



Connecting Hands and Networking for Engagement (CHANGE) of Today's Youth
Interagency Conference
December 10, 2009

Evaluation Report

IMPERIAL
COUNTY
OFFICE OF
EDUCATION

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Interagency Conference

Connecting Hands and Networking for Engagement

December 10, 2009

Evaluation Summary

Description/Background

The 13th annual Interagency Youth Conference was held at the Imperial County Department of Social Services Cal-Works Center on December 10, 2009. The youth conference was hosted by the Local Coordinating Committee (LCC) and the Interagency Steering Committee (ISC) and was sponsored by Imperial County Office of Education, Student Well Being and Family Resource, the Workforce Investment Board, Clinicas de Salud del Pueblo Inc. and the Strategies Training and Technical Assistance Center. This was the 13th straight year that this annual conference provided network opportunities for local professionals in Imperial County.



Antonio Roque and Veronica De Alba, Keynote Speakers

The conference commenced in the morning with a series of different keynote speakers, followed by two workshop sessions, lunch, a youth panel presentation, a final series of breakout sessions, and the closing address. A new format for breakout sessions was introduced this year. The number of breakout sessions was reduced to nine which helped lengthen the time of each session. This gave participants more time to engage in the sessions. This also was the first year in which presenters were asked to submit proposals on presentation topics. At the end of this report is a copy of the registration form which includes a list of presenters and topics.

The conference evaluation was conducted by



Conference Attendees

Imperial County Office of Education (ICOE), Grants and Evaluation Office (GEO). The evaluation was similar to previous Interagency Youth Conferences. Attendees were given keynote and conference evaluation forms in their registration packets along with individual evaluation forms for the breakout sessions. In order to secure completed evaluation forms, a raffle was held at the end of the conference. Participants who returned their evaluation forms received a raffle ticket. As in years past, participants

were asked to evaluate the keynote speakers, conference facilities, and provide feedback

on ways to improve future conferences. GEO staff conducted observations and informal interviews with participants and presenters. Electronic surveys were given to presenters in order to receive their feedback and recommendations.

Summary of Findings – Keynote Speakers

Morning Keynote Speakers



Veronica De Alba

The morning keynote speakers were Veronica De Alba, Antonio Roque, and Ailleth Tom. Ms. De Alba serves as a deputy city attorney for the City of Los Angeles and has been instrumental in the establishment of teen drug prevention agencies in Los Angeles. Mr. Roque is currently an adviser for the prevention programs of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Mr. Roque has been responsible for providing district-wide staff

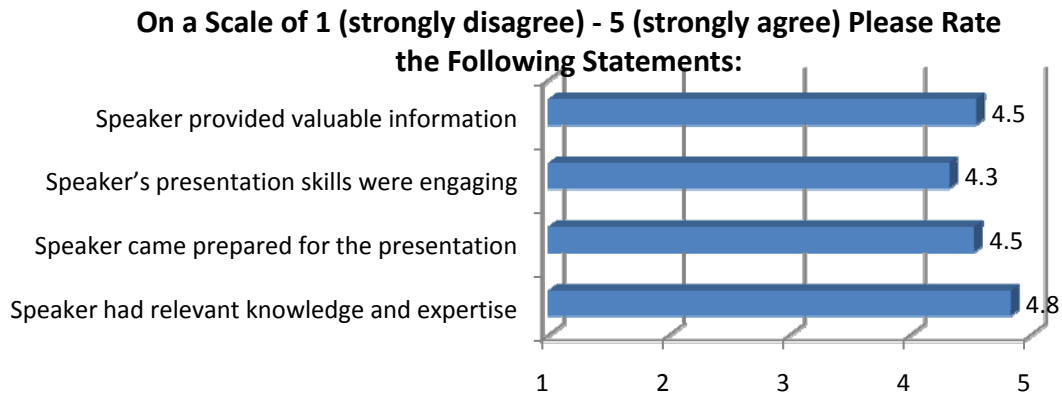
development, parent workshops, and student presentations on drug awareness, gangs and violence, and sexual abuse prevention. Ms. Tom is a psychiatric social worker with the Department of Children and Family Services of the Los Angeles Unified School District. Ms. Tom runs projects for suicide prevention (trauma, recovery and resiliency) and in the prevention of inhalant use.

Evaluation form responses (n=37) for the morning keynote speakers showed that attendees were pleased with the presentations. Respondents rated the value of the presentation, the presenter's skills, preparedness, knowledge and expertise. The chart illustrates the average rating for Ms. De Alba, Mr. Roque, and Ms. Tom's presentation.



Antonio Roque

2009 ISC Conference Morning Keynote Speakers n=53



An open ended question asked conference attendees to provide any comments and suggestions for the keynote speaker. Overall, attendees were satisfied with the ideas shared by the keynote speakers. In addition, attendees were asked to provide one idea they learned, some of the responses were “Collaboration and networking are key to success,” “Nothing is heavy if we all lift together.” One of the comments listed “synergy,” making reference to a presentation that stressed the importance of community partnerships in strengthening the work in the community.

Youth Panel

In the afternoon, a youth panel composed of current Imperial Valley Regional Occupational Program participants conducted a skit about the effects of drug abuse on high school students. The youth shared their experience in IVROP’s Project ACE (Accessing Careers through Education), talked about their experience in foster homes, their educational goals, and provided recommendations on how to improve services for at risk youth.

As in previous years, the audience was pleased with the youth panel, applauding their presentations and their courage to stand and share their skits with the group. Participants thanked the youth panel for serving as an inspiration and role models for today’s youth. Participants enjoyed receiving the performance from the youth as they could relate to the clients they serve. A recommendation was made by a few participants to continue having youth panel presentations in future conferences.

Frank Martinez – Closing Keynote Speaker



Mr. Frank Martinez

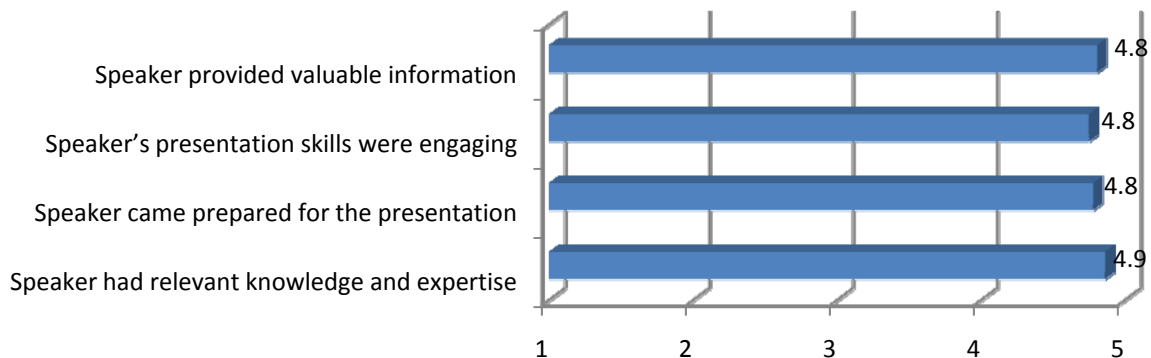
Mr. Frank Martinez was the closing keynote speaker. Mr. Martinez has over twenty years of experience with the Imperial County Probation Department. Mr. Martinez talked about how local gangs use social networks and websites such as youtube.com to showcase gang activity, recruit new members, and to challenge rival gangs. Mr. Martinez showed several videos of local gangs, gang initiations, fights, and other displays of gang violence.

The chart below displays the average ratings of Mr. Martinez' presentation. Conference participants (n=36) rated Mr. Martinez' presentation with scores ranging from 4.8 to 4.9 on a scale where 5 is the maximum. The audience responded positively to Mr. Martinez' presentation. Some of the responses included "internet awareness is key," "monitor children internet activity," and "how easy it is for gang members to use the internet to promote violence."

2009 ISC Conference

Frank Martinez - Closing Keynote Speaker n=36

On a Scale of 1-5, Please Rate the Following Statements:

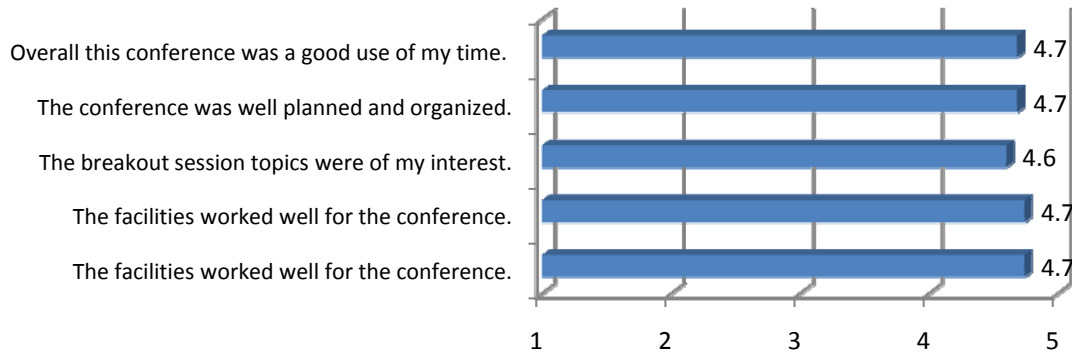


Overall Conference Evaluation Findings

The overall conference evaluation form was completed by 35 of the 65 conference participants. The overall conference evaluation consisted of six questions rating the conference planning, organization, and facilities. The following graph indicates how attendees rated the conference with the lowest score being 4.6 for the question addressing whether the breakout session were of my interest. The highest rating was 4.7 for conference registration process and conference effectiveness.

2009 ISC Conference Overall Conference Evaluation

On a Scale of 1-5, Please Rate the Following Statements:



Participants had the following comments about the Interagency Conference:

- “Interagency Conference was very informative and a great way to stay on top of local issues affecting teens. “



Samantha Florey

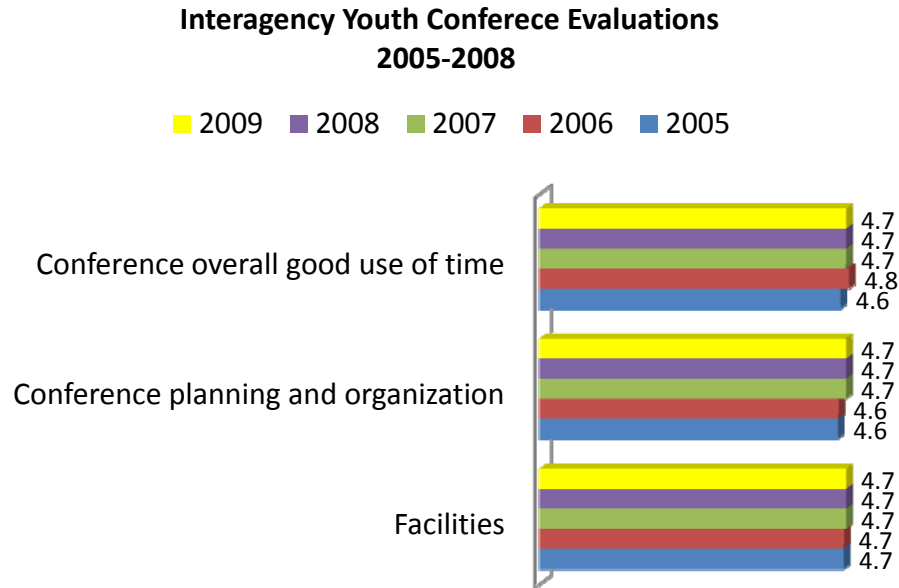
- “The conferences are awesome and should continue.”
- “We appreciate the participation speakers from outside the Imperial Valley.”
- “I hope that future conferences could be expanded to two-days with a wider array of topics.”

Informal interviews with conference participants were consistent with the evaluation results. Participants were fairly

pleased with the conference and the wide array of topics presented. People enjoyed having the resource tables in the room, helping them to identify attendees from different organizations. In addition, they appreciated the low cost registration fee for the conference given that many organizations have restricted travel due to budget cuts.

When asked how to improve the conference, participants suggested that more interactive workshops would be beneficial. Additional feedback suggested that a larger venue would have been helpful in accommodating the number of workshops offered. Additional comments were made on having cutting the morning keynote speaker time to accommodate more breakout sessions.

The 13th Annual Interagency Steering Committee Conference received high satisfaction ratings. Similar to prior years, participants were asked if they were satisfied with the conference facilities, planning and organization, and if they saw the conference as a good use of their time. The following chart shows that over the past five years the attendees continue to be rate the conference highly in the five point scale.



Conference Breakout Sessions: Evaluation Findings



Mr. Luis Brown

The 13th ISC Interagency Youth Conference reverted to a format of nine breakout sessions in blocks of three concurrent sessions. This new format replaced the twelve breakout sessions providing more time for breakout sessions. Participants were given breakout session evaluations which were collected at the end of each session. All sessions were well attended, with 3 to 23 evaluations returned for each session. A list of breakout

topics and list of the presenters can be found at the end of this report.

Using a 1-5 scale rating (1= strongly disagree, 5= strongly agree), participants were asked to respond to questions regarding each breakout session. Additional open-ended questions were asked. Overall, attendees provided supportive and constructive criticism. An average for each of the six statements was calculated. The chart below shows the combined average rating for all of the sessions.

	Evaluation Forms Submitted	Session met my expectations	Interesting/informative presenters	The information will be useful	This session was interactive	I am glad I attended this session	Good Atmosphere and Setting	Overall Average
Supporting Father Involvement	11	4.8	4.9	5.0	4.9	5.0	5.0	4.9
Spirituality and Mental Health	18	4.6	4.7	4.4	4.7	4.5	4.5	4.6
Inhalant Abuse: The Silent Epidemic	23	5.0	4.9	4.9	4.5	4.9	4.9	4.8
Victim's Rights and Compensation	18	4.4	4.6	4.7	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.6
Breastfeeding is Normal	3	4.7	4.7	4.7	4.7	5.0	4.7	4.7
Youth Activities & Services Program	28	4.5	4.3	4.6	4.0	4.3	4.5	4.4
Evidence based A&D Treatment	16	3.6	4.1	4.2	3.8	4.0	3.9	3.9
WreckED Prevention Tool	17	4.5	4.6	4.6	4.5	4.5	4.7	4.6
Prevention Early Intervention	12	4.7	4.7	4.9	4.8	4.6	4.8	4.8

Presenter's Feedback

Presenters were asked to provide feedback on ways to improve the conference. An electronic survey was sent to all presenters to rate their experience, the conference organization, the logistics, and to provide additional feedback to the planning committee. All presenters completed the survey. Below are the results of the presenter's survey:

Please rate the following statements:	1-5 scale
a) I was given a good explanation of who my target audience would be	4.1
b) I was informed of the details needed to plan my material for this session	4.1
c) My set up needs were met (audio, visual, projector, laptop, etc)	3.7
d) Overall, the organization of conference and my role in it met my expectations	4.1
e) I felt well informed of what I needed to bring and where I needed to be for my workshop	4.3
f) I felt I had ample time to present my information on this topic	4.2
g) Having a monitor was helpful	3.8

On the open ended questions, here are some key points:

- Presenters complemented the logistics and the efficient communication between the presenters and the committee.
- Presenters were pleased with the welcoming atmosphere and found the resource tables to be very well organized.
- Presenters recommended improving the food quality for guest speakers.

- Presenters recommended having additional staff assists with set-up and removal of equipment and supplies.

Commendations and Recommendations

Informal interviews align with the survey results and evaluator's observations that the 13th annual ISC Conference was a successful event.



Mr. Scott Dudley

Commendations:

The following are commendations to the Interagency Youth Conference Planning Committee:

- Staff was friendly and courteous
- Flawless use of A/V Equipment
- Great array of topics for sessions
- Great use of networking tables
- Refreshments, snack and

meals were well chosen

- Conference continues to be a great value
- Abstract for each session on registration forms was helpful
- Raffle at the end of the conference made it fun

Recommendations:

The following recommendations are offered for future Interagency Youth Conferences:

- A larger conference center to accommodate larger audience (if budget allows)
- More resource tables
- Different lunch options
- Ensure that presenter's electronic materials are submitted prior to conference
- Allow more time for lunch and networking



13th Annual: Interagency Conference
Connecting Hands and Networking for Engagement (CHANGE)
of Today's Youth
December 10th, 2009
CalWORKS, 2895 S. 4th Street, El Centro

Conference Schedule:

8:00-8:30	Registration/ Resources
8:30-8:45	Welcome
8:45-10:00	Opening Keynote
10:00-10:10	Break/ Resource Tables
10:10-11:15	Workshop Series A (1, 2, or 3)
11:15-11:25	Break/ Resource Tables
11:25-12:30	Workshop Series B (4, 5, or 6)
12:30-1:45	LUNCH (VEGETARIAN AVAILABLE)**
1:45-2:50	Workshop Series C (7,8, or 9)
2:50-3:00	Break/Resource Tables
3:00-4:05	YouTUBE Presentation
4:05-4:45	Closing/Raffle
4:45-5:000	Resource Tables

COST:
\$30: includes: registration, continental breakfast, and lunch
\$40: Late Registration (after Dec. 3rd)
SPACE IS LIMITED!

TO SUBMIT BY FAX OR EMAIL:

Registration Form: Please submit with payment of \$30 to:
 ICOE: Student Well-Being & Family Resources, 1398 Sperber Rd., El Centro, CA 92243
 Phone: (760)312-6498 or Fax: (760) 312-6576

Name: _____ Agency: _____

Address: _____ Phone Number: _____

Email: _____ Lunch: ****Check for Vegetarian Option****

Payment Form: (Cash, Check, PO, Account Line) _____

I will be attending (circle): Workshop Series A: # 1 or 2 B: # 4 C:# 8 or 9

****Please note: registration is for three workshops/ one per series****

TO REGISTER ONLINE:

Please register on-line on the ICOE website:
www.icoe.org/register

- Go to **My Account** to log in or to create a new account if you do not have one.
- Go to **Browse Courses** and select **Student Well-Being** from the Main Categories list.
- Click on **Interagency Conference**
- Scroll to **SWB002 Interagency Conference Registration** and click the **Sign-up** button on the right.
- Hit the **Register** button on the left.
- Select the Payment Type and Meal Option, then click the **Submit** button.

- A confirmation e-mail will be sent to you with an **access code**.
- Return to www.icoe.org/register
- Log in, select **Student Well-Being**, and select **Interagency Conference**.
- Select your 3 courses, one from each series: A 1, 2 or 3 B 4, 5, or 6 and C 7, 8, or 9. By entering the access code next to the course, then hit **Sign-Up**
- After you have selected you 3 courses they will display on the left. Click **Register**.
- Re-enter your payment type (you will NOT be billed twice), click **Submit**.



13th Annual: Interagency Conference Connecting Hands and Networking for Engagement (CHANGE)

Workshop Descriptions:

KEYNOTE SPEAKERS:

Denis Quinonez, Director, Boyle Heights Coalition for a Safe & Drug-Free Community Salesian Boys & Girls Clubs of Los Angeles

Ailleth Tom, MSW, Organization Facilitator, School Mental Health, Student Health and Human Services
LAUSD

Antonio Roque, IMPACT Adviser, LAUSD--Health Education Programs

Veronica De Alba, Deputy City Attorney, Office of City Attorney Carmen Trutanich

Closing Session:

Frank Martinez, Imperial County Probation Influence of YouTube and other Internet Social Networks

1. Supporting Father Involvement

Samantha Florey, Training Specialist, Strategies

The purpose of this presentation is to provide research on the role of a positive male. This workshop will review the importance of supporting father involvement, and offer tools for organizations to enhance their commitment to engaging fathers.

2. Spirituality and Mental Health

Jim Shin, Director, Son-shine Counseling Center

Participants will receive a review of history and the role spirituality plays in substance abuse prevention and intervention programs. Participants will learn about faith based community resources and ways that membership in faith based groups enable positive role models and stress management techniques.

3. Inhalant Abuse: The Silent Epidemic

Veronica De Alba, Office of City Attorney

Denis Quinonez, Boyle Heights Coalition for a Safe & Drug-Free Community

Antonio Roque, LAUSD—Health Education Programs

Ailleth Tom, LAUSD—Student Health and Human Services

During this presentation, participants will receive a comprehensive overview of the pervasive practice of inhaling household and commercial products by school-aged youth. Included in this presentation will be definitions, types of products, methods of use, symptoms, and short/long term effects. Participants will obtain talking points for school staff & parents and suggested preventative efforts that can be implemented with the collaboration and partnership between community and government stakeholders.

4. Victim's Rights and Victim's Compensation Program

Advocate John Lacuesta or Maricela Solorzano (maybe Pam Littrell)

The purpose of this presentation is to provide information about the rights and services provided to crime victims. Participants will be presented with information on victim compensation; funeral burial; crisis intervention; court support; restraining and harassment orders; case status information; orientation to the justice system, etc. This session will also touch on the new legislation on Marcy's Law which was enacted almost a year ago. This law brings more rights to victims of crime in the state of California.



13th Annual: Interagency Conference **Connecting Hands and Networking for Engagement (CHANGE)** **of Today's Youth**

Workshop Descriptions:

5. Breastfeeding is Normal – Promoting Breastfeeding in our adolescent population **Luce Filiatrault, Nutritionist, Imperial County Health Department**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide general information and to promote breastfeeding in the adolescent population. Participants will be presented with the hazards of formula feeding and with tips on how to increase teenager's knowledge and confidence in the ability to breastfeed.

6. Youth Activities & Service Programs, EDD **Lulu Vizcarra, Youth Services Mentor, Employment Development Department**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide awareness of youth programs geared toward career assessment and guidance towards successful employment. Participants will be given information on Youth Programs, efforts to keep youths in school, career assessments and youth services for successful employment.

7. Evidence-based A&D Treatment for Youth: Moving from Precontemplation to Contemplation **Scott Dudley, Manager, Imperial County Behavioral Health Services**

The purpose of this presentation is to share an evidence-based alcohol and drug treatment intervention model for adolescents. Imperial County Behavioral Health Services has developed cutting edge practices and protocols for A&D Treatment services that are uniquely tailored to meet the needs of the adolescent population.

8. WreckED-A Valuable Prevention Tool **Luis Brown, Prevention Specialist, Imperial County Office of Education**

The purpose of this presentation is to share "Youth 360" a community-based program designed to educate youth about substance abuse through an engaging presentation meant to challenge their behavior toward alcohol and other drugs. Participants will be taken through the program as a participant would go through the program and show how this program could be a useful tool in educating youth about the consequences of drug and alcohol use.

9. Prevention Early Intervention (PEI) in Imperial County **Gabriela Jimenez, Behavioral Health Manager, Imperial County Behavioral Health**

The purpose of this presentation is to provide an overview of the Mental Health Services Act (MHSA), the PEI planning process and activities that led to the selection of the target population and the programs to be implemented in Imperial County. Participants will be provided with an overview of the three evidenced-based programs: Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT), Program to Enhance Active and Rewarding Lives for Seniors (PEARLS) and Nurturing Parenting Program (NPP) as well as the referral process for each. The workshop is targeted for staff working with the target population.