

Item 5



Travis County Commissioners Court Agenda Request

Meeting Date: May 28, 2013

Prepared By/Phone Number: Kimberly Pierce, (512) 854-4764

Elected/Appointed Official/Dept. Head: Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety Division

Commissioners Court Sponsor: Judge Biscoe

AGENDA LANGUAGE: RECEIVE UPDATE AND PRESENTATION FROM COUNCIL ON AT-RISK YOUTH (CARY).

BACKGROUND/SUMMARY OF REQUEST AND ATTACHMENTS:
Please see attachments provided by CARY.

STAFF RECOMMENDATIONS: N/A

ISSUES AND OPPORTUNITIES: N/A

FISCAL IMPACT AND SOURCE OF FUNDING: Travis County funds the CARY program at the following Austin Independent School District campuses: Alternative Learning Center, Webb Middle School, Garcia Middle School and Martin Middle School. The total funding from Travis County is \$200,000.

REQUIRED AUTHORIZATIONS:
N/A

AGENDA REQUEST DEADLINE: All agenda requests and supporting materials must be submitted as a pdf to David Salazar in the County Judge's office, David.Salazar@co.travis.tx.us by **Tuesdays at 5:00 p.m.** for the next week's meeting.



JUSTICE & PUBLIC SAFETY DIVISION

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To: Sam Biscoe, Travis County Judge
Ron Davis, Commissioner, Precinct 1
Sarah Eckhardt, Commissioner, Precinct 2
Gerald Daugherty, Commissioner, Precinct 3
Margaret Gomez, Commissioner, Precinct 4

Through: Roger Jefferies, County Executive, Justice and Public Safety

From: Kimberly Pierce, Planning Manager, Criminal Justice Planning 

Date: May 20, 2013

SUBJECT: Receive update and presentation for Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) on its FY12 and FY13 accomplishments in youth violence prevention efforts.

CARY requests to make a presentation on its accomplishments during FY2012 and in FY2013. Back-up materials are attached to this memorandum.


Attachments:

cc:


CARY Fact Sheet
Travis County Budget Detail FY2014
FY2014 Travis County Budget Submission
PeaceRox Aggression Replacement Training, Summary of Semester Curriculum Units
Opinion/Editorial, Stan Knee and Adrian Moore, Austin American Statesman, February 16, 2013
Opinion/Editorial, John Young, Austin American Statesman, February 16, 2013

“We can invest in our youth today or pay much more later.”


– Art Acevedo Chief of Austin Police Department, CARY Board Member



Get Involved
Please join with us to promote safer schools and safer communities.



Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY)
www.councilatriskyouth.org
Facebook: CARY4AustinYouth Twitter: @CARY4austin



Our Mission

CARY helps youth promote safe schools and safe communities.

A History of Successful Growth

In 1999, CARY began operating in the Austin ISD Alternative Learning Center, providing training in the prevention of delinquency and youth-violence to at-risk students. By 2012, CARY had expanded its presence to ten AISD schools, including middle-school training programs at Bedichek, Burnet, Dobie, Garcia, Martin, Pearce, and Webb, and a Behavioral Coaching Mentors Program at Reagan, Lanier, and LBJ high schools.

Working with Schools and Parents

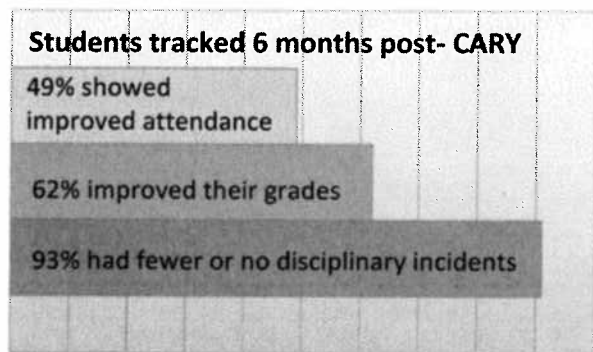
In the 2011/12 school year, 25,000 disciplinary actions were taken with 13,000 AISD students. Of these students, 600 voluntarily participated in CARY training with referral from school officials and parental consent.

Focus on Troubled Youth

CARY focuses exclusively on youth who have severe disciplinary issues, are in school disciplinary systems, have gone through school suspension, or have been removed to the disciplinary alternative education program. Their average age is 13, and many have emotional disabilities, limited English proficiency, drug abuse problems, and low academic performance. They are mostly poor (95%), minority (95%), and male (80%).

Making Early Interventions

School disciplinary acts are powerful predictors of future delinquency and criminality: over half of all bullies are predicted to have one criminal court conviction by age 24, and 40% will have three criminal court convictions. CARY works with youth at a stage when intervention is most successful and the student's school and learning experience can be turned around. (Ask us for copies of "Breaking Schools' Rules," a study from the Council on State Governments Justice Center and Texas A&M University Policy Institute.)



Evidenced-Based Program

CARY's two-semester program uses PeaceRox, an evidence-based curriculum that teaches positive social skills, anger management, empathy, and character education. PeaceRox stems from Aggression Replacement Training, a program certified by the National Center for the Study and Prevention of Youth Violence and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

CARY's programs also include individual behavioral counseling, parent-support groups, service-learning projects, and a higher-education scholarship fund for program graduates.

Qualified Staff

CARY's staff members are primarily Masters-level personnel with social work, psychology, or special-education focus and 3 to 5 years experience in mental health, special education, youth service, or correctional job settings.

Positive Program Evaluations

More than 10 years of internal evaluations and external studies by PhD researchers prove the effectiveness of CARY programs.

Surveys with school administrators, counselors, and parents show significant improvements in student attitudes, behaviors, and school attendance. Data also show decreases in anti-social behaviors and statistically significant reductions in all administrative disciplinary actions and incidents of school violence at every level of severity.

Valuable Public Education

CARY conducts community public-education events with expert speakers on topics related to youth violence, juvenile delinquency, school bullying, and gang violence prevention. We have featured speakers such as Dr. James Fox, Dr. Debra Prothrow-Stith, Barbara Coloroso, Fr. Greg Boyle, Leonard Pitts, and Dr. James Garbarino.

Diverse Sources of Funding

CARY has received funding from City of Austin Health and Human Services, Travis County Justice and Public Safety, Austin ISD, and foundations such as Hogg, RGK, Allstate, Trull, Lola Wright, Meadows, and A Glimmer of Hope.

CARY has received government grants from the Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Division, the Community Gun Violence Prevention program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Drug-Free Schools program administered by the Texas Education Agency and Department of Education. CARY also receives numerous local donor contributions.

Jim Kester Memorial Scholarship Fund

Through the Jim Kester Memorial Scholarship Fund, CARY awards small grants to graduating seniors who are pursuing higher education.

Making a Difference

CARY helps troubled youth turn their lives around and promote safer schools and safer communities.

Our programs reduce the human suffering associated with violent crime—at significant savings to taxpayers by keeping youth out of the *pipeline to prison*.

Annual Program Costs/Per Person	
CARY Program	\$750
Texas State Prison	\$18,500
Travis County Jail	\$38,500
TX Juvenile Justice Dept.	\$125,000

11/8/12

**FY 2014 BUDGET SUBMISSION
BUDGET REQUEST PROPOSAL**

Name of Budget Request & Priority # of Request:	Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) Delinquency and Youth Violence Prevention (PeaceRox) Program
Name of Program Area: (From applicable PB-3 Form)	Justice and Public Safety Department
Funds Center:	Criminal Justice Planning
Total Amount of Request:	\$200,000.00
Collaborating Departments/Agencies:	Austin Independent School District and City of Austin
Contact Information (Name/Phone):	Adrian Moore (Ex. Dir.) 512-451-4592
1. Summary Statement: Include one or two sentences to be included in Commissioners Court materials.	
<p>CARY's mission is "helping youth promote safe schools and safe communities", and the overall objective of the program is to equip AISD disciplinary students with the necessary skills to avoid entry into the "pipeline to prison", as is common with many Texas disciplinary students. Travis County funding is requested to support the evidence based "PeaceRox Aggression Replacement Training Program" for three staff positions serving a total of up to 300 assaultive, aggressive and abusive middle school youth at the cost of \$200,000. Matching support comes from the City of Austin, Austin ISD, CARY donors and benevolent foundations.</p>	
2. Description of Request: Describe the request, including current issues and how the request relates to the mission and services provided by the department, and arguments in favor of this proposal.	
<p>The current issue is that for the last decade between 2002 and 2011 school age youth between 10 and 20 years of age are represented in more than 56 arrests for murder, 1,226 for aggravated robbery, 1,568 for aggravated assault and 12,177 arrests for other assaults according to DPS Crime Reports. For the average year, there are approximately 12,129 school age youth arrested with 6 murders, 122 aggravated robberies, 157 aggravated assaults and 1,217 other assaults.</p> <p>Predictors for criminal justice system involvement include engagement in the public school disciplinary system according to extensive contemporary research. The Austin Independent School District recorded 10,371 documented school disciplinary dispositions including in and out of school suspension and removals to disciplinary alternative education programs and juvenile justice alternative education programs during the 2011-2012 school year. In the absence of meaningful prevention and intervention programs, these students represented in the 10,371 school disciplinary incidents, ultimately continue their delinquent behavior and become represented in the school age youth who are arrested, detained, prosecuted and convicted for victimizing others at great cost to Travis County residents.</p> <p>AISD Campuses served include Alternative Learning Center, Bedichek, Burnett, Dobie, Garcia, Martin, Mendez, Pearce and Webb. Travis County will fund 40 students each at the Alternative Learning Center and Webb Middle School and 80 students at Garcia and Martin Middle Schools for a minimum of 240 up to a maximum of 300 students.</p> <p>CARY's proposed Delinquency and Youth Violence Prevention Program is consistent with the mission by Travis County as specified in the "FY 2012 to FY 2015 Community Plan for</p>	

Coordination of Criminal Justice and Related Activities” calling a High Priority for “Juvenile Delinquency prevention and early intervention services for low income and at-risk youth” and Strategies and Tasks to “identify and secure funding for personnel and training to support the implementation of established and new evidence-based prevention and early intervention services”.

3. Anticipated Outcome of Request and Proposed Timeline: Timeline should include the expected dates of results and may extend past FY 14.

CARY’s PeaceRox Program will continue to be implemented effective October 1, 2013. The anticipated outcome is that student participants in the program will demonstrate 1) significantly improved decreases in serious school disciplinary infractions, 2) lower rates of in and out of school suspensions, 3) lower rates of DAEP and JJAEP placements, 4) improved academic grades, and 3) improved school attendance rates compared to control groups of similar students, at the close of the 2013-2014 school year on May 31, 2014. Performance results will be submitted twice annually following each school semester.

4. Description of Program Measurement and Evaluation: Describe how the proposal will be measured and evaluated and note if there is an independent evaluation component. In addition, indicate whether a comparative analysis of similar local programs is available.

CARY will contract with an independent university based researcher to conduct evaluation. In previous years, 5 Ph.D. level researchers have completed 7 program evaluations over a 12 year period. Measurement of outcome indicators will school disciplinary reports and dispositions, grade and attendance data from the Austin Independent School District. The measures will show significant gains for the student participants at each semester of completion.

5a. Performance Measures: List applicable current and new performance measures related to the request that highlight the impact to the program area if the request is funded.

Measure Name	Actual FY 12 Measure	Revised FY 13 Measure	Projected FY 14 Measure at Target Level	Projected FY 14 Measure with Added Funding
Projected % of students with reductions in disciplinary repts.	50%	50%	50%	n/a
Projected % of students with improvement in school attendance	45%	45%	45%	n/a
Projected % of students with improvements in academic grades.	40%	40%	40%	n/a

5b. Impact on Performance: Describe the impact of funding the request on departmental performance measures, service levels, and program outcomes:

The impact of funding will produce youth who become contributing members of our community as measured by reductions in serious disciplinary reports, improvements in school attendance rates and in academic grades. Each represent contributors for low criminal behaviors.

During FY 2013, independent evaluation of CARY violence prevention program showed CARY participants’ outcomes exceeding comparison group outcomes in the areas of 1) school

attendance rates, 2) TAKS grade scores, 3) drug abuse incident reports, 4) serious offense incident reports, 5) in and out of school suspension rates, and 6) placements in DAEP and JJAEP. As such, CARY students can be expected to enter the juvenile and criminal justice system at significant lower rates than groups of students with common characteristic not in the CARY program.

6. Impact of Not Funding Request: Describe the impact of not funding the request in FY 14 in terms of meeting statutory/mandated requirements and how service levels and program outcomes will be impacted, and any arguments against this proposal.

The impact of not funding this request would result in this group of youth not graduating high school and continuing the offensive behaviors leading to entry into our City, County and State juvenile and criminal justice system. CARY's cost for one youth, for one year in the PeaceRox Youth Violence Prevention Program is less than \$1,000; the cost for processing the same youth through our County juvenile justice system is estimated at \$15,000, a figure 20 times more costly than prevention. County jail and state prison costs exceed \$15,000 each. State level juvenile corrections services cost \$120,000 per year for incarceration in a youth facility.

7. Leveraged Resources and Collaboration: If the proposal leverages other resources such as grant funding or non-County external agency resources, list and describe impact. Describe any collaboration efforts with other departments/agencies that provide similar or supporting services, and provide contact information. Describe ways that these departments/agencies can collaborate to ensure success of the proposal.

Leveraged funding from the City of Austin in the amount of \$252,000 is expected to underwrite costs for up to 300 students; CARY has also requested grant funds from the Governor's Criminal Justice Division to support 100 at risk high school students. CARY collaborates extensively with the Austin Independent School District, but little funding exchanges hands with AISD.

8.	Additional Revenue: Does this proposal generate additional revenue? Y/N	Y
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	If yes, is copy of the County Auditor's revenue form and other relevant backup information attached? Y/N <i>Please note that original revenue materials must be sent to the Auditor's Office.</i>	N
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9.	If requesting a new position(s), is office space currently available? Y/N	N/A
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	If no, attach plan from Facilities Management explaining how to acquire space for this proposal. Identify proposed position location below:		
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	Building Location#	N/A	Floor #	N/A
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	Suite/Office #	N/A	Workstation #	N/A
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10a. Supplemental Information for Capital Projects. Please describe the scope of the project (Do not include acronyms or department specific terms).

N/A

10b. Does the requested item meet the definition of an improvement? If so, how (e.g., higher quality material, increase in efficiency and/or capacity)?

N/A

COUNCIL ON AT-RISK YOUTH
Travis County Budget
Fisca Year 2014
At 100% Funding

PERSONNEL

Salaries	\$145,000.00
Benefits	<u>\$ 32,625.00</u>
SUBTOTAL - PERSONNEL	<u>\$ 177,625.00</u>

OPERATING EXPENSES

General Operating Expenses	\$ 4,875.00
Insurance	\$ 5,000.00
Audit	\$ 2,500.00
Consultants	<u>\$ 8,000.00</u>
SUBTOTAL - OPERATING E EXP	<u>\$ 22,375.00</u>
TOTAL BUDGET AMOUNT	<u><u>\$ 200,000.00</u></u>

OTHERS SAY: STAN KNEE AND ADRIAN MOORE
Texas Council of At-Risk Youth Feb. 17, 2013

Help at-risk youth early to prevent crime later

The American-Statesman editorial "Shrink prison system to save money" (Feb. 12) reviews utilization of state prison beds and concludes that "the state has an opportunity to shrink its bloated prison system and more smartly, rather than bluntly, address its criminal justice needs."

Rather than continuing to build capacity in our criminal justice system, why not re-examine our goals and smartly invest some of our hard-earned resources in preventing and intervening early, with those individuals who are bound for acts of delinquency, youth violence and crime.

There is a practical plan - one already in place, though largely underfunded: the early identification and programmed intervention with kids whose current behaviors exhibit warning signs for future acts of delinquency and crime.

We know the signs for those who enter into our school disciplinary system: lack of social skills or ability to develop satisfying relationships or friendship bonds, absence of empathy, perpetual feelings of having been wronged, and intense, unresolved anger and frustration stemming from feelings of failure.

Of particular note is that a single serious school disciplinary report is the most powerful predictor for commission of a delinquent or criminal act with subsequent referral to the juvenile justice system, according to a 2005 Texas A&M University study for the Governor's Criminal Justice Division. A similar report titled "Bullying Prevention is Crime Prevention" reports that 60 percent of middle school bullies can be predicted to have at least one criminal court conviction by age 24. Further, the

(Integrate) these programs into our schools.

Council of State Governments' recent review of nearly one million Texas students over six years also confirmed a strong link between repeat school suspension and expulsion and later criminal acts.

Because we know what to look for, we have a considerable advantage, responsibility and opportunity to implement behavioral health prevention and early intervention programs to reduce serious criminal acts - including those carried out through gun violence.

More than 500 science-based youth violence prevention, drug abuse prevention and delinquency prevention programs exist today. Each meets rigorous research standards and result in the prevention of serious acts

of delinquency and crime. The majority can be readily adapted to naturally fit into public school disciplinary programming. It is urgent, then, that we place a high priority on integrating these programs into our schools. Not to do so is to ignore the evidence.

Austin itself is home to such a program. For 12 years, the Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) has collaborated with the Austin Independent School District to focus on 600 high-risk youths each year, using a two-semester comprehensive Aggression Replacement Training (ART) curriculum. ART offers skills training in anger management, social-skills training, empathy training and character education along with individual behavioral counseling and coaching.

CARY works effectively with youths who would not otherwise graduate high school but who instead, after serious and repeated violations, graduate into the Texas juvenile and criminal justice system. External and internal evaluation shows measurable positive outcomes. Administrators, counselors and parents consistently give the CARY program high marks for significantly improving student participant attitudes, behaviors, anger control, problem solving skills as well as reducing aggressive and abusive acts.

As such, CARY encourages the Texas Legislature, Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court to establish behavioral health and youth violence prevention boards and to redirect criminal justice budgets toward capacity and infrastructure that support these aims.

Sen. John Whitmire proclaims that "We need to use taxpayers' money to fight crime" CARY proposes that we use our limited resources to "prevent delinquency and crime." Please join forces with CARY and our partners. Contact your city, county, state and federal representatives to demand investments in a safer, more harmonious society and, equally important, in productive young people we know are otherwise bound for crime and delinquency and prison incarceration.

Knee, a former Austin police chief, is chairman of the CARY board. Moore is the organization's executive director.

JOHN YOUNG

Feb. 16, 2013

Helping youth walk away from deadly gun violence

Nehemiah Griego was angry. He got angrier, and angrier, and then he got a gun. Or two.

On Jan. 19, a day when firearms advocates staged "Guns Across America" events, the 15-year-old Albuquerque boy shot dead all five members of his family.

Horrific, yes. But one thing: It could have been worse. Reportedly the teen contemplated shooting up a nearby Wal-Mart.

Something happened. Maybe his girlfriend persuaded him to confess. Maybe a kind word outside his family's church did it. It has a skate park, and in the hours after the shootings it provided hospitably familiar faces, including a friendly security guard who spoke with the teen.

Whatever the reason, he took authorities to his home, showed them the bodies, then showed them the murder weapons — owned by his parents — including a fully loaded .223-caliber semiautomatic.

In the weeks since the Sandy Hook horrors, Americans haven't been able to agree about much. Wait. That's not true.

Some conservatives and gun lovers have turned veritably evangelical about mental health.

The same people who would look the other way at the dimes being saved when services are cut from mental health services now say, "This is where we should be looking for answers, not blaming guns."

It's time for progressives, who have always urged more proactive approaches to crime prevention, to take them up on that.

Let's say that when he was in middle school Nehemiah Griego had been in a program aimed at helping rein in adolescent anger, one that showed good success in helping at-risk teens, and he was one of those. Would it have been worth it?

More than we could ever imagine.

Well, some good people have been imagining this across our land, and getting good results. And people ought to start listening, particularly policy makers who make budget decisions.

Consider one player in Austin, the Council for At-Risk Youth — CARY. It works to get to angry kids just like Nehemiah Griego. It has a program called ART — Aggression Replacement Training — at five middle schools for disciplinary referrals, most commonly for bullying.

After a two-semester program that involves service projects, parental

The U.S. should look at an Austin intervention program aimed at juvenile delinquency and anger management.

involvement and a lot of anger management, it has shown pretty dramatic improvement in students' grades, attendance and discipline.

A study found that 60 percent of middle school bullies are destined to have criminal convictions by age 24.

CARY didn't invent any magic it plies. Others know what works. Intervention does. What CARY does have is support from a city — Austin — and a county — Travis County — both pitching in \$200,000 apiece annually.

CARY estimates that ART costs \$750 per student. It cites a study estimating it costs Texas \$125,000 a year to incarcerate a juvenile.

These advocates for at-risk students are calling on the Texas Legislature to set aside 1 percent of the \$20 billion the state spends on juvenile and criminal justice and to replicate programs in schools that help young people manage their anger.

Mental health? CARY has found that 20 percent of these children have emotional disabilities. School accountability? (Nothing seems to stir lawmakers like "school accountability.") These are our most likely dropouts, most likely classroom disruptions — oh, yes, and most likely killers.

Amid the discussions about gun control and whatever else society might do to avoid more Sandy Hooks, more Auroras, more Nehemiah Griegos, CARY executive director Adrian Moore wrote President Barack Obama urging a new look at intervention programs aimed at juvenile delinquency and anger management.

"Too much of our direction fixates on capacity-building to help strengthen the juvenile justice system, while not adequately addressing prevention and early intervention programs," he wrote.

No truer words could be spoken. With all the verbiage sprayed in the air about preventing deeds like those in Newtown, Aurora and Albuquerque, surely we can agree on something like this, and find a few pennies to do it better.

Young, a longtime Texas newspaperman, lives in Colorado.



PeaceRox Aggression Replacement Training (ART): Summary of Semester Curriculum Units

Sessions	Type	Activity
Session 1	Character Ed	Establish individual goals
Session 2	Anger Management	Teaching the MELT
Session 3	Empathy	Trust Account
Session 4	Social Skills	Following Directions
Session 5	Character Ed	Explain 15 Character Traits
Session 6	Anger Management	The Anger Pyramid
Session 7	Empathy	Recognizing feelings of others
Session 8	Social Skills	Refusing Trouble with Others
Session 9	Character Ed	Short-term improvement goals
Session 10	Anger Management	ABC's of Anger
Session 11	Empathy	Increasing Feeling Vocabulary
Session 12	Social Skills	Problem Solving
Session 13	Character Ed	Respect Agreement
Session 14	Anger Management	Angerometer
Session 15	Empathy	Paraphrasing
Session 16	Social Skills	Accepting No for an Answer
Session 17	Character Ed	Derrick's Problem-Responsibility
Session 18	Anger Management	Anger Management Cycle
Session 19	Empathy	HEARS model
Session 20	Social Skills	Negotiating
Session 21	Character Ed	Success Plan and Integrity
Session 22	Anger Management	Recognizing Anger Cues
Session 23	Empathy	10 Years from Now
Session 24	Social Skills	Responding to Teasing