

# Teen Dating and Sexual Violence Policy Project at Miguel Contreras Learning Complex

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# Overview

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# Origins

- California Legislation
  - AB 506 (2005)
  - AB 589 (2007)
- State-wide Administrator Trainings
- Model Policy with Attorney General's Office
  - A Guide to Addressing Teen Dating Violence and Sexual Assault in a School Setting (February 2008)



# Policy Project Details

- 2 year project
- Campus-based, instead of school district based
- Evolved from policy adoption plan to youth-driven campaign
- Local campaign for policy adoption at LAUSD
- State and national network/coalition on TDV and SV school policy



# School Characteristics

- LAUSD
  - 723,000 students
  - 35,000 staff
  - Over 200 high and middle schools
- Miguel Contreras Learning Complex (MCLC)
  - Established in 2006
  - Progressive and innovative campus organization
  - Smaller learning environments / Multiple schools share the campus
    - Policy change work primarily focused on Los Angeles School Of Global Studies (LASGS) student body of 360 students
  - Community Demographics
    - 85 % identified as Hispanic or Latino.
    - Over 81% of families in the community are enrolled in the subsidized school lunch program
    - 63.5% of children in the surrounding community are living in poverty

# TDV Prevention Plan

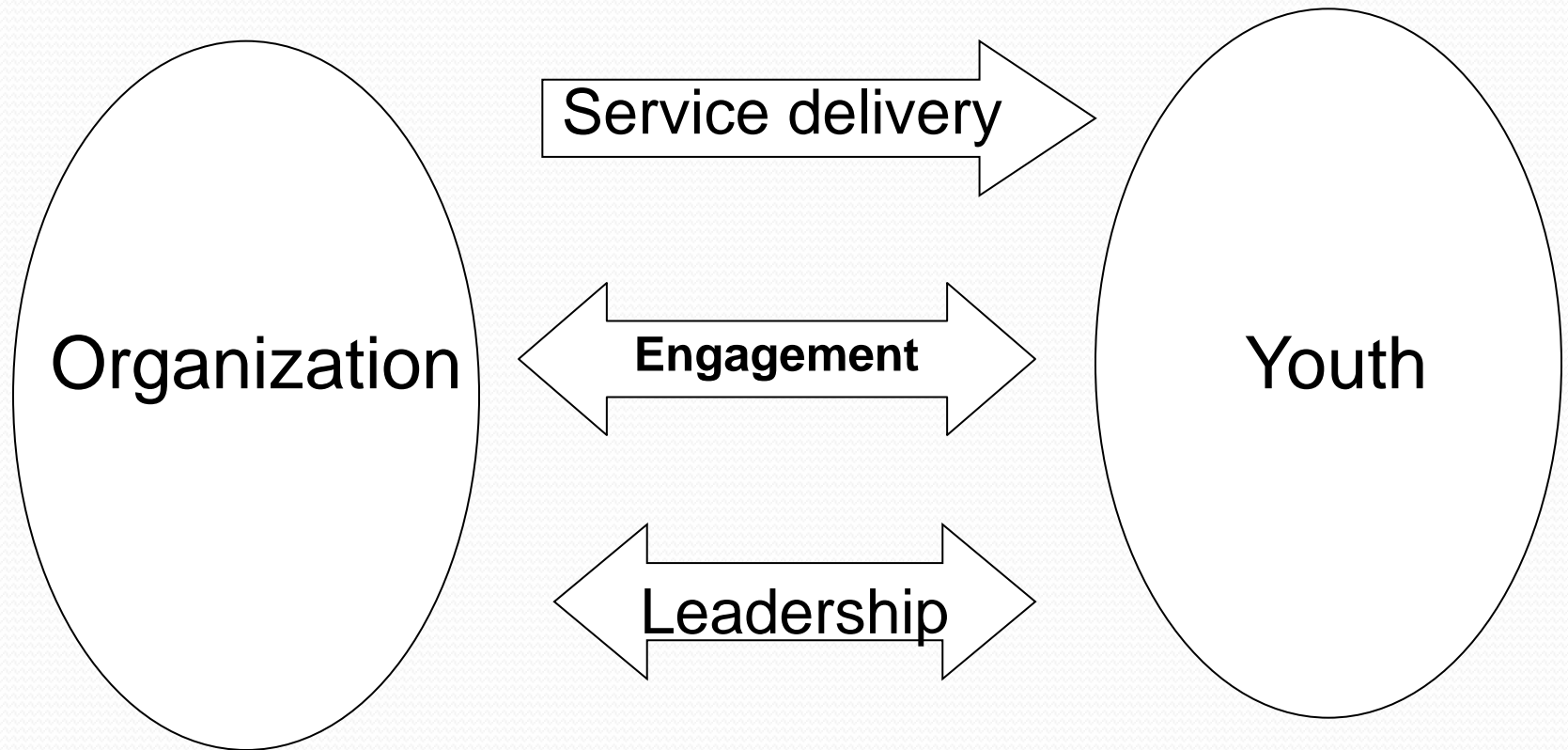
- School-wide Commitment
- Responsible Personnel
- Intervention Protocol
- Services for Victims, Perpetrators & Bystanders
- Education for Students
- Faculty and Staff Training
- Confidentiality
- Documentation/Data Tracking

# TDV and SV Prevention Activities

- Education and Training
  - Parents
  - Staff members
- Youth Programs
  - *In Touch With Teens* Curriculum
  - STOP Club (Students Together Organizing Peace)
  - Denim Day (Sexual Assault Awareness Social Marketing Campaign)
  - Peer 2 Peer Counseling Class
- Technical Assistance



# Overview of Youth Engagement Methods



# Successes

- Youth empowerment and leadership development
- Social norms change reported
- Increased visibility on campus
- Increased access to campus
- State and national networking on policy issues



# Testimonials: Impact of Policy Project

- “At first I didn’t take it seriously, but now I do. It has helped me, help other people.”
- “STOP [Club] has made me realize that violence is very bad, it also motivated me to participate in my school.”
- “[TDV prevention activities] changed what I think is acceptable. I use to think that the victim would get blamed because it was her fault – now I see it really is not her fault.”
- “It has changed how we treat each other – it can affect someone if you say something bad to them. It has kind of changed what I look for in a relationship – because you have to get to know that person really well. That way you know how they really act when they’re mad or something is really bothering them.”

# Challenges

- Administrator and staff member turn-over
  - Union negotiations
  - Budget concerns
  - Creating and maintaining a relationship
- Focus on academic achievement
- Administrator concerns about increasing liability

# Recommendations

- Develop a close relationship with a school, leading teachers, counselors, and administrators
- Remain flexible in scheduling and goals
- Become an active resource
- Make your campaign truly Youth-Driven
- Dispel the expectation of black and white policy change—policy change is all around you

# Contact Information

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