



REPORT TO COUNCIL

City of Sacramento

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Staff
October 7, 2008

Honorable Mayor and
Members of the City Council

Title: Report Back: Attendance Centers for 2007/2008 School Year

Location/Council District: Districts 1 and 4

Recommendation: Receive and File

Contact: Darrell Fong, Captain, 808-0310 and Lyn Corbett, Youth Director, 808-8849

Presenters: Darrell Fong, Captain and Lyn Corbett, Youth Director

Department: Police and Office of Youth Development

Division: Special Investigations and Office of Youth Development

Department No: 11001241 (2142) and 02001041 (0340)

Description/Analysis

Issue: The Sacramento Police Department and the Office of Youth Development worked in collaboration to provide counseling services to the Attendance Centers located at Inderkum, McClatchy, and Luther Burbank High Schools for the 2007/2008 school year. Contracts were established with EMQ Children and Family Services, Another Choice Another Chance, La Familia Counseling Center, Inc., Southeast Asian Vision for Education (S.A.V.E.), and The Dream Collective.

Policy Considerations: The purpose of the Attendance Centers was consistent with the goals of the Office of Youth Development as well as the City Council's strategic plan for public safety.

Environmental Considerations: This report concerns administrative activities that will not have a significant effect on the environment, and does not constitute a "project" as defined by the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) [CEQA Guidelines Sections 15061(b)(3); 15378 (b)(2)].


Commission/Committee Action: None

Rationale for Recommendation: Truancy is usually a symptom of other problems. The additional counseling component added to the Attendance Centers this past school year provided an opportunity to delve deeper into the issues impacting the lives of the youth who were truant.

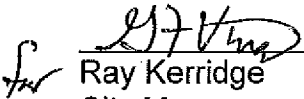
Financial Considerations: There are no financial implications associated with this report.

Emerging Small Business Development (ESBD): Another Choice Another Chance was certified as an Emerging/Small Business Enterprise.

Respectfully Submitted by: 
Darrell Fong, Captain

Approved by: 
Rick Braziel, Chief of Police

Recommendation Approved:


Ray Kerridge
City Manager

Ref: COP

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Attachment 1**Background**

The Sacramento Police Department and the Office of Youth Development recognized a need for counseling services to be added to the existing Attendance Centers for school year 2007/2008. The three centers, located at McClatchy and Luther Burbank High Schools in the Sacramento City Unified School District and Inderkum High School in the Natomas Unified School District, contracted with La Familia Counseling Center (McClatchy), Another Choice Another Chance (Luther Burbank), and EMQ Children and Family Services (Inderkum High School). S.A.V.E and Dream Collective were also contracted to provide additional services that the primary organizations did not offer such as life skills training and bilingual services. In addition, the Department of Human Assistance provided a social worker at both the Luther Burbank and the Inderkum Centers.

The Attendance Centers operated from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, from November 27, 2007 to May 30, 2008. During these times, law enforcement officers would contact possible truants off campus and bring them to the centers. Upon arrival, a center staff verified attendance records and other information. The student then met with one of the contracted counseling organizations assigned to the center to determine underlying issues causing the truancy. In some cases, the young person's family was contacted to encourage the student's involvement by means of an on-site conference; some instances required home visits. The counseling service, the student, and his/her family would work together to provide an effective solution.

Attachment 2

Overall Statistics

The statistics listed below are for the Attendance Centers that were located at McClatchy, Luther Burbank, and Inderkum High Schools. The Attendance Centers assessed a total of 1,732 students during the 2007/2008 school year. The breakdown per center is as follows:

- McClatchy: 750
- Luther Burbank: 502
- Inderkum: 480

The following table illustrates the frequency of students' repeated visits to the Attendance Centers. Multiple visits (second, third and fourth visits) indicate a repeating trend:

	Total Students	Visits per Student			
		One	Two	Three	Four
SCUSD Sites					
McClatchy	750				
Burbank	502				
Combined	1,252	1,154	74	19	5
Percent Ratio	100%	92%	6%	1.5%	0.39%
NUSD Site					
Inderkum	480	443	23	13	1
Percent Ratio	100%	92%	5%	3%	0.20%

The following table illustrates changes in attendance and truancy after the implementation of the Attendance Centers. The numbers are represented in all day absence:

Reported Student Truancies and Unexcused Absences					
	2005/06	2006/07 ¹	Change in Truancy	2007/08 ²	Change in Truancy
			2005/06 – 2006/07		2006/07 – 2007/08
SCUSD					
McClatchy	7,821	7,424	-397	5,316	-2,108
Johnson	18,540	18,131	-409	16,795	-1,336
Kennedy	5,809	4,380	-1,429	4,253	-127
Burbank	18,978	17,405	-1,573	14,133	-3,272
Rosemont	3,905	5,513	+1,608	3,871	-1,642
Combined	55,053	52,853	-2,200	44,368	-8,485
NUSD					
Inderkum				10,256	
Natomas				11,862	
Discovery ³	Not Applicable				
Combined				22,118	

¹ The McClatchy Attendance Center opened in 2006/07

² The Inderkum Attendance Center opened in 2007/08; Attendance statistics for NUSD prior to 2007/2008 school year are pending.

³ Discovery High School is an Independent Studies Charter School that does not track/report truancies or unexcused absences

As illustrated in the above chart, SCUSD experienced a decrease in truancy (8,485 students) seen between the 2006/2007 and 2007/2008 school year, which indicates that approximately \$400,492 in district funds was made available. This figure is calculated using the average rate of \$47.20 per student per day of attendance.

Attachment 3**Contracted Organization Statistics**

Community Based Organization	Students Assessed	Home Visits	Male	Female
La Familia Counseling Center	216	20	110	106
Another Choice Another Chance	170	2	105	65
EMQ Child and Family Services	161	68	116	45
Dream Collective ¹				
Southeast Asian Vision for Education (SAVE) ²	N/A			

¹ Statistics from Dream Collective are pending

² Services offered by SAVE were not utilized during the 2007/2008 school year

Success Stories

The following represents one of many success stories from each of the Attendance Centers:

La Familia Success Story (McClatchy High School):

Prior to the Attendance Center connection, one student had dabbled in minor gang activity and had poor family relationships. After being seen at the Attendance Center and receiving assistance from La Familia, the student's attendance, attitude, and behavior improved. The student continues to receive counseling and has minimized gang affiliation. Currently, the student is participating in a summer employment Boot Camp. This is a week long pre-employment camp that offers classes in dressing for success, resume writing, and interviewing. Once this student completes the camp, he/she will receive employment assistance in finding a summer job. The counselor noted that student's overall attitude and family relationships have improved.

Another Choice Another Chance Success Story (Luther Burbank High School):

A young man was brought into the Burbank Center. This student was missing many days of school and had poor grades. He told the counselor that he would like to one day work in a Barber Shop. The staff worked to improve the attendance and when a certain goal was attained, the student was introduced to a local barber who allowed him to volunteer time on the weekends at the shop. A month later, this particular student showed no additional center visits, improved grades, and an overall improvement in attitude.

EMQ Success Story (Inderkum High School):

One student was dealing with the reality that his mother was going to go to jail soon. This student was averaging approximately four whole days of absences per week despite receiving both personal and academic counseling. On one hand, this student was embarrassed that his mother was going to jail and on the other hand, he was scared that he would lose his mother for a long time. Once the counselor identified what was bothering the student and why the student was distracted and uninterested in school, the counselor, student, and mother all worked together to come up with a reasonable solution and agreed that an Independent Studies program would keep the child interested in school.

After enrolling in the Independent Studies Program, the student's attendance has been perfect – attending twice a week to meet with his teacher. The grades are all A's, B's, C's, and one D where before they were all F's. Although the student is still worried about his mother, he knows that staying in school is the right thing to do and the Independent Studies program saved the student from any embarrassment or teasing that may have been received if the student had attended regular school.

Two additional community based organizations were hired for the centers to provide additional services that were unique in nature. Dream Collective conducted life-skills classes and Southeast Asian Vision for Education (S.A.V.E) specialized in Asian culture and language skills.

Dream Collective's information was pending and S.A.V.E. was not utilized at the centers.

Attachment 4

Impact on Neighboring Communities

Per Sacramento Police Department's Crime Analysis Unit, the following trends were seen in crime patterns surrounding a half-mile of each school¹:

		459	459-Autos	594	10851	484	Total	Year-to-Year Change
McClatchy	2006¹	7	3	3	1	12	26	
	2007	6	4	1	4	13	28	2
	2008	5	4	0	1	10	20	-8
Burbank	2006	10	8	5	13	23	59	
	2007	10	3	9	16	13	51	-8
	2008	9	4	3	10	19	45	-6
Kennedy	2006	8	1	3	1	12	25	
	2007	6	0	1	1	14	22	-3
	2008	3	3	1	0	6	13	-9
Johnson	2006	9	0	2	1	6	18	
	2007	4	1	6	2	12	25	-7
	2008	13	5	0	0	7	25	0

459 PC: Business Burglary
 459-Autos PC: Vehicle Burglary
 594 PC: Vandalism
 10851 VC: Stolen Vehicle
 484 PC: Petty Theft

¹ All years compare January 1 – August 31 tracking reported crimes between the 0900 hours and 1500 hrs

² Crime Statistics surround NUSD schools are pending

Attachment 5**Recommendations and Lessons Learned**

Over half of the parents and families refused the offer for further counseling. Some reasons for declining were that the family and students were not interested in the services suggested or that the family felt that the services were not needed. An effort to educate the parents and families on the benefits of counseling were recommended. Again, these classes are being planned for the future. When the services were accepted, they were highly effective in improving student's attendance.

School Resources Officers (SRO) (both contract and non-contract) are an integral part of this process, bringing in the majority of the students to the centers during the school year. Their dedication to resolving the truancy issue has proved to be beneficial. The officers build a working partnership with the center staff. In one case, a student told center staff that since the center opened, the truant students were starting to congregate at Downtown Plaza. In response, the SROs organized one of several truancy sweeps to address this issue.

Transportation was a challenge for many students. Many times, success depended upon the services coming to the child. For instance, in the cases where the student might benefit from an employment camp or a job fair, the parents did not always have adequate transportation available for the student to participate. The student would ultimately miss out on the opportunity if transportation could not be found.

Tutoring and mentoring issues would be recommended for both students and parents in order to educate them on the importance of education. Some classes are in the works for the future that will focus on this very subject.

Statistical collection was sporadic and inconsistent. One intake form was developed that would be used by all centers and one statistical collection form was developed to be used for all CBOs for next year's Attendance Center project. In addition, monthly statistical reports will be required for all involved parties.