

Please join us for the

Statewide Positive Youth Development Conference



JUNE 15, 2015

9:30 am – 2:30 pm

RJ Hughes Justice Complex
25 Market Street
4th Fl. Conference Room-A
Trenton, New Jersey

NJ Office of the Attorney General Positive Youth Development Conference

In 2009, the Office of the Attorney General began convening Municipal Planning Boards (Boards) in Trenton, Camden, Newark, and Vineland working with university partners and local leaders from within and outside government. The Boards' mission began as an outgrowth of the need to address juvenile delinquency. While each Board followed a basic convening structure, each locality was charged with reviewing and examining data specific to it and creating a strategic plan targeted at priority areas identified through that evaluation. In doing so, OAG held closely to a philosophical belief that encourages a bottom up approach to crime prevention that relies on local leadership to identify problems and drive place based solutions.

Subsequently, the boards' process expanded, to Asbury Park (2011), Atlantic City & Pleasantville (2012), and the expansion of the Vineland Board to include Bridgeton and Millville who collectively form a county-wide Board for Cumberland County (2013). We are currently working to develop three additional Boards that are slated to come online later this year. You will get a chance to meet some of the leaders of those new cities on June 15th as well. As new cities come online, the data walk process and locally-led leadership model ensures consistency and uniformity of effort across the state while providing for grass roots and local leadership and vision.



The Boards formally convene a diverse group of stakeholders from government, community and faith-based organizations and law enforcement, all focused on a core mission of juvenile crime prevention and coordination of services for at-risk youth. The OAG positive youth development process recognizes that juvenile delinquency is a result of various factors and requires a prevention system that involves a long-term commitment of stakeholders from across a range of sectors – governmental, non-governmental, faith and community-based partners – to move beyond helping young people avoid delinquency, which is a core mission, to implementing a strategic vision that promotes youth development around a number of critical milestones. Ultimately, the Boards are geared not only to reduce juvenile delinquency and violence in the short-term, but putting in place a framework that reaches children long before they are tempted to engage in destructive or criminal activity.

We are also reminded that our work, which engages law enforcement and communities to support youth, is critical to our efforts. This fact is central to our approach and we will take time during our day to speak with our law enforcement partners about existing community-police engagement efforts. We think this is important given the current climate of community-police relations around the country.

This year for our annual meeting we have invited you to work with us in smaller setting to examine our collective impact on the communities we serve. Our guests include a cross section of colleagues with diverse perspectives, vast experience and who bring community and youth voices to our discussion. So on June 15th, we will gather here at the Justice Complex to:

- **Discuss the work of the Boards**, but specifically their Major Accomplishments toward reducing/preventing juvenile delinquency/violence and improving positive youth development outcomes.
- **Learn about Collective Impact** and how the Boards can measure their accomplishments in terms of municipal/county and state collective impact.
- **Develop measures** that all Boards can report on for state-wide collective impact.
- **Review the results** of our recent Board assessment and determine how to use these results to push our work even further.
- **Learn unique law enforcement-community partnerships** that are strengthening the trust between law enforcement and our residents of New Jersey

As we get closer to the date, we will provide you with an agenda and other logistics. In the meantime, we ask that you confirm your attendance by registering with us at www.nj.gov/oag/ocj/register.

For other questions please contact Bernice Lagana at Bernice.Lagana@lps.state.nj.us.

Thank you and we look forward to working with you.

