



DENVER
THE MILE HIGH CITY

DENVER YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION SHORT TERM COVID-19 ACTION PLAN



Youth Violence Prevention (“YVP”) Action Table Introduction

Youth violence is a public health crisis in our community and can only be prevented when we come together as a city – government in partnership with community – to support our youth. In late November, Mayor Michael B. Hancock formed the Youth Violence Prevention Action Table (“YVPAT”), challenging city departments, the courts, state and federal agencies, Denver Public Schools, Denver Health, and countless community partners to come together to address the issue holistically. The Action Table’s goal is to understand what programs the city currently offers that can help address youth violence, raise awareness of these programs, and identify any gaps where the city can increase support. In addition, the Action Table has been tasked with developing a public health approach to youth violence prevention that crosses over city agencies and leverages external stakeholders and community partnerships in a strategy that will be outlined in a report to be delivered to Mayor Hancock by the end of 2020.

Overview of YVP and COVID-19 Short-Term Action Plan

In early March, the city, state, and country were first confronted with the rapid spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. The YVPAT has continued to meet throughout this time and discuss how to adapt the important work of the YVPAT to the present and ongoing COVID-19 crisis. It soon became clear that the Denver community is fighting two public health crises: youth violence and COVID-19. To that end, the Action Table convened a panel discussion and series of four workshops with the theme of “Tackling Two Public Health Crises: Youth Violence and COVID-19.” This short-term action plan was created over the last few weeks within our on-going effort to curb and end youth violence. The plan recognizes that Youth Violence Prevention cannot exist in a vacuum during COVID-19 and the ongoing fight for justice. While city budgets are under pressure and public health attention is focused on COVID-19, the YVPAT recognizes that youth violence prevention is more important than ever, and steps must be taken to keep the work moving. The forthcoming action items are split into four sections based on “lessons learned” from the City’s emergency response to the COVID-19 crisis as discussed in the YVPAT work sessions. They consist of short-term goals, achievable in the next ninety (90) days, to ensure we continue to combat the epidemic of youth violence in the COVID-19 era.

YVP Action Table Equity Statement

We recognize that the impact of living under social conditions that include discrimination in all forms including race and ethnicity, gender, ability, age and identity has a direct effect on the mental health and well-being of the entire community. Everyone has a part to play in reshaping

our society and community to be more socially just and equitable. Through our projects and programs, the YVP Action Table will continue to highlight and raise the voices of those in our community most affected by the epidemic of youth violence. We commit to have youth advisors and racial diversity within our executive leadership to tackle youth violence as a public health crisis, not just a public safety issue.

Youth violence is a public health and safety crisis in our community. We are committed to embracing innovative efforts that move us toward a more equitable society. A society where race and ethnicity, national origin, immigration status, and identity do not predetermine outcomes.

The YVP Action Table recognizes the movement toward equity demands bold action, ideas, and support for those in the community who do this important work. Our ongoing efforts must recognize the acute and chronic challenges of those impacted by youth violence and systemic racism to work towards the society we strive to create.

Work Session 1 – Youth Involvement in COVID-19 Response & Focused Youth Messaging

Objective # 1: Develop messaging for the highest levels of leadership focused on youth, especially youth of color, during the COVID-19 crisis and fight for justice against systemic racism. Get youth involved in the COVID-19 Response.			
Strategy emphasis: Give youth a voice in combatting these two public health crises to encourage participation in programs and emphasize that they have a primary role to play in the City's response.			
Involved Agencies: City Attorney, Mayor's Office, Ofc. of Children's Affairs YVPAT Points of Contact: Ryan Luby, Dionne Williams, Joey Pace Supporting Community Partners: My Brother's Keeper, Be Better Than Average			
Task 1.1	Create a Youth Advisory Council to inform all youth focused messaging.	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children's Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Joey Pace Supporting City Agencies: Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs, City Attorney Community Partners: Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: July 31, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 1.2	Support a social media contest focused on all of the 2020 crises (policing reform, fighting for justice, COVID-19, youth violence).	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children's Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Joey Pace Supporting City Agencies: Community Partners: Projected Task Completion Date: October 30, 2020	TRANSFERRED TO LONGER-TERM STRATEGY.

Task 1.3	Launch and promote the Denver Police Department safe-gun storage “Lock Out Crime” PSA series.	Lead City Agency: Dept. of Public Safety/DPD Lead Agency Point of Contact: Sonny Jackson Supporting City Agencies: Mayor’s Office, Arts and Venues Community Partners: Projected Task Completion Date: August 31, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 1.4	Create a youth-managed survey on youth violence, COVID and the current fight for justice.	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children’s Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Joey Pace Supporting City Agencies: Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs, Mayor’s Youth Commission Community Partners: Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 1.5	Develop COVID & YVP related volunteering and employment opportunities.	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children’s Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Joey Pace Supporting City Agencies: Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs Community Partners: My Brother’s Keeper Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 1.6	Create a process to include youth perspectives and recommendations regarding Public Safety reform efforts that includes a youth-focused communication plan to engage and update youth on reform efforts.	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children’s Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Pat Hedrick Supporting City Agencies: City Attorney, Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs, Office of Independent Monitor, Mayor’s Office Community Partners: Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.

Task 1.7	Launch and promote DPD youth-informed, youth-focused community campaign.	Lead City Agency: Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Pat Hedrick Supporting City Agencies: DPD Community Partners: Be Better Than Average (Jonathan McMillan) Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	TRANSFERRED TO LONGER-TERM STRATEGIES.
Task 1.8	Support 10 for 10 youth-led meeting for under twenty-four (24) year-olds against youth violence.	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office Lead Agency Point of Contact: Kwon Atlas Supporting City Agencies: Community Partners: Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.

Work Session 2- Youth Mental Health and Juvenile Justice

Objective # 2: Provide behavior and mental health support for our youth and support new methods of delivering those services, with focus on combating social isolation, anxiety and enhanced concerns around inequality caused by COVID-19 and the national conversation around combatting systemic racism. Collaborate with the state of Colorado on issues related to juvenile justice and detention.			
Strategy emphasis: Enhancing current behavioral and mental health supports to improve processes for addressing the impact of COVID-19, youth violence, and racism on youth.			
Involved Agencies: Dept. of Public Safety, City Attorney, Mayor's Office YVPAT Point of Contact: Pat Hedrick, Rose Ediger Community Partners: Denver Health, MHCD, DPS, Children's Hospital, Second Wind Fund, Montbello Organizing Committee, Servicios de la Raza			
Task 2.1	Enhance current efforts to expand race and social equity training for mental health and juvenile justice providers.	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office- race and social justice innovation Lead Agency Point of Contact: Erin Brown Supporting City Agencies: Youth Detention Continuum (Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs) (Rose	COMPLETED.

		Ediger and Pat Hedrick) Community Partners: Denver Health, MHCD, Juvenile Services Planning Committee Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	
Task 2.2	Analyze gaps and work with Community Based Organizations (“CBOs”) to reduce barriers to mental health treatment and expand access to services.	Lead City Agency: Public Health and Environment Lead Agency Point of Contact: Rick Padilla Supporting City Agencies: Dept. of Public Safety (Pat Hedrick), Youth Detention Continuum (Rose Ediger), Dept. of Human Services, Mayor’s Office Community Partners: MHCD, Second Wind Fund, Montebello Organizing Committee, Servicios de la Raza Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 2.3	Mapping out existing city efforts to expand mental and behavioral health services to community youth.	Lead City Agency: Public Health and Environment Lead Agency Point of Contact: Supporting City Agencies: Dept. of Public Safety- Youth Programs (Youth Detention Continuum) (Rose Ediger & Pat Hedrick) Community Partners: Denver Health, MHCD, Servicios de la Raza, Denver Collaborative	COMPLETED.

		Program, Juvenile Services Planning Committee, Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020.	
Task 2.4	Supporting Denver Public Schools (“DPS”) in its efforts to increase mental health screening use in schools.	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children’s Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Joey Pace Supporting City Agencies: Public Health and Environment Community Partners: DPS, Denver Health, Children’s Hospital Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.

Work Session 3 – Leveraging & Supporting Community Organizations and COVID-19 Public Health Partnerships

Objective # 3: Support community organizations in building capacity, elevating the work, and acquiring resources like PPE and technology, especially organizations with street outreach workers			
Strategy emphasis: Leverage public health relationships created because of COVID-19 to address complex YVP problems			
Involved Agencies: City Attorney, Mayor’s Office, Ofc. Children’s Affairs YVPAT Point of Contact: Joey Pace, Jonathan McMillan Community Partners: Denver Health, MHCD, Life-line, Elements of Discovery, GRASP, GRID, Park Hill Strong, Kids Above Everything, Struggle of Love, FAVA, Be Better Than Average, Crowley Foundation, The Hadanou Collective, Montbello Organizing Committee			
Task 3.1	Prepare and submit a grant proposal to Caring 4 Denver Foundation to provide	Lead City Agency: Office of Children’s Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Dionne Williams	COMPLETED.

	mental health resources to “on the ground” YVP CBOs.	Supporting City Agencies: Public Health and Environment Community Partners: Denver Health, MHCD, Life-line, Elements of Discovery, Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	
Task 3.2	Formalize a YVP community organizations support network for their employees to decompress and connect.	Lead City Agency: Ofc. of Children’s Affairs Lead Agency Point of Contact: Joey Pace Supporting City Agencies: Public Health and Environment, Dept. of Safety- Youth Services, Ofc. of Independent Monitor Community Partners: Life-Line, GRASP, GRID, Park Hill Strong, Kids Above Everything, Struggle of Love, FAVA, Be Better Than Average, Crowley Foundation Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 3.3	Create a streamlined process to refer YVP CBO grant applicants that could use more technical support and support securing grants.	Lead City Agency: Human Rights & Community Partnerships – Office of Strategic partnerships Lead Agency Point of Contact: Will Alston Supporting City Agencies: Ofc. of Children’s Affairs Community Partners: The Hadanou Collective Projected Task Completion Date: October 22, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 3.4	Utilize action plan formatting from COVID-19 response for YVP/ COVID-19 Action Plan.	Lead City Agency: City Attorney Lead Agency Point of Contact: Brendan Richards Supporting City Agencies: Mayor’s Office Community Partners: N/A Projected Task Completion Date: July 24, 2020	COMPLETED.

Task 3.5	Use the Mayoral and YVPAT platforms to profile YVP CBOs and the work they are doing to support YVP.	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office Lead Agency Point of Contact: Kwon Atlas Supporting City Agencies: Ofc. of Children's Affairs Community Partners: Struggle of Love, Montbello Organizing Committee, Second Wind Fund, Park Hill Strong, Kids Above Everything Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 3.6	Assess results of pop-up activities contract with Thelma's Dream and report out to Mayor for possible expansion of program in 2021	Lead City Agency: Dept. Public Safety Lead Agency Point of Contact: Pat Hedrick Supporting City Agencies: Community Partners: Thelma's Dream Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.

Work Session 4 – Data Sharing & Racial Equity Messaging

Objective # 4: Develop effective messaging that connects COVID-19's disproportionate impact on communities of color to the importance of investing in YVP efforts, now more than ever.			
Strategy emphasis: Collect, curate, use, and distribute data more effectively, employing tactics learned from, and with the same urgency as, the COVID-19 crisis.			
Involved Agencies: City Attorney, Dept. of Public Safety, Human Services YVPAT Contacts: Ryan Luby, Matthew Lunn, Lisa Piscopo Community Partners:			
Task 4.1	Create a centralized YVP data home page with up-to-date metrics.	Lead City Agency: DHS Lead Agency Point of Contact: Lisa Piscopo Supporting City Agencies: DPD, HRCF Community Partners: Denver Health Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.

Task 4.2	Host joint COVID/ YVP data and information briefings with community in regard to Action Plan and YVP work.	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office Lead Agency Point of Contact: Kwon Atlas, Michael Sapp Supporting City Agencies: DPD, Human Rights and Community Partnerships, Dept. of Public Safety, Ofc. of Children's Affairs Community Partners: DPS Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 4.3	Explore feasibility of partnering with Denver Health on Cardiff model of Youth violence data collection.	Lead City Agency: DPD Lead Agency Point of Contact: Matt Lunn Supporting City Agencies: City Attorney, Human Services Community Partners: Denver Health Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 4.4	Discourage use of term "black on black crime" and not contributing to the black on black crime narrative with a disclaimer on all released data and information about YVP	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office- Race and Social Justice Innovation Lead Agency Point of Contact: Erin Brown Supporting City Agencies: City Attorney Community Partners: Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 4.5	Adding historical perspective of why community violence is prevalent in communities of color and encouraging appropriate language with a "how-to-talk about youth violence" attachment with all released data and information about YVP	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office- Race and Social Justice Innovation Lead Agency Point of Contact: Erin Brown Supporting City Agencies: City Attorney Community Partners: Be Better Than Average Projected Task Completion Date: September 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 4.6	Develop equity statement for YVPAT work	Lead City Agency: City Attorney Lead Agency Point of Contact: Brendan Richards Supporting City Agencies: Mayor's Office- Race and Social Justice Innovation, YVPAT- Youth Advisory Council Community Partners:	COMPLETED.

		Projected Task Completion Date: August 30, 2020	
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Work Session Feedback regarding YVP Funding

Objective # 5: Despite severe budget challenged presented by the economic crisis caused by the COVID- 19 pandemic, ensure continuous and adequate funding to implement the specific YVP strategies as outlines in the final YVP Action Table report to be delivered to the Mayor at year end 2020.			
Strategy emphasis: Collaborate in developing annual budgets related to YVP work across city agencies, partnering on grant proposals, and soliciting support from national, state, and local philanthropic organizations			
Involved Agencies: City Attorney, Dept. of Public Safety, Ofc. of Children's Affairs YVPAT Contacts: Pat Hedrick, Dionne Williams Community Partners: Cities United, My Brother's Keeper, Obama Foundation			
Task 5.1	Organize national and local partner update call with Mayor on YVP efforts	Lead City Agency: Mayor's Office. Lead Agency Point of Contact: Kwon Atlas Supporting City Agencies: OCA, Mayor's Office Community Partners: MBK, NLC, Obama Foundation Projected Task Completion Date: August 30, 2020	COMPLETED.
Task 5.2	Develop 2021 budget request for YVP	Lead City Agency: City Attorney Lead Agency Point of Contact: Kristin Bronson Supporting City Agencies: Ofc. of Children's Affairs, Dept. of Public Safety, DEDO, Finance, Mayor's Office Community Partners: Projected Task Completion Date: August 21, 2020	COMPLETED.