

Community Goal # 8

GOAL STATEMENT: Spartanburg will have increased community safety by implementing strategies and programs that impact juvenile cases and commitments, reduce traffic accidents, reduce adult crime and improve re-entry efforts.

Leadership Team

Ms. Joyce Lipscomb, City of Spartanburg Public Safety (Chair)

Mr. Murray Glenn, Spartanburg County Solicitor's Office (Co-Chair)

Mr. Curt McPhail, Mary Black Foundation (Facilitator)

Membership & Diversity

The Taskforce Leadership Team looked at the indicators for the goal and developed a list of potential team members. They took into account expertise, issues, and availability before inviting members. This analysis was successful in the fact that the meetings were well attended and the participants well informed about the issues and the potential solutions. The participants consisted of Spartanburg Citizens from state and local government, non-profit organizations and community volunteers. There were a total of 23 participants involved with Taskforce activities.

Approach & Methodology

The facilitation plan was developed as follows:

- **Meeting one** – Key experts would briefly present to the group on each of the four indicators, and the group would discuss each one thoroughly. After the discussion the group would prioritize the indicators.
- **Meeting two** – Focus one of the prioritized indicators. This meeting would focus on the issues, strategies, and developing a goal for the future.
- **Meeting three** – Focus on the second of the prioritized indicators. This meeting would focus on the issues, strategies, and developing a goal for the future.
- **Meeting four** - Focus on the remaining indicators. This meeting would focus on the issues, strategies, and developing a goal for the future.

The first three meetings were held prior to the group receiving data from Clemson. However, as a testament to the process and participants, the suggested strategies that were developed by the group closely mirrored the best practices developed by Clemson. Some of the most valuable lessons that were reiterated through this process were:

- This community is forthcoming with innovative ideas to solve problems.
- There is a desire for this planning process to be more. This community wants to see their ideas implemented.
- Issues of safety are much larger than crime.

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Some results from the meetings were the following:

Meeting one was held on June 22, 2005. The presenters for the Indicator data was the following:

1. **Adult Victimization Crime Rate** – Colonel Jennifer Kindall, Spartanburg Public Safety Department.
2. **Juvenile Cases and Commitments** – Mary Jane Sanders, Director of Spartanburg County Department of Juvenile Justice
3. **Rate of Commitments of S.C. Department of Corrections** – Murray Glenn, Community Liaison, of the Seventh Circuit Solicitor’s Office
4. **Traffic Safety** – Mike Garrett, Spartanburg County Engineering and Bobby Steading of City of Spartanburg Traffic Engineering.

Prioritization Process

The group prioritized these four indicators by unanimously deciding to develop strategies for the top two indicators, which were:

- **Juvenile Cases and Commitments**
- **Traffic Safety**

Juvenile Cases and Commitments

Meeting two was held on July 13, 2005. Juvenile cases and commitments were discussed. The information provided, which was used for discussion, included data from the Department of Juvenile Justice. We were given data on Department of Juvenile Justice numbers and the decisions made on cases for July 1, 1999 to June 30, 2004. There has been a steady decrease in the number of cases. Also, information was provided on the number of juveniles taken into custody in the City of Spartanburg during 2004.

The strategies identified were the following:

- Strategy 1:** To provide parenting classes for the parents of juveniles.
- Strategy 2:** Continue the Arbitration and Pre-Trial Intervention programs and work to secure more volunteers.
- Strategy 3:** Improve youth sport programs and the involvement of juveniles in the programs.
- Strategy 4:** Work on “Restorative Justice” programs like a “Victim Impact Program”.

Traffic Safety

Meeting three was held on July 14, 2005. At this meeting, additional data was provided from staff from the South Carolina Department of Transportation, Spartanburg County Sheriff’s Office regarding the traffic unit, and Spartanburg Public Safety Department Traffic Unit.

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A map and data was provided for the City of Spartanburg regarding the high crash areas in the City for collisions as well as the types of collisions occurring during the first half of 2005. Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office provided data on the types of tickets written by the traffic unit during the first half of 2005.

The strategies identified were the following:

- Strategy 1:** To create a system to better track data for accidents and their locations.
- Strategy 2:** State, County, and City Government can learn from the data and make changes accordingly.
- Strategy 3:** Develop better communication between State, County, and City Government officials.
- Strategy 4:** Improve the Development Standards to require impact fees to be paid by developers. This would require traffic studies and require developers to pay for improvements based on the studies.
- Strategy 5:** Explore the use of traffic calming devices. This may include re-striping, bulb outs, sidewalks, or road diets.
- Strategy 6:** Provide greater education for younger and older drivers.

Meeting four was held on August 10, 2005. The two remaining strategies were discussed, which were Rate of Commitments of S.C. Department of Corrections and Adult Victimization Crime Rate.

Strategies for Juvenile Cases and Commitments

GOAL: Reduce the number juvenile cases and commitments by developing stronger partnerships and programs.

Juveniles	Current 2003	2010 Goal	2020 Goal
Cases	1161	917 (21% Decrease)	790 (32% Decrease)
Commitments	139	110 (21% Decrease)	95 (32% Decrease)

Implementation timeline for all strategies is 2006.

Strategy 1: To provide parenting classes for the parents of juveniles

Recommended Objectives

- Identify parenting curriculum specific to the population.
- Work with the Solicitor to determine whether parents can be ordered to complete parenting classes.
- Identify potential funding source for instructors and implementation.
- Utilize parenting as a part of TCAP.
- Identify potential funding sources for instructors and implementation.

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Champion: A non-profit organization or the faith-community

Partners: Solicitor's Office, Department of Juvenile Justice, Faith-Community

Strategy 2: Continue the Arbitration and Pre-Trial Intervention programs and work to secure more volunteers

Recommended Objectives

1. Continue to identify opportunities for volunteers.
2. Utilize the Arbitration and Pre-Trial Intervention programs as resources for TCAP and Alternatives to Detention.

Champion: Solicitor's Office

Partners: Faith Community; Community Volunteers

Strategy 3: Improve youth sport programs and the involvement of juveniles in the programs

Recommended Objectives

1. Solicit comments from all youth (including youth involved with the Department of Juvenile Justice) to determine types of sports programs they would be interested in attending. (i.e. Night Basketball)
2. Involve Department of Juvenile Justice staff in the planning activities to ensure that juveniles attend events
3. Utilize youth sports as a program for TCAP.

Champion: Spartanburg County Parks and Recreation and City Parks and Recreation.

Partners: Law Enforcement; Faith Community; Community Volunteers; Department of Juvenile Justice Staff

Strategy 4: Work on Restorative Justice programs like a "Victim Impact Program"

Recommended Objectives

1. Work with local victim advocates to develop a "Victim Impact Program" to use with juveniles.

Champions: Department of Juvenile Justice and Victim Advocates

Partners: Community Volunteers

Strategies for Traffic Incidents

GOAL: Reduce the number of fatal collisions and persons killed in Spartanburg County by improving roads and improving driving skills.

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Traffic Incidents	Current 2003	2010 Goal	2020 Goal
Fatal Collisions	51	47 (8.5% Decrease)	44 (13% Decrease)
Persons Killed	55	50 (8.5% Decrease)	48 (13% Decrease)

Implementation timeline for all strategies is 2006.

Strategy 1: To create a system to better track data for accidents and their locations.

Recommended Objectives

- Develop a team of composed of personnel for Highway Patrol, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, and City of Spartanburg Public Safety Department to determine what additional information is needed in tracking accidents.
- Determine funding sources for the software or hardware needed.

Champions: Highway Patrol, Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office, and City of Spartanburg Public Safety Department

Partners: Community funding sources.

Strategy 2: State, County, and City Government can learn from the data and make changes accordingly.

Recommended Objectives

- Develop better communication between State, County, and City Government officials to discuss results from data collection.
- Utilize information from data collection for enforcement and engineering opportunities.

Champions: State, County, and City Engineering and Law Enforcement Officials.

Partners: Interested Community Volunteers.

Strategy 3: Improve the Development Standards to require impact fees be paid by developers. This would require traffic studies and require developers to pay for improvements based on the studies.

Recommended Objectives

- Study current systems and studies of systems like ours to determine what changes should be made.

Strategy 4: Explore the use of traffic calming devices. This may include re-stripping, bulb outs, sidewalks, or road diets.

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Recommended Objectives

- State, County, and City officials continue to investigate the use of such devices.

Champions: State, County, and City officials.

Partners: Community volunteers.

Strategy 6: Provide education for younger and older drivers.

Recommended Objectives

- Provide education on the dangers of cell phone use.
- Utilize law enforcement to provide classes for youth and the 55 Alive program for older drivers.
- Seek funding sources to provide programs.

Champions: State, County, and City Law Enforcement; Schools; and Senior Citizen Centers.

Partners: Insurance companies and schools.

CONCLUSIONS

While we focused on Juvenile issues and traffic, several other ideas or suggestions arose during the project.

Spartanburg County has a high recidivism rate among convicted criminals due to the lack of a program to re-orient the criminal to society once they have been released from prison. The committee discovered the need for halfway houses and vocational training programs that teach basic life skills.

Another strategy to deter recidivism is to have some school children to visit the county jail for a tour when appropriate. The ideal time for the trip is the sixth and/or seventh grade years. The experience will help the students see there are consequences to every action. They will see jail as a place they do not want to revisit in the future.

The community needs to continue to enhance, support, and embrace the concept of Community-Oriented Policing. The idea flourishes in communities where "news-making crimes" have recently occurred. The idea and the principles need to be practiced in areas across the county during good times and bad. The practice can be furthered through safety-oriented environmental design for new development. Communities have been proven to be safer with good lighting, protected sight lines and common sense construction practices. The neighborhood watch programs need to continue to be strengthened.

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TASKFORCE PARTICIPATION

1. Jimmy Bolton South Carolina Department of Transportation
2. Jean Crow Palmetto Conservation
3. A. Stan Davis Spartanburg County Foundation
4. Eric Dillon Spartanburg County Department of Transportation
5. Kathy Dunleavey United Way
6. Jeri Foster Provisions
7. Teresa Foster Spartanburg County Department of Juvenile Justice
8. Mike Garrett Spartanburg County Engineering
9. Murray Glenn Spartanburg County Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office
10. Master Deputy Tony Ivey Spartanburg County Sheriff's Office
11. Colonel Jennifer Kindall Spartanburg Public Safety Department
12. Joyce Lipscomb Spartanburg Public Safety Department
13. Brenda Lyles Citizen
14. Brent Metcalf Spartanburg County Department of Probation, Pardon, and Parole
15. Curt McPhail, Facilitator Mary Black Foundation
16. Sergeant Reggie Miller Spartanburg Public Safety Department
17. Stephanie Monroe Upstate Forever
18. Randy Murphy Citizen
19. Joni Phillips Victim Advocate, Spartanburg Public Safety Department
20. Mary Jane Sanders Spartanburg County Department of Juvenile Justice
21. Valerie Sullivan Seventh Circuit Solicitor's Office
22. Bobby Steading City of Spartanburg Traffic Engineering
23. Ray Trail Spartanburg County Department of Social Services