

National Roundtable on Positive Youth Development and Faith-Based Services



“The Orange County Connection”

Presented by

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May 3, 2007

The Youth Development Approach in Orange County

1980



2000

2002

2004

2006

- **Orange County Substance Abuse Prevention (OCSAPN)**
 - Founded in 1980 to promote and enhance the quality, quantity, coordination, and cooperation of positive youth development programs and prevention services in OC

The Youth Development Approach in Orange County



□ Orange County Substance Abuse Prevention (OCSAPN)

- Invited Dr. Peter Benson in September of 1999 to address community members about 40 developmental assets
- Since then OCDE has coordinated numerous trainings
 - 150 trainers in Orange County
 - 5000 people trained on asset development model

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□ Orange County Department of Education (OCDE)

■ Youth Development Framework (YDF)

- 2000 received funding from OCHCA to introduce and assess youth development principles and practices in elementary & junior high schools in La Habra, California
- The research components of the YDF was called the "API Study: Academics & Prevention Inseparable"

Key Findings from the API Study

1. Students not exposed to consistent prevention & youth development activities showed a significant **decrease** in commitment to learning.
2. Students who were exposed to consistent prevention & youth development activities showed a significant **increase** in their test scores & commitment to learning.
3. Students who were exposed to consistent prevention & youth development activities reported that they were **more** connected to teachers, school, & community.
4. Students who were exposed to consistent prevention & youth development activities reported feeling **safer** in school.
5. Teachers' attitude toward their work environment & level of involvement with youth showed improvement when promoting a positive school culture & empowering students at their school.

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□ **Community Service Programs (CSP)**

- In 2000, CSP started a countywide Faith Coalition to build bridges of understanding & collaboration between faith communities and prevention organizations in the County
 - Hosted 7 Asset Development Trainings
 - Faith vs. ATOD summit
 - Funded by the OCHCA in 2005

The Youth Development Approach in Orange County



- **Boys & Girls Club of Westminster**
 - In 2003, GRIP program to coordinate gang prevention and youth development strategies

The Youth Development Approach in Orange County



- **Community Service Programs (CSP)**
 - In 2005 CSP started Project Faith in Youth to strengthen the capacities of faith communities in OC to integrate ATOD prevention into their congregations

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□ **United Way of Orange County**

- Last year, adopted “Keeping Kids on Track” initiative
 - Trained 24 grant funded community agencies over the past 2 years

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□ Orange County Safe from the Start (OCSFTS)

- Created in 2003 to promote prevention of early exposure to violence among children
- In 2007 youth development strategies, including the Asset Building approach in all their trainings

Contact Information

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