From: Shaw, Barbara
To: Ocasio, Billy
Subject: FW: Convening to Advance the UNITY Urban Agenda, September 2010 at Prevention Institute
Date: Thursday, August 05, 2010 10:29:33 AM

Here you go. See you later…

From: Rachel Davis [mailto:rachel@preventioninstitute.org]
Sent: Monday, July 26, 2010 2:58 PM
Cc: Annie Lyles; Xavier Morales
Subject: Convening to Advance the UNITY Urban Agenda, September 2010 at Prevention Institute

Dear UNITY Steering Committee Member,

As a valued member of the UNITY Steering Committee, we are inviting you to participate in an important strategy convening to advance the *UNITY Urban Agenda*. Developed in collaboration with our city partners and endorsed by representatives of 13 large cities, the *Agenda* is a unified call for significant investment in the development, implementation, coordination, and evaluation of effective and sustainable approaches to preventing community and gang violence. City representatives have called for action and together we can make progress. Violence is preventable and the *UNITY Urban Agenda* details what it will take to significantly reduce violence in this country. It is a key piece of our UNITY Initiative (See UNITY Update below). Momentum for prevention is growing around the country, and we can build on that momentum.

Please attend

What: Strategy Convening to Advance the *UNITY Urban Agenda*
When: September 8-9, 2010 (kick-off dinner on September 7th and ½ day on the 9th)
Where: Prevention Institute, Oakland, CA
Note: We will cover travel costs associated with attending. Once you have confirmed attendance, we will provide instructions for making arrangements via our travel agent.

Please RSVP by replying to this email before Friday, August 6th.

This advisory meeting will include topical leaders and experts from around the country and representatives from cities in the UNITY City Network. **Together, we will identify opportunities and prioritize action steps to achieve what is called for in the** *UNITY Urban Agenda:*

- **Invest in cities** to implement effective and sustainable approaches to prevent community and gang violence, with attention to city and neighborhood-level violence prevention strategies designed to have the greatest impact, including school-based violence prevention, reducing children's exposure to violence, and street outreach.

- **Support local planning and implementation** through training and capacity building, a national communications campaign, and data, research, and evaluation.

- **Encouraging collaboration** at federal and state levels to support local, urban efforts to prevent violence. This includes creating a mechanism for collaboration in federal and state governments and enhancing public health's capacity to address the ongoing public health crisis of violence.

UNITY Update: While the Steering Committee has not met as a group together recently, we have appreciated the crucial advice and support that Steering Committee members have offered to UNITY* over the course of this initiative. As a result of our work together, UNITY continues to make strides in fulfilling its mission: build support for effective, sustainable efforts to prevent violence *before* it occurs so that urban youth can thrive in environments with supportive relationships and opportunities for success.

- UNITY has developed tools and materials, provided training and technical assistance, and coordinated a national peer network, The UNITY City Network, a growing network of large US cities committed to preventing violence before it occurs.

- The UNITY RoadMap is a resource for cities to prevent violence before it occurs by mapping out solutions to effectively and sustainably prevent violence. The UNITY RoadMap 1) helps cities understand the current status of their efforts (starting point), 2) describes the core elements necessary to prevent violence before it occurs (milestones), and 3) provides information, resources, and examples to support cities in planning, implementation, and evaluation. As a framework, the UNITY RoadMap is most effective when tailored to the needs of a particular city.

- An outgrowth of the UNITY RoadMap, the UNITY Urban Agenda was developed with our city partners and details what it will take to prevent violence in urban areas and sustain these efforts.

We look forward to your participation in the upcoming UNITY Urban Agenda convening. Please contact Rachel Davis or Annie Lyles (annie@preventioninstitute.org) if you have any questions about the convening or about UNITY generally.

Sincerely,

Rachel A. Davis
UNITY Project Director

Deborah Prothrow-Stith
UNITY Co-chair

Billie Weiss
UNITY Co-chair

Larry Cohen
UNITY Co-chair

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Putting **prevention** and **health equity** at the center of **community well-being**

* The Urban Networks to Increase Thriving Youth (UNITY) Initiative is supported by the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) and is part of CDC's national youth violence prevention initiative, Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere (STRYVE) and funded in part by a grant from The California Wellness Foundation (TCWF). Created in 1992 as an independent, private foundation, TCWF's mission is to improve the health of the people of California by making grants for health promotion, wellness, education, and disease prevention programs.