

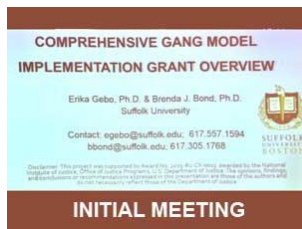


Winter 2016 Newsletter

January - March

## Comprehensive Gang Model Research

The National Institute of Justice recently funded Suffolk University \$286,000 to evaluate the effectiveness of a gang-violence-reduction model in four Massachusetts cities. Sociology Professor Erika Gebo and Public Service Professor Brenda J. Bond met with Fall River agency staff involved in local gang suppression efforts at the Boys and Girls Club on January 13, 2016 to begin the research process. The two will compare crime statistics and stakeholder perceptions across programs in Fall River, New Bedford, Lowell and Worcester over the next three years as they implement a Comprehensive Gang Model (CGM). Fall River and Lowell will engage in the organizational model and the other two cities will serve as controls for the study. All four cities have been using the CGM since 2006 using funds from the Shannon Community Safety Initiative and the Safe and Successful Youth Initiative. The Suffolk team will also work with Brandeis University researchers to implement a trial of relational coordination in the experimental sites. Gebo and Bond have co-authored Looking Beyond Suppression: Community Strategies to Reduce Gang Violence as well as articles and book chapters on the subject.



## Fall River Awarded SSI Youth Violence Prevention Grant

“Mayor Jasiel Correia II announced this week that the city has received a **Safe and Successful Youth Initiative grant** from the Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services. The grant aims to integrate law enforcement, education, public health and youth development agencies to identify and reach out to young men, ages 17 to 24, in the community, detention centers and correction facilities...”

For the entire Herald News article: [CLICK HERE!](#)



*Fall River* Youth Violence Prevention Initiative

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### Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Strategic Planning

In February, Twenty-one young people and representatives of local youth-serving organizations gathered at the Fall River YMCA for a full afternoon of strategic planning on behalf of the Youth Violence Prevention Task Force and the School-Community Partnership. The session was designed to review the mission, principles and five-year goals and to determine two top priorities for action this year. "At the end of the session, we will have a framework for the work for the year," stated Partner Education and Outreach Coordinator Michael Coughlin who facilitated the session. The group deliberated for over three hours, carefully weighing each of the goals and working in small groups to detail some of the action steps for the two chosen goals: 1) Providing safe places for youth, and 2) Risk behavior prevention. The strategic planning continued into March in order to solidify next action steps, and the plan will be continuously reviewed moving forward.



### Newly Formed Suicide Prevention Coalition Has Been Hard at Work

The newly formed Fall River Suicide Prevention Coalition, under the Bristol County Suicide Prevention Coalition, has been hard at work to work on objectives related to education, advocacy, and support. The group has expanded to over 40 members, and events are currently being planned to open up community conversations on this topic.



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## FRYVP Leaders Accept Absolutely Incredible Kid Day Recognition on Behalf of Fall River Youth

Mayor Jasiel Correia declared March 15, 2016 as Absolutely Incredible Kid Day to honor our youth by encouraging caring adults to send letters of support and encouragement to young people in their lives as part of a celebration of children on this day. Youth leaders from FRYVP accepted a citation on behalf of the youth of our city!



## School Committee Mix and Mingle with FRYVP Leaders

Fall River youth had the opportunity to meet with recently elected School Committee members at the Morton Middle School library on March 14, 2016. Students had the chance to build relationships with School Committee members and discuss the issues that they and other youth confront every day both in school and in the community. Candidates had the opportunity to recall the pledges that they made as candidates to address the students' concerns. The event was planned and sponsored by the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention Task Force and the Greater Fall River Partners for a Healthier Community School Community Partnership. FRYVP adult leaders also met with City Councilors for a Mix and Mingle Event earlier in the year, and the task force looks forward to our continued partnership with elected officials!



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### **Bristol Community College's "Call for Peace" Rally and March**

Peace marchers from B.C.C., Durfee High School, and the community spoke up during a "Call for Peace" education day on March 23rd. In response to the constant war in our world and a need to begin finding peace individually and internally, a march, rally, and panel were held. Amy Blanchette, President of the BCC Student Senate and the event's organizer, invited attendees to discuss all kinds of violence, from international to domestic.

### **Bullying Presentation from FRYVP Youth Leader**

Sumaiyea Uddin, an eighth grader at Talbot and active FRYVP youth leader, organized an assembly for her fellow schoolmates last year on the topic of bullying, because bullying is an epidemic that she has been significantly impacted by. During the assembly she spoke about the types of bullying, the long-term effects, showed various videos, explained statistics, and told her personal story. It went so well that she additionally presented at Kuss Middle School, Tansey Elementary School, and Doran Community School last year. On March 24th this year, she visited Letourneau Elementary School to educate the 5th graders about bullying and spread awareness. It was a very interactive and effective presentation!



Please remember to email [FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com](mailto:FRYouthViolencePrevention@gmail.com) with any information for the Fall River Youth Violence Prevention website, newsletter, and Facebook page. Thank you!

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