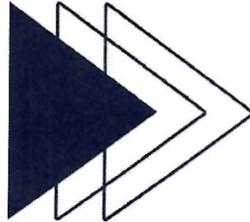


YAP Dallas Cred News Update

FEBRUARY 2023



From a May 2021 YAP Press Release

"We cannot and should not rely on police alone to stop the violent crime increases in our city," said Dallas Mayor Eric Johnson. "Violence interrupters, which were highly recommended by my Task Force on Safe Communities, will stop conflicts before they become violent and can help our people and our neighborhoods to grow and thrive. That is why we are thrilled to partner with Youth Advocate Programs as we work to make our communities stronger, safer, and more prosperous."

Two Years After its Launch, Dallas Cred Makes an Impact on Violence Reduction

Dallas, Tx -- Cure Violence Global data finds that from May – December of last year, 100% of the individuals who received Dallas Cred services after engaging in a violent incident have not retaliated. During that time we saw a 22% reduction in violent crime incidents across our 4 target areas combined. Youth Advocate Programs (YAP), Inc. launched Dallas Cred in 2021 under a contract with the city of Dallas to make violence interrupters part of its public safety strategy. YAP is a national nonprofit in 33 states and the District of Columbia that provides community-based services as an alternative to youth incarceration, congregate residential treatment and neighborhood violence. Since May when YAP began using Cure Violence Global to track program outcomes, the nonprofit provided services to 58 high-risk individuals and interrupted 51 violent acts, with a recidivism rate of only 2.6% among justice-system involved individuals they served.

The 8-person Dallas Cred frontline staff members serve Webb Chapel Road and Lombardy Lane; Texas 12 Loop and North Jim Miller Road; Camp Wisdom Road and Gannon; and East Overton Road and Illinois Ave. Identified by their orange shirts, Dallas Cred's primarily focus is identifying and providing individuals who meet criteria for being at the highest risk levels of being engaged in violence. These include people who have recently returned home from jail or prison or are otherwise justice system-involved; individuals who are gang-affiliated; and those who have recently lost someone to gun violence and at risk for retaliating. At the same time, the team works to help individuals throughout these neighborhoods see their strengths while connecting them with tools to help them put their lives on a positive course.

**Q and A with Fred Fogg
YAP National Director,
Community-Based Safety Initiatives**

Q) Dallas Cred launched in spring 2021. How is the program doing?

A) Two years after launch, we can see that individuals who are at the highest risk of engagement in violence see that there are alternatives. Dallas Cred, like YAP's violence interruption programs across the country, have a foundation in our organization's evidence-based alternative-to-youth incarceration individual and family wraparound services model. The YAP Dallas Cred frontline staff members are formerly justice involved men and women who are from the neighborhoods we serve. They have firsthand knowledge of the economic, educational, and emotional tools that their neighbors need to turn their lives around.

Q) What have been your biggest challenges in launching this program?

A) YAP is in its 48th year of launching innovative youth justice, child welfare, behavioral health, and more recently, public safety systems services. YAP's evidence-based services are more effective and racially equitable than youth incarceration and congregate residential care. Dallas Cred launched at a time when the nation experienced "the great resignation." We adjusted by sharing a professional behavioral health staffer with another YAP program. We also leaned on YAP's longstanding human resources best-practices to ensure that employees hired post-launch received the training needed to ensure that they were prepared to do this important work effectively and safely. Another challenge was putting in place a data collection tool that was not so cumbersome that it interfered with staff's day-to-day work. Fortunately, with the Cure Violence Global system implemented in May, we have a solution that meets everyone's needs.

Q) Any recommendations for the program moving forward?

A) While YAP is in its 48th year of providing individualized community-based youth and family wraparound services, applying our alternative-to youth incarceration and congregate residential care model to help disrupt and prevent violence is something we've been doing for about six years. In Baltimore where we began our work with a model similar to Dallas Cred, we've recently supported the city's crime reduction ecosystem through ramped up individualized services for men and women who are most likely to be the perpetrators of violence. We believe this approach would also benefit Dallas.



DALLAS CRED INTERVENTIONS (MAY 2022- DEC 2022)

Violence Interruptions	51
Mentoring Contacts	1104
Social Service Referrals	258
Employment Opportunity	90

Hospital Response	2
Community Engagement Events	53
Coordination Meetings	46
Youth Programs	26



ONGOING SUPPORT TO REDUCE NEIGHBORHOOD VIOLENCE

East Overton Road and Illinois Ave

YAP Dallas Cred Violence Interrupters organized and facilitated Cred's first group session at the Saint James Manor Apartments. The discussion included different ways that Dallas Cred and residents could work together to break the cycles of violence and prevent violent incidents. The overwhelming consensus was to form a partnership and focus on youth and young adults

Webb Chapel Road and Lombardy Lane

After working with a 10 year-old boy and his family for three weeks, a Dallas Cred staffer finally saw his work pay off. The father of the youth reached out to the team to help get him enrolled in school. The team assisted by taking him get his immunizations and got him referred for intake, among other things. The youth and his father had fled to Dallas to escape violence over a year ago, but unfortunately, they are still surrounded by it. When the Credible Messenger asked the boy how school went he replied "Hoy fue un buen dia," meaning "today was a good day." Checking in later, the Credible Messenger said the youth told him about some fist fights he has gotten into, while other community members have said they also saw him drinking and smoking. The Dallas Cred team recognizes that it still has a lot of work ahead of them but every good day counts.

Texas 12 Loop and North Jim Miller Road

A YAP Dallas Cred Violence Interrupter met a young woman with a 3-year-old son who did not have a place to live after her apartment was condemned and about to be demolished. The YAP Dallas Cred staffer she contacted connected her to South Dallas Employment Project (SDEP) and Miles of Freedom, walking her through the entire process. As a follow up the young woman was in tears and thanked Dallas Cred for helping her.

Camp Wisdom Road and Gannon

A YAP Credible Messenger received a call from a man requesting the Dallas CRED team's presence after he was shaken up during a situation that occurred at his job. He said two men approached him at work and threatened him with weapons because they felt he had something to do with their friend being arrested. The Dallas CRED team was able to secure an appropriate shelter to get him out of harm's way. The team also checked in on the man's mother. The team will continue to provide needed follow-up support.

