

Project Safe Neighborhoods: Southern District of Indiana Review of 2009 Subgrantees

Bill Newby



© October 2010 Indiana University Center for Criminal Justice Research 10-C34
334 North Senate Avenue, Suite 300
Indianapolis, Indiana 46204-1708





Project Safe Neighborhoods: Southern District of Indiana

Review of 2009 Subgrantees

October 2010

10-C34

Author
Bill Newby

Executive Summary.....	1
History of PSN Activity in the Southern District of Indiana	2
Southern District of Indiana PSN Subgrantee Funding for 2009	3
Indiana State Police (ISP), 06-AGS-013, 03/01/09 – 04/30/09, \$12,000	5
Project Description	5
Project Need.....	5
Work Plan	5
Collaborative Partners	5
Overall Project Assessment	5
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), 07-AGS-016, 10/01/09 – 11/30/10, \$30,000	7
Project Description	7
Project Need.....	7
Work Plan	7
Collaborative Partners	7
Overall Project Assessment	7
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), 07-AGS-015, 07/01/09 – 03/31/10, \$18,205	8
Project Description	8
Project Need.....	8
Work Plan	8
Collaborative Partners	8
Overall Project Assessment	8
Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), 07-AGS-013, 03/01/09 – 02/28/10, \$2,9369	9
Project Description	9
Project Need.....	9
Work Plan	9
Collaborative Partners	9
Overall Project Assessment	9
Cumberland Police Department (CPD), 07-GPS-014, 03/01/09 – 02/28/10, \$16,000	10
Project Description	10
Project Need.....	10
Work Plan	10
Collaborative Partners	10
Overall Project Assessment	10
Marion County Prosecutor's Office – Grand Jury Division (MCPOGJD), 06-AGS-014 (1), 03/01/09 – 04/30/09, \$10,460; 07-AGS-014 (2), 03/01/09 – 02/28/10, \$8,003	11
Project Description	11
Project Need.....	11
Work Plan	11
Collaborative Partners	11
Overall Project Assessment	12
Travel and Training Activities.....	13
Ongoing Grants.....	14
Summary and Recommendations	15



Executive Summary

This report synthesizes the activities of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Southern District of Indiana subgrantees with active or awarded grants in 2009. PSN is a federal program established in fiscal year 2001 to reduce gun-related violence and gang activity. The Southern District of Indiana's PSN initiative, led by the U.S. Attorney's Office, began in 2003 and has focused mainly on Marion County and surrounding communities. This report summarizes the activities of four agencies (three law enforcement and one Prosecuting Attorney's Office) receiving seven PSN subgrants in 2009. Funded projects focused on enhancing intelligence gathering and surveillance operations and staffing specialized units, and included:

- Purchasing audio and video equipment for safely gathering intelligence about gangs;
- Paying overtime for officers dedicated to anti-crime and gun violence targeting serious offenders;
- Purchasing night vision binocular accessories for use in gang surveillance;
- Paying for analysis of DNA swab samples lifted from firearms by street-level officers using a new Touch DNA method;
- Staffing a violent crime unit to investigate and arrest known violent gang and gun offenders;
- Paying for a year subscription to the TARGUSinfo database to support wire-tap investigations.

With the exception of one subgrantee, all PSN recipients expended the majority of their awards (i.e., 98 percent or more) and reported noteworthy progress.¹ Subgrantees reported several accomplishments:²

- The Indiana State Police (ISP) arrested 15 persons and identified 66 for future indictment.
- The ISP submitted 646 queries to TARGUSinfo from March 17, 2009 to July 21, 2009, 87 percent in support of gang-related investigations, 99.5 percent of which returned telephone company information, 47 percent subscriber identity, and 15 percent a billing address.
- The ISP completely identified a network of individuals associated with an eastside Indianapolis criminal gang and efforts are underway to dismantle it.
- The Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) identified suspects in 16 of 89 cases using the Touch DNA method and quality samples were obtained in an additional 18 cases for a success rate of 38 percent, compared to 3-7 percent using fingerprinting. Six of the 16 identified suspects were confirmed gang members.
- The IMPD converted 25 pairs of night vision binoculars obtained from the military at no cost to usable hand-held units, enhancing nighttime investigation capabilities.
- The Cumberland Police Department reported reductions in graffiti and violent crimes and developed a public awareness campaign to educate the community about graffiti, guns and gangs.
- The Marion County Prosecutor's Office Grand Jury Division (MCPOGJD), in collaboration with the Metropolitan School District Pike and Warren township police, collected crucial photographic intelligence on 12 known or suspected gang members, documented 15 major felony crimes, and expected to arrest and prosecute 40 or more persons on state and federal criminal charges.
- Pike and Warren township police expect to remove an entire gang from a PSN target area and MCPOGJD developed a "Long Term Investigation Model" to map out gang-related investigations, from identification to criminal and civil prosecution.

The 2009 PSN programs were characterized by extensive collaborations, heavy investments in technology (i.e., more than 50 percent of total PSN funds awarded), and material progress towards the overarching PSN goal of reducing gun-related violence and gang activity.

¹ Grant 07-AGS-016 ends November 30, 2010. Final reports were not available at the time of this writing.

² In some cases, project accomplishments were reported on a cumulative basis rather than for the grant period only.



History of PSN Activity in the Southern District of Indiana

This report synthesizes the activities of the Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN) Southern District of Indiana subgrantees with active or awarded grants in 2009. Similar reports were issued documenting subgrantee activities for 2007 and 2008.³ PSN is a federally funded program led by the 94 United States Attorney's Offices and established in federal fiscal year 2001 to address and reduce gun-related violence and gang activity. Since 2002, Indiana has received \$5.5 million in PSN funding with an average yearly award of \$609,413 (Table 1). Funding has been distributed as 24 grants to the U.S. Attorney's Offices, Northern and Southern Districts of Indiana, with an average grant amount of \$228,530. Since 2003, the Southern District has received 58 percent of total awards with the balance going to the Northern District.

Historically, PSN in the Southern District of Indiana has funded a variety of community and law enforcement programs, including:

- Top Ten Violent Offender Lists,
- Offender notification meetings (e.g., Lever Pulling),
- Targeted patrol strategies,
- Case screening for federal prosecution and stricter federal prosecution,
- Fugitive roundups and probation and parole and truancy sweeps,
- Crime incident reviews,
- Juvenile and adult re-entry programs,
- Public service announcements,
- Juvenile gun violence prevention, and
- Intervention programs.

The 2009 subgrantees focused primarily on targeted investigations and equipment/technology acquisitions.

Table 1: Project Safe Neighborhood Grants to Indiana by District, 2002-2010

Year (FFY)	Grants (N)			Total Amount (\$)		
	Northern	Southern	Total	Northern	Southern	Total
2002	N/A	N/A	4	N/A	N/A	719,912*
2003	1	1	2	465,456	684,364	1,149,820
2004	1	1	2	379,219	557,569	936,788
2005	1	1	2	82,500	156,119	238,619
2006	2	2	4	320,614	456,727	777,341
2007	2	2	4	432,308	474,015	906,323
2008	1	1	2	120,851	156,225	277,076
2009	1	1	2	101,779	131,042	232,821
2010	1	1	2	106,678	139,335	246,013
TOTAL	10	10	24	2,009,405	2,755,396	5,484,713

Notes: N/A = Not Available

2004 and 2005 grants are considered "supplemental" grants to the 2003 grant

* Total is for three of the four grants as one could not be accounted for.

³Quinet, K., Stucky, T.D., & Nunn, S. (2009). Project Safe Neighborhoods: Southern District of Indiana, review of 2008 subgrantees. Indianapolis: Center for Criminal Justice Research, Indiana Public Policy Institute. 09-C45.
 Quinet, K., Stucky, T.D., & Nunn, S. (2008). Project Safe Neighborhoods: Southern District of Indiana, review of 2007 subgrantees. Indianapolis: Center for Criminal Justice Research, Indiana Public Policy Institute. 08-C52.



Southern District of Indiana PSN Subgrantee Funding for 2009

PSN subgrantee funding has declined in recent years. In 2007, 13 subgrants were awarded to 13 subgrantees (eight agencies/organizations) totaling \$502,109, compared to 18 subgrants to 14 subgrantees (nine agencies/organizations) totaling \$252,870 in 2008. In 2009, 7 subgrants were made to 6 subgrantees (four agencies) totaling \$97,604 (Table 2).⁴ Awards ranged from \$2,936 to \$30,000 with grant periods lasting 2 to 14 months and averaging 10 months. With the exception of one grant to the Indiana State Police, all other grants were awarded to Marion County agencies: three to the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department, two to the Marion County Prosecuting Attorney's Office, and one to the Cumberland Police Department. These grants and the programs they funded are discussed in detailed case studies below.

Table 2: Project Safe Neighborhood Subgrants, 2009

Grant Number	Subgrantee	Grant Period	Length of Grant Period (Months)	Award Amount (\$)
07-AGS-016	IMPD VCU - Viper One	10/01/09 - 11/30/10	14	30,000
06-AGS-014 (1), 07-AGS-014 (2)	MCPO - Grand Jury	03/01/09 - 04/30/09 03/01/09 - 02/28/10	12	18,463
07-AGS-015	IMPD - Touch DNA	07/01/09 - 03/31/10	9	18,205
07-GPS-014	Cumberland Police Dept	03/01/09 - 02/28/10	12	16,000
06-AGS-013	ISP - TARGUSinfo	03/01/09 - 04/30/09	2	12,000
07-AGS-013	IMPD - Night Vision Equipment	03/01/09 - 02/28/10	12	2,936
TOTAL				97,604

Three objectives are outlined for PSN-supported programs:⁵

1. Create safer neighborhoods by reducing gun violence and gun crime;
2. Reduce the occurrence of violent gang-related incidents through both reactive and proactive efforts supported by enforcement planning coordinated with federal, state, and local law enforcement and informed by data and real-time intelligence; and
3. Reduce the occurrence of youth gang-related incidents and increase positive outcomes for youth at high risk for gang involvement through targeted, evidenced-based gang prevention

Consistent with objectives 1 and 2, 2009 PSN subgrantees focused primarily on law enforcement strategies to reduce gun violence, gun crime, and violent gang-related incidents through targeted investigations, technology utilization, and intelligence gathering. Programs included:

- Purchasing audio and video equipment for safely gathering intelligence about gangs;
- Paying overtime for officers dedicated to anti-crime and gun violence targeting serious offenders;
- Purchasing night vision binocular accessories for use in gang surveillance;
- Paying for analysis of DNA swab samples lifted from firearms by street-level officers using the new Touch DNA method;
- Staffing a violent crime unit to investigate and arrest known violent gang and gun offenders;
- Paying for a 12-month subscription to the TARGUSinfo database to support wire-tap investigations.

⁴ The Southern District may award PSN subgrants from its pool of PSN funds consisting of current and previous years' PSN grants to the District. Because of this, the total subgrant amount shown in Table 2 does not equal the total grant amount to the Southern District in 2009 shown in Table 1.

⁵ Bureau of Justice Assistance. Project Safe Neighborhoods (PSN), FY 2010 Grant Announcement. Retrieved September 17, 2010, from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/BJA/grant/psn.html>



Each of these programs is profiled below, including a description of the program, a discussion of the program need and work plan as outlined by the subgrantee, a listing of collaborative partners, and an overall program assessment based on final grant reports. Information for these profiles was retrieved from subgrantee grant applications, site reviews, semi-annual progress reports, and other miscellaneous information maintained by the Indiana Criminal Justice Institute.



Indiana State Police (ISP), 06-AGS-013, 03/01/09 – 04/30/09, \$12,000

Project Description

This project focused on enhancing electronic communication intercepts (i.e., wiretaps) of criminal gang and/or narcotics trafficking organizations, using a proprietary database to look up names, billing addresses, and telephone company information associated with pertinent telephone numbers coming into and going out of wiretapped phones. TARGUSinfo is a private company that offers real-time query-and-response of U.S. phone numbers using names, mailing addresses or email addresses. Using the TARGUSinfo database, the ISP sought to improve its investigations into drug organizations, throughout the state but particularly in Marion County, and to assist other local and state law enforcement agencies who are not authorized to conduct state-level intercepts.

Project Need

Dismantling criminal gangs and/or drug trafficking organizations is often difficult because upper level members are insulated from law enforcement efforts. Wiretaps allow law enforcement to identify and pursue these members. However, traditional wiretap methods can be cumbersome and take up to 20 days to receive information after sending a subpoena. A subscription to TARGUSinfo simplifies and shortens the wiretapping process by providing officers access to telephone numbers in real-time, reducing time spent on this activity by 50 percent or more. This subscription also makes it easier for ISP to assist local and state law enforcements agencies with state-level intercepts.

Work Plan

Officers monitored the calls coming into and going out of a wiretapped phone and then queried the TARGUSinfo database to obtain names, billing addresses, and telephone company information for numbers of interest. Emails were sent to officers from TARGUSinfo with the requested information and an ISP analyst entered the information into an intercept system. Officers used this information to verify that the user or subscriber associated with the phone number was in fact the person communicating with the wiretap target. Positively identified individuals were charged with conspiracy to commit the given offense. If names were not returned by the queries, billing addresses were used to identify the user associated with the address. In all cases, queries allowed officers to identify the telephone companies so that they know which provider to subpoena for detailed telephone records.

Collaborative Partners

The ISP collaborated with the Federal Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives because of the close association between drug trafficking, firearms, and violent acts committed with firearms. The ATF provided investigative support as well as assistance in monitoring calls and surveillance. Because the project focuses on Marion County, the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) was also a collaborative partner.

Overall Project Assessment

The ISP expended \$11,760 of its \$12,000 PSN award and was able to assist the IMPD and ATF in initial efforts to dismantle a criminal gang organization dealing controlled substances in Marion and surrounding counties, including intercepting ten target telephones. Since the ATF and IMPD intercepts began, one before and one after September 2008, 15 persons have been arrested and 66 identified for future indictment.



Site reviews indicated that program goals and objectives were met and that the program will continue for ten months beyond the grant ending date. Site visit documentation and ISP reporting suggest that the TARGUSinfo database has been a valuable tool in criminal gang investigations. From March 17, 2009 to July 21, 2009, the ISP submitted 646 queries to TARGUSinfo on behalf of itself (69), IMPD (559), ATF (3), and other local agencies (15). Of these queries, 560 (87 percent) were in support of gang-related investigations, 643 (99.5 percent) returned telephone company information, 306 (47 percent) returned subscriber identity, and 95 (15 percent) returned a billing address.

The ISP asserts that it has “completely identified” the network of individuals associated with an eastside criminal gang and that efforts are underway to dismantle it. The agency expects drug trafficking and violent crime to decrease on the eastside of Indianapolis because the criminal gang “is responsible for a large portion of violent crime committed in its community.” Roundups of suspect locations are planned in the near future and are expected to yield arrests of persons yet to be indicted as well as seizures of real property, cash, and vehicles.



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), 07-AGS-016, 10/01/09 – 11/30/10, \$30,000

Project Description

This project funded 720 hours of overtime for eight officers in the IMPD Violent Crimes Unit (VCU), part of the IMPD Strategic Investigations Bureau. VCU officers used the VIPER list, a list of the most dangerous individuals in Marion County, to investigate and arrest violent criminals associated with gangs and/or gun crimes, including 19 confirmed gang members. The VCU hopes to increase arrests and prosecutions of violent gang and gun offenders.

Project Need

The IMPD VCU cited a trend of increasing gun and gang investigations and violence in Marion County. IMPD VCU noted producing 185 felony charges, 105 misdemeanor charges, 55 gun seizures, and a variety of other drug-related seizures in 2008. Additionally, from January to March 31, 2009, IMPD VCU reported making 12 gun, 6 homicide, and 18 suspected gang arrests. The project provided the necessary personnel to begin reversing gun and gang incidents.

Work Plan

The IMPD VCU planned to investigate the most serious gang and gun offenders in Marion County and to report regularly on arrests and convictions related to these investigations.

Collaborative Partners

The IMPD VCU collaborated with a number of agencies. The Marion County Probation Department; Indiana Parole Board; IMPD Gang Unit; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive; and Marion County Community Corrections assisted in conducting home visits to any known persons with prior gun/gang histories. Other partners included the U.S. Marshals Service, Postal Inspector, the Marion County Prosecutor's Office, and the Marion County Prosecutor's Office Grand Jury Gang Unit.

Overall Project Assessment

According to quarterly financial statements, after nine months, only \$3,401.70 (11 percent) of the original \$30,000 award had been expended. The project does not end until November 30, 2010. No progress or site review reports were available at the time of this writing.



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), 07-AGS-015, 07/01/09 – 03/31/10, \$18,205

Project Description

This project funded analysis of Touch DNA and buccal swab samples retrieved from 89 firearms in the IMPD Northeast District. Indianapolis is the first city to use the Touch DNA recovery method, which consists of a field kit containing an SIM buffer solution, swabs with specially designed tips, and a protective case that fits inside an officer's utility belt. The laboratory analysis was completed by Strand Laboratories, a private company based in Indianapolis. CAGI and PSN dollars (\$140,000) began supporting Touch DNA analysis in 2008 and the Comprehensive Anti-Gang Initiative (CAGI) Steering Committee approved an additional \$80,000 in June 2009. A remaining balance from a PSN award (i.e., the current grant amount of \$18,205) was used to pay a higher rate per swab analyzed (from \$100/swab to \$333/swab) to speed up the reporting process. Ultimately, IMPD hoped to analyze enough samples to draw conclusions about the effectiveness of the Touch DNA method while reducing gun and gang crime in the Northeast District.

Project Need

The IMPD indicated there were 3,108 guns recovered in the IMPD jurisdiction in 2007, 810 of which were recovered in the Northeast District. Additionally, based on a spatial analysis of the history of homicides, aggravated assaults, narcotics arrests, gun recoveries, and burglaries, the IMPD identified the Northeast District as a high priority area, specifically beats 21, 22, 23, 24, and 51. This area was also a focus of CAGI efforts and overlaps with the Martindale/Brightwood Weed and Seed area.

Work Plan

IMPD planned to use Strand Laboratories to analyze DNA samples retrieved from 89 guns. Subsequently, IMPD intended to have a PSN research partner conduct a study to determine if the Touch DNA method is more effective and efficient (i.e., lower cost) than fingerprinting. The project was to be considered a success if more suspects are identified with the Touch DNA method than fingerprinting.

Collaborative Partners

The IMPD collaborated with Strand Laboratories, the Marion County Forensics Services Agency, Marion County Prosecutor's Office, Marion County Criminal Judges, and the U.S. Attorney's Office.

Overall Project Assessment

All funds were expended by IMPD during the grant period. The Touch DNA method identified suspects in 16 of 89 cases and provided quality samples in an additional 18 cases for a success rate of 38 percent, compared to 3-7 percent using fingerprinting.⁶ Additionally, six of the 16 identified suspects were confirmed gang members. Based on these results and stated objectives, the project appears to have had some success. However, IMPD did encounter problems such as discrepancies in reporting expectations among parties and substantial price increases for swab analysis that reduced the number of samples analyzed by 50 percent. IMPD plans to follow-up on 23 cases where reports have not yet been received as well as the 18 cases with usable DNA samples where suspects have not yet been identified.

⁶ Subsequent to the submission of this sub-grant application, CCJR completed a detailed evaluation of the Trigger Pro gun swab project, which presented a slightly different set of findings regarding the comparison of touch DNA versus gun fingerprinting. The Trigger Pro evaluation is available at <http://www.policyinstitute.iu.edu/criminal/publicationDetail.aspx?publicationID=664>



Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD), 07-AGS-013, 03/01/09 – 02/28/10, \$2,936

Project Description

IMPD used its PSN funds to purchase accessories for 25 night vision binoculars obtained from the military at no cost. These accessories allowed IMPD to convert the binoculars from helmet-based units to hand-held units with eye pieces. IMPD planned to distribute the binoculars citywide to aid officers conducting investigations at night and indicated that one of its own special units, the Criminal Gang Investigation Section, will use the binoculars for surveillance of gang meetings in parks and fields during evening hours.

Project Need

At the time of the grant request, IMPD indicated it was limited in its ability to conduct investigations because of a shortage of night vision equipment to aid in surveillance. This is problematic because many gang members and other criminals are active at night. Without the requested funds, which would equip the 25 units for less than the cost of one new unit, IMPD would not be able to use the donated binoculars.

Work Plan

IMPD planned to distribute the binoculars to various target areas after conversion for use in nighttime surveillance.

Collaborative Partners

IMPD planned to collaborate with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives.

Overall Project Assessment

All funds were expended by IMPD during the grant period including the purchase of 50 eye cups, 50 eye cup adapters, and 25 clip-on power sources. The binoculars were converted though it is unclear what impact they have had on IMPD investigations or how frequently they have been used. At a minimum, however, the PSN grant allowed IMPD to take advantage of free equipment by restoring it to a useful state.



Cumberland Police Department (CPD), 07-GPS-014, 03/01/09 – 02/28/10, \$16,000

Project Description

This project funded overtime for one officer to work on anti-crime and gun violence targeting serious repeat offenders and their associates. These efforts served the town of Cumberland and Marion County. A request was also made four and a half months into the grant for additional funds (approximately \$500) to pay for billboard rental fees, though it appears the billboard was funded out of the original grant award. CPD submitted a grant amendment request to extend the project one year through February 28, 2011 and requested an additional \$16,000 (for a total of \$32,000). The request was denied.

Project Need

CPD acknowledges the threat posed by guns citing the nearly 30,000 American lives lost each year in the United States to gun violence. Consistent with the PSN target population, CPD planned to target persons 16-24 years old, a group that comprises 14 percent of the Cumberland population. CPD identified seven project objectives, including: 1) arrest people with illegal guns, 2) get guns off the street, 3) convict violators, 4) identify gangs and gang members, 5) prevent gang violence, 6) reduce violent crimes with guns, and 7) educate the public by making it aware of PSN's mission. Working towards these objectives during the first seven months of the PSN project from April to October 2008, CPD produced 11 gun seizures, \$3,180 in money seizures, 42 grams in marijuana seizures, 2.5 grams in cocaine seizures, and 27 arrests.

Work Plan

The CPD planned to continue efforts of identifying and investigating groups or individuals that commit violent crimes using firearms, and to assist Marion County detectives pursuing similar/related investigations.

Collaborative Partners

The CPD intended to collaborate with the Drug Enforcement Agency; U.S. Marshall's Office; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives; Indiana Department of Correction; and the Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department. The CPD also planned to work with businesses and churches, Warren Central High School Police, and community/neighborhood leaders.

Overall Project Assessment

The CPD spent all but \$9.75 of its PSN award and met program goals and objectives—including reductions in graffiti and violent crimes—according to site reviews and performance reports though no data was provided in support of claimed reductions. The department developed an effective public awareness campaign to educate the community about graffiti, guns and gangs, and engaged the community in understanding project goals. The CPD realized these accomplishments while managing various challenges, including personnel turnover, patrol ineffectiveness due to limited traffic as a result of construction along State Road 40/East Washington Street, and the need for increased monitoring of a hotel that houses offenders released from prison. Though CPD reported falling short of expectations in terms of removing firearms from targeted areas, and site reviewers suggested future CPD efforts focus more on gangs, the project appears to have galvanized community support and engagement in the ongoing efforts to reduce gun violence and gang activity.



Marion County Prosecutor's Office – Grand Jury Division (MCPOGJD), 06-AGS-014 (1), 03/01/09 – 04/30/09, \$10,460; 07-AGS-014 (2), 03/01/09 – 02/28/10, \$8,003

Project Description

The Marion County Prosecutor's Office received two PSN grants to purchase equipment for use in gathering and preserving intelligence related to gang investigations in Pike and Warren townships. The equipment offered detectives a means of gathering and preserving photo, video and audio surveillance, provided a standardized means of recording and storing taped statements, and aided in conducting undercover and covert investigations. The MCPOGJD and Indianapolis Metropolitan Police Department (IMPD) partnered with the Metropolitan School District (MSD) Pike Township Police Department and Warren Township Police Department to investigate and eliminate criminal gangs operating in and around their schools and neighborhoods.

Project Need

The city of Indianapolis is home to more than 100 gangs and cliques including Folks and People Nations. Pike and Warren townships have each observed 15 branches within their boundaries and have seen steady increases in gang activity as well as disturbances, batteries, and narcotics-related offenses over the past two years. From June 2006 to August 2008, MSD Pike Township Police reported 67 in-house gang activity reports, or roughly 2.5 reports per month. From August 2008 to October 2008, the police reported 32 in-house gang activity reports, or 16 per month. Warren Township Police reported 73 gang-related incidents during the 2007-2008 school year and 31 during the 2008 school year.

Work Plan

Detectives from IMPD and Pike and Warren township police departments planned to build intelligence files on suspected gang members operating in and around Pike and Warren township schools. The intelligence was to be stored in and maintained by the MCPO. The agencies planned to use the information collected to predict crime, to identify and apprehend targets, and to build evidence necessary for successful prosecution; with an end goal of reducing gang-related crime. To ensure uniformity, detectives used a vertical prosecution strategy working directly with the MCPO Chief Deputy Gang Prosecutor.

Detectives developed lists of known and suspected gang members using social networking sites and briefed IMPD districts within the Pike and Warren township target areas. The MCPOGJD provided district officers and detectives with an investigator call-out list so that they could call an on-call detective involved in gang-related investigations to collect real-time evidence if they came into contact with a known or suspected gang member.

Collaborative Partners

The MCPOGJD partnered with the MSD Pike Township Police and MSD Warren Township Police. Collaborations with the IMPD Gang Investigation Section were also essential to the project.



Overall Project Assessment

The MCPOGJD expended all grant funds awarded and made solid progress in investigating criminal gangs in Pike and Warren townships. Detectives were able to collect crucial photographic intelligence on 12 known or suspected gang members and initiate undercover and informant operations using audio equipment to listen to and record conversations that aided in the prevention of crimes. Detectives documented 15 major felony crimes, and identified their perpetrators, and expect to arrest and prosecute 40 or more persons on state and federal criminal charges. Finally, investigators expect to remove an entire gang from one of the target areas and have developed a “Long Term Investigation Model” to map out gang-related investigations, from identification of the gang and its members to criminal and civil prosecution.

This project represents a well-organized and coordinated effort between MCPOGJD, IMPD, and the respective police departments in Pike and Warren townships. Over the next six months, the agencies plan to conduct controlled buys of illegal narcotics and weapons and interdiction stops of vehicles transporting these items to identify “stash house” locations, and to follow-up on previously recorded statements to solve major felony cases that remain unsolved.



Travel and Training Activities

In addition to the programs described above, PSN resources funded five travel and training events in 2009 with just under \$11,000 in PSN funds (Table 3). Two Interview and Interrogation Trainings were completed in March, one in Indianapolis and one in Evansville, with a total attendance of 85. In April, 96 officers attended an Advanced Interview and Interrogation Training presented by John J. Millner and Associates Inc., and 98 criminal justice practitioners (police officers, prosecutors, probation officers, and parole officers) attended the first of two Online Social Networking Trainings; the second training occurred in November and was attended by 193 practitioners. Finally, PSN funded a training event in October to teach law enforcement officers how to use a video camcorder and other surveillance equipment, and travel and registration expenses for three gang detectives attending the Tri-State Gang Conference in September.

Table 3: PSN funded travel and training events, 2009

Event	Date	Attendance	PSN Funding Amount (\$)
Interview and Interrogation Training for Gang Investigations	March 23, 2009	50 persons	2,971.09
	March 24, 2009	35 officers	
Advanced Interview and Interrogation Training	April 6, 2009	96 officers	2,500
Online Social Networking Training	April 30, 2009	98 participants	1,420
	November 19, 2009	193 participants	1,175
Video Camcorder Training for Law Enforcement	October 11, 2009	10 officers	2,000
Travel, "Tri-State Gang Conference"	September 21-23, 2009	3 gang detectives	791.48
TOTAL		485	10,857.57

Participants attending the Online Social Networking Trainings were asked to evaluate the training by answering a ten-question survey.⁷ Of the 208 participants who responded, 207 (99.5 percent) said the training was "worth attending". All respondents rated the overall training as either "good" (11 percent), "very good" (37 percent), or "excellent" (52 percent).

⁷ See *Online Social Networking Training Evaluation* for complete results.



Ongoing Grants

PSN subgrantees funded as of October 1, 2010 for grant periods beginning in 2010 include:

1. Christamore House (Choices), a program focused on female youth to help them avoid bad choices,
2. Cumberland Police Department (CPD), for continued support of PSN officers,
3. Community Alliance of the Far Eastside (CAFÉ) (Hearts Landing), a program focused on giving non-violent young adults involved in drug dealing a second chance, and
4. Westside Community Ministries Inc. (WCMI), a family mentoring program focused on families of youth who are at-risk of gun and gang involvement.

The Christamore House program received \$2,000 in PSN funding and will run from June 1, 2010 through February 28, 2011. The CPD program received \$17,000 and will run from August 1, 2010, through July 31, 2011. The CAFÉ program received three grants totaling \$56,000 and will run from June 1, 2010, through May 31, 2011. Finally, the WCMI program received two grants totaling \$43,000 and ran from April 1, 2010 through September 30, 2010.



Summary and Recommendations

The overarching goal of the Project Safe Neighborhoods program is to reduce gun-related violence and gang activity. With regards to this goal, 2009 Southern District PSN subgrant recipients reported material progress, arresting and/or building cases on a number of gun and gang-affiliated offenders, identifying and dismantling multiple criminal gang organizations, and raising public awareness about gun violence and gang activity in targeted communities. Subgrantee programs generally reflected key PSN elements, including *partnerships, strategic planning, training, outreach* and *accountability*.

PSN resources funded personnel in two cases, but the majority of resources were used to purchase equipment and other non-personnel items, perhaps reflecting the maturity and integration of PSN activities within these agencies and a corresponding shift in funding priorities from manpower to innovation and technology. These investments have two potential advantages. First, they may improve the efficiency of PSN activities—as seen with the State Police in reducing time spent for certain wiretap activities by 50 percent and the IMPD use of touch DNA evidence collection techniques to improve the suspect identification success rate. Additionally, technology investments often have a useful life that extends beyond the PSN grant period—as with the binoculars restored by IMPD and intelligence gathering equipment purchased by the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office—and/or have benefits that are transferrable to other agencies—as with the subscription purchased by the ISP that it used to assist other agencies. To the extent that PSN manpower needs are met and programs are relatively well-established, the PSN Steering Committee is encouraged to continue exploring opportunities for integrating efficiency-enhancing “technologies” into PSN programs. In doing this, the Committee is encouraged to continue engaging and forming lasting partnerships with private enterprises, where appropriate, who can bring technical expertise to PSN efforts. The ISP’s use of TARGUSinfo and IMPD’s use of Strand Laboratories are good examples of this engagement.

The PSN program calls for partnerships and strategic planning. All PSN subgrantees reviewed reported strong levels of collaboration with local, state, and federal criminal justice agencies, and in some cases community businesses and churches. Additionally, the Marion County Prosecutor’s Office reported developing a “Long Term Investigation Model” to map out gang-related investigations, reflecting a commitment to strategic planning. The Steering Committee is encouraged to continue exploring opportunities for collaboration, particularly with organizations and community leaders outside the criminal justice system, and to review the investigation model developed by the Prosecutor’s Office to determine if it holds best practices that can be applied to other PSN programs.