



AGENDA SUBMITTAL TO SOLANO COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

ITEM TITLE Receive a report on the recent countywide Youth Summit held on May 11, 2011		BOARD MEETING DATE June 14, 2011	AGENDA NUMBER 26
Dept: Contact: Extension:	District Attorney Donald A. du Bain 6800	Supervisorial District Number ALL	
Published Notice Required?		Yes _____	No <u> X </u>
Public Hearing Required?		Yes _____	No <u> X </u>

DEPARTMENTAL RECOMMENDATIONS:

District Attorney recommends that the Board receive a presentation by Donald A. du Bain, District Attorney, regarding the recent countywide Youth Summit held on May 11, 2011.

SUMMARY:

On May 11, 2011, the District Attorney's Office hosted a Youth Summit, which was co-hosted by all eight county police chiefs, the Sheriff, the Commander of the Solano Office of the California Highway Patrol, the Commander of the 60th Security Forces Squadron at Travis Air Force Base, and the Solano County Schools Superintendent. It was held at the Fairfield Community Center in Fairfield.

The theme of the summit was "Reducing Crime by Reducing Truancy," and it featured nationally acclaimed keynote speaker Dr. Michael Pritchard.

In addition to the co-hosts, participants included the Presiding Judges of the Solano County Superior and Juvenile Courts, the directors of several key county agencies, including the Department of Health and Social Services, Probation Department, Public Defender, and County Administrator's Office, and the superintendents of most Solano County school districts.

Non-profit agencies and faith-based organizations whose mission is to serve the youth community in Solano County were also invited to participate, as well as students from the local school districts.

The purpose of the Youth Summit was to foster collaboration between the law enforcement community, the schools, other related government agencies, and community and faith-based organizations to find concrete solutions to the challenge of reducing student absenteeism in our schools in order to reduce crime.

In total, 144 individuals representing government agencies, including police agencies and school districts, community and faith-based groups and the business community attended the event. In addition, 21 students from most of the county's school districts attended during the latter part of

the day and actively participated in a group discussion led by Dr. Pritchard about the causes of truancy.

During the morning, the attendees met in five separate groups, led by the police chiefs of Benicia, Vallejo, Fairfield/Suisun, Vacaville and Sheriff Stanton assisted by Solano Community College Chief Dawson. Each group, which mostly included police chiefs, school officials, community and religious leaders, discussed the causes of truancy within its jurisdiction, current efforts underway to address truancy, and new proposals. Four of the five groups made plans to reconvene to continue their discussions in the near future.

A countywide steering committee has been in place since January that will be expanded to include representatives from each of the five groups. The steering committee will monitor the progress of each of the five groups, share ideas that evolve within each group, and plan for future progress reports and annual Youth Summits.

One new initiative that was announced by the District Attorney was a plan, which has the full support of the Solano County Superior and Juvenile Courts, to create a new Truancy Court this Fall for the parents of habitually truant elementary school students. Parents of children who are found to be habitually truant by their school districts will be charged by the District Attorney's Office with violations of the Education Code starting this Fall.

Research studies as well as the real-world experience of Solano County law enforcement officers have shown a clear correlation between crime and habitual truancy. Up to 75% of habitual truants will eventually become high school dropouts, and high school dropouts are 8 times more likely to end up in jail or prison than high school graduates. Over two-thirds of prisoners nationwide are high school dropouts.

FINANCING:

There is no financial impact associated with this item. The costs incurred to host this summit were covered by the Narcotic Enforcement Team's 15% Special Fund and approved by the 15% Panel mandated by California Health and Safety Code section 11489.

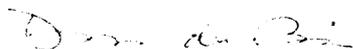
ALTERNATIVES:

The Board can elect not to receive a presentation; however, this alternative is not recommended as the contributors to the Youth Summit deserve recognition for a successful event.

OTHER AGENCY INVOLVEMENT:

CAO RECOMMENDATION:

**APPROVE DEPARTMENT
RECOMMENDATION
DEPARTMENT HEAD SIGNATURE:**



Don du Bain, District Attorney