Meeting started at 12:24pm

After multiple meetings working on beginning the Zoom meeting for this meeting, it was decided to move forward with the meeting without the Zoom component.

Self-Introductions (11 GRIT Village members)

**Meeting goal**: share GRIT’s new funding source- OIC

Explanation of GRIT’s origin and structure

Michelle Lee, Interim Executive Director:

* Began with a grant obtained by the City of Yakima to encourage good communication with partnering agencies, by helping them share best services and practices, and identify service gaps.
* Steering Committee meets monthly to discuss the strategic plan implementation.
* GRIT Village is a group of agencies working toward reducing gun violence who participates in meetings to network and share their services.

OIC’s new grant

Isidra Sanchez, Director of Programs for OIC

* OIC obtained a 10-month grant to expand on the work of GRIT.
* The grant is intended to gathering resources and researching the issues to leading to gun violence and of prevention interventions in place.
* It will support the creation of a full-time position to facilitate the gathering of data to create a strategic plan.
  + The position would be 40 hours a week for 10 months. OIC is currently looking for someone to fill that position. OIC will share the position description to be sent out to the Village members.
* The grant will lead to the creation of a planning committee once data is gathered as it is the initial focus of the grant expansion to GRIT. OIC sees this 10-month period as an initial data gathering phase and an implementation phrase would follow with a future grant, potentially from the State Dept. of Commerce.

Plans moving forward

* GRIT Village meetings will take place ever 1st Tuesday of the month.
  + This will align with other meetings focus on youth programs in the City of Yakima that already meet on this date regularly.
  + Future meetings are to be held at OIC; more details will be sent out closer to the date.

**Debrief**: What would you like to see from GRIT do moving forward?

Common themes:

* Regular grant opportunity emails like has been done.
* Networking component in the regular GRIT Village meetings where there is a speaker who shares about their agencies services to the community and time to gather contact info from others.
* An evening meeting for working community members to increase community involvement in discussions regarding gun violence interventions.
* An explanation of local resources available to support youth and the community.
* A questionnaire to GRIT Village membership to learn what it is they do and if they would like to continue participating in GRIT meetings and efforts.
* Reexamination of who should participate in GRIT meetings moving forward as key decision-makers should be involved and people working with individuals involved with gun violence.

Meeting ended at 1:10pm

Notes submitted by Felisa Gonzalez, DRC

**Attachment #1**

**Responses to Strategic Plan goals activity:**

Group 1

1. 3.8 Clearing house for grants needing statistics (Steering Committee)
   1. List of the necessary Yakima Valley statistics & descriptive information needed for grant prep.ration & who may be able to supply this information.

* Demographics
* Types of crimes
* Victims of crimes
* Drugs involved
* Domestic Violence related
* Dustin Soptich, YPD
  + Dustin may also know who at other agencies to talk to

1. 3.2 Identify agencies who can write letters of support
   * 1. Create a list of issues and community supporters of those issues for the purpose of letters of support or project partnerships

* Art Awareness Project
* Community members
* School District
* YPD
* Juvenile Rehabilitation/Courts
* Sonia Rodriguez True
* In This Together
  + Triple R Ministries- Travis
  + Love Project - Chevy Cortez
* Julio Barber
* Matt Fairbank
* Kathy Kramer
* Casey Family

Group 2

1. 3.6 Design user friendly web location(s) for sharing of resources
   1. Identify a list of web locations (i.e. FB, Twitter) that work with youth or 2.common media locations where the youth go regularly, and
   2. List outside groups/agency/businesses/social media groups outside of Village that could share resources for youth.

* Instagram, Tik Tok, Facebook, internet (do research/questionnaire about what social media kids use more often–receive info/ask questions)
* Connecting to current resource lists online, schools/churches, paper booklet of resources and/or 211 ??

1. 4.6 What are the strategies and experiences that create an understanding and adoption of an unbiased approach to gangs
   1. Create a list of tools that further your work to understand and adopt an unbiased approach to gangs used by your agencies or others you are aware of.

* Have Motivational interviewing training, listen to multiple perspectives (different people who have experience/involvement) about gangs–Learn about gang culture and potential reasons why people are involved with gangs, what it means to them. Develop an open panel discussion of gang involved youth/ex gang members–discussing their reasons for involvement etc.
* Be non-judgemental – using motivational interviewing (MI) skills, allow space for people to talk about who they are, why they are in gangs, understand them, listen to them, not put our agenda/beliefs on them. Encourage providers to go online and learn about MI, read some literature, take a beginner training to learn the tools of collaboration, remaining neutral, asking open ended questions, waiting for answers and LISTENING without judgment.
* Partner with WAY program to help inform/provide education and referrals of gang involved youth who are willing to sit on a discussion panel and share their stories of involvement: How they became involved, why they became involved, what was it they were seeking through involvement? The motivation for the behavior is important to understand how we can best approach replacing that involvement with something as satisfying. Gang involvement is fulfilling a need and it is our task to discover what that need is. Rather than assume we know, why not ask the youth for a direct answer.

Group 3

1. 4.2 Develop and communicate strategies that will help Village members to know or tap into people who changed their lives.
   1. Collecting client stories
      1. Invite youth to speak their story and give a different perspective to help GRIT’s goal
   2. Think one or two clients who you can reach out to for an inspiring story whose life has changed for the better, i.e. improved school performance, decreased police engagement,” or
   3. List of agencies who can provide youth client stories.
      1. Yakima County DRC provides the links of youth resources & services
   4. Mentorship Programs in the Yakima Valley
2. 4.4 Remind GRIT members to ask kids what they most need.
   1. Create a list of what at-risk youth who you work with need the most.
      1. Meeting youth where they are to best indicate needs
      2. A trusted adult
      3. Access to resources in their local area
      4. Flexible funding/homeless services
      5. Case management
   2. Present a detailed list of what services can help a youth meet their immediate and or ongoing needs



Group 4

1. 4.3 Develop and communicate to member organizations how best to talk with the kids at risk themselves.
   1. Create a list of “best practices” for talking with at-risk clients, or
   2. A list of agencies who can provide this information.

* Travis Maltos - UGM
* Chevy Cortes - Love Project
* Anthony Peterson- OIC
* Trevor Greene - YSD
* Catholic Charities
* Dept. Of Juvenile Rehab.
* Probation Counselors
* Lisa Wallace
* Rod’s House
* Vicky Baker - YCOG
* Alicia Stromme Tobis

1. 1.1 Identify and communicate to GRIT members strategies for avoiding gang influence and gang membership.
   1. Create a list of strategies for gang intervention and prevention, or
   2. A list of agencies could share these strategies.

* Basic Issues
  + Money
  + Family/ Connections
* Kids love art / learning skills -
  + An outlet, healing, can bring in $