

Turning Pain into Action: Youth Violence Prevention Takes Center Stage as Six Cities Unveil their Plans

Posted by Eugene Schneeberg on April 18, 2011

The Center for Faith Based & Neighborhood Partnerships at the Department of Justice was pleased to join other federal partners on Monday, April 4th –April 5th in Washington, D.C., along with teams from Boston; Chicago; Detroit; Memphis; Salinas, Calif.; and San Jose, who have been part of the National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention. At this great event the six cities unveiled their comprehensive youth violence prevention plans.

In addition to the Mayors, Chiefs of Police, Superintendents of Schools and US Attorney's from these six cities a number of Faith and Community Based representatives participated as well.

On Monday, April 4th, U.S. Department of Education, Secretary of Education Arne Duncan; ONDCP Director Gil Kerlikowske; and Members of Congress spoke to the attendees, along with the Rev. Gregory J. Boyle, S.J., founder of Homeboy Industries and the Rev. Samuel "Billy" Kyles, one of few people with Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. at the time of his assassination.

Joshua DuBois, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith Based & Neighborhood Partnerships moderated a panel called **“Turning Pain into Action: The Killing Must Stop”**. This panel put a human face on youth violence. Panel members discussed how real life experiences inspired them to become actively involved in making their communities safer. Panelists included:



Left to Right:

- Eugene Schneeberg, Director, Faith Based & Neighborhood Partnerships, U.S. Dept. Of Justice
- Pastor Kim Odom, Co-Pastor, True Vine Church
- Joshua DuBois, the Executive Director of the White House Office of Faith Based & Neighborhood Partnerships
- Shi Becerra Cota, Youth Outreach Worker, 2nd Chance Family & Youth Services
- Rev. Jeff Brown, Executive Director, Boston Ten Point Coalition
- Dr. Adam Ybbara, Chaplain Oakland Raiders

On day two of the summit Tuesday, April 5th, Attorney General Eric Holder and Surgeon General Regina M. Benjamin, M.D., discussed how this is not only a Justice issue but a public health concern as well. An exciting **“Faith and Community Based Approaches” breakout session** focused on the role that faith and community-based organizations can play in helping a community prevent and reduce youth and gang violence. Through looking at how these organizations can engage young people, their families, law enforcement and other FBCO's, the discussion informed participants about the value of these approaches. Presenters included:

- Rev. Donald Isaac, Executive Director, East of the River Clergy Police Partnerships
- Addie Richburg, President, National Alliance for Faith and Justice
- Pastor Ron Odom, Senior Pastor, True Vine Church
- Rev. Jeff Brown, Executive Director, Boston Ten Point Coalition
- Pastor Keith Norman, Senior Pastor, First Baptist Church
- Christine Keels, Court Services and Offender Supervision Agency Faith Based Initiative

We are excited to announce the launch of the new National Forum on Youth Violence Prevention website. You can view summaries of the six cities' plans and a lot of other useful information by clicking the following link

http://www.findyouthinfo.gov/topic_preventingViolence.shtml

Eugene Schneeberg is the Director of the Center for Faith-based and Neighborhood Partnerships at the Department of Justice.