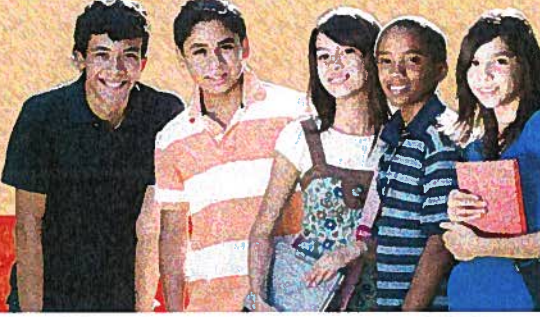
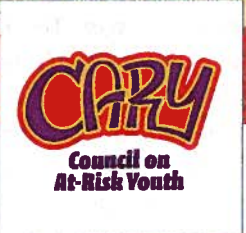


“We can invest in our youth today or pay much more later.”


– Art Acevedo Chief of Austin Police Department, CARY Board Member



Get Involved
Please join with us to promote safer schools and safer communities.



Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY)
www.councilatriskyouth.org
f CARY4AustinYouth @CARY4austin



Our Mission

CARY helps youth promote safe schools and safe communities.

A History of Successful Growth

In 1999, CARY began operating in the Austin ISD Alternative Learning Center, providing training in the prevention of delinquency and youth-violence to at-risk students. By 2012, CARY had expanded its presence to ten AISD schools, including middle-school training programs at Bedichek, Burnet, Dobie, Garcia, Martin, Mendez, Pearce, and Webb, and a Behavioral Coaching Mentors Program at Reagan, Lanier, and LBJ high schools.

Working with Schools and Parents

In the 2011/12 school year, 25,000 disciplinary actions were taken with 13,000 AISD students. Of these students, 600 voluntarily participated in CARY training with referral from school officials and parental consent.

Focus on Troubled Youth

CARY focuses exclusively on youth who have severe disciplinary issues, are in school disciplinary systems, have gone through school suspension, or have been removed to the disciplinary alternative education program. Their average age is 13, and many have emotional disabilities, limited English proficiency, drug abuse problems, and low academic performance. They are mostly poor (95%), minority (95%), and male (80%).

Making Early Interventions

School disciplinary acts are powerful predictors of future delinquency and criminality: over half of all bullies are predicted to have one criminal court conviction by age 24, and 40% will have three criminal court convictions. CARY works with youth at a stage when intervention is most successful and the student's school and learning experience can be turned around. (Ask us for copies of "Breaking Schools' Rules," a study from the Council on State Governments Justice Center and Texas A&M University Policy Institute.)

Students tracked 6 months post- CARY

49% showed improved attendance

62% improved their grades

93% had fewer or no disciplinary incidents

Evidenced-Based Program

CARY's two-semester program uses PeaceRox, an evidence-based curriculum that teaches positive social skills, anger management, empathy, and character education. PeaceRox stems from Aggression Replacement Training, a program certified by the National Center for the Study and Prevention of Youth Violence and the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention.

CARY's programs also include individual behavioral counseling, parent-support groups, service-learning projects, and a higher-education scholarship fund for program graduates.

Qualified Staff

CARY's staff members are primarily Masters-level personnel with social work, psychology, or special-education focus and 3 to 5 years experience in mental health, special education, youth service, or correctional job settings.

Positive Program Evaluations

More than 10 years of internal evaluations and external studies by PhD researchers prove the effectiveness of CARY programs.

Surveys with school administrators, counselors, and parents show significant improvements in student attitudes, behaviors, and school attendance. Data also show decreases in anti-social behaviors and statistically significant reductions in all administrative disciplinary actions and incidents of school violence at every level of severity.

Valuable Public Education

CARY conducts community public-education events with expert speakers on topics related to youth violence, juvenile delinquency, school bullying, and gang violence prevention. We have featured speakers such as Dr. James Fox, Dr. Debra Prothrow-Stith, Barbara Coloroso, Fr. Greg Boyle, Leonard Pitts, and Dr. James Garbarino.

Diverse Sources of Funding

CARY has received funding from City of Austin Health and Human Services, Travis County Justice and Public Safety, Austin ISD, and foundations such as Hogg, RGK, Allstate, Trull, Lola Wright, Meadows, and A Glimmer of Hope.

CARY has received government grants from the Texas Governor's Criminal Justice Division, the Community Gun Violence Prevention program of the Bureau of Justice Assistance, and the Drug-Free Schools program administered by the Texas Education Agency and Department of Education. CARY also receives numerous local donor contributions.

Jim Kester Memorial Scholarship Fund

Through the Jim Kester Memorial Scholarship Fund, CARY awards small grants to graduating seniors who are pursuing higher education.

Making a Difference

CARY helps troubled youth turn their lives around and promote safer schools and safer communities.

Our programs reduce the human suffering associated with violent crime—at significant savings to taxpayers by keeping youth out of the *pipeline to prison*.

Annual Program Costs/Per Person	
CARY Program	\$750
Texas State Prison	\$18,500
Travis County Jail	\$38,500
TX Juvenile Justice Dept.	\$125,000

12/11/12



Resolution
April 19, 2013

**To Reaffirm Delinquency and Youth Violence Prevention Programs
For Safe Schools and Safe Communities
In Austin, the State of Texas and the United States of America**

Whereas, there have been 59 recorded school shootings and related community mass shootings throughout the United States beginning with the April 20, 1999 Columbine School shooting and continuing through the December 14, 2012 Sandy Hook School shootings, and

Whereas, these 59 school shootings and related community mass shootings have resulted in a total of 152 youth deaths, 50 adult and faculty deaths and 154 serious injuries with youth and adults throughout the United States during this 13 year period, and

Whereas, there have been no school shootings or community mass shootings in Austin since the University of Texas tower shootings on August 1, 1966 with 17 deaths and 31 injuries, and

Whereas, the Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) has continuously conducted delinquency and youth violence prevention programs with more than 5,000 high risk youth, in partnership with the Austin Independent School District beginning 2000-2001 and with support coming from the City of Austin and Travis County beginning 2004-2005.

Therefore, be it resolved that the Council on At-Risk Youth:

Extends deepest sympathies and condolences to the families and loved ones of the victims of school shootings and other community mass shootings at Sandy Hook Elementary School in New Town, Connecticut and at other locations for tragic shootings throughout the United States, and

Reaffirms its commitment to the goals of:

- Conducting delinquency and youth violence prevention programs with at-risk disciplinary students within our Austin public school system;
- Educating the public on the topic of delinquency and youth violence prevention with nationally recognized, expert speakers, and
- Advocating for city, county, state and federal government elected officials and agencies to establish community based delinquency and youth violence prevention councils and infrastructures, to achieve the goals for safe schools and safe communities for all school children and citizens, in the State of Texas and throughout the United States of America.

Adopted by CARY Board:
Stan Knee

Date:
April 19, 2013

OTHERS SAY: STAN KNEE AND ADRIAN MOORE
Texas Council of At-Risk Youth Feb. 17, 2013

Help at-risk youth early to prevent crime later

The American-Statesman editorial "Shrink prison system to save money" (Feb. 12) reviews utilization of state prison beds and concludes that "the state has an opportunity to shrink its bloated prison system and more smartly, rather than bluntly, address its criminal justice needs."

Rather than continuing to build capacity in our criminal justice system, why not re-examine our goals and smartly invest some of our hard-earned resources in preventing and intervening early, with those individuals who are bound for acts of delinquency, youth violence and crime.

There is a practical plan – one already in place, though largely underfunded: the early identification and programmed intervention with kids whose current behaviors exhibit warning signs for future acts of delinquency and crime.

We know the signs for those who enter into our school disciplinary system: lack of social skills or ability to develop satisfying relationships or friendship bonds, absence of empathy, perpetual feelings of having been wronged, and intense, unresolved anger and frustration stemming from feelings of failure.

Of particular note is that a single serious school disciplinary report is the most powerful predictor for commission of a delinquent or criminal act with subsequent referral to the juvenile justice system, according to a 2005 Texas A&M University study for the Governor's Criminal Justice Division. A similar report titled "Bullying Prevention is Crime Prevention" reports that 60 percent of middle school bullies can be predicted to have at least one criminal court conviction by age 24. Further, the

(Integrate) these programs into our schools.

Council of State Governments' recent review of nearly one million Texas students over six years also confirmed a strong link between repeat school suspension and expulsion and later criminal acts.

Because we know what to look for, we have a considerable advantage, responsibility and opportunity to implement behavioral health prevention and early intervention programs to reduce serious criminal acts – including those carried out through gun violence.

More than 500 science-based youth violence prevention, drug abuse prevention and delinquency prevention programs exist today. Each meets rigorous research standards and result in the prevention of serious acts

of delinquency and crime. The majority can be readily adapted to naturally fit into public school disciplinary programming. It is urgent, then, that we place a high priority on integrating these programs into our schools. Not to do so is to ignore the evidence.

Austin itself is home to such a program. For 12 years, the Council on At-Risk Youth (CARY) has collaborated with the Austin Independent School District to focus on 600 high-risk youths each year, using a two-semester comprehensive Aggression Replacement Training (ART) curriculum. ART offers skills training in anger management, social skills training, empathy training and character education along with individual behavioral counseling and coaching.

CARY works effectively with youths who would not otherwise graduate high school but who instead, after serious and repeated violations, graduate into the Texas juvenile and criminal justice system. External and internal evaluation shows measurable positive outcomes. Administrators, counselors and parents consistently give the CARY program high marks for significantly improving student participant attitudes, behaviors, anger control, problem solving skills as well as reducing aggressive and abusive acts.

As such, CARY encourages the Texas Legislature, Austin City Council and Travis County Commissioners Court to establish behavioral health and youth violence prevention boards and to redirect criminal justice budgets toward capacity and infrastructure that support these aims.

Sen. John Whitmire proclaims that "We need to use taxpayers' money to fight crime . . ." CARY proposes that we use our limited resources to "prevent delinquency and crime." Please join forces with CARY and our partners. Contact your city, county, state and federal representatives to demand investments in a safer, more harmonious society and, equally important, in productive young people we know are otherwise bound for crime and delinquency and prison incarceration.

Knee, a former Austin police chief, is chairman of the CARY board. Moore is the organization's executive director.

JOHN YOUNG

Feb. 16, 2013

Helping youth walk away from deadly gun violence

Nehemiah Griego was angry. He got angrier, and angrier, and then he got a gun. Or two.

On Jan. 19, a day when firearms advocates staged "Guns Across America" events, the 15-year-old Albuquerque boy shot dead all five members of his family.

Horrific, yes. But one thing: It could have been worse. Reportedly the teen contemplated shooting up a nearby Wal-Mart.

Something happened. Maybe his girlfriend persuaded him to confess. Maybe a kind word outside his family's church did it. It has a skate park, and in the hours after the shootings it provided hospitably familiar faces, including a friendly security guard who spoke with the teen.

Whatever the reason, he took authorities to his home, showed them the bodies, then showed them the murder weapons — owned by his parents — including a fully loaded .223-caliber semiautomatic.

In the weeks since the Sandy Hook horrors, Americans haven't been able to agree about much. Wait. That's not true.

Some conservatives and gun lovers have turned veritably evangelical about mental health.

The same people who would look the other way at the dimes being saved when services are cut from mental health services now say, "This is where we should be looking for answers, not blaming guns."

It's time for progressives, who have always urged more proactive approaches to crime prevention, to take them up on that.

Let's say that when he was in middle school Nehemiah Griego had been in a program aimed at helping rein in adolescent anger, one that showed good success in helping at-risk teens, and he was one of those. Would it have been worth it?

More than we could ever imagine. Well, some good people have been imagining this across our land, and getting good results. And people ought to start listening, particularly policy makers who make budget decisions.

Consider one player in Austin, the Council for At-Risk Youth — CARY. It works to get to angry kids just like Nehemiah Griego. It has a program called ART — Aggression Replacement Training — at five middle schools for disciplinary referrals, most commonly for bullying.

After a two-semester program that involves service projects, parental

The U.S. should look at an Austin intervention program aimed at juvenile delinquency and anger management.

involvement and a lot of anger management, it has shown pretty dramatic improvement in students' grades, attendance and discipline.

A study found that 60 percent of middle school bullies are destined to have criminal convictions by age 24.

CARY didn't invent any magic it plies. Others know what works. Intervention does. What CARY does have is support from a city — Austin — and a county — Travis County — both pitching in \$200,000 apiece annually.

CARY estimates that ART costs \$750 per student. It cites a study estimating it costs Texas \$125,000 a year to incarcerate a juvenile.

These advocates for at-risk students are calling on the Texas Legislature to set aside 1 percent of the \$20 billion the state spends on juvenile and criminal justice and to replicate programs in schools that help young people manage their anger.

Mental health? CARY has found that 20 percent of these children have emotional disabilities. School accountability? (Nothing seems to stir lawmakers like "school accountability.") These are our most likely dropouts, most likely classroom disruptions — oh, yes, and most likely killers.

Amid the discussions about gun control and whatever else society might do to avoid more Sandy Hooks, more Auroras, more Nehemiah Griegos, CARY executive director Alan Moore wrote President Barack Obama urging a new look at intervention programs aimed at juvenile delinquency and anger management.

"Too much of our direction fixates on capacity-building to 'help strengthen the juvenile justice system,' while not adequately addressing prevention and early intervention programs," he wrote.

No truer words could be spoken. With all the verbiage sprayed in the air about preventing deeds like those in Newtown, Aurora and Albuquerque, surely we can agree on something like this, and find a few pennies to do it better.

Young, a longtime Texas newspaperman, lives in Colorado.