

IN SEARCH OF LAW AND ORDER

Reclaiming America's Kids

Community Outreach

LEADER'S GUIDE

A Production of KQED/San Francisco, Kikim Media and Films of Record

HOW YOU CAN USE THIS SERIES

Television is a powerful medium. Its broadcasts reach millions of viewers. Yet that is only one aspect of its potential to provide unique resources concerned viewers can use to improve their lives and those of their fellow citizens. Recognizing the need to serve viewers and communities beyond its initial broadcast of series like *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids*, public television has made a commitment to provide local communities with materials and resources that enhance the long-term value of the programs themselves. This commitment has come to be known as “outreach” and it includes print materials, web sites, classroom guides, media campaigns, and repeat broadcasts—all designed to help the programs shown on public television have an impact that extends well beyond their initial broadcast.

The outreach efforts for *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* have been designed to encourage local meetings that bring together justice professionals, community leaders, educators, concerned citizens committed to youth issues and kids themselves. The purpose of these meetings is to discuss and consider implementing new ways of dealing with youth crime and establishing public safety.

This “leader’s guide” provides a road map for organizing those meetings and making them successful. It will help you use the series to accomplish one or more of the following goals:

- Inform the juvenile justice debate.
- Strengthen existing local community-based coalitions.
- Encourage adults to make a meaningful difference in a child’s life.
- Build awareness about effective alternatives to prison.
- Persuade fellow citizens and government officials that public safety is a collaborative effort requiring involvement at every level of the community.

Please download it, print it out, and use it to help organize an event in your own community.

CONTENTS OF YOUR LEADER’S GUIDE

What is the Outreach Tape
Series Messages
Series Description
Getting Started
Reaching Out to Your Community
Developing Your Own Message
Structuring Your Meeting
Promoting Your Event
Running A Community Meeting
The Event
Using the Outreach Tape
Leader’s Survey
Participant’s Survey

WHAT IS THE OUTREACH TAPE

The producers of *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* have developed an outreach tape to be used as a video resource for facilitating discussion at your local community meetings. The video is divided into three sections and reinforces the following core messages:

- 1) Every Adult Can Make a Difference
- 2) Public Safety is a Collaborative Effort
- 3) Effective Alternatives to Prison Do Exist.

Each section begins with a brief written description of the message and follows with two or three related scenes from the series. The tape is 33 minutes long but is not intended to be a stand-alone. Because you know the goals of your meeting, you can tailor the screening to your needs and agenda. You can pick and choose which scenes and messages fit your community's particular needs or you may find that you would like to discuss each of the scenes.

To obtain a copy of the outreach video free of charge, contact Kikim Media at 650-596-7111.

SERIES MESSAGES

1. Every Adult Can Make a Difference

Nothing means more to kids than an adult who cares about them and believes in their prospects for a productive future. *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* shows a variety of mentoring efforts that have successfully kept kids out of crime and violence. These scenes underscore the fact that every adult can make a positive difference in a young child's life. Any investment of time and energy, no matter how small it may seem, can make a profound difference in a young adult's life.

2. Public Safety is a Collaborative Effort

The justice system was not designed to create public safety because it reacts to crimes only after they have been committed. Although the criminal justice system has an important role to play in maintaining society's values and safety, only a small proportion of offenders are actually punished through the courts. Therefore preventing crime before it happens is crucial to increasing public safety-and involves the whole community. To make neighborhoods truly safe we need to break the cycle of crime and violence; often this requires a concerted response to the needs of youth and families in crisis.

The most effective such interventions involve teamwork and partnership--not only among justice agencies but also with community-based groups that in many cases have loudly criticized traditional

approaches. Some of the most effective collaborations team up law enforcement, other government agencies and concerned members of the community, including school officials, religious leaders and other civic activists. Together, these partnerships can provide comprehensive support services (known as wrap-around services) for families, including mentoring, job programs, parent training, health care, mental health services, teen pregnancy prevention, and others.

3. Effective Alternatives to Prison Do Exist

It costs \$30,000 a year to keep a juvenile locked up. As a result, many states have developed community-based alternatives to prison that have proven successful in reducing recidivism and helping young people develop into productive citizens. Several of these programs, which are usually much less expensive than prison itself, are profiled in *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids*.

The majority of youth who have already committed crimes and are incarcerated will eventually be released back into the neighborhoods that helped to create them. Unless an effort is made to rehabilitate these teenagers, they may spend a significant part of their developmental years without any encouragement to learn the skills required to become responsible and contributing citizens.

OUTREACH DESCRIPTION

In the ten years between 1984 and 1994, the number of youths who committed homicides in America tripled. While crime rates in America have begun to drop, teen-on-teen violence, especially in poor, urban neighborhoods, is still out of control. Year after year, guns kill more teenage boys than all natural causes combined.

Against the backdrop of these bleak statistics, a number of communities across the country are taking a fresh approach to "bad" kids. Realizing that locking kids up is expensive and does little to reduce violence, these pioneers are addressing the roots of violence with innovative programs involving schools, rehabilitation programs, and unique multi-agency partnerships. They are, in effect, reclaiming America's kids.

In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids examines the pioneering efforts of three communities--Boston, Massachusetts; Fort Worth, Texas; and Richmond, California—which are working to keep troubled youth from becoming lifetime wards of the justice system. Narrated by André Braugher and based on six years of research by series writer/producer Roger Graef and a team of experienced journalists and criminologists, the series explores effective new ways of keeping kids out of crime and safe from violence.

This unique series also explores the lives of teenagers who carry guns. Finding that many do so out of fear of their "enemies," the series considers the possibility that they are victims as well as offenders. Roger Graef's six-year search for effective alternatives to traditional ways of dealing with young offenders was prompted by his discovery that many judges have no hope that sending people to prison will stop their return to crime. But most don't know what else to do. "I was appalled at the waste of money and lives, so I set out to find places taking positive steps toward

solutions," says Graef. "Our team found real progress is happening in places that realize they have an important stake in young people-not just for their own safety but because these are, after all, kids. They realize kids need good educations, stable families, jobs-a stake in their own futures."

Many of the successful initiatives featured in the series are supported by justice professionals who recognize they cannot address by themselves the wider social problems that cause crime and violence. "We know that incarceration will not solve the problem," says executive producer Michael Schwarz. "Prison does keep criminals off the street, but eventually most of them are released back into the community. The question is, what kind of people will they be once they're released?"

These initiatives are profiled in three compelling hours of television. But the time, money and resources invested in making this series would be wasted if its impact extended only as far as the PBS broadcast of the series itself. In an era when juvenile justice legislation sometimes seems uninformed by actual evidence, *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* offers a unique opportunity to lift the level of public debate and thereby encourage more informed decision-making by citizens and policy makers alike.

That is where motivated viewers like you can make a difference. If you've taken the trouble to get this far, chances are you're precisely the kind of person who can find ways to use *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* as a catalyst for lasting change in your own community.

GETTING STARTED

A critical first-step in planning an *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* community meeting is to establish an event committee within your organization or in conjunction with other organizations that have similar interests and goals. This committee will be essential in order for you to:

- Develop Goals and Objectives
- Identify a Target Audience
- Develop a Message
- Identify Resources: Establish Task Forces
- Create a Plan and Timeline for the Project
- Establish Measurable Outcomes for the Project

As part of this process, you will want to gather information and build consensus about what you are trying to accomplish. Depending on the extent and depth of your involvement with your community, you may already have much of this information at your fingertips. Each of these is an important step toward assessing the needs and resources of your local community. Don't forget: share the work with your event committee!

- Learn as much as you can about county, state and federal juvenile justice programs that impact the youth in your community. Being informed is the first step to having your voice heard!

- Schedule meetings with elected and appointed officials in your community to discuss their position on juvenile justice issues.
- Find out what your local police, chambers of commerce, and merchants are doing to establish or enhance community safety.
- Watch *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids*. Make yourself familiar with the series and the approaches it profiles. Use the *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* web site at www.PBS.org/lawandorder to collect facts and figures relevant to the issues in your community.
- Talk with your local public television station about the series. Public television stations have the right to repeat its broadcast three more times over the next three years. Planning your event around a rebroadcast of the series will substantially strengthen its visibility increase its potential for success.
- Each PBS member station has a staff person dedicated to community involvement, such as an outreach coordinator, community relations manager. Talk with this community liaison about support and resources, both inside the station and outside, they may be able to provide.

REACHING OUT TO YOUR COMMUNITY

In an era where many non-profit organizations compete for resources, services and funding, the best way to effect lasting change is to work with partners who share a similar goal and mission. Integrating your message and objectives into theirs can save money and increase impact. Consider what alliances you might form with the following groups:

City councils
 Civic associations
 Community leaders
 Faith leaders
 Police
 Juvenile court judges
 Federal, state and local legislators
 Federal, state and local prosecutors
 Public defenders
 Probation and parole departments
 Public and private schools
 Public health professionals
 Public housing officials
 School administrators and teachers
 Social Workers
 Youth group leaders
 Youth serving agencies

To reach interested and effective community-based groups, *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* has formed national partnerships with several organizations, some working primarily on justice issues, and others with more broad-based constituencies of concerned

activist citizens. They are the National Crime Prevention Council, the National Council on Crime and Delinquency, the Youth Law Center, the National Civic League, and the League of Women Voters. Local chapters of these organizations may be able to provide you with resources and support.

A number of other organizations are supporting *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* by bringing the series to the attention of their constituents, both by using their existing communication networks to announce the series and by integrating program-related materials into their own annual campaigns. These “team-building” alliances currently include: National Governor’s Association, Families and Work Institute, National Association of Police Chiefs, and The National Organization for Victim’s Assistance.

FOCUSING YOUR OWN MESSAGE

The end of the 20th century marks 100 years since the United States decided that juvenile offenders should be treated differently than adults. Juvenile justice history in the United States clearly indicates that treating juveniles as adults does little to promote healthy social development or even prevent future offending.¹

But in the mid 1980’s and early 1990’s, the media bombarded Americans with facts showing that juvenile violent crime had increased. Public fear soared. And although statistics now show that the past few years have brought a decrease in all violent crime, including juvenile offenses, many people still feel afraid and confused. Too few solutions are explored and all too often Americans are left with the sense that we are powerless to reclaim our children.

Indeed today the very nature of the separate system of juvenile justice is coming under attack. Across the country, states are enacting “tougher” laws calling for the prosecution of youths in adult courts and the imposition of lengthy, often mandatory periods of incarceration.

Yet this approach generally runs counter to a massive body of evidence suggesting that the real solutions include preventive, rehabilitative, and restorative alternatives to punitive approaches for youthful offenders. The communities that are curtailing juvenile crime are succeeding largely because they have made a commitment to invest in youth—even and often especially in those who are considered at high risk of becoming involved in crime and violence. Kids who have good educations, stable families, and jobs—in short, a stake in their own futures—are much less likely to commit crimes than those who do not.

Although juvenile justice is often discussed as a national issue, the *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* outreach efforts are designed to address local needs and circumstances. Therefore, in planning your meeting, you should consider focusing your discussion around one or two of the principal series’ messages that may be most relevant to your own community.

¹ Report for *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* by Paul de Muro, 1996.

STRUCTURING YOUR MEETING

The success of any community meeting will depend in large part on the ability of its organizers to develop clear and measurable objectives for what they hope to achieve. These could include commitments by participants to join forces in support of new local policies and initiatives or to take specific actions that will increase citizen involvement in the daily lives of local kids (either through direct mentoring or the support of programs that provide healthy role models and constructive opportunity for kids). While every community will want and need to craft its own approaches to public safety and youth violence, *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids* can provide a universal framework to guide their deliberations.

The objectives of each meeting might include any of the following:

- Achieve a consensus among participants at the meeting regarding specific future actions that they are in fact capable of taking.
- Strengthen coalitions that are designed to influence federal, state or local policies regarding kids and crime.
- Identify community assets available for kids as a first step towards assessing the extent to which they meet actual needs, and making a commitment to ensure the provision of adequate resources.
- Mobilize organizations and recruiting citizens and community leaders in support of comprehensive community-based efforts to enhance public safety. Establish new partnerships between justice agencies and community-based groups.

PROMOTING YOUR EVENT

Your promotion and publicity strategy will depend on the audiences you hope to reach. Whether you are trying to recruit participants or draw attention to the issues you've selected as a focus for your advocacy, you will need to contact media sources in your area. Local libraries will often be able to provide you with a media directory; you can also contact other youth-serving agencies to see whether they are willing to make their own media lists available for your event.

Creating a newsworthy event is the first step in attracting publicity for your community meeting. A public event that brings together a wide range of prominent officials and influential community leaders can often attract the attention of local newspapers, radio and television stations. The results of their discussions may form the basis for the next day's headlines—especially if they can agree on a constructive and innovative next step they can take together.

This meeting is more likely to attract coverage if it is tied to a broadcast of the PBS series itself and promoted by your local public television station. Including a well-known local person as moderator can also help draw media coverage as well as the participants you'll want for your meeting. And if you can persuade local newspapers or commercial radio and television stations to support your efforts as local sponsors (for instance, by running stories that explore juvenile crime in the week

preceding your meeting), you can build a foundation for an event that can have a significant impact on your community.

When you contact the local media, don't stop with the reporters who cover the crime beat. Also keep in mind editorial page editors, possible op-ed pieces, letters to the editors, and feature stories that could run in local newspapers and magazines, as well as locally produced TV talk shows, community newspapers, city papers, college newspapers, neighborhood weeklies and community newsletters.

Write and send media advisories and press releases approximately two months prior to the event. Be sure to keep them brief and use simple clear language. Although it seems elementary, starting with the "what, when, where, and why" is always a good rule. Include the names and contact information of spokespeople who would be available for interviews. Develop and implement plans to follow-up on the information you send out. Attracting coverage requires a lot of telephone work!

RUNNING A COMMUNITY MEETING

How you will "stage" the event will depend on how many people have been invited, the physical setup of the location, and what you hope to accomplish. Select a moderator early to give them him or her time to prepare! If possible, choose a prominent local personality whose participation will help attract people to your event.

The more you know about your audience, the more you can anticipate what kinds of questions and interests they will have. Find out as much as you can about the people who will be attending your presentation.

Schedule a time before the event when your planning committee and moderator can watch the series. By the conclusion of this screening, you should have a clear idea about how you want to focus your community meeting. Don't try to do everything in a single meeting. Instead, pick an attainable goal and focus on achieving it. While some immediate results are both necessary and desirable, beware of allowing short-term expediency to overshadow your long-term goals. Never forget that the most successful meetings will be those that become the first of many.

If time allows, send print materials about the series to your meeting participants. While no one likes a homework assignment, a description of the series, a press release about local youth issues and/or an article relevant to your objectives can set the stage for your event.

Create a checklist of everything that needs to be done ahead of time: from setting up an RSVP line to follow-up telephone calls to media contacts; from signing in participants to arranging transportation for those who need it. Advance planning is crucial to the success of your event

THE EVENT

Welcome—Introductory remarks should include a core outline explaining the event’s goals and agenda. These remarks will set the stage for what can be expected and provide an opportunity to share “housekeeping” details.

Video Screening— You must always test the VCR and monitor ahead of time! Be sure the screen and sound complement the room.

Every community meeting should revolve around the needs and interests of that particular community. To help inspire discussions, organizers may screen all or part of the outreach tape for *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America’s Kids*. Programs featured in the tape are described in more detail in the “Using the Outreach Tape” section of this leader’s guide. They may help you identify elements of the video that may serve as a catalyst for a discussion about the objectives you hope to achieve.

Discussion—There are many ways to organize the discussions that will follow screenings of the outreach tape. Your own agenda, objectives and audience will determine whether a panel discussion, a question and answer session, or a moderated large group discussion is the most effective way to explore the issues raised by the tape. For a community that is just getting started, breaking in to small groups of 3 or 4 for face-to face discussion may be helpful.

Choose an event format that makes best use of the expertise and resources available to support your meeting. If you have attracted a number of local officials and juvenile justice experts, you may want to use the tape to lead into a panel discussion; if one or two crucial public officials attend the meeting, you may think it more productive to engage them in a question-and-answer session with the moderator, or allow other participants to question them from the floor.

Summary—Keep any discussion under control. Don’t let it stray from the main subject without summarizing the key points and specific issues that have been raised. The objectives you have established for the event will provide a road map for organizing the discussion and establishing a consensus for future action. Be very clear and specific whenever you ask participants to commit to any next steps. To make sure those commitments are binding, write down for all to see a statement describing what the group expects to achieve, and ask your participants to reaffirm that any such goals are realistic.

Evaluation—Your feedback, and that of the attendees, is an important tool for PBS and our funders to know how the outreach efforts have worked for your community. By providing comments, you and the participants tell the Producers how *In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America’s Kids* outreach materials have helped to facilitate change and how public television can enhance future outreach efforts. Two evaluation forms—a Leader’s Survey and a Participant Survey—are provided at the end of this guide.

Make sure to photocopy the Participant Survey forms prior to the meeting and set aside time at the end of the event so everyone who attends can complete a survey. Be sure to collect the surveys

before people start networking with one another. Before you (or the leader) pack up, take a minute to fill out the Leader's Survey while the meeting is still fresh in your mind.

Note: Please fax the Leader's Survey to 650/596-1833. After collecting the Participants' Surveys, please mail them to: Kikim Media, 990 Industrial Road, Suite 207, San Carlos, CA 94070.

Networking—Allow time for participants to talk and network with one another. All too often, youth-serving professionals work in isolation from each other and yearn for the exchange of ideas that community meetings make possible. For instance, one objective for the event may be to encourage existing services to pool their resources; providing them time to share and trade program details may be exactly what they need to get started.

Follow up—Following up on the ideas and possibilities that will inevitably emerge from any community meeting is often much harder than organizing the meeting itself because the urgency fades as soon as the event ends. But maintaining the momentum generated by these meetings is essential to building the long-lasting relationships that are the foundation of effective community coalitions. To help buttress and sustain such relationships, share your meeting notes not only with all that attended, but also with other professionals and practitioners who could not be present but are likely to support your efforts.

USING THE OUTREACH TAPE

The outreach tape is divided into three sections and reinforces the following core messages: 1) Every Adult Can Make a Difference 2) Public Safety is a Collaborative Effort 3) Effective Alternatives to Prison Do Exist.

Each section begins with a brief written description of the message and follows with two or three related scenes from the series. The tape is 33 minutes long but is not intended to be a stand-alone. Because you know the goals of your meeting, you can tailor the screening to your needs and agenda. You may pick and choose which scenes and messages fit your community's particular needs or you may find that you would like to discuss each of the scenes.

Below is a description of the three "messages" and background information on the "effective alternatives" highlighted within each section. This background information is not shown in the video and will help you facilitate the discussion.

Every Adult Can Make a Difference

Video Introduction: "Adult role models who take an active interest in the lives of youth at-risk of becoming involved in crime can have a profound impact both on those kids and on public safety."

Children need to be offered guidance and resources if we want them to become productive, contributing adults. More importantly, young people can't be expected to worry about the future

unless they believe they have a stake in that future. The justice system is unlikely to give them that stake.

Stopping crime before it starts is a community affair. Community agencies play an essential role in crime prevention by addressing social needs like housing, school, substance abuse, and mental and physical health that lie outside the scope of the justice system. Funding for prevention is by no means stable and many community organizations are forced to compete with each other for local, state or federal grants. Many service organizations are realizing that by **building coalitions** they can pool resources in order to tackle the vast array of issues that face today's youth at-risk.

LINCOLN ELEMENTARY SCHOOL'S LIONS CLUB

Video Introduction: "This group of high-risk students meets regularly with a trained counselor to discuss how to cope with the violent environment that surround them."

Located in a low-income, high violence neighborhood where it is often difficult to keep kids in school, Lincoln Elementary has taken special measures to address social needs while giving its students a good education. In collaboration with community based organizations, Lincoln hires outreach workers who go beyond the school walls and into the community to work closely with families and children. If a child misses school, the outreach worker will pay a home visit to the family to find out why and see whether the school can help solve their problem.

The role of schools in crime prevention is essential. In many cases, the school offers the only safe and stable environment in a child's life. Many of Lincoln Elementary's students lack basic needs like housing, food, and clothing. To tackle the variety of problems, Lincoln Elementary has become part of a larger collaboration of community organizations in Richmond that pool resources and share information. The school acts as a "community center" through which children can get all of their basic needs met. Outreach workers from the local organizations act as liaisons between the school and the services.

Because the hours after school are known to be the most dangerous for children, Lincoln offers its students a variety of after-school activities to keep them safe and positively engaged. All staff members at Lincoln are trained in conflict mediation, so when trouble arises on the school grounds, children can be taught that violence is not the only way to handle conflict. This is especially important for younger children in families where older brothers are already involved in gangs, or domestic violence between parents is common.

Contact:

Marco Gonzalez, Former Principal
Cesar Chavez Elementary School
960 17th Street
Richmond, CA 94801
(510) 412-5081

(510) 412-3353 Fax

THE STREETWORKERS PROGRAM

Video Introduction: “Boston’s streetworkers program employs people from the local community--many of whom are former gang members themselves--to mentor youth and act as liaisons between the youth and the city’s justice system.”

Employed by the Mayor’s Office, the Streetworkers--who are often former gang members--act as liaisons between the youth in Boston’s tough neighborhoods and its justice system. By appearing on the behalf of youth in courts, Streetworkers help judges fully understand the situation in which youth crime is committed. In effect, the Streetworkers offer benefits both to judges and to the accused and their families. They are mentors and advocates who represent the interests of the youth, while helping law enforcement and the courts keep the peace in the streets. They give judges the added confidence that youth will receive supervision and comply with school and curfew orders.

Contact:

Tracy Litthcut, Director of Youth Services

Boston Community Center

1010 Massachusetts Avenue

Boston, MA 02118

(617) 635-4920

Public Safety is a Collaborative Effort

Video Introduction: “The key to increased public safety involves collaboration among police, the courts, schools, youth workers and other community agencies.”

Justice agencies - police, probation, parole, corrections and courts - seldom share information with each other even in the same town or city - let alone between their state and federal counterparts. This lack of shared information is compounded by the reluctance of social services and schools to involve the justice agencies in advance of crime, to give them all a chance to intervene early. Establishing a system of communication between justice agencies, schools, and local community organizations is a proven method for increasing success in preventing youth violence.

The testimony of the youth in “The Limits of Justice” confirms what criminologists have long known but politicians and the media ignore - most young people, especially in deprived areas, are not “predators”. More often they are victims, living in constant danger of attack from each other. Courts and police recognize that fear drives youth that would otherwise be law-abiding citizens to carry weapons for self-defense. Easy access to guns has turned what used to be fist fighting into lethal tragedies.

The Boston effort to reduce youth homicides demonstrates the value of collaborating among justice agencies and other partners in the community. Because only a small percentage of crimes are actually punished in court, Boston's comprehensive effort to spot youth at risk of serious offending, stands a chance of preventing crime and victims.

COMMUNITY BASED JUVENILE JUSTICE

Video Introduction: "In a radical departure from tradition, principals from Boston schools meet regularly with justice officials and social workers. They share information in order to intervene effectively at the first sign of trouble."

Community Based Juvenile Justice is a coalition of schools, police, probation, and parole that meets twice a month to share information about youth at risk. These meetings are a regular forum for school principals to brief police officers about students who bring weapons to school; or for police to refer troubled kids to social services; or for a counselor to keep abreast of a youth's situation in a legal proceeding. This approach enables the community to address a youth's needs from several angles at the same time.

Contact:

Jim Borghesani, External Affairs

Suffolk County District Attorney's Office

55 Court Street, 3rd Street

Boston, MA 02018

(617) 715-8617

(617) 227-5202 Fax

website: www.magnet.state.ma.us/da/suffolk

OPERATION CEASEFIRE

Video Introduction: "A coalition of law enforcement and social agency officials who inform high-risk juveniles of the ramifications of criminal behavior, Cease Fire has been credited by many with helping to stop the wave of juvenile homicide in the city of Boston."

Operation Ceasefire is a citywide collaborative effort to inform youth of the dangers and consequences of criminal behavior, and in particular, owning and using a gun. The program brings police officers, probation officers, Streetworkers, and District Attorneys into high school classrooms to speak about the risks of violence, and how to stop bloodshed on the streets. The program also effectively reduces Boston's gun supply by tracking every weapon seized by the police from gang members.

Contact:

Office of Strategic Planning and Resource Development
Boston Police Department
One Schroeder Plaza
Boston, MA 02120
(617) 343-5096

OPERATION NIGHTLIGHT

Video Introduction: “A collaborative effort that teams Boston probation and police officers to enforce the terms of probation for adjudicated youth, Operation Nightlight puts teeth into the probation system and lets juvenile offenders know that the city means business.”

Probation officers are given the least amount of resources in comparison with police or prisons, yet have one of the hardest tasks - to enforce court imposed conditions on offenders who spend their time in the same conditions that led them into crime. In a rare collaboration, Operation Nightlight teams up probation officers with the Boston police in order to enforce more effectively the terms of probation. This arrangement pools their respective legal powers and knowledge. By hitting the streets with police, probation officers also gain first-hand knowledge about the lives of their probationers that can help them address the roots of delinquent behavior.

Operation Nightlight utilizes the probation department’s powers to enter and search their clients’ homes without a warrant. This has raised civil rights concerns, which have been tested unsuccessfully in court.

Operation Nightlight has increased the compliance of court-ordered curfews by youth probationers from one-third to two thirds. This increased success rate has given confidence to the courts that their sentences will be enforced.

Contact:

Bernard Fitzgerald, Chief of Probation
Bill Stewart, Assistant Chief of Probation
Dorchester District Court
510 Washington Street
Dorchester, MA 02124
(617) 288-9500

Dr. Ronald Corbett, Deputy Commissioner
Massachusetts Probation Department
Office of Commissioner of Probation
One Ashburton Place, Room 405
Boston, MA 02108
(617) 727-5348
Fax (617) 727-2199

Effective Alternatives to Prison Do Exist

Video Introduction: "It costs \$30,000 a year to keep a juvenile locked up. Many states have therefore developed community-based alternatives to prison that have proven successful in reducing recidivism and helping young people develop into productive citizens."

Despite its reputation for being tough on crime, the state of Texas in the last ten years has developed some of the most progressive approaches to youth crime in the country. Realizing the high cost and limited effectiveness of imprisonment, Texas has begun treating most young offenders as kids who need help--even if they are armed and dangerous. These approaches are being backed by many seasoned law enforcement officials.

TARRANT COUNTY JUVENILE SERVICES (NOT SEEN IN VIDEO-BACKGROUND INFORMATION)

Guided by the belief that early, appropriate and community-based intervention for young offenders is most likely to produce permanent change, Tarrant County's Juvenile Services has designed its programs with the goal of identifying problems and providing appropriate interventions at the earliest point. In 1996, the county adopted Texas State Progressive Sanction Guidelines, which provide a series of consequences and outcomes for juvenile offenders that are designed to balance public protection, offender accountability and rehabilitation. With the assistance of state funding, the department has developed a range of community-and home-based programs to form a comprehensive response for at-risk youth. Programs in the continuum range from prevention and early intervention to secure incarceration, designed to assist youth at each sanction level. Many of the services are provided by separate not-for-profit agencies.

Contacts:

Carey Cockerell, Director of Juvenile Services
Jerry Wood, Assistant Director of Juvenile Services
Tarrant County Juvenile Services
2701 Kimbo Road
Fort Worth, TX 76111
(817) 838-4643
(817) 838-4646 Fax

TARRANT COUNTY ADVOCATE PROGRAM (T-CAP)

Video Introduction: "TCAP helps keep kids out of prison by providing intensive supervision for them while they live at home. The program also offers "wrap-around" services that address wider educational, employment, health needs for the entire family."

As a part of Tarrant County’s continuum of services, TCAP is a home-based intensive intervention program for high-risk, adjudicated juveniles and their families. It is part of a national non-profit umbrella organization, the Youth Advocate Program that bases all programs on a wrap-around service model that provides comprehensive services to families and kids. The program treats wider educational, employment, social and health needs of juvenile offenders on probation, as well as providing extended supervision under contract to the local probation department, to ensure they comply with the terms of their sentence. Their “wrap around” service addresses the needs of the whole family as well, by providing support, guidance, and economic assistance.

Research shows that mentoring is one of the most effective elements of intervention if it is structured and disciplined, with obligations demanded from the young person as well. T-CAP provides mentoring and intensive supervision by hiring local people to act as advocates for roughly \$7 an hour. The advocate supervises the youth and coordinates services for the family for anywhere from fifteen to thirty hours a week, depending on the level of need. They take their clients to court, school, and community service, as well as to the beach, movies, and other leisure activities.

Another important factor in crime prevention is the development of job skills for youth. Because employers are especially reluctant to hire adjudicated young people, T-CAP conducts programs to encourage local businesses to give youth a chance and be tolerant of their initial differences. The program pays \$5 per hour to the business, which in turn, uses the money to pay the youth’s salary.

Contact:

Belinda Hampton, Director
T-CAP North
2235 N. Main
Fort Worth, TX 76106
(817) 625-4185
(817) 625-4187 Fax

Contact:

Tom Jeffers, President
Youth Advocate Program
2007 North Third Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
(717) 232-7580
(717) 233-2879 Fax

SOUTHWEST KEY PROGRAM, INC.

Video Introduction: “This highly structured, secure residential facility in Dallas, Texas allows young offenders to receive counseling and learn discipline and responsibility as part of their transition back into the community.”

The Southwest Key Program, Inc. offers a continuum of community-based programs for adjudicated juveniles in Texas, Arizona, Wisconsin, and Puerto Rico. In Dallas (featured in ***In Search of Law and Order: Reclaiming America's Kids***), it operates a highly structured, secure residential facility where young offenders live, receive counseling, and learn discipline and responsibility to help their transition back into the community. Encouraging family involvement is an integral part of the treatment at Southwest Key.

Run by a Methodist minister, Reverend Martin McLee, the Southwest Key program in Dallas also demonstrates the vital role the church can play in the reintegration of young offenders. For youth that previously sought security and identity through affiliation with a gang, the church can offer the kind of acceptance that helps them live law-abiding lives when they finish their sentences.

Contact:

Anita Mennucci, Director of Communications

Southwest Key Program, Inc.

3000 South I-H 35, Suite 410

Austin, TX 78704

(512) 462-2181

(512) 452-4637

email: amennucci@swkey.org