LEADERSHIP COUNCIL MISSION: To strengthen community assets and reduce community risk factors for violence through effective coordination, resource allocation, community practice, and county-wide engagement to reduce the incidence of all forms of violence in Alameda County.

PARTICIPANTS: Don Blevins, Ralph Cantor, Rachel Davis, Betti DeForest, Andrea Ford, Anna Gee, Sonia Jain, Marianne Jaaco, Nicole Kravitz-Wirtz, Robert Nelson, Arnold Perkins, Castte Redmond (for Pam Nelson), Suzanne Shen Fil, Shonda Scott, Darryl Stewart, Valerie Street, Page Tomblin (for Andrea Youngdahl), Gail Whang

WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS
Don Blevins and Arnold Perkins, Leadership Council Co-Chairs, opened the Leadership Council meeting with a welcome and introductions. This was the fifth and final monthly convening of the initial Leadership Council that was established in January 2005 to focus on vision, mission, goals, and initial priorities. The first three meetings focused on vision, mission, and goals, resulting in the emergence of five clear priorities: schools, reentry, pilot neighborhoods, staffing, and other structural issues (e.g. resource development, data, communications). At the 4th meeting, a number of subcommittees were formed, and moving them forward is a focus of this 5th meeting.

The co-chairs gave a brief overview of the May 20th United Way sponsored youth forum on violence prevention in Alameda County. The open forum gave youth a chance to voice their experiences and perceptions of community violence, mirroring what the literature says about youth violence prevention. They shared that there is violence in all aspects of their lives, the sense that they need to be ‘tough to make it’, that in many cases it is easier to get drugs and guns than school supplies, and they feel that there is a lack of unity in their communities and adults don’t care. They said that they welcome positive adult influence and support, but too often lack access to those types of resources. They recommended that adults come together (parents, teachers, police, and elected officials) to make a difference, including a system to respond earlier to the violence, such as with cross-age mentoring and peer role models. Several Leadership Council meeting participants also attended and were equally moved by the young people who spoke. Participants agreed that it would be good to have more events such as this one in Alameda County, which give voice to young people and the real challenges they face.

TAKING THE BLUEPRINT TO THE BOARD OF SUPERVISORS
The Board of Supervisors had a retreat on May 10th and the Blueprint was presented at this time. Overall, it was well received and the questions that emerged were related to clarification and implementation as opposed to whether or not this would actually happen. However, there was an acknowledgement of the tough budget times facing the county. There was some disagreement about where the Coordinator should sit. Ultimately, it was determined that for the first year a Coordinator would be hired on a contractual basis and report to the Probation Chief. The Board of Supervisors will re-assess this in one year. The Blueprint will be presented to the Public Protection committee once more on June 6th and will go to the Board of Supervisors for final adoption most likely at their meeting on July 12th.
LEADERSHIP COUNCIL DEVELOPMENT: STRUCTURE AND ANATOMY
The Leadership Council discussed some issues related to the structure and anatomy of the Leadership Council. There was a clear emphasis on ‘form follows function’ and therefore, since the process is evolving, not all issues were decided. However, agreement was reached on several issues.

- **Frequency of Leadership Council meetings**: Based on the principle that the Council should only meet when needed, it was decided that the Leadership Council, which is growing and could get much larger as it gets more representative, should meet quarterly. This will provide an opportunity for coordination between various efforts, but assumes that most of the work that goes on will not be via Leadership Council meetings and instead will be done in the field and in the sub-committees. For example, as the school subcommittee suggested, they could conduct a 30-45 minute presentation on elements of school violence prevention curricula and approaches with the goal of forging a common language and approach among all members of the Council.

- **Subcommittees**: It was agreed that subcommittees should continue, meeting at least monthly, to move the work ahead aggressively. Each subcommittee will have a lead that will be responsible for ensuring that work is moving forward. The meetings of the entire Leadership Council will be a formalized place where efforts can be shared and coordinated. It is also anticipated the Violence Prevention Coordinator will ensure coordination of and synergy between efforts.

- **Executive Committee**: Given the size, purpose, and infrequency of Leadership Council meetings, the idea was also floated that there be a smaller sub-group or executive committee that meets at least once a month with the Leadership Council co-chairs to ensure that all efforts are moving forward effectively, to troubleshoot, to prioritize and streamline efforts, and to look at the bigger picture and realign/recalibrate as needed. In a sense, this group would function as the central intelligence on violence prevention. Generally, participants thought that an Executive Committee should be formed and meet monthly. The Council co-chairs will think through what is needed for membership, including size (likely 5-8 people, maximum) and representation.

A sign up sheet was circulated to assess the commitment of the group to a year of service on the Leadership Council and/or on subcommittees. Since not all members were present, we will send out an email surveying participants on their interest in participation.

SUB-COMMITTEE ACTION
As previously mentioned, subcommittees were formed at the last meeting. A list of committees and their membership is available in the meeting synthesis notes from the April 22nd meeting. Each of the subcommittees was then given a chance to report back on their progress.

**Neighborhood Pilot Sites**: Five target sites/areas have been selected. They are: West Oakland, Ashland, Sobrante Park, South Hayward, and a to-be-determined area in Fremont. The sites will be phased in. To have a clear picture of the neighborhoods, Darryl Stewart is working with appropriate county agencies to develop GIS color maps of each of these target sites. While the goal is to have 12-15 sites over the next 3-5 years, it is necessary to start with a manageable number. As these efforts move forward, we will be looking at what works in all places and duplicating as appropriate in other locales.

While general areas were targeted, the specific neighborhoods are selected locally. Sobrante Park and West Oakland are underway. Based on action here, a model is developing for how to initiate efforts,
which begin with some form of assessment (either with residents, or when information already exists, meeting with local representatives to get a clear picture of needs and expectations), identifying/building on local strengths and assets, and mobilizing members of the neighborhood around their identified priorities. Each site will determine its priorities and participants. The county role will be to support the local efforts, rather than to coordinate local efforts. This will ensure that local efforts are driven locally, will allow the county to identify and align resources to appropriately support these efforts, and will enable the county to provide support to multiple sites around the county.

The subcommittee will meet regularly to discuss how the pilot site implementation is going, what’s being learned, and will troubleshoot issues that may emerge.

**Schools:** The schools committee reported on its action since the last meeting. Though they had considered identifying a standard curricula, they noted that each school site can pick whatever it wants and depending on its own needs. Therefore, a more appropriate role would be to provide guidance on what constitutes an effective violence prevention curriculum. Components include:

- empathy,
- emotion management,
- refusal skills,
- age-appropriateness,
- cultural sensitivity,
- facilitated youth discussion, and
- role playing.

In thinking this through, they concluded that the Council, and everyone working on violence prevention in Alameda County really need to start sharing a common language about violence prevention and this is more critical than one specific curriculum. These elements are reflective of what would be an appropriate common language related to the county’s violence prevention goals.

The committee recommended that some form of incentives for schools, including a letter from Supervisor Miley, would be necessary to ensure implementation. It was thought that Oakland could be used as a model given that they have already adopted the Second Step curriculum.

**Resource Development:** The Sheriff is looking at ways to establish ongoing funding streams to support violence prevention efforts. One option is dedicating money from towed vehicles. Several available grants, including one on reentry, were announced with the goal of finding out if people in Alameda County were already applying, so as not be competitive within the County.

**Data:** The data committee has grown out of initial convening by Urban Strategies and will be lead by the Public Health Department. The goal and challenge will be to identify opportunities for data sharing and coordination and to identify the data markers that will help track progress toward violence prevention goals, such as the reduction of risk factors and increases in resilience factors. The California Healthy Kids Survey could be a good source for this and has school and site specific data available. Initially, the focus may be on establishing appropriate systems related to the pilot sites and that can be a model for other efforts in the county. It was thought that asset maps would be helpful. The GIS models that the pilot sites are working with will also be a valuable data source. In addition, there has already been county-wide homicide surveillance done by CDC. The data for Oakland is being entered starting with 2002.
**Business Sector:** The next step is to find a mutually agreeable meeting date.

**Reentry:** Has not yet been convened.

**NEXT STEPS**

1. **Subcommittees**
   a. All subcommittees will meet monthly and Prevention Institute will touch base with subcommittee members on at least a monthly basis until a coordinator is hired.
   b. **Pilot sites**
      i. Map all the pilot sites and provide maps to members of the Leadership Council and specifically to subcommittees
      ii. Members of the pilot site subcommittee will meet with the Hayward group
      iii. Contact Ashland to get a feel for their readiness and a lead contact
      iv. Fremont will select a site
   c. **Schools:** Once the schools committee has a specific map of each of the sites, they will determine an implementation plan to work with schools in the sites.

2. **Executive Committee:** The Leadership Council co-chairs will finalize the membership and convene the group monthly to ensure a continued focus on violence prevention efforts.

3. **Leadership Council:** The Leadership Council will convene in approximately 3-4 months.

4. **Blueprint:** The Blueprint was taken to the Public Protection Committee on June 6th and will be presented to the Board of Supervisors in July for adoption.