



**Peel Youth Violence Prevention Network
Steering Committee Meeting
Region of Peel
10 Peel Centre Drive
5th Floor Boardroom
Thursday, May 14, 2009
8:15 a.m. – 9:30 a.m.**

Members Present:

Chair, Gael Miles – Regional Councillor

Katie Mahoney – Regional Councillor

Larry Zacher – Brampton Safe City

Janette Smith – Commissioner of Health Services

Pat Saito – Regional Councillor

Marolyn Morrison – Mayor, Town of Caledon

Valerie Arnold-Judge – Peel District School Board

John Betts – Peel Regional Police

Dorothy Fetterly - Peel Public Health

Shelley White – United Way of Peel Region

Teresa Burgess-Ogilvie - Safe City Mississauga

Sue McFadden – Regional Councillor

Tony DaSilva – Dufferin-Peel Catholic District

Charmaine Blair – Peel Public Health

David Green – Peel District School Board

Regrets:

Emil Kolb – Chair, Region of Peel

Allison Van Wagner - Peel District School Board

Keith Ward – Commissioner of Human Services

Jane Loppe – Peel Public Health

Guests: Rob Trujillo, Feraz Ismail, and Adam Lobo from the Peel Regional Police Crime Prevention and Gang Unit

Minute Taker: Charmaine Blair

MINUTES

Meeting called to order at 8:30 a.m.

1. Welcome and Introductions

Gael Miles welcomed guests from the Peel Regional Police Crime Prevention and Tactical Gang unit. Individuals present introduced themselves.

2. Approval of / Additions to Agenda

No additions

3. Approval of Minutes, January 22, 2009

Deferred

4. Presentation: Peel Regional Police Crime Prevention and Tactical Gang Unit

Rob Trujillo gave a brief overview of the Gang Unit which recently merged with the Crime Unit.

- There are currently six full time gang officers and four temporary officers.
 - Now there are over fifty officers working with the gang unit in areas like warrants and street interviews.
 - GangNet is a key feature of the unit and has been operating for the past five or six years. Any information entered into this database is processed and organized with criteria and contacts of gang members. Two years ago, this system was installed into the police vehicles.
 - Dirk Niles was Rob's mentor and played a key role in implementing gang officers' training.
 - Statistics presented are from 2007 as 2008 statistics have not yet been released.
1. Definition of a street gang: 3 or more people with a common name or physical identifier.
 2. Why young people join gangs – mainly for protection, a sense of belonging, and money.
 3. A review of the Gang Unit mandate. Peel Regional Police Intelligence Services determined that to be considered a gang member, 3 criteria must be met.
 - a. Individual has been previously stopped by the police or charged
 - b. Individual has been flagged – e.g. identifying bandana
 - c. Individual is known to be involved in a gang and gang activities.
 If the individual does not meet the above criteria, then they are considered an associate.
 4. Gang Unit Strategies. Current initiatives are:
 - Every officer will go through training for one year.
 - Information on known gang members is received from Toronto and other cities.
 - Parole plays a big role to ensure gang members are properly monitored and supervised.
 5. Strategic Tactical Enforcement Program (**S.T.E.P.**) – 12 officers are given street level training and these specially trained officers are visible in certain communities. Checks are mandatory and involve police directly knocking on doors.
 6. Youth Intervention and Monitoring Program (**Y.I.M.P.**) – focusing mainly on youth in middle school and the transitional periods.
 7. Gang Unit Statistics (based on 2007 stats) and Regional Overview:
 - 350 criminal charges, 38 searches
 - 110 gangs with 988 members
 - Two main gangs are the Bloods and Crips, and there are more Crips than Bloods in Peel.
 - Gangs range from loosely organized to highly organized.

8. Current Gang Trends
 - Peel is now getting an influx of gang members. They are moving in from other areas where they are known and looking for new territory.
 - Chat rooms and social websites are widely used and the Gang Unit monitors web activity.
9. Gang member tattoos and hand signs
10. Gang guns and gangsters with guns
11. Gang graffiti – graffiti you can read. Tagging is non-gang graffiti and is often art oriented and difficult to read.
12. **GangNet** – Peel Regional Police continues to be a leader in gang suppression.

The question was raised as to whether or not there is any system in place, where police can identify gaps and refer youth to programs and services?

Rob explained that officers in schools have direct contact with any student that may be of concern and school counsellors have a good understanding of what is happening. Some training is given to officers and they are aware of some Regional services.

John Betts confirmed there is nothing formal at this time but they are working on it.

Action: Charmaine to obtain a copy of the presentation from Rob.

5. Business Arising

5.1 Peel Regional Police Statistics – deferred until the June meeting.

5.2 Uprooting Youth Violence forum update

Shelly White confirmed Dr. Alvin Curling's availability to be keynote speaker for the rescheduled date of June 17th or 18th. Members of the Steering Committee were asked to determine which date would be best to accommodate the chairs and co-chairs attendance.

June 17th is the confirmed date, and the forum will be scheduled to begin at 4:00 pm on that day.

6. Business Arising

6.1 August Planning Meeting – deferred.

6.2 Updates from Dorothy – deferred

Meeting adjourned at 9:30 am

Next meeting: June 18, 2009

8:15 – 9:30 am

10 Peel Centre Dr.

5th Floor Boardroom

Brampton