

Latin@ Youth Violence Prevention Center (LYVPC)

Violence continues to be a major public health issue in Latin@ communities across the country. To address this reality, NCCD is committed to develop a center that addresses Latin@ youth violence in an effective and community-responsive manner. The Latin@ Youth Violence Prevention Center (LYVPC) will be 1) nationally recognized, 2) community-driven in its priorities, 3) a producer of quality data on Latin@s, violence, and juvenile justice, and 4) a leader in innovative prevention and intervention strategies for addressing violence in Latin@ communities.

NCCD began a one-year LYVPC planning process in July, 2005. We will garner support by networking with various Latin@ stakeholders, assessing and identifying gaps in research, and reaching out to Latin@ youth-serving community-based organizations, advocates, public officials, policymakers, academics, practitioners, and youth, to identify community needs and priorities around violence-related issues. The

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API Center Statewide Dialogue



Hmong Cultural Dancers

A Statewide Dialogue on Asian Pacific Islander Youth Violence was the culminating event of a five-year grant establishing the Asian Pacific Islander Youth Prevention Center (API Center), one of the National Academic Centers of Excellence in Youth Violence Prevention funded by the Centers For Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) in 2000. In early 2005, API Center staff conceptualized an event that would convene a diverse, statewide audience for discussions on preventing API youth violence.

Led by NCCD, more than 50 community-based organizations, government agencies, public officials, and community activists co-sponsored the event. Of the sponsoring groups, about 25 also participated in a planning committee. The planning committee developed an interactive, variety-filled, one-day event designed to engage youth and adults in a common goal.

On August 17, 2005, more than 350 people, including youth, community members, advocates, law enforcement and elected officials, gathered at the Sacramento Convention Center for a Statewide Dialogue on Asian and Pacific Islander Youth Violence, thought to be the first of its kind

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They All Come Back

Over the past 25 years, our criminal justice policies have swelled the number of Americans locked up in prisons and jails. A variety of new laws and “tougher” sentencing policies produced a vast expansion of incarceration with over two million Americans in prison. NCCD has consistently opposed these policies, maintaining that a punishment-only system is extremely wasteful of taxpayers’ dollars. Moreover, there are enormous collateral damages to the families of prisoners and the communities in which they lived prior to imprisonment. Also, there is very little scientific evidence that mass incarceration has made our communities any safer.

What is now becoming clear is that expansion of incarceration in prisons that offer little or no rehabilitation actually endangers public safety. The president of John Jay College, Jeremy Travis, has written a new book entitled *But They All Come Back*. He reminds us that over 95% of prisoners will return home, many within a few short years. Close to 700,000 persons are released from prison each year. With high rates of illiteracy, drug addiction, and mental health issues, the substantial majority of these released prisoners are ill-equipped to do anything but return to lives of crime. It is estimated that over

two-thirds will be rearrested in two years. Others will return to prison, not for new crimes, but for violating the rules of their parole. In California, the Little Hoover Commission evaluated the prison system and described the situation in the Golden State as “a billion dollar failure.”

Across the nation, only a tiny percentage of prisoners receives any educational, vocational, counseling, or addiction services. Many have severe mental health issues that go undiagnosed or untreated. There are few programs across the country that are designed to prepare ex-prisoners to make it on the outside. Further, released

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prisoners face a dizzying array of barriers that prevent them from getting public housing, qualifying for educational loans, receiving job training in the community, or even being able to vote. The result of these circumstances is a public safety nightmare that extends well beyond the families and children of released prisoners.

We at NCCD believe that focused attention on positive and meaningful reentry must be a core

component of our crime-control policies. There are early efforts in some states and by the U.S. Department of Justice, but virtually no rigorous research is guiding us to the best evidence-based practices to help released prisoners become law-abiding and productive members of our communities.

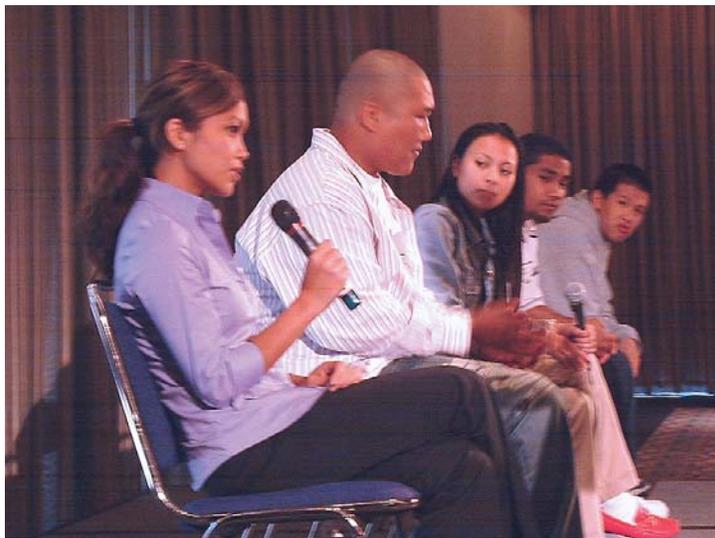
As NCCD moves into its centennial year in service to America, we will increase focus on improving reentry services and attempting to remove barriers to successful returns to the community. We intend to commission a public opinion poll to see where the citizenry stands on this topic. Plans are proceeding for an NCCD national summit conference on reentry held in conjunction with New York University School of Law. We will convene young people at John Jay College of Criminal Justice to listen to their thoughts on how to improve the justice system. The NCCD PASS Awards are searching for the best media coverage on these critical topics. NCCD has also released a comprehensive statement on the best researched approaches to sentencing—the last NCCD policy statement on this topic was in 1992.

The political rush to embrace mass incarceration has been a disaster at so many levels. And now the “chickens are coming home to

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in California. The range of organizations represented by attendees—including education, health care, human services, law, and probation—showed a broad interest in the event. The day was structured to provide meaningful workshops and activities for both adults and young people. Workshops geared toward adults covered collaborations between law enforcement and faith organizations, school-based conflict resolution programs, API youth victimization, law enforcement responses to API youth violence, and what parents can do if their child is arrested. Workshops were led by community advocates and representatives of nonprofit organizations. In addition to workshops, several sessions for all Dialogue attendees featured many inspiring speakers including:



Youth Panelists

Jeff Adachi, Public Defender of the City and County of San Francisco and longtime champion of API legal issues, Nita Sisamouth, a youth organizer with Asian Youth Advocates, a program of the Asian Environmental Network in Richmond, and Assemblymember Judy Chu (D-Monterey Park), chair of the Select Committee on Hate Crimes and the California Asian and Pacific Islander Legislative Caucus. Chu's recently passed bill (AB 378) extends the time limit for which hate crime victims can file a civil suit. The bill stems from a 2003 San Francisco incident in which five Chinese youth were viciously attacked by 15 to 20 white youth.

Other speakers included Assemblymember Dave Jones (D-Sacramento); Nancy Matson, Deputy Director, Crime & Violence Prevention Center, Attorney General's Office; and Jan Scully, District Attorney, City and County of Sacramento.

Representing a variety of API ethnicities, about 100 young people from Los Angeles, Oakland, Richmond, San Francisco, the Central Valley, and Sacramento took time from summer jobs and other activities to lend their voices as attendees, participants, and performers.

Although the current NCCD contract ended on September 29, the staff will continue to analyze data from the Risk and Protective Factors Survey, pursue implementation of the recommendations from *Under the Microscope: Asian and Pacific Islander Youth in*

Oakland • Needs • Issues • Solutions, and disseminate information about API communities.

Acknowledging the previous work of the API Center, the CDC selected NCCD's proposal to establish a Center on Culture, Immigration, and Youth Violence Prevention in a renewal process for the National Academic Centers of Excellence in Violence Prevention. UC Berkeley's Institute for the Study of Social Change and UC San Francisco are NCCD's partners on this project. This new grant will focus on API and Latino populations in Oakland, CA, and will run for five years.

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activities will concentrate in California; however national efforts will take place as opportunities arise.



Latin@ youth voice their concerns.

We held the first of three planning meetings in California on October 6, 2005, at The Precita Center in the Mission District of San Francisco. Over 30 community-based organizations and other agencies, including the Deputy Attorney's office and various San Francisco and Oakland city officials attended the planning session. This successful meeting provided an excellent beginning to our planning process. The forum, entitled, *Latin@ Youth & Violence Prevention: A Community Conversation*, addressed the ways in which a center can best address the needs of Latino youth around violence. The forum generated excellent discussion, ideas, and recommendations for guiding the development of the Center.

The Southern California regional meeting will be held at the downtown Cal Poly Center on Tuesday, January 24th, from 12-6 pm. The Central Valley meeting is scheduled for February. Recommendations from all three meetings will guide the development of the Center, its principles, values and philosophy. Please check our website for more information.

**BE PART OF THE SOLUTION.
JOIN US!**

Disproportionate Minority Contact

The State of California Correctional Standards Authority recently awarded NCCD a 12-month contract to provide technical assistance to three California counties to address Disproportionate Minority Contact (DMC) in their juvenile justice systems. Alameda, Contra Costa, and Ventura Counties were selected.

NCCD will examine DMC issues in these counties using a data-driven, community planning approach in three phases. First, we will mobilize the key stakeholders in each county, then assess the current DMC status in each county, and finally, lead a process of community planning to improve DMC.

Mobilization of key community stakeholders

The mobilization includes Educational Training sessions and is designed to orient key decisionmakers that serve youth in the community. This training will raise awareness among community members about DMC and its related issues. We will broaden knowledge about the key elements of a comprehensive approach, and the roles that various stakeholder groups can play in accomplishing change.

Community assessment

Assessing a community requires building a data-based portrait of it that serves as the cornerstone of the planning process. The assessment examines decision points in the juvenile justice system, data from each of those decision points, and gaps in programs and services available to youth and families in the community. This process will yield a very useful profile of the community.

Community planning

Project staff and stakeholders will convene to address DMC and work together to fill those identified gaps in services for minority youth and their families. An important aspect of the project will be a review of promising approaches for addressing DMC. The group will create an integrated, comprehensive, and system-wide Action Plan to alleviate DMC.

CRC Helps Charter Schools Monitor Outcomes

Charter schools are emerging as one alternative for improving educational outcomes in public schools. Recognizing that one powerful delinquency-prevention strategy is to provide appropriate and effective educational opportunities, CRC has provided monitoring services for the City of Milwaukee charter schools for over seven years. Recently, CRC began work with the Technical Assistance and Leadership Center (TALC), a division of Transcenter for Youth, Inc., to provide monitoring services for the new Small High Schools established in Milwaukee with the help of the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation. CRC's role includes working with 10 small high schools, some of which are charter schools with various chartering entities and some of which are traditional public high schools. CRC staff are assisting administrators and teachers that are identifying meaningful educational outcomes and developing systems for collecting and reporting data. These data reflect the academic progress of their students and will be used by school personnel to inform improvement at the classroom level as well as school-wide. CRC staff will analyze the data and produce an annual report available to interested parties including each school's sponsor or chartering entity, the foundations that may be supporting the school, the students, staff, parents, and the general public.

To see copies of CRC's monitoring reports for the City of Milwaukee, please visit www.nccd-crc.org. If you would like more information about CRC's Monitoring Services, please contact:

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NCCD's 2005 PASS Awards

Prevention for a Safer Society

NCCD's program to honor the media, the PASS Awards, is now in its 12th year. The PASS Awards is the only national recognition of members of the media who focus America's attention on our criminal justice, juvenile justice, and child welfare systems in a thoughtful and considered manner.

THIS YEAR IS SPECIAL. We are actively reaching out to past winners and new journalists in all disciplines—print news, film, radio, literature, and more. We are inviting their participation in a revitalized program with the additional strength of our Centennial year plans. Our periodic messages to the media will keep them informed of the key facts on issues of interest that NCCD will help define. In addition, we intend to recognize the very best coverage of justice issues in a special event in the spring of 2006.

Perhaps now more than ever, the media can influence change in our society. We applaud coverage that is factual and responsible.

The 2005 Call for Entries is now available on our website, www.nccd-crc.org. The submission deadline is December 31, 2005.

NCCD July Board Meeting

Madison, Wisconsin

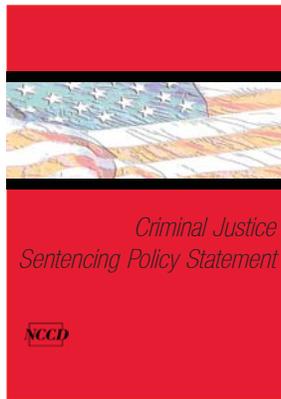
Madison, Wisconsin, home of the Children’s Research Center, was host to this summer’s NCCD Board Meeting. The easy grace of this Midwestern city was a fine environment for the board’s business and after-work relaxation.

The board held its annual election of officers, reelection of board members to additional terms, and approved the new budget. In addition, board members discussed a proposal to purchase a building for the CRC, reviewed a revised statement on criminal sentencing policy, and brainstormed ideas for the NCCD Centennial.

The board gatherings are always the best time to learn about the many projects based both in Oakland and Madison. Being in Madison, however, many of us were able to meet the members of the dedicated staff of the CRC for the first time. They shared with us their accomplishments in foster care, new education initiatives including charter schools, and critical issues in the child welfare system. The Oakland office spotlighted its new Center on Latin@ Youth Violence Prevention.

When all was accomplished, our July dates allowed us to take advantage of Madison’s friendly Concert on the Square, complete with blankets and picnic. The next board meeting will be scheduled for mid-year, 2006.

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NCCD Sentencing Policy Statement

Periodically, the NCCD board of directors puts forth major policy statements on critical issues facing the nation’s justice system. These statements reflect the findings of the best research and the judgments of the nation’s top professionals in the field. Recent United States Supreme Court cases have cast into uncertainty the status of the state and federal sentencing guidelines and have reopened the critical question of judicial authority. It is time to seriously reevaluate the “sentencing policy experiment” that began in the United States in the late 1970s.

Sentencing reforms of the 1980s have given way to increasing emphasis on punishment as the main goal of imprisonment, with politically-motivated, “tough on crime” attitudes and legislation. In the last 15 years, the prison population has skyrocketed, despite a simultaneous and persistent decrease in the crime rate. These policies have had an undue negative impact on minority communities and women. The costs of supporting this enormous system have skyrocketed as well. The United States has one of the highest imprisonment rates in the world and now locks up more than 2.2 million of its citizens.

Our 2005 Policy Statement on Criminal Sentencing will soon be available on our website in PDF form at www.nccd-crc.org. Please contact us if you would like a hard copy.

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roost” as these policies threaten to create even worse problems in the future. NCCD will remain focused on reforms that increase safe alternatives to imprisonment, reduce obscenely long prison terms for most offenders, and restore sound judicial judgment in lieu of the political hysteria that has dominated the criminal sentencing process. The Council knows that improving our knowledge of “what works” in reentry is vital to the future of our communities.

NCCD MISSION STATEMENT

The National Council on Crime and Delinquency, founded in 1907, is a nonprofit organization that promotes effective, humane, fair, and economically sound solutions to family, community, and justice problems. NCCD conducts research, promotes reform initiatives, and seeks to work with individuals, public and private organizations, and the media to prevent and reduce crime and delinquency.

NCCD Centennial Celebration

NCCD is turning 100!

Next October, NCCD will celebrate 100 years of excellence. Reaching this milestone is truly cause for reflection, acknowledgment, and celebration. It is time to look back over the century and understand how our justice system has changed from what it was in 1906. NCCD has been instrumental in all of the major developments of that system—parole, probation, and the juvenile court. Having gained the perspective that only 100 years can offer, we have a unique opportunity to acknowledge the extraordinary work of many gifted and dedicated people. Our Centennial events, we hope, will do exactly that.

Beginning now, we will be reaching out to the media in a specially crafted effort to engage them in understanding and recognizing our message. We will focus on the issue of prisoner reentry and the many recommendations we have for improving prisoner success and public safety. In the spring of next year, we will formally recognize those journalists who have contributed significantly to the public’s understanding of justice issues with a Centennial edition of our PASS Awards.

We will work with Sage Publications to produce a collection of essays that represents the historic best of the NCCD Board and staff. And, we will commission a commemorative work of art—a visual symbol of our ideas.

Then, in October of 2006, we will host two days of special events in New York City. An Educational Forum at NYU will spotlight the best thinking on justice issues, review where we have come, and chart an intelligent course for the future. At John Jay College of Criminal Justice, with direction from SouthWest Key, we will sponsor a youth event, full of expression by and for young people, that speaks to youth interests in the justice system. And finally, the Centennial year will culminate in a celebratory gala dinner at one of the city’s gracious hotels.

Please get in touch and make sure you’re on our invitation list! Inform us if you know the whereabouts of any long-time fans of NCCD. Please contact us for more information or if you know of someone we should be sure to invite.

.....continuing the struggle for justice.....

New Publications

“NCCD Criminal Justice Sentencing Policy Statement” November, 2005
“Reforming Juvenile Detention in Florida” August, 2005
“API Currents” API Center Newsletter, Vol. 5, No. 2

New Projects

WS Johnson Opportunities	Walter S, Johnson Foundation
Gender Responsive Treatment for Girls in Florida	Jessie Ball duPont Fund
Florida JAIS	Jessie Ball duPont Fund
Gerbode Corrections Reform	Gerbode Foundation/Roney Family Foundation
Center on Immigration, Culture and Youth Violence	Centers for Disease Control
Healthy Returns Initiative Evaluation	The California Endowment
Micigan Dept. of Corrections Workload Study	State of Michigan
Riverside APS Screening and Response Priority	Riverside County Dept. of Public Social Services
Technical Assistance and Leadership Center Small Schools	TransCenter for Youth, Inc.
Structured Decision Making, Madera County	
Structured Decision Making, Washington D.C.	
SafeMeasures, Shasta County	
SafeMeasures, Solano County	
SafeMeasures, Sacramento County	
SafeMeasures, El Dorado County	
SafeMeasures, Tulare County	
SafeMeasures, Yolo County	
SafeMeasures, Stanislaus County	
SafeMeasures, Merced County	
SafeMeasures, Yuba County	



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Upcoming Events

Board Meetings—**March 9-10, 2006, Oakland, CA; October 19, 2006, New York**
LYVPC Planning Meetings—**January 24, 2006; February (date TBA), 2006**
Seventh National SDM Conference—**October 4-5, 2006, Portsmouth, NH**

For additional information, please visit www.nccd-crc.org or phone (510) 208-0500