



Gangland Security Task Force
Final Report
to the Governor and the Legislature

January 2007

State of New Jersey

Jon S. Corzine, Governor

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Introduction

On June 29, 2005, the New Jersey State Legislature passed and Acting Governor Richard J. Codey signed into law legislation that created the Gang Land Security Task Force (“Task Force”). P.L. 2005, c. 107. The Task Force consisted of twenty-six members who, by virtue of education or experience, had knowledge of gang activities in the State and/or law enforcement efforts to curb such activities. The statute required the Task Force to issue a progress report to the Governor and Legislature no later than 90 days after its organization and issue a final proposal no later than 120 days after its organization. Pursuant to its statutory mandate, the Task Force met over a three-month period to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations addressing three core areas: 1) enhancing methods for gathering intelligence on gangs and gang-related crimes; 2) preventing gangs from establishing themselves in New Jersey and preventing young people from joining them; and 3) facilitating the re-entry into society of currently or formerly incarcerated gang members.

To ensure that the Task Force members had the “benefit of all available experts, resources, and information” needed to fulfill this mission, Governor Codey issued Executive Order 56, which established an Advisory Committee to the Task Force (“Advisory Committee”). The Advisory Committee, comprised of a cross-section of State, county, and municipal employees with experience in combating gangs, lent its expertise to the Task Force and had authority to request records from any division or agency in the State. By Executive Order 73, Governor Codey expanded the Advisory Committee to include four members of the public. In furtherance of its statutory mandate, the Task Force invited federal law enforcement personnel with expertise in firearms, drugs, immigration, and investigation to aid in the Task Force’s deliberations and in the formulation of recommendations.

Finally, on January 11, 2006, the Task Force held public hearings in Newark, Trenton, and Camden. At these hearings, members of the public addressed how best to 1) prevent young people from joining gangs, 2) educate the public about gangs, and 3) re-integrate into society those persons who have served time in prison for gang-related crimes. These hearings were very productive and provided the Task Force with invaluable information and guidance. There was a consensus among members of the public in all three locales that efforts at prevention must begin in elementary school; a need exists for a clearinghouse for information about programs and other resources available to the public; and correctional facilities and detention centers must focus on providing detainees with education programs and job training. The Task Force has incorporated into its recommendations these and other suggestions that were presented at the public hearings.

The Task Force would like to thank Senator Ronald Rice for his leadership in recognizing the growing problem of gangs in New Jersey and for sponsoring the legislation that created this Task Force. Through participation in the Task Force, everyone involved has gained valuable insights into the necessary elements of a comprehensive response to gangs, including intelligence-led law enforcement, prevention and intervention, and re-entry and re-integration. The legislative recognition of the seriousness of the gang problem has translated into a renewed commitment by the lead State agencies, including Law and Public Safety, Corrections, and Labor, to work collaboratively in marshalling the State’s resources for effective anti-gang efforts. ■

Gangs pose a significant public safety problem to New Jersey communities. According to the most recent New Jersey State Police survey,¹ 148 distinct gangs operate in the State and gang membership has more than doubled from 7,500 members in 2001 to 17,000 in 2004. In 2005, at least twenty percent of all homicides in New Jersey’s largest cities were gang-related.

Overview of the Gang Problem In New Jersey

Gangs pose a significant public safety problem to New Jersey communities. According to the most recent New Jersey State Police survey,¹ 148 distinct gangs operate in the State and gang membership has more than doubled from 7,500 members in 2001 to 17,000 in 2004. Almost every major notorious gang—Bloods, Crips, Latin Kings, Netas, MS-13—is operating in the State. As these gangs consolidate power, violent outbursts among rival gangs have exploded across the State. In 2005, at least twenty percent of all homicides in New Jersey’s largest cities were gang-related. Gangs, however, are not just an urban phenomenon. Rural and suburban communities across the State have reported gang activities within their jurisdiction. All twenty-one counties in the State have reported a gang presence.

Gang members come from every racial and ethnic background. While ninety percent of all gang members are male, females comprise a significant portion of the membership in certain gangs. Gang members engage in a broad range of criminal activity, from defacement of property to narcotics distribution to robbery to homicide. These crimes occur in residences, businesses, parks, playgrounds, schools, and cars. More than half of all gang members are between the ages of fifteen and twenty-four, but there are more than 2,300 gang members below the age of fifteen. Almost all gangs actively recruit new members.² ■

Working Group Reports

To best address the problem of gangs and gang-related activities, the Task Force formed three working groups that focused, respectively, on 1) intelligence gathering and analysis, law enforcement, and prosecution; 2) prevention and intervention; and 3) re-entry and re-integration into society. Each working group sought to define the nature of the specific problem it was addressing and then to develop a comprehensive set of recommendations.

I. Intelligence, Law Enforcement, And Prosecution

A. Nature of the Problem

New Jersey is presently unable to quantify with accuracy the scope of gang crime within the State. Nearly seventy-five percent of all municipalities within the State do not have a system in place to classify or track gang-related crimes.³ Of those that do track such crimes, more than half do not have a computerized system, and over forty percent do not have a mandatory reporting requirement. Moreover, no uniform criteria guide the municipalities in classifying crimes as “gang-related.” Therefore, New Jersey lacks a reliable way of identifying the types and frequency of crimes that gang members commit and must rely instead on periodic statewide surveys that instead measure the respondents’ perception of gang-related activity.⁴

Also, the various agencies and entities that come into contact with gangs lack coordination and standardized lines of communication. For any given gang-related activity, each of the following may have contact with or information concerning the gang: 1) municipal police; 2) County Prosecutor’s Office; 3) State Police; 4) School Resource Officers; 5) County Corrections; 6) teachers/educational officials; 7) parole officers;

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8) federal agencies; 9) State Corrections; 10) Juvenile Justice Commission; 11) County Sheriff's Office; 12) juvenile detention centers; 13) community groups; and 14) business owners. Existing relationships and dialogues among these agencies would be strengthened by a statewide system that would allow these agencies and entities to share intelligence and to coordinate strategy.

Each gang has a specific culture, hierarchy, and pattern of criminal activity. Each level of law enforcement must have personnel familiar with identifying signs, symbols, tattoos, style of dress, hand signs, and other indicia of association. These law enforcement personnel must be familiar with gang investigation techniques as well as special problems connected with gang prosecutions, such as witness intimidation and the use of drug proceeds to fund bail applications. Law enforcement efforts must target not only those groups or persons who are most easily arrested, but, more importantly, those who, because of position or record, are most dangerous.

Finally, even when gang leaders are incarcerated, they continue to direct gang activity on the outside. Moreover, gang-related violence is a growing problem in correctional institutions, and these facilities serve as a recruitment ground for new members.

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B. Recommendations

First, the State should implement a uniform, mandatory Statewide system of classifying and tracking gang-related crimes. This system should, at a minimum, require the arresting officer to report: 1) the criteria used to identify gang membership; 2) gang affiliation; and 3) criminal activity linked to the gang.

Second, all agencies that collect gang-related data should transmit it to a centralized location, such as the State Police's Regional Operations Intelligence Center ("ROIC"). The ROIC can then evaluate, analyze, and disseminate the information to law enforcement agencies that have need of it. Additionally, using the information collected, the ROIC can undertake a comprehensive assessment of gang activity within the State.

Third, the State should provide access to, and all law enforcement agencies should participate in, the State's comprehensive gang-intelligence information database and management system. The New Jersey Statewide Intelligence Management System ("SIMS") is a comprehensive database that stores information on all types of organized criminal activity. Participating law enforcement agencies are able to share information simultaneously and to search the database for crimes or suspects that bear similarities to those they are currently investigating. SIMS can also link a suspect to all his known associates and to all the criminal cases in which he has been involved. Given this investigative potential of the database and its information-sharing capabilities, all law enforcement agencies should participate in SIMS. The State should make provision for municipalities that do not have the technical capability or manpower to enable them to utilize SIMS. Furthermore, in light of its significant contributions to the State's intelligence on gang activity, the Department of Corrections should evaluate those legal and operational obstacles to its

participation in SIMS, and work to resolve those obstacles. Similarly, juvenile intelligence systems should be incorporated into the gang intelligence network to the extent allowed by law.

Fourth, law enforcement agencies must work in a cooperative manner and have personnel who are properly trained and experienced in investigating, arresting, and prosecuting gang members. Operation Cease Fire (“OCF”)⁵ is a successful intelligence-led strategy that the State has implemented to combat gangs and violence. Each OCF team consists of one Deputy Attorney General, two criminal investigators; one Assistant Prosecutor and two criminal investigators from the County Prosecutor’s Office; two police officers; and one intelligence analyst and two criminal investigators from the State Police. Additionally, the Division of Criminal Justice has assigned two analysts to provide statewide assistance to the different OCF teams. The OCF team undergoes extensive training in the conduct of gang-related investigations. Then, using intelligence data and statistical analysis, the OCF team targets a municipality’s “hot zone,” i.e., the geographic area in a given community where there is the greatest concentration of gang-related activity, such as homicides, shootings, aggravated assaults, and drug trafficking. The OCF team then seeks to make impact arrests of gang leaders and the most violent gang members. The OCF team also utilizes the intelligence potential inherent in confiscated items, such cell phones, laptops, Blackberrys, and personal digital assistants. The State should expand OCF and use it as a model for other cooperative, intelligence-led policing efforts that do not merely react to criminal activity, but rather target it.

Fifth, county prosecutors should designate specially trained and experienced prosecutors who are familiar with the manner in which gangs operate and who can handle gang-related prosecutions from start to finish. With their knowledge base and experience, these specialized prosecutors will be in the best position to consider appropriate charges, assess appropriate bail, conduct investigations to ascertain whether gang members are attempting to use drug proceeds for bail, and promote the cooperation of witnesses. These prosecutors will also be better equipped to enter intelligence information in appropriate databases and to implement most effectively intelligence data searches.

Sixth, the State should regionalize and expand its witness protection program to ensure that assistance is accessible to all witnesses who face harassment and/or intimidation. In addition to relocation programs, the State should explore the advisability and feasibility of providing safe houses.

Seventh, the Legislature should increase the penalties for tampering with witnesses, N.J.S.A. 2C:28-5. The offense should be upgraded to a crime of the first-degree if the actor employs force or threat of force, and otherwise to a second-degree offense.

Eighth, the Department of Corrections (“DOC”) is in a unique position to help dismantle the most violent and organized gangs in the State. The DOC should be given the resources to enhance its intelligence collection, storage, and analysis capabilities, including a full-time gang intelligence investigator in every facility. That investigator would report

directly to the DOC Intelligence Section and be responsible for identifying new gang members, monitoring telephone calls, and screening mail. By increasing its efforts in these areas, the DOC will not only be able to prevent gang-related crime within its own institutions, but will also be able to help outside law enforcement agencies suppress gang activity. In light of the fact that sixty percent of all gang members are under eighteen years of age, similar capabilities should be supported within the Juvenile Justice Commission.

Ninth, the Task Force recommends that the Attorney General continues to utilize the Division of Criminal Justice and the State Police as the State's lead law enforcement agencies against gang violence. Experience has shown that these divisions, when given sufficient resources, will successfully investigate and prosecute statewide gang prosecutions. Accordingly, the Task Force, through this Working Group, does not recommend that the Attorney General create an Office of Gang Land Security in the Department of Law and Public Safety. ■

II. Prevention and Intervention

A. Nature of the Problem

At the public hearing in Newark on January 11, 2006, James Williams, the program developer for the City of East Orange, aptly described the nature of the problem:

Why do kids join gangs? There's different reasons for different kids. Some are drawn by parties, girls, or drugs. Some are looking for a sense of respect and power. Some find...caring and attention in gangs. It becomes almost a family to them. Some join to make money to help out at home or to have nice clothes. Some join for self protection because they are picked on by other gangs. Some grow up in neighborhoods where it's almost a way of life. Most have had real problems at home that make[] them prefer the streets.

As Andre Thomas of the Isles Career Center Youth Build Program reported at the Trenton public hearing, youth "join gangs because it's the path of least resistance." Given the many social, economic, and cultural forces that push young persons in the direction of gangs, we cannot reasonably expect to address the gang problem with a "one size fits all" preventive measure; the problem is likely to require a holistic approach. There is a general consensus that in order to protect children from gang influence, we need to provide them with constructive alternatives.

However, there are practical problems associated with this proposition. First, there has been a problem with educating parents and at-risk youth about the positive alternatives available to them. As Samuel Frisby, the Director of Recreation in Trenton, stated at one public hearing: "If you're hungry and there's a sandwich in the refrigerator and you don't know the sandwich is there, it doesn't do you any good." He went on to explain:

[W]e have chess programs, we have mentoring programs, martial arts programs, we've created a wrestling program in the city, we have indoor flag football, we have indoor soccer programs, we have basketball

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programs, we have girls' developmental basketball programs, and when we start to mention the fifty some odd programs that we have all over the city, people say, 'I didn't know our kids could do that.'

Nora Milligan, a young adult who spoke at the Camden public hearing, echoed this sentiment when she said: "I try to keep on top of everything, but the programs that I've heard different people say that's going on, I don't know about it. I think [there] has to be some kind of way that we in the community should [] know." Additionally, even when parents and children do know about programs, the children have no means of transportation available to enable participation. While some programs are within walking distance, the programs run through the evening, and parents are afraid to have their children walk home in the dark. In some cities, programs are concentrated in certain wards, and children in other wards are unable to attend because of a lack of public or other transportation.

There is also a general consensus that both at-risk youth and those already in gangs need more than recreational programs, they need life skills that will help them to obtain and keep a meaningful job. As Joseph Chatman, the founder of the Golden Youth Program, noted at the Trenton public hearing, many young people in gangs want to get out but they simply do not possess the necessary job skills. On a similar theme, Judy Bennett of the Clinton Weed and Seed noted at the Newark public hearing that we need "training programs that lead to careers that will sustain basic survival needs, not McDonald's. We need to give vocational training" to those not going on to college.

Further, as Samuel Frisby, the Director of Recreation for Trenton, warned at a public hearing: "Don't just put more money into more programs. You do a needs assessment and [] gap analysis." Otherwise, the result is a glut of duplicative or ineffective programs. The United States Surgeon General's 2001 report on youth violence,⁶ which addressed the issue of gangs, noted that rigorous evaluation of programs is critical. While hundreds of prevention programs are being used in schools and communities throughout the country, little is known about most of them. At the time this report was prepared, nearly half of the most thoroughly evaluated strategies for preventing [youth] violence had been shown to be ineffective—and a few were known to harm participants. ...Many programs are ineffective not because their strategy is misguided, but because the quality of implementation is poor.

Schools, for their part, must take steps to identify, prevent, and remediate gang-related activity and involvement. Instead of being a safe haven, schools are often the scene of gang violence. Currently, school officials are not required by law to report to police information concerning suspected gang activity. Further, school personnel are not trained to recognize indicators of gang involvement. School curricula, especially for elementary grades, often do not contain an anti-gang component.

Parents are the front line of prevention. As Abdul Muhammad of the New Jersey Anti-Violence Coalition noted at the Newark hearing, however, "parents are crying out for help." Ed Gittens of the Union Industrial

Home for Children echoed this sentiment at the Trenton hearing when he noted that parenting classes and efforts that encourage fathers to be involved with their children are needed to help prevent youth from joining gangs.

B. Recommendations

First, each municipality and county should create a directory of resources available to parents and at-risk youth. Additionally, they must disseminate the information widely. To the extent such resources already exist at the municipal and county level, those resources should be enhanced and more widely distributed. Web sites, public access television stations, brochures available at schools and faith-based organizations, videos, posters, messages on movie theater screens, and community meetings are all viable options.

Second, local law enforcement authorities, in collaboration with other community and youth services organizations, should provide gang recognition training to parents, educators, and community activists. Public misperceptions about gangs can lead to inappropriate or misguided policies that result in inefficient or counterproductive programs. Similarly, ignorance about gang cultures and norms can allow gangs to take root in schools and neighborhoods. At the Camden public hearing, both a citizen who attended a “Citizens Academy” course on gang identification and the person from the Camden County Prosecutor’s Office who gave the course reported that it was an “outstanding” means of educating the public. Other localities should determine if this or other similar programs are sufficient to meet their communities’ informational needs, and can look to agencies, counties, and municipalities with existing gang identification, intervention, and prevention training curriculum, such as Camden and the Juvenile Justice Commission, for assistance and materials.

Third, with over 2,300 gang members below the age of fifteen, elementary and middle schools should incorporate gang prevention into existing violence prevention skills. Existing State-run programs that should be expanded include the Phoenix Curriculum, the Gang Awareness and Prevention Program (“GAPP”),⁷ and the Gang Resistance Education and Training (“GREAT”).⁸ In GAPP, a currently-incarcerated gang member speaks to students about the negative consequences of gang involvement and the realities of gang membership. GREAT is a more systematic program that law enforcement officers teach to middle and elementary school students in a series of thirteen forty-five minute sessions. GREAT’s lessons include the relationship between gangs and drugs; facts and fiction about gangs and violence; a decision-making model; refusal-skills practice; and conflict resolution. Currently, over two hundred law enforcement personnel in New Jersey are certified to teach the GREAT curriculum. More are needed, and the State should provide training and encourage law enforcement officers to get certification and participate in the program.

Fourth, the State should revise the Uniform Memorandum of Agreement Between Education and Law Enforcement Officials to

require the reciprocal sharing of information regarding any suspected or actual gang activity involving students.

Fifth, educators should take steps that limit the ability of gangs to infiltrate schools and that dissuade students from joining gangs. Preventive measures that schools in the southern part of the State have implemented include:

- uniforms in Camden City schools
- a Safe Corridor Program to ensure the safety of students as they walk to and from school
- secured entrances
- metal detectors
- cameras
- better communication devices for security officers
- a component of the curriculum focused on how to resist and prevent bullying
- implementation of a national program called ACT-SO. The acronym means “Academic, Cultural, Technological, Scientific Olympics.” Camden High School students can compete state wide and nationally in twenty five categories of the arts, sciences, humanities, and performing arts.

Each school district should assess whether these or other preventive measures are warranted.

Sixth, local police departments, school officials, social service providers, and faith-based organizations should establish partnerships to enable identification of at-risk youth. Where possible, these partnerships should build upon and integrate with existing county-level relationships.

Seventh, both the State as a whole and individual municipalities must establish and/or expand programs for at-risk youth that provide academic assistance, recreational and cultural opportunities, job training, and life-skill development. Moreover, they should provide programs that train adults in effective parenting techniques and that strengthen the family unit. However, at this stage, in the absence of localized needs assessments, gap analyses, and an evaluation of which programs actually work, it would not be prudent to make specific recommendations. ■

III. Re-entry And Re-integration Into Society

A. Nature of the Problem

In its December 2003 report,⁹ the New Jersey Re-Entry Roundtable aptly summed up the problems that inmates face upon release:

With disproportionately high rates of addiction, mental illness, and other serious health problems, as well as, on average, limited education and work experience, returning prisoners must navigate a range of statutory and regulatory restrictions affecting their ability to get and keep employment, find stable housing, stay healthy, and reintegrate into their families and communities. At present, most receive little or no preparation for the transition or for community living, and little to no support or assistance after they have been released. Following a growing trend over the past ten years, one third of those released last year had no parole supervision.

Incarcerated gang members face the additional problem of having to return to neighborhoods where their fellow gang members expect them to rejoin the gang and its illicit activities. What follows is a more detailed analysis of the problems that re-entry poses for former gang members and that both incarcerated gang members and the community face.

An increasing number of gang members are “maxing out” their prison sentences. This means that they are serving their full term in prison and are being released without parole supervision. Prisoners “max out” either because they were denied parole as a result of their in-prison behavior or because they chose to serve out their sentence to avoid parole supervision. Whatever the reason, the result is the same: prisoners who need transitional support and supervision are released without either.

Released prisoners face a panoply of “collateral sanctions” that inhibit their reintegration into society. These legal and regulatory restrictions limit the employment opportunities of former prisoners by barring them from certain jobs, such as home health care and public employment; exclude them from public benefits, such as housing assistance and food stamps; limit access to educational loans and grants; restrict voting rights and jury service; and curtail driving privileges. Charles Motley, a part of the Irvington Cease Fire team, described at the Newark public hearing how such blanket and sometimes life-long restrictions can affect an individual’s efforts to turn his life around:

The job situation, re-entry, I know there’s a long list of things when you have a drug jacket that you cannot do. They will not allow you to do it. We just had a young man in Plainfield that lost his job [] working for the Board of Education in Plainfield...And they took inventory of the employees in Plainfield and found out he had a drug jacket and they fired him; yet he had been clean for ten years, he was an upstanding citizen in the community...and it’s not fair. If he [did] his time and paid for everything that he [did], he’s supposed to be clean, he’s supposed to be able.

Even where there is no statutory or regulatory bar to employment, released inmates often find that their record is a disqualifying stigma. As Andrew Bobbit, a youth worker, noted at the Trenton public hearing:

“We have guys, talking about a police record, where they might have committed a crime in 1981 and now, when they try to apply for a job, they still can’t get the job because they have that bad record.”

Another obstacle to inmates’ re-integration into society is lack of education. Currently, the State does not mandate that prisoners who are over twenty years old take remedial classes or earn a G.E.D., despite the fact that the average prisoner tests at a fifth-grade reading level. Further, most inmates have few, if any, marketable job skills. While the prison system does have a few pre-vocational and vocational programs in place, these programs are underfunded.

Additionally, inmates have disproportionately high rates of substance abuse and mental illness, and both of these factors negatively affect re-entry success. However, the Department of Corrections currently does not have sufficient resources to perform a comprehensive individualized

needs assessment of prisoners upon intake. Similarly, the Department's resources do not allow for crafting customized rehabilitation plans for prisoners either while they are incarcerated or as they are released back into society.

B. Recommendations

First, to address the growing problem of inmates with gang affiliations choosing to serve out their sentences and consequently avoid any post-release parole supervision, the Legislature should mandate that all sentences include a period of community supervision. Such supervision could direct released offenders into appropriate living and employment situations and away from prior gang contacts and further gang involvement.

Second, Senior Parole Officers should be specifically trained to supervise gang members. These specialized Officers should have smaller than average case loads so that they can give more attention to the unique re-integration and peer pressure problems that gang members face.

Third, the Legislature should re-evaluate collateral sanctions and eliminate those that inhibit inmates' re-integration into society without promoting public safety. The Legislature should also consider establishing reasonable time limits for occupational bars and/or eliminating completely those employment bars that are unrelated to the basis for conviction. Finally, federal law permits states to opt out of the benefits provision that bars drug offenders from receiving Temporary Assistance to Needy Families, General Assistance, or Food Stamps. The State Legislature should evaluate whether New Jersey should opt out of this ban.

Fourth, the State should provide inmates of any age with pre-secondary and secondary educational opportunities. The State should also consider whether to make available to inmates post-secondary education. In New York, a consortium of universities created a degree-granting college program at the Bedford Hills Correctional Facility. This program, which cost the State very little, was available not only to inmates, but also to correctional personnel.

Fifth, the Department of Corrections, in conjunction with the Department of Labor, should provide vocational assessment as well as mandatory vocational training and/or apprenticeship for all inmates. The Juvenile Justice Commission should continue to offer and to expand the vocational training opportunities for young people in its care and seek similar cooperation with the Department of Labor. The State also should promote and expand the Department of Labor and Workforce Development's One Stop Career Centers ("OSCC"). Each of the 29 OSCC in the State provides not only employment training services and connections to employers, but also a link to resources within the State for social services, health services, and housing.¹⁰ Further, as Roman Mitchell of Rutgers University noted at the Newark public hearing, the State needs to explore innovative ideas, such as having job forums in prisons and encouraging communities to create jobs for released inmates.

Sixth, effective re-entry planning begins at intake into the adult and juvenile facilities. The Department of Corrections should perform a standardized, comprehensive risk/needs assessment of every inmate

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upon entry into prison. The Department of Corrections should employ an objective assessment tool, such as the Level of Service Inventory-Revised (“LSI-R”). The LSI-R results should inform the prison’s placement, classification, and resource allocation decisions. Once the prison identifies a gang member’s needs, the prison should develop and implement an individualized rehabilitative plan. For the fifty to eighty percent of inmates who have substance abuse problems, this plan should include participation in a therapeutic drug treatment program certified by Division of Addiction Services. Finally, the inmate should undergo a second risk/needs assessment as part of the parole process and then again a third assessment as a follow-up after parole release.

Seventh, the Department of Corrections should provide for individualized discharge planning. Every gang member leaving State custody should have in place a realistic plan to meet his housing, employment, education, health, and mental health needs.

Eighth, JJC should consider the feasibility of providing Transitional Living Resources to allow for the gradual release of at-risk juvenile offenders into the community. Transitional facilities would provide a structured and supervised transition and would ensure that every young person would receive any needed referrals for community resources, medication management, and family counseling.”

Ninth, the Legislature should allocate sufficient resources to increase the number of Day Reporting Centers. These Centers, which are open seven days a week from early morning to late at night, are a way to monitor parolees daily while providing needed educational and life-skills training.

Tenth, municipalities should apply for and develop community supervision programs, such as Project Safe Neighborhoods (“PSN”). One component of PSN is mentor-based re-entry assistance that provides transitional housing, job placement aid, and substance abuse treatment.¹¹ Another component involves a partnership in parole supervision between police and parole officers. This has not only proven to be an effective way to supervise juvenile gang members who have been involved with guns and drugs, but also to apprehend parole violators.

Eleventh, parole officers should have available a continuum of sanctions for parole violators. These sanctions should include not only re-incarceration, but also mandatory drug treatment where there is evidence of continued drug abuse, halfway programs, electronic monitoring, Day Reporting Centers, and more intensive parole supervision. ■

Conclusion

Both that the Working Group on Prevention and the Working Group on Re-Entry both suggested that the Governor establish an advisory council on gangs. Since they formulated their recommendations, however, the Governor has mobilized the executive branch of State government to address gangs and gang violence across the continuum of enforcement, prevention, and re-entry. Inspired by the spirit of the legislation that created the Gangland Security Task Force, the Governor has created a cabinet-level task force on gangs and asked the Attorney General to direct the efforts to assess, develop, and promote effective responses to gangs at the local, county, and state level. saw the need for an advisory council that reported directly to the Governor, the Task Force urges the Governor to establish a single Council on Gangs that performs all the functions that the two Working Groups outlined. The Governor's task force has adopted a collaborative approach that draws on the expertise of State and local anti-gang. Finally, the Task Force considered whether to recommend the establishment of an Office of Gang Land Security in the Department of Law and Public Safety. However, in light of the recommendations to create an Advisory Council on Gangs, to utilize intelligence-led policing techniques statewide specifically to address gangs and gang-related criminal activity, and in light of the proven success of the Operation Cease Fire program that the Division of Criminal Justice is implementing in collaboration with the State Police and local and county entities, the Task Force does not recommend the creation of an Office of Gang Land Security in the Department of Law and Public Safety. experts from the academic, faith-based, and law enforcement communities to assist in the development of a comprehensive response to gangs and gang violence, as well as the assessment, and possible implementation, of the recommendations of the Gangland Security Task Force. ■

End Notes

1. New Jersey Dept. of Law and Pub. Safety, Div. Of State Police, Gangs in New Jersey: Municipal Law Enforcement Response to 2004 & 2001 NJSP Gang Surveys(2004).
2. Ibid.
3. Facts in this section are from the New Jersey State Police 2004 Survey cited in note one, supra.
4. P.L.2005, c. 332, which took effect on August 1, 2006, requires law enforcement officers who respond to an “offense involving criminal street gang activity” to complete a gang-related incident offense report. The law then requires that report to be forwarded to the appropriate county bureau of identification and to the Superintendent of the State Police.
5. The Director of the Division of Criminal Justice heads this cooperative law enforcement initiative that began in the summer of 2006.
6. U.S. Public Health Service, Youth Violence: A Report of the Surgeon General(Dec. 2001).
7. The Web site www.njslcm.org/magart_0606_p72 contains further information on GAPP.
8. The Web site www.great-online.org/corecurriculum contains further information on GREAT.
9. In drafting this section of the report, the Workgroup on Re-Entry relied heavily on the facts and recommendations in the New Jersey Re-Entry Roundtable’s December 2003 report. See New Jersey Re-Entry Roundtable, Coming Home for Good: Meeting the Challenge of Prisoner Re-Entry in New Jersey (Final Rpt. 2003).
10. NGA Center for Best Practices, Issue Brief: Prisoner Re-Entry–New Jersey (2004).
11. U.S. Dept. of Justice Fact Sheet, Dept. of Justice Initiative to Combat Gangs (Feb. 15, 2006).

