. He knows who the kids at risk are as well as who is in a gang. He tries to play basketball with them. Initially they were very resistant to him. But he has been persistent and he greets them when he sees them. He is trying to get to them by being nice and civil. He extends pleasantries to them every day. His friend Antonia Landos and her work involves at-risk youth prevention. She works at Planned Parenthood and her programs are very inclusive of the diversity within our community. He suggested organizing a Basketball Tournament. The tournament could be a fundraiser for a new program. The kids could participate in earning something that they helped build. When kids have to earn something, they respect it a lot more. People take for granted what they are given for free.

Gary Lieberstein question – Are you open to new ideas to try at Juvenile Hall? Would volunteers be helpful?

Amanda Gibbs, Probation – There are lots of programs at Juvenile Hall. The Hall has implemented evidence-based practices for the past five years. The data reflects some amazing results. Juvenile hall numbers are at record lows. Juvenile caseloads are at record lows. Cognitive behavior training has been effective. It involves having kids look at the things they do and why they do them. There are volunteer and intern programs. They are open to new ideas that are innovative and researched based.

Gary Lieberstein – Are you offering anything involving restorative justice at Juvenile Hall? Is that an area that could be expanded?

Amanda Gibbs- Yes. We have programs using restorative justice. We have also introduced a program called Functional Family Therapy. There is excellent research to support this. This program deals with family culture and focuses not only with juveniles but sibling prevention as well. It treats and corrects the family environment. It is an intense 90-day program.

David Rodriguez – After he was released from prison, he had the opportunity to meet with his victim’s sister. When she first saw David, she screamed and ran out of the room. She did return to the room to talk to David. Initially, he said that she could give him a really good slap in the face. It made it a little awkward at first because he offered a violent action in exchange for his violent action. She wanted David to recount what occurred the night her brother died. He is still friends with this woman and he has a sense of closure about this incident. He has been able to move on with his life in part because of this experience. David’s daughter is going to be graduating from high school this year. She is a good athlete and has dreams. Her strength is his strength. His daughter has been through a lot and she has set an example that he wants to follow. He went to prison when she was one year old and he returned home when she was seven. They are still building a father-daughter bond. His wife has been very supportive. He is dedicated to making a positive impact on his family and his community.

Chief Rubin – The state of affairs as far as young people committing crimes in St. Helena is that the incidents are pretty low. These events “almost take care of themselves”. When incidents are serious enough, most are going to Diversion and meeting with Heather. Some of the younger offenders are Hispanic who do not have a father figure at home. We have problems in our schools with bullying and kids being unruly. There have been several fights in the 8 to 10 year old age groups. We get the parents involved. There was a vandalism incident where a shop had windows broken. Heather arranged a meeting with storeowners, parents and the kids who vandalized the store. This collaborative effort helped the kids understand that their actions had a direct impact on the storeowners. The experience was enlightening to the kids and we are trying to find the teachable moments in these incidents. The kids are pretty good here. St Helena High School is serious about holding kids accountable. Kids are expected to meet requirements and if they don't, they are expelled.

Sheriff John Robertson- There is the Sheriff's Activities League. The program is at the Napa State Hospital and the hours are 2:00 to 7:00 p.m. Monday through Friday. There is state-of-the-art athletic equipment and a personal trainer. The league sponsors many sports including lacrosse, boxing, soccer, softball and basketball. 700 to 800 kids attend the program at no charge to them. At times, the elite teams travel around the state and the country. He also wanted discuss the role of School Resource Officers. The SRO who works out at the schools around Imola is getting ready to retire. Our county is lucky to have the funding to continue to have a community policing format. In the last 5 years, it has been a struggle to push forward in some difficult budget times with engaging officers and professional staff to do things in the community such as Relay for Life or being involved on the Mental Health Boards. Sitting on this commission is an example of taking an active role in the community. Our county's SROs coach sports teams and they go above and beyond what their jobs require. They do this on their own time. At the lat National Night Out, AmCan had 18 locations, Yountville had one. He expressed a need to know more about over policing. He does not think now is the time to limit the role of the Student Resource Officer. The BOS keeps approving the budget so that SROs can be more involved. He is bewildered by hearing the idea of limiting referrals to SROs in the presentation given by Laura Moorman. The mental health issue is a problem. Law enforcement is being inundated with people who mention suicide and others who are homeless. His officers are responding as cops and law enforcement agencies are struggling with this.

American Canyon Police Chief Jean Donaldson – The SROs are an important component in the high schools. It would be nice to have SROs at the middle schools as well. We have the D.A.R.E. program for younger kids. Parenting is a big issue as well. When kids don't have proper parenting they are at risk of getting into trouble. The SRO at American Canyon High School is not just an SRO but the football coach. This is a complicated and complex problem. This could take a few generations to really see change.

Gary Lieberstein – What is the ideal role for an SRO?

Dr. Sweeney – The SROs are very important and beneficial.

Ivan Chaidez – They are invaluable and we rely on them for their expertise. People respect officers in uniform. They build relationships with families and students in school and within the community. He believes it would be helpful to have a full-time SRO at every middle and high school in the county. SROs are part of “wrap around services”. They assist with truancy and restorative practices. They are part of a team and a family. Losing an SRO in a school will do more harm than good. He meets with the SROs once a month and sees them on the school sites.

Sheriff Robertson (Question to Ivan) – We are trying to change the way we police a community. Is it the uniform or the presence of authority that makes SROs part of the team? Or do you view them as partners?

Ivan Chaidez – They are partners and part of the staff. People, including Ivan, feel safe when they see a patrol car outside of the school. Officer Chapman has been at Napa High for years and has built good relationships with staff, students and families. He is considered part of the team, the staff and a partner.

Sheriff Robertson - I would want no patrol car there. I do not want the need for the patrol car.

Ivan Chaidez- Staff and Officers do “butt heads” sometimes because the education and penal codes do not always reconcile with each other. For example, possession of drugs is pretty serious in relation to the penal code but for the schools it amounts to a suspension. Selling drugs equals expulsion. The SROs know what goes on in the communities and neighborhoods in addition to what occurs at the schools. It’s a team effort.

Councilmember Slusser – I think it is nice to have the police around school. It gets the kids to understand that the police are not the bad guys. A lot of times the police are seen as the foe. It is good for them to be visible, “walking the beat” and communicating with the kids and developing relationships.

Sheriff Robertson – Would you like to see the police as an enforcement model and social model?

Councilmember Slusser – Yes.

Sheriff Robertson – This is what we want to do.

Alicia Jaramillo – She was a youth development officer for three years. She was not in uniform and she drove an unmarked car. She did carry her badge and gun. She problem-solved for student and school safety issues. It took awhile for kids to get comfortable. They knew she was not “one of them”. She was in a high Latino population and cops were not Mexican. She is Mexican and a female. She was outside of the traditional cultural role. It took her time to develop relationships with the students. Once she was accepted, she was considered “one of them”. When kids had problems, she would be one of the first people they would seek out for assistance. She worked well with school counselors. She dealt with a lot of gang issues. She would collaborate with the county Gang Officers. This was all informal. It worked for the time and the situations that occurred there. After she promoted, the protocol was changed. The officers that replaced her were in full uniform. She was responsible for an entire school system. She worked at the elementary school that fed into the middle school that fed into the high school. She got to know the students, their families and their issues.

VII. ANNUAL REPORT

The 4 members of the Executive Committee (Gary, Vanessa, Charles, Wesley) will take the lead on this item. Commission members can volunteer to work on this. The target date for completion of this report is around November 2012.

VIII. Discussion of Creation of Sub-Committee to Inventory Gang & Youth Prevention Efforts Countywide

American Canyon Vice-Mayor Cindy Coffey offered to chair this sub-committee. Commission members Melanie Fae Garrett, Erik Driekosen and Alicia Jaramillo volunteered to serve on this sub-committee.

IX. Election/Appointment of New Executive Committee Members for 2012-2013:

Vanessa Luna-Shannon was nominated as Commission Chair and elected by unanimous acclamation. Charles Rose was then nominated for Vice-Chair and elected by unanimous acclamation. Erik Driekosen was then nominated for appointment to the Executive Committee as the Community Representative and Melanie Fae Garrett at the At-Large or Parent Organization Representative and both appointments were ratified unanimously by Commission members. Per the by-laws, District Attorney Gary Lieberstein is a standing voting member of the Executive Committee.

X. Master Plan—Completing Recommendations

Given the late hour, Chair Lieberstein recommended passing this agenda item to the next General Meeting of the Commission in November.

XI. Future Agenda Items

Chair Lieberstein asked that future agenda items be submitted for consideration in writing to newly-elected Chair Vanessa Luna-Shannon well in advance of the next regularly scheduled meeting. Per above, completing recommendations of the Master Plan will be on the next agenda.

XII. Meeting Adjournment/Next Regular Meeting

Meeting was adjourned at 8:20 p.m.
The next meeting is scheduled for Wednesday November 14, 2012 in Napa at 5:30 p.m. The Napa County Library may be a good place to meet.