

## **South County Youth Task Force: Champions for Empowering our Youth**

### **Our Vision:**

We envision a community that is safe and free of gang violence, and youth who have strong connections to families, schools, and neighborhoods.

### **Our Mission:**

We are committed to engaging disconnected youth and their families to social, recreational, educational and support programs which empower and enhance their quality of life. Together we envision a community that is safe and youth who have strong connections to families, schools, and neighborhoods.

### **Our Goal:**

Our goal is to reach youth where they are and provide safe and healthy opportunities for support, recreation and engagement in the community. In short, to help youth thrive!

### **Our Five Guiding Principles:**

1. We value our youth, are committed to facilitating personal transformations and will celebrate their success.
2. We have high expectations, and will hold our youth and ourselves accountable.
3. We will address this challenge with a collaborative response.
4. We will implement family based solutions.
5. We are committed to supporting the schools' role in developing our youth and their community.

### **Our Model:**

The model and structure of the South County Youth Task Force (SCYTF) is based on the long established and successful model of the San Jose Mayor's Gang Prevention Task Force and elements of the Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) Comprehensive Gang Model. The SCYTF is organized into teams, the Policy Team and the Technical Team, and is comprised of city, county, local law enforcement, schools, community-based organizations, faith based organizations, and other stakeholders. The Policy Team provides leadership and policy direction, evaluates emerging trends, evaluates, monitors and supports the Technical Team. The Technical Team carries out the direction set by the Policy Team.

### **Our Partners and Strategies:**

Strategies under the South County Youth Task Force umbrella include collaborations for school-based preventions and interventions, in partnership with the Gilroy and Morgan Hill Unified School Districts, City of Morgan Hill and City of Gilroy, for after school and evening pro-social activities. Additionally, there are innovative partnerships with Santa Clara County Probation

Department and many community-based organizations (CBOs) such as Community Solutions, The Youth Alliance and New Hope for Youth. These agencies offer outreach, linkage and connection and intensive programming under the **South County REACH project**: Reaching Youth so they are Resilient, Empowered, Active, Connected to Resources, and Healthy. The new **One Neighborhood Empowered Project (ONE)** continues the evidence-based models and strategies at a personal, school, and community level, while offering additional services to build more sound relationships with disengaged youth and their families, including additional evening pro-social activities with mentors and law enforcement agencies, Late Night Gyms and youth stipend internships to provide these youth with positive options.

Santa Clara County agency representatives currently participating in SCYTF efforts are from the Santa Clara County Juvenile Court, District Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, the Juvenile Justice Commission, Public Health Department and the Re-Entry Center. Funding comes from the City of Morgan Hill, City of Gilroy, Morgan Hill Unified School District, Gilroy Unified School District, the Gilroy Youth Task Force, the Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors and the Board of State and Community Corrections' CalGRIP.

For more information on how to get involved with SCYTF, contact SCYTF Coordinator, Bernice Aguilera at [Bernice.aguilera@ci.gilroy.ca.us](mailto:Bernice.aguilera@ci.gilroy.ca.us) or (408) 846-0337.