

Office of Youth Violence Prevention

The Office of Youth Violence Prevention (OYVP) was founded in 2006 as the City's response to the growing concerns of youth violence. The OYVP represents a coordinating body that brings together various partners who are interested in decreasing and eliminating youth violence.



- Through City and Federal funds, the OYVP provides resources for 10 street level outreach workers. This team of professionals is available as first responders to threats of violence, are often present at most events where youth gather, and provide group discussions and presentations at schools, community centers and other venues for young people.
- With the implementation of our two referrals programs, our Outreach Team is able to appropriately identify youth who need services, and connect them with those services through our partners. Police officers can refer youth to the Outreach Team and they can connect them with case managers.
- The Director and Policy Manager of the OYVP, along with the Mayor, lead the Gang Violence Task Force, which meets bi-weekly and serves as a forum for community members (including young people) to learn about youth violence issues and get involved in solutions.

Per 'Our Bill of Rights: Children and Youth', the OYVP is committed to youth voice and input, and to that end we have a practice of having at least one young person on our evaluation committees during the selection processes to determine who we will partner with for our outreach team and service providers.

Further, the OYVP has presented multiple times before the MYC budget committee, and is currently in conversations with the No Violent Crimes sub-committee.

This report was written and compiled by the City of Portland & Multnomah County Youth Engagement Team program partners:



Portland Office of Youth Violence Prevention

Multnomah County Department of Community Justice Juvenile Services

Youth Engagement Report - 2011

CITY OF PORTLAND + MULTNOMAH COUNTY, OREGON

The City of Portland and Multnomah County reach out to support and engage children and youth in many ways. This report, prepared by the Multnomah Youth Commission, the official youth advisory body to the County Board and City Council, highlights the achievements of the City/County Youth Engagement Team during the 2010-2011 program year.

2010-11 MULTNOMAH YOUTH COMMISSION

The Multnomah Youth Commission does most of its community work in each of the four designated committees: Education, Health & Wellness, Sustainability and YouthVOICE. All work by the Youth Commission is directly aligned to "Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth". During the 2010-11 MYC year, we took our work out of City Hall and the Gresham Schools Building to the youth in our communities. We held three community meetings partnering with the Housing Authority of Portland at New Columbia, Native American Youth and Family Center and Immigrant Refugee and Community Organization as a way to build relationships with youth and hear from them the main issues they felt needed to be addressed in their neighborhoods. Committees are evaluated and realigned at the annual mid-year retreat in February based on feedback provided by the community, MYC sponsors and Youth Commissioners.

EDUCATION COMMITTEE

In October, 2010, the education committee had conducted a breakout session at the CPPS conference about the stresses and challenges youth face in their everyday lives. From there they got involved with the Education & Life Success work group and are actively helping with the completion of the report on disparities in-school disciplinary measures. Toward the end of the MYC year the group had completed several focus groups with at Helensview High School, Fir Ridge School, The Donald E. Long Center and other groups in the community to hear their stories about their experiences with school discipline. Committee members have served on many community groups and committees including the Mayor's Future Connect committee, planning of the 2011 Education Summit, the SUN Service System Coordinating Council and did much for Oregon Senate Bill 742-Tuition Equity Bill. The group was invited by the Portland Schools foundation to serve on the board of the Cradle to Career Council.

-Written by Education Committee Chair, Daniel Pierson



HEALTH & WELLNESS COMMITTEE

As the Health and Wellness Committee, we continued to work hard advocating for School-Based Health Centers (SBHC) for all youth. During the first half of the year we designed a tri-county SBHC marketing campaign titled "My Health, My Choice, My Future" through money received from United Way of Columbia Willamette. This effort included the production of 22 professional banners to be used by each SBHC within the tri-county area, 4,000 youth brochures to be placed inside the clinics and schools, and 44,000 parent fliers to go home to all parents in the region who have children in a school with a SBHC. Our marketing materials are linked to the Oregon School Based Health Care Network (OSBHCN) so no matter where someone is from in the state they can get information regarding a SBHC nearest to them.

We hope this campaign will go statewide over time. For the second half of the year we were able to focus all our attention onto our Northwest Health Foundation/ Kaiser Permanente Community Fund grant. During the second half of our eighteen-month capacity building grant, we provided technical support for the eight Youth Advisory Councils (YACs) which were developed in each of the Multnomah County high schools with SBHCs. We worked directly with the AmeriCorps Members who oversaw the YACs, the SBHC Outreach Workers from the Health Department, as well as came to schools to help out other youth during the Awareness Weeks. In addition, we were invited to the OSBHCN statewide conference to facilitate a workshop and be panel participants to share the work we have been doing. Lastly, we had the opportunity to go to Salem to advocate to our legislators, including Governor Kitzhaber, about the importance of SBHC's for all young people.

SUSTAINABILITY COMMITTEE



The Sustainability Committee started off the year with three main goals, improving bike routes throughout Portland particularly close to schools, improving school lunches, and expanding YouthPass to East County schools as well as middle schools. They went on a field trip to a local farm and testified in front of State Legislature about making school lunches healthier and more sustainable. They did lots of community organizing, talking at TriMet Board meetings and partnered with OPAL Environmental Justice Oregon around YouthPass expansion. When it was announced that YouthPass was going to be cut, they regrouped and focused all their efforts on saving the YouthPass. They drafted and sent out a mailer to all PPS students funded by the Mayor's office organizing youth and getting them to advocate for their YouthPass by sending a letter to the Joint Committee on Tax Credits. The committee ultimately decided to no longer fund YouthPass through the tax credits which have led the committee to urge local leaders at PPS and TriMet to identify alternative funding options. The committee was proud to send one of its representatives and staff to the National Safe Routes to School Conference in Minneapolis, Minnesota at the invitation of the Young Planners Network. There, youth from Chicago, New York, Oakland and Portland presented on their programs and the importance of having youth at the table in Safe Routes Planning. The breakout session was the largest attended at the conference and helped reinforce our work in Portland/Multnomah County as a national leader in youth/adult partnerships and youth civic planning.

-Written by Sustainability Committee Chair, Camille Bales

YOUTH VOICE COMMITTEE

This year, the Youth Voice Committee went through many changes. Due to the diverse experiences and perspectives of our committee, it was hard at times for the group to find a common issue we were passionate about. That being said, the committee did great work during the 2010-11 MYC year. In the fall, the Youth Voice Committee filmed, edited, and published a video about the importance of voting. The video included various youth interviews in Pioneer Square in which youth talked about voting, politics, and youth voice in the world around us. This video was even Tweeted by Mayor Sam Adams. After completing this project, we began to explore what our common passion was and after a few months, it was determined that issues of injustice within Oregon's Measure 11 law were something the committee was committed to combating. Measure 11 mandates youth be tried as adults for certain crimes. The Youth Voice Committee, after having several meetings with groups who do work within the field of juvenile justice, has identified disparities within this law and is committed to working towards policy change. This coming fall, the committee plans to do outreach in the community and have conversations with youth and families, who have been affected by these Measure 11 injustices, in order to help guide our work forward.

-Written by Youth Voice Committee Chair, Sophia Kecskes

Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth

Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth is a document created by youth stating what they need to mature into positive members of society. Now that our community has a founding document, the youth of Multnomah County need to be equipped with the skills, resources, and abilities to affect and direct decisions that will impact their lives. All youth must work together to ensure that everyone has an opportunity to feel, know, and voice who they are and to be an integral part of that decision making process. The goal of the Multnomah Youth Commission is to bring together young people to find sustainable solutions for our communities. The Penney Fund helped in this effort by granting the Youth Commission \$15,000 to hire and train *Youth Bill of Rights* Community Organizers to expand the field of youth advocacy and civic leadership and increase the number of young people who are aware of *Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth*. Because the *Youth Bill of Rights* is nationally recognized as a "best practice" in youth civic engagement and youth development, the MYC has been asked to consult with youth from Boulder, Colorado as they develop a Youth Bill of Right for their community.



Recruitment and Training of Youth Commissioners

In 2010-2011, the Youth Commission successfully solicited applications from youth across the city and county in order to represent the demographics of our community as accurately as possible. Youth Commissioners were sworn in for the first time by both city and county elected officials. To start the year commissioners participated in a three-day retreat focused

on group dynamics, leadership, cross-cultural awareness and committee development. The retreat set the foundation needed for the MYC to work cohesively and accomplish their goals. Ongoing trainings, for co-chairs, the coordinating committee and/or the larger commission body took place along the way. The midyear retreat developed and facilitated by commissioners, provided reflection and vision for the upcoming year. The Commission met the second and fourth Sundays of the month alternating between Portland City Hall and the Gresham Schools Building.



Youth Liaisons

As part of "Our Bill of Rights: Children + Youth" action plan, youth elected liaisons from the Multnomah Youth Commission are matched with commissioners from the City of Portland and Multnomah County. The purpose of this pairing is to give elected officials the valuable resource of a youth liaison in the communities that they are serving. This appointment honors the role of the MYC as a policy body. The youth liaison acts as a bridge between communities that the commissioner needs to serve, a new set of eyes into city/county policy, and a connection to the rest of the MYC. During this past year we had youth liaisons in the offices of County Chair Jeff Cogen, Commissioners Kafoury, Smith, Shiprack, and McKeel, Portland Mayor Sam Adams, and City Commissioners Fish and Fritz. Over the summer we evaluated the program effectiveness and implemented changes to enhance the relationship between youth liaisons and elected officials in order to be more effective in our partnership.



Youth Budget Forum

For the fourth year in a row, the Youth Commission was tasked with making budget recommendations to the City of Portland on City of Portland annual budget. Utilizing a \$300 grant and the willing support of staff from Office of Management and Finance, the youth commission hosted a Youth Budget Forum at the Hollywood theatre called "Youth Have Your Say". The two-hour event provided was completely youth lead providing youth in the community with information about how the budget works, and explanation of equity through a racial & cultural lens and three different prioritization activities. Results from the were folded into the overall budget recommendations from

OMF and were presented by Youth Commission and event organizer, Jose Lopez-Delgado at the City Council budget work session held at Jefferson High School.

Answering Requests for Youth Input

Multnomah County Commission on Children, Families & Community ■ City of Portland Bureau of Planning & Sustainability (Youth Action Grant, Youth Engagement Manual, Portland Plan/Youth Equity Mapping) ■ East Portland Action Plan (Youth Subcommittee and MAX Action) ■ Multnomah County Libraries (Teen Councils) ■ Portland Office of Management & Finance (Youth Budget Forum) ■ Multnomah County Health Department School Based Health Centers ■ Mayor's Office (Education Cabinet, Education Summit, Future Connect and Summer Youth Connect) ■ SUN Coordinating Council ■ Portland Bureau of Transportation (Safe Routes to School and Sunday Parkways) ■ Multnomah County Department of Human Services ■ Portland Parks and Recreation ■ TriMet (YouthPass & Marketing for safety campaign) ■ Oregon Commission on Children & Families ■ Mercy Corps (Action Center) ■ Oregon Bus Project ■ Oregon Queer Youth Summit ■ STAND for Children ■ "Papers" The Movie ■ Cascade Aids Project/Teen 2 Teen ■ National League of Cities ■ Portland Public Schools ■ Worksource Portland/Metro East ■ Oregon School Based Health Center Network ■ United Way of Columbia-Willamette ■ Housing Authority of Portland at New Columbia ■ Native American Youth and Family Center ■ Immigrant Refugee and Community Organization ■ Oregon School Based Health Care Network ■ Northwest Health Foundation ■ Benton County Health Services ■ Ortiz Center's Si Se Puede Program ■ Local Public Safety Coordinating Council's Youth and Gang Violence Steering Committee ■ The Green Team ■ Sexual Minority Roundtable