

# **OPERATIONAL AGREEMENT**

**BETWEEN  
COUNTY OF KERN, DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SERVICES  
AND  
PROBATION DEPARTMENT, EBONY COUNSELING CENTER, GARDEN  
PATHWAYS, KERN COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS, MASK, STAY  
FOCUSED AND STOP THE VIOLENCE**

This Operational Agreement stands as evidence that the Department of Human Services (DHS) and Probation Department, Ebony Counseling Center, Garden Pathways, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, MASK, Stay Focused and Stop the Violence intend to work together toward the mutual goal of reducing the level, magnitude and frequency of gang violence within the County of Kern and the 11 incorporated cities within the county.

## **I. BACKGROUND**

The Joint City and County Standing Committee to Combat Gang Violence was created by the County of Kern and the City of Bakersfield in the Fall, 2006 to develop a plan of attack against the root causes of gang violence. As a result of their efforts, approximately \$1.6 million has been approved by the Kern County Board of Supervisors to fund intervention and prevention programs operated by non-profit and faith-based organizations.

## **II. CAUSES**

The causes as identified by the committee include the following:

- Family Instability/Improper parenting
- Intergenerational Dynamics
- Hopelessness/Spiritual Disconnect/Moral Code Breakdown
- Poverty
- Lack of Education/Poor Experience with Education
- Need for Social Acceptance/Social Marginalization of Youth/Self-Identity
- Limited Positive Role Models/Media Images
- Lack of Effective or Engaging Community Programs
- Unemployment
- Prisons (“Gang Training Camps”)
- Overwhelmed and Ineffective Justice System
- Racism

## **III. STRATEGIC PLAN PREVENTION STRATEGIES**

### **A. Goals**

- To develop a comprehensive countywide prevention approach to reduce criminal gang activity and violence in Kern County.
- Build capacity and increase effectiveness of funded programs to prevent gang involvement and violence.
- Increase availability of academic enhancement and after school programs (including literacy, tutorial and mentoring opportunities) for youth in communities with high incidences of gang violence.
- Provide substance abuse treatment opportunities for at-risk youth.
- Increase mentoring services to youth and their families who are at risk of gang involvement and violence.
- Mobilize community members and groups to reduce gang activity and violence in communities.
- Provide skills enhancement and support for parents of at-risk youth.

All agencies believe that the implementation of this agreement will further these goals. To this end, each agency agrees to follow the policies set below:

1. All agencies will refer clients/children/families as identified to other member agencies using the "Kern County Interagency Gang Prevention / Intervention Services Referral" form. See exhibit "A", which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
2. All agencies will complete the "Kern County Interagency Gang Prevention / Intervention Services Consent and Authorization to Release and Exchange Information" form for each referral. See exhibit "B", which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
3. All agencies will follow Standing Order NO. 2004-02 Misc. No. 5-5-520 when dealing with the confidentiality of Juvenile Records. See exhibit "C", which is attached hereto and incorporated herein by this reference.
4. Maintain an open door policy between entities for surfacing needs and concerns.

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We, the undersigned, as authorized representatives of Probation Department, Ebony

Counseling Center, Garden Pathways, Kern County Superintendent of Schools, MASK, Stay Focused, Stop the Violence Movement, Inc. and the Department of Human Services do hereby approve this Operational Agreement for a term of November 27, 2007 through June 30, 2009.

COUNTY OF KERN

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Don Maben, Chairman, Board of Supervisors  
"COUNTY"

APPROVED AS TO CONTENT:  
Kern County Department of Human Services

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Pat, Cheadle, Director

County of Kern Probation Department

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Larry R. Roberts, Chief Probation Officer

"CONTRACTOR"

Ebony Counseling Center

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Teri McClanahan, Executive Director

Garden Pathways

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Mark Rutkoskie, CFO

Kern County Superintendent of Schools

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Dr. Larry E. Reider

MASK

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Marie Sturdivant, President

Stay Focused

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Manuel Carrizalez - Chief Executive Officer

Stop the Violence Movement, Inc.

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Josephate Jordan, President

APPROVED AS TO FORM:  
Office of the County Counsel

Dated: \_\_\_\_\_

By \_\_\_\_\_  
Martin R. Lee, Deputy County Counsel