



City of Carson Report to Mayor and City Council

May 7, 2013
New Business Discussion

SUBJECT: CONSIDERATION OF A PRESENTATION FROM CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY, DOMINGUEZ HILLS GRADUATE STUDENTS RELATED TO THE STIGMA OF HIV/AIDS IN CARSON AND NUTRITION, EXERCISE AND WELLNESS FOR ALL OF CARSON'S TEENS

Submitted by David C. Biggs
City Manager

Approved by David C. Biggs
City Manager

I. SUMMARY

This item is placed on the agenda at the request of Councilmember Gipson.

On Tuesday, April 30, 2013, Councilmember Gipson and city staff members Sheri Repp-Loadsman and John Signo attended a policy solutions presentation by graduate students at California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH). The students presented policy briefs geared toward improving civic life in the City of Carson.

II. RECOMMENDATION

RECEIVE and FILE.

III. ALTERNATIVES

TAKE another action that the Council deems appropriate.

IV. BACKGROUND

The course that the graduate students participate in at CSUDH is entitled "Advanced Social Policy". Its purpose is to explore inclusive ways of city, state and national planning for positive economic and social development. City representatives were invited to interact and dialogue with the students around issues concerning the well-being of the City of Carson. Formal presentations were made by the students. Dialogue and informal networking covered ideas and policy directions regarding what seemed to make the most sense, whether in practice or in method. Among the policy formulations discussed were Combating HIV/AIDS; Teenage Obesity; Inspiring Change for Better Communities; Planning Policy Recommendations for Immigration and Community Integration; and Carson's Foster Youth (Exhibits 1-5 below). The course is taught by Dr. Joshua Bender, a Social Policy professor at CSUDH in the Department of Social Work. Dr. Susan Einbinder is the Department Chair.

V. FISCAL IMPACT

None.

VI. EXHIBITS

1. Combating HIV/AIDS Stigma in Carson, CA. (Pg. 3)
2. NEW FACTS – Nutrition, Exercise and Wellness for All of Carson’s Teens (Pgs. 4-5)
3. Inspiring Change For Better Communities (Pg. 6)
4. First Focus – Policy Planning Recommendations for Immigration and Community Intergration (Pgs. 7-9)
5. Carson’s Foster Youth: Homelessness and Higher Education (Pg. 10)

Prepared by: Charlotte Arrick, Council Field Representative

TO: Rev09-04-2012

Reviewed by:

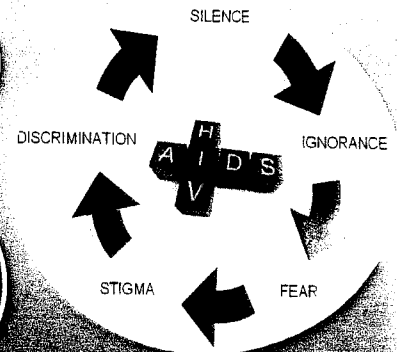
City Clerk	City Treasurer
Administrative Services	Public Works
Community Development	Community Services

Action taken by City Council

Date _____ Action _____

Combating HIV/AIDS Stigma in Carson, CA

The mission of the Planning Division of City of Carson is to "further develop goals, policies and programs that are in the best interest of the community." As a result of the COSHP, we understand the individual the



Creation of fear, isolation, rejection, and negative perceptions occurs; this is the leading cause of individuals avoiding testing, prevention, and treatment services.

CA. The combination of sexuality association versus behavior can contribute to the lack of status awareness. The consequence of stigma increases social barriers among individuals with a positive status. Community Outreach Services is committed to bring awareness to the misconceptions of HIV/AIDS stigma by educating the community on HIV.

The Impact of Stigma

Stigma is defined as "the co-occurrence of labeling, stereotyping, separation, status loss, and discrimination in a context in which power is exercised" (Hatzenbuehler, Phelan, and Link 2013). People living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) are daily victims of stigma; a problem that goes unaddressed and untargeted due to the low level of importance it has to society. Society stereotypes and stigmatizes PLWHA, and additionally, PLWHA suffer from self-stigmatization, which is the internalization of the negative social perceptions (Hatzenbuehler, Phelan, and Link 2013). Stigma is responsible for the discrimination that an individual phases in their daily lives. They are labeled as undesirables and are ostracized and displaced from their community. This causes discrimination to evolve from an individual level of discrimination to a structural level. (Mahajan, Sayles, Patel, etc. 2008). The elimination of stigma needs to be prioritized as much as prevention and treatment services. By combating stigma, PLWHA can stop being victimized, and HIV/AIDS can begin to be addressed as a social and cultural phenomenon that affects groups, families, neighborhoods, and communities. (Mahajan, Sayles, Patel, etc. 2008). This is a societal problem not just a problem for PLWHA.

Recommendations

Our goal in combating HIV/AIDS stigma within Carson, California is a citywide health-fair. HIV/AIDS education and testing will take place at the health fair. Partnership with local healthcare and HIV/AIDS agencies will allow for community recognition. Sexually active individuals from ages 13 to 64 are encouraged to attend and participate in HIV/AIDS education and testing. The education component will include proper use of male and female condoms, populations at greater risk of contraction, encouraging status conversation with intimate partners. Testing will come in the form of at-home HIV/AIDS tests. Participants will have access to immediate testing. Information pamphlets and bags will include at-home tests for the participant and their partner(s) (Jackson Health System, 2013).

For further information, questions, or concerns, please contact COS members:

NEW FACTs

NUTRITION, EXERCISE AND WELLNESS FOR ALL OF CARSON'S TEENS

The Unification Group

Policy Brief

The Problem of Teenage Obesity

One of the greatest challenges we face as a society today is the epidemic of obesity. Although obesity is a multi faceted issue and still not completely understood, what we do know is that both physical and social environments greatly influence the rates at which obesity occurs. According to The Los Angeles Department of Public Health, twenty six percent of Carson's youth are obese and in the third quartile of all cities in LA County. **[5]**

Adolescence is one of the most crucial times to form healthy behaviors. Research has shown that behavior and habits established during adolescence will last well into adulthood. **[2]** In fact, studies have found that students who stay physically fit and have a healthy diet—both of which are social determinants of success—are less likely to miss school and take part in high-risk behaviors. **[4]**

The Cost Of Teenage Obesity

The cost of teenage obesity on society is great. Recent studies estimate that the cost to California families, employers, the health care industry and Ethnic/Racial disparities are directly correlated to obesity. Death from obesity related causes in Los Angeles County and Carson's demographics mirror that of Los Angeles County.

Policymakers estimate that if the State could reduce each risk factor associated with obesity by five percent, California could save nearly \$2.4 billion a year. **[2]**

Carson's Current Plan

The City of Carson has taken the first step by forming a coalition of partners in The Community-Academic-Policy Partnership (CAPP) to help them achieve their goal of a more healthy and active city. **[3]**

The Unification Group is made up of social policy analysts from CSU/D's School of Social Work whose mission is to advocate for safe and healthy communities through the process of Multi-Cultural Collaborations. They are Shavonne Davis, Rodan Diego Lopez, Jonathan Muniz, and Keith Zepeda. (1st Year Students)

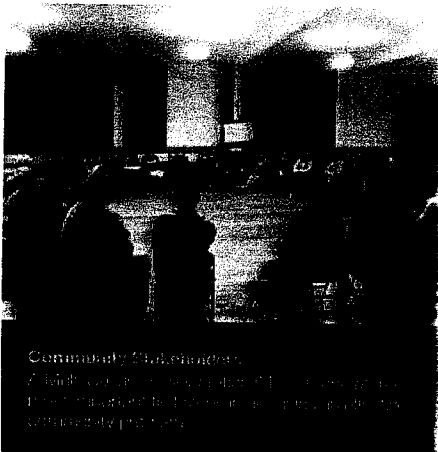
CAPP collaborations have begun implementing programs that are addressing important health challenges in Carson yet at a considerable financial cost.

One of the first steps in changing behavior in a community is to establish a visual presence with a change agent. Because of this, The Unification Group has developed an innovative and cost effective program strategically aligning with CAPP's mission.

Carson Community Gardens

The Unification Group prides itself on addressing policy issues and developing programs through Multi Cultural Collaborations (MCC). **[1]** MCCs engages community stakeholders (with representation from all demographics) and helps them to achieve mutually beneficial programs.

One of the first steps in changing the behavior in a community is to establish a visual presence by the change agent. Every Thursday from 10 am to 3 pm Carson hosts a Farmer's Market at the South Bay Pavilion. The visibility and recognition of this venue has laid the groundwork for the introduction of **Community Gardens** on High School and park grounds in Carson. Enlisting, teenagers, local farmers / gardeners and school faculty will enable a **Community Gardening Coalition** to be formed, encouraging youth to learn about healthy eating, get exercise and learn business skills through the sale of products at the farmer's markets. In addition, developing and maintaining these gardens will help communities begin to build a new and positive identity for themselves.



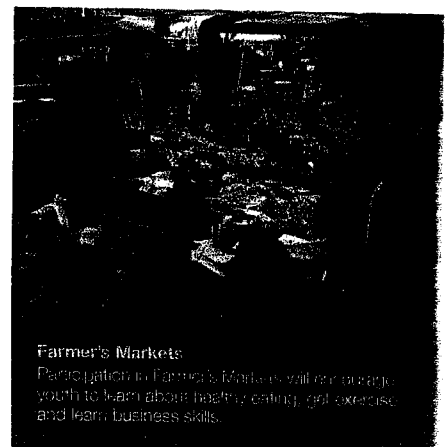
Community Collaborations

A high school student and a community member are engaged in a discussion about community problems.



Carson Community Gardens

Community members provide exercise and a sense of purpose, pride, and belonging among teenagers.



Farmer's Markets

Participation in Farmer's Markets will encourage youth to learn about healthy eating, get exercise and learn business skills.



■ References

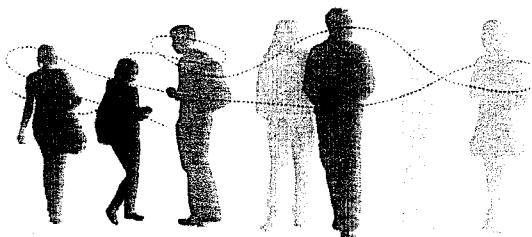
1. Bender, Joshua, "A Brief Commentary on "Analytics and Pragmatics of Imagined Utopias and "Community Magic": Sociologists as Multicultural Community Facilitator ", presented at the American Sociological Association, August 2012.
2. Bronwell, KD, Puhl, RM ,[et al], "The need for bold action to prevent adolescent obesity", J. Adolescent Health, 45:S6-17, 2009.
3. Community Action Policy Partnership, (CAPP), Newsletter, Vol., Issue 2, April 2012.
4. Center for Disease Control, (CDC), "Overweight and Obesity: Health Consequences", 2010. Retrieved Aug. 24, from www.cdc.gov/obesity/causes/health.html.
5. US Department of Commerce, Census Bureau, Incorporated Places/Census Designated Places Boundary File, 2000.

Inspiring Change For Better Communities

Anabell Galindo • Christina Venegas • Darshell Williams • Eileen Torio • Elliana Ixta

A-G REQUIREMENTS

- A - History and Social Science
- B - English
- C - Math
- D - Laboratory Science
- E - Foreign Language
- F - Visual and Performing Arts
- G - College Preparatory Elective



Lost in the Academic Pipeline:

LAUSD's A-G Requirements and Low High School Completion Rates Among Latino and Hispanic Students

Latinos are the largest minority group in the United States. However, when compared to other students, Latino students have lower chances of completing high school. As of Fall 2012, students attending Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) high schools are required to complete the A-G requirement to graduate.

Currently, 97% of students attending Carson Senior High School are minorities and around 73% of current students are Latino. According to Carson Senior High School Guidance Counselor, Nicole Washington, one of the

major issues facing Carson Senior High School is the average student-to-teacher ratio. It is currently at 28 students to 1 teacher.

Saunders, Silver, and Zarate (2008) found that LAUSD's freshman students have around a 50/50 chance of completing high school on time. Researchers also found that in "four years after beginning high school in 2001-02, 48% of LAUSD first-time freshman graduated, and one-quarter of entering 9th graders graduated four years later with the necessary courses required for entry to the state's public university system.

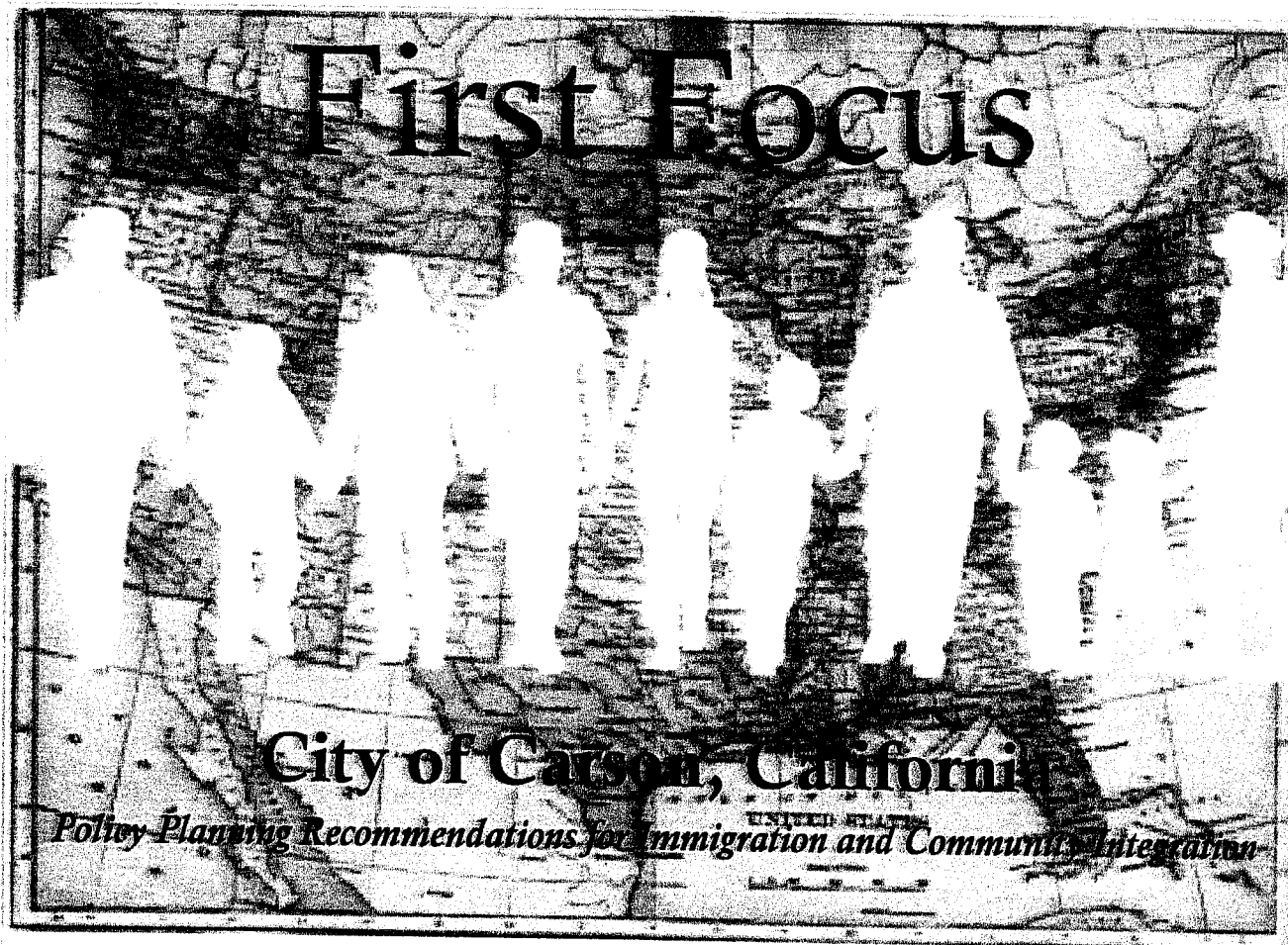
Policy Recommendations

1. To increase graduation rates among Latino and Hispanic youth, it is essential that students receive support as soon as they begin high school. ICBC recommends that all 9th graders be assigned an adult mentor to advise students throughout high school. The mentors will assist and guide the students and their parents by answering their questions and concerns.
2. ICBC proposes that Carson High School's programs be implemented district-wide due to their success. Giving students the opportunity to seek a pathway that interests students will motivate them to go to school and do well in their classes. In addition, ICBC suggests that an option be available that will allow students to graduate even though they do not want to pursue education beyond high school. This is an opportunity for students to fulfill California state requirements, as specified in the California Education code Section 51225.3.

President Barack Obama believes that providing "personalized and individualized instruction and support, multiple pathways and credit recovery programs such as high-quality alternative high schools, transfer schools, or career and work-based experiences" will help students catch up and keep up academically. He states that "students [who are] engaged [will have a higher chance to be] back on track toward a high school diploma".

3. 44% of Latinos say Latino students are not doing as well as their classmates due to the cultural differences of their teachers. It is essential that LAUSD train teachers to have an understanding of the communities they serve. Students are completing the A-G requirements at a slower rate than their peers due to a lack of social support and a lack of teacher preparation on the A-G subject courses.

The issue is not the curriculum itself, but of instruction and teacher effectiveness. Latino populations who struggle financially and live in low socioeconomic areas are less likely to succeed because of negative assumptions and destructive feedback provided by their teachers. Teachers need to be especially trained in the subject areas to provide better instruction to their students. Doing so will additionally equip teachers with the competence needed to work with the Latino population.



First Focus is a policy advocacy-consulting group developed as part of a graduate level social policy class at California State University, Dominguez Hills. First Focus has developed a particular approach to addressing the *Educational, Employment, and Healthcare* needs of undocumented residents of Carson, California. Social policy advocacy and analysis have been used to recommend social policies that will aid the city of Carson to foster equal opportunities for undocumented immigrants. First Focus is committed to its working with the city of Carson to assist undocumented immigrants in living and in surviving within Carson's community.

Education

Access to public education is a civil right for every child whether documented or not in the United States. There are about 1.6 million English Learners "EL" in California and only 11 percent of them achieve proficiency by the time they finish high school. When a child does not speak English their access to education becomes hurdled and are at risk of dropping out of school.

After an undocumented student finishes high school and goes to college they will be able to do this under the American Dream Act "AB 540". Navigating the rules and regulations of the act can be stressful and the fear of tuition expenses deter many qualified students to pursue a college education. If California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH), Carson High School (CHS), and community legislators, together join forces to

facilitate the successful path to higher education for AB 540 undocumented students in Carson, California achieve a college education it will reduce the financial impact they have on the community.



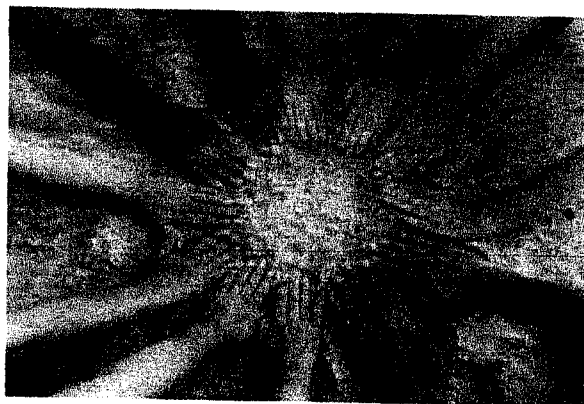
Policy Recommendations Education:

- Provide afterschool programs that will remediate the achievement gap in academics for EL students.
- To hold LAUSD accountable for providing proper services for EL students.
- A budget should be allocated for a designated college counselor and two assistants at CHS and CSUDH campuses.
- Organizing workshops to educate future AB 540 students about the American Dream Act.
- Streamline admissions at CSUDH and source more funding for scholarships.

Employment

The lack of labor rights for immigrants has been an ongoing issue in the United States. When addressing labor rights of immigrant workers and job opportunities a strategy First Focus recommends is to revamp the Bracero Program defined by guest worker inclusion. Most importantly three things we emphasize in such planning is to consider: 1) Guest

Worker protection, 2) Guest worker planning for agriculture employment, and 3) wages (as a minimum standard). This proposal would enhance immigrant workers experience and hold the United States of America accountable for upholding labor rights. It would help the City of Carson in its planning by having all workers registered through Bracero in order to identify their needs and prevent future issues.



Policy Recommendations Employment:

- Revamp the Bracero program.
- To implement a needs assessment to get an overall understanding of the workers and local policies that could support this program.
- Organize cultural competent workshops to inform the workers of the City of Carson's policies regarding the immigration population.
- Ensure Braceros to work for approximately 6 years.
- Finger printing of workers, and provide them with a form of identification.

Healthcare

Roughly 2 out of 3 undocumented immigrants in the United States are uninsured (Camarota, 2009). Thousands of undocumented immigrants die each year

because they do not have affordable health insurance. Individual health insurance policies accessible by undocumented immigrants, "typically are the most expensive options for health insurance" (Health Consumer Alliance, 2012). In addition, undocumented immigrants are provided in emergencies only with Medi-Cal. Medi-Cal leaves undocumented women and children vulnerable to premature birth rates. It is estimated that the current healthcare costs to the residents in the city of Carson are burdensome.

As co-participants working toward a united front to combat inequality in healthcare coverage in the city of Carson, First Focus has pledged our commitment to take bold steps to ensure all of the residents regardless of immigration status have access to adequate healthcare.

If residents of Carson and undocumented immigrants worked together towards communal healthcare coverage, then it would eventually free up revenue that is currently being used to absorb healthcare costs. In the end, healthcare costs and coverage would be minimal and the benefits would be enormous by lessening emergency room visits, healthy work force, and fewer days missed at work.



Policy Recommendation Healthcare:

- To offer undocumented immigrants with either state and or federal subsidized and unsubsidized lower premiums for health insurance.

By First Focus:

Bates, Rickey;

Bennett, Melanie;

Garcia, Anna;

Ramirez, Nellie;

Smans, Wanda.





CARSON'S FOSTER YOUTH: HOMELESSNESS AND HIGHER EDUCATION

REGULATORS

CITY OF CARSON, CALIFORNIA

INTRODUCTION: We, the Regulators are a policy-consulting group based within the City of Carson, CA. On May 7, 2013, we will be addressing to Carson's City Council the pivotal issue of homelessness facing the city's foster youth. Through effective collaboration with the community, we strive to eliminate foster youth homelessness and assist them in leading more productive lives.

SCOPE OF THE PROBLEM

Homelessness among the foster youth population is a cause for concern in the broader society. But, in order to understand the underlining specific factors, specific communities must be analyzed. Per proxy estimate, 140 out of 168 foster youth are identified as homeless, who are currently attending schools in the City of Carson. After analyzing the City of Carson, we, the Regulators, have identified the hurdles that hinder foster youth from becoming successful, self-sustaining individuals in society, such as homelessness. For instance, the lack of funding and resources are a primary hurdle; thus, we, the Regulators propose change through identifying and securing financial and supportive stakeholders, and then create a program with a collaborative approach among and between local educational, mental health, community-based organizations (e.g. Boys and Girls Club), small businesses, and residents. Ultimately, our goal is that through such a program, "joint agreements" would be created in which foster youth would be guided and supported in numerous forms that will aid in the reduction of homelessness foster youth, who emancipate out of the system. Moreover, we want foster youth to be a part of this process, we stress the importance of what Critical Race Theory calls, personal narratives, we want to know from foster youth, how and what can be gone in conjuncture with our plan in order to promote their growth and survival.

EXISTING EFFORTS

1. The Higher Education Opportunity Act has provided the opportunity of higher education to foster youth through the form of awareness and distribution of financial aid, and academic and professional support. This policy has been proven effective, evidenced by California State University, Dominguez Hills (CSUDH) (Cox, 2012).
2. The Enhanced Specialized Foster Care Mental Health Services Plan – more specifically the Child Welfare Division – implements various mental health programs for foster youth. Each program strives to deliver high quality services designed to enhance their mental and emotional wellbeing through hope, wellness, and recovery (Child Welfare Division, 2013).
3. The Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 assists foster youth who are "aging out" of foster care to achieve independent living through Independent Living Programs/ ILPS, and increased federal funding from \$70 million to \$140 million per fiscal year. ILPS promote self-sufficiency and increase positive outcomes for foster youth by offering assistance in; obtaining higher education, vocational training, job placement, counseling, and housing (United States Social Security Administration, SSA.gov, 2013).

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS

1. Develop a coalition of stakeholder representatives from DCFS, DMH, Employment Development Department, Dept of Public Social Services, HUD, etc. and continue to work collaboratively with city council by holding regular meetings to discuss NYTD/ National Youth in Transition Database trends, evidence based practices, and outcomes for "aging out" foster youths.
2. Establish joint agreements with stakeholder agencies to establish networks for workforce development, mental health resources, higher education stipends and mentors, childcare services, transportation, and assistance with public housing. Conduct research and contribute findings to NYTD data to reflect positive and negative outcomes, effectiveness of ILP programs, and investment goals.
3. Develop revisions to the Foster Care Independence Act of 1999 and Higher Education Opportunity Act to propose a bill to CA state legislators to increase funding for ILP programs and supportive services for "aging out" foster youth.

CONCLUSION

Only 6% of children born to families at the very bottom ever move to the very top, this means that the 'rags to riches' story is much more common in Hollywood than in real life(Isaacs, 2007) . Many former foster youth who age out of foster care, declare being homeless at some point in time after discharge. Approximately 14% of males and 10% of females report being homeless at least once since their discharge from foster care services (Courtney, Piliavin, Grogan-Kaylor, & Nesmith, 2001). Almost all former foster youth enter the world with little to no support. While many obstacles effect former and present foster youth, the rates of graduation from secondary education is staggering. Less than fifteen percent enroll in college and less than five percent ever graduate (Corwin, 2006). Compared to youth not formerly in foster care, foster youth are faced with more challenges that can affect graduation rates. With the partnerships of community, businesses and the City of Carson, former foster youth will be provided with resources and information/knowledge that will implement and provide options to secure and promote more productive and secure lives by reducing homelessness and further educational outcomes.

