

BOONE COUNTY CHILDREN'S SERVICES BOARD

VOICES FOR COLLECTIVE
IMPACT: YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION CONFERENCE



**Boone County
Children's Services Fund**

EFFORTS PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE



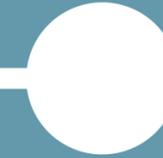
2018

The Children's Services Board created the High Risk Youth Committee to discuss strategies to address issues related to youth. Initial conversations of this committee focused on bringing the community together to address youth violence.



2019

The High Risk Youth Committee organized the Youth Violence Prevention Forum in 2019 to get input from community stakeholders on organizing a Youth Violence Prevention conference.



2020

Youth focus groups were held to hear from youth what is going well, what isn't, and potential solutions for our community. The results of this study are discussed in the *Voices for Collective Impact: Honoring Youth Perspectives* report.





YOUTH VIOLENCE
PREVENTION FORUM
FEEDBACK WAS USED
TO DEVELOP THE
PRIMARY MISSION
AND GOAL FOR THE
CONFERENCE:

ACTION PLAN

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Our community's action plan is equitable, trauma-informed, and actionable with input from youth.

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Improved access to mental health services and positive, productive activities for youth and families.

Parents/guardians develop healthy relationships with youth and provide safe environments.

Our community feels safe, entities collaborate effectively, and provides crisis response based on best practices.

Youth achieve their full potential academically, are healthy, and have economic opportunities.

Strategies

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VOICES FOR COLLECTIVE IMPACT: YOUTH VIOLENCE PREVENTION CONFERENCE OVERVIEW

The High Risk Youth Committee, a Boone County Children's Services Board (BCCSB) committee, coordinated a conference to bring community-wide stakeholders to learn, discuss, and develop an action plan to reduce youth violence and improve the well-being of children in Boone County.

SETTING THE STAGE

The conference started with presentations focused on the action plan goal statements and review survey results of conference participants perception on youth violence.

DEVELOPING STRATEGIES

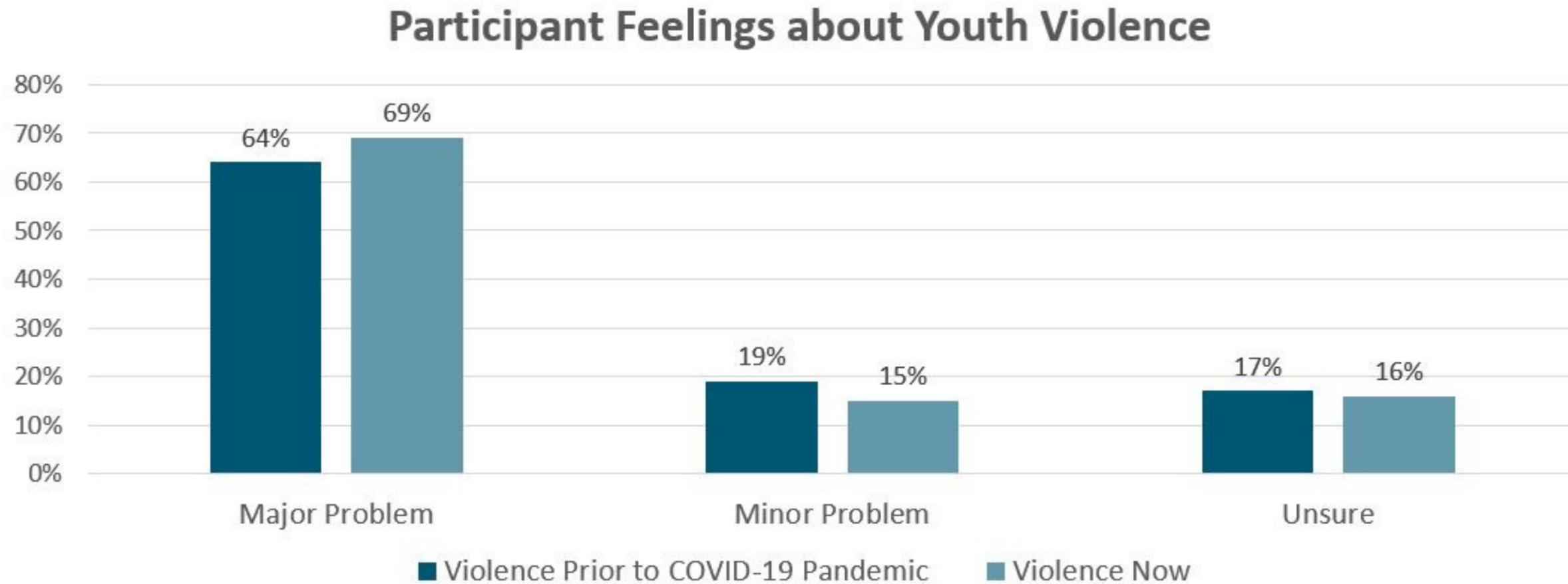
Conference participants were split into four action planning groups each focused on one of the action plan goal statements. Participants developed and prioritized strategies to achieve the action planning goals.

NEXT STEPS

Strategies developed within each action planning goal statement were shared out with all conference participants. The BCCSB plans to continue implementing the action plan and provide funding opportunity(ies) to implement strategies to address youth violence.

PRE-CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SURVEY

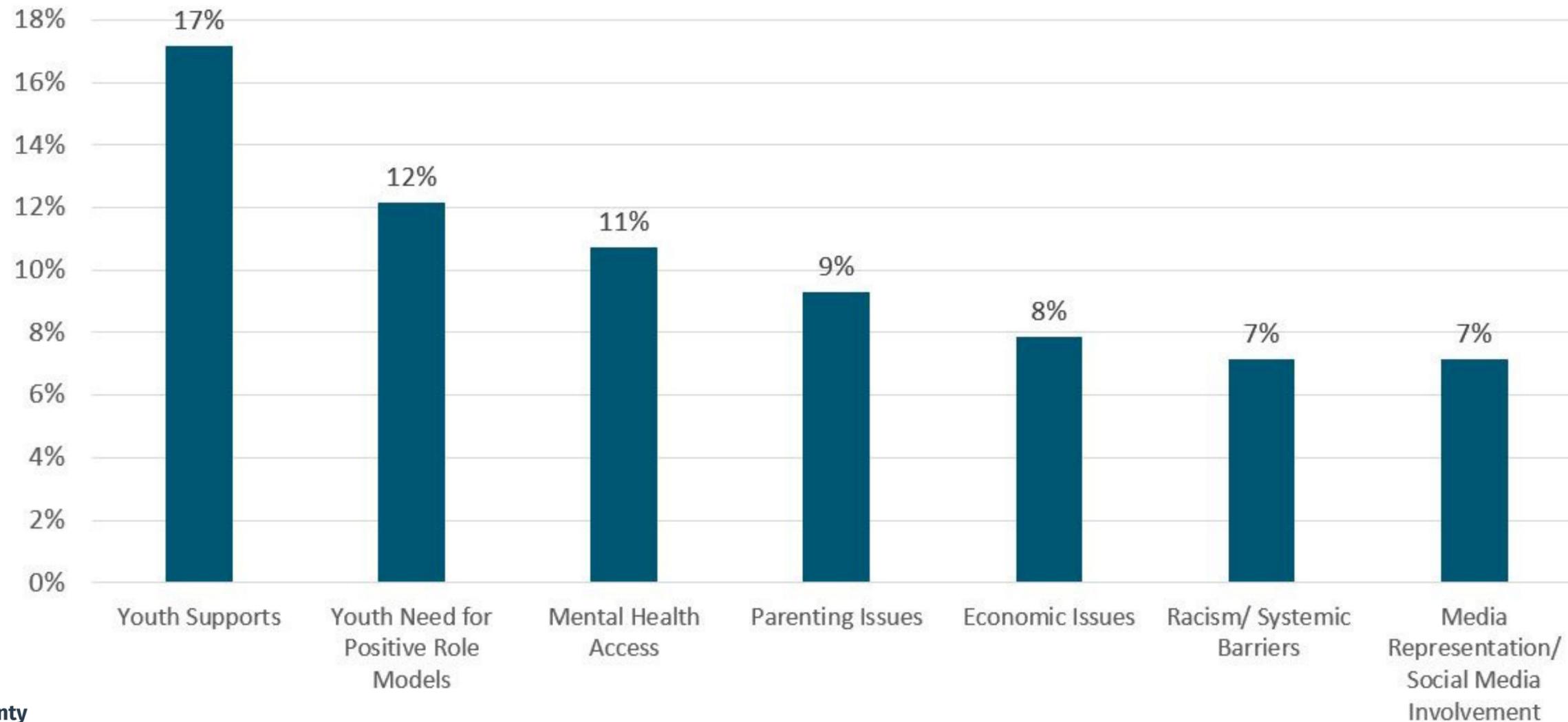
During registration, participants identified how much of a problem they felt youth violence was in our community. Majority of participants felt youth violence was a major problem in our community. Since the COVID-19 Pandemic, more participants feel youth violence is a major problem.



PRE-CONFERENCE PARTICIPANTS SURVEY

When asked what the most important issues impacting youth violence within Boone County, MO were, participants shared several issues they felt impacted youth violence. The most commonly repeated themes included:

Most Important Issues Identified by Participants



PRE-CONFERENCE SURVEY

YOUTH SUPPORTS

The need for accessible youth supports including afterschool programs, safe places to spend time/hang out, and to access needed services.

YOUTH NEED FOR POSITIVE ROLE MODELS

Next participants noted the importance of having positive role models.

MENTAL HEALTH ACCESS

Mental health access – including representative mental health providers, affordable options for therapy and other services.

PARENTING ISSUES

Parents need help supporting youth.

ECONOMIC ISSUES

Issues surrounding poverty impact youth.

RACISM/SYSTEMIC BARRIERS

Racism and systemic barriers limits access to resources in the community and impacts youth participating in violence.

MEDIA REPRESENTATION

Lack of representation in media outside of law issues for people of color. Social media influencers participating in violence make it “cool” want to be seen as successful.

SETTING THE STAGE: PRESENTATIONS

Presentations acknowledged that the action planning goal statements are not the current state of our community. The presentations were initial steps to finding solutions to the following questions and help build out action planning strategies. Recordings of the presentations can be viewed at:

<https://www.showmeboone.com/community-services/collective-impact/>

ACCESS

How do we improve access to mental health services and positive, productive activities for youth and families?

PARENTS/ GUARDIANS

How can parents/guardians develop healthy relationships with youth and provide safe environments?

COMMUNITY

How can our community feel safe, entities collaborate effectively, and provide crisis response based on best practices?

YOUTH

How can youth achieve their full potential academically, are healthy, and have economic opportunities?



ACTION PLANNING: DEVELOPING STRATEGIES

The second part of the conference consisted of developing strategies to achieve the four action planning goal statements. Participants were asked which action planning area they would like to develop strategies for and were pre-assigned to groups. They worked in small groups developing potential strategies and then reported out with other groups with the same goal. The strategies were entered into a survey and participants were asked to select three strategies they thought should be prioritized. All conference participants were brought back together and each action planning goal area reported out the developed strategies and summary of their survey results.

PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES:

IMPROVED ACCESS TO MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES AND POSITIVE, PRODUCTIVE ACTIVITIES FOR YOUTH AND FAMILIES.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
Need a directory of of all mental health resources in the community - online and able to update	50.00% 6
Increase educator knowledge and comfort with mental health	33.33% 4
Increase access to workforce development programming in the community - partner with the Career Center - promote to all high schools	33.33% 4
Create more community centers/pocket communities through neighborhood associations or faith communities	25.00% 3
Collaboration with faith-based communities to give information and destigmatize mental health issues	25.00% 3
More access to TAP free sessions - 12 instead of 6	25.00% 3
Training in non-traditional trauma informed training activities in a public setting - art and such	25.00% 3
Create mental health mentor pool to help guide people through the process	16.67% 2
Increase the number of qualified mental health professionals in Boone County	16.67% 2
Use schools in a way that is more community-based - activities for children	16.67% 2
Increase knowledge organizations have of other organizations	8.33% 1
Increasing representation in all mental health sectors needs to remain a priority	8.33% 1
Community engagement in the community agency to mind the gap in emergency situations - house the intake paper work through a trusted entity - informed information from the referral	8.33% 1
seamless data sharing/intake paperwork	8.33% 1
Normalize mental health by having younger people go to schools and speak about it	0.00% 0
Get mentors to talk about their trade with youth	0.00% 0

PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES:

PARENTS/GUARDIANS DEVELOP HEALTHY RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUTH AND PROVIDE SAFE ENVIRONMENTS.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Connectivity to services-making the connections between the families and the services already available	70.00% 7
▼ Making sure income and employment for parents- adequate source of income	40.00% 4
▼ Parents needs to fill their own cup- addressing their own trauma and mental health	40.00% 4
▼ Ongoing skills for parents for parental education	30.00% 3
▼ De-stigmatizing asking for help	30.00% 3
▼ Safe Places for all youth to go outside of school	30.00% 3
▼ Parental Eduational Sessions on healthy relationships/coping skills	20.00% 2
▼ Community Leaders/ Groups advocating for families/children	20.00% 2
▼ Ongoing skills for parents for employment	10.00% 1
▼ Helping parents know how to create a safe environment	10.00% 1
▼ Parent Hotline for Assistance- currently exists, so more promotion to this hotline	0.00% 0
▼ Court ordered parental educational sessions for ALL parents	0.00% 0
▼ Forum for parents to educate themselves of all resources available	0.00% 0
▼ Parent groups to help advocate for their children	0.00% 0

PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES:

OUR COMMUNITY FEELS SAFE, ENTITIES COLLABORATE EFFECTIVELY, AND PROVIDES CRISIS RESPONSE BASED ON BEST PRACTICES.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Sit down with the youth that are directly impacted to understand, give youth a platform where they feel comfortable with	40.00% 4
▼ crisis response team (violence interrupters) if a recent act of gun related violence to reduce the likelihood of a retaliatory event	30.00% 3
▼ need to rely on youth for the ideas/expertise	30.00% 3
▼ mentoring between high school and middle school students, high school athletes could go to lower schools and hang out, do homework, eat, etc. (representation matters)	30.00% 3
▼ Invest in Dream Tree Academy's mission, mentors, mentorship, activities, safe spaces, (Dream Tree Clean up high risk neighborhoods, give hope)	20.00% 2
▼ Fund and Foster community policing, reliable officer presence in neighborhoods, there to help solve community problems with you, there for positive context/safety - police work with youth agencies to connect youth voices/cops ear	20.00% 2
▼ Focusing on communicating with youth on the platforms they use and doing that continually	20.00% 2
▼ Support groups within the school environment around violence and trauma	20.00% 2
▼ Making sure services could be embedded into neighborhoods to remove transportation barrier	20.00% 2
▼ providing trauma response training (counselors could give training for teachers and community members and police and youth pastors and hr)	20.00% 2
▼ Focusing on intervention at the middle school level - drilling in on 4th grade students - not just focusing on kids known to us, but also the quiet ones	10.00% 1
▼ Ensuring that parents know the variety of resources available now, but hte people who they are seeking dont always know	10.00% 1
▼ Connector between parent and another safe adult (a teacher takes a student to introduce to officer)	10.00% 1
▼ Better options for youth in physical space, and more physical activities	10.00% 1
▼ model for youth crisis center, come in off the street for mental health/medical/mentoring	10.00% 1
▼ CPD Athletic League - similar to the basketball team a few years back	0.00% 0
▼ CPD/City/Sherriff connect victims of violence to community resources	0.00% 0
▼ Limiting guns and weapons would be a decision of city council	0.00% 0
▼ Having something like 875 TIPS geared towards youth and your families, example reporting a friend seeking a gun	0.00% 0
▼ FUnders ensuring applications for funding include demonstrated intrest from target populations	0.00% 0
▼ focus on making sure counselors in our area are trauma trained, remove barriers from insurance, increase providers	0.00% 0
▼ having resources for the long term, ex. reentry into hospital	0.00% 0
▼ targeted funding for mentoring	0.00% 0
▼ having schools open in the evening for services and activities, funding specific, need volunteers	0.00% 0

PRIORITIZED STRATEGIES:

YOUTH ACHIEVE THEIR FULL POTENTIAL ACADEMICALLY, ARE HEALTHY, AND HAVE ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

ANSWER CHOICES	RESPONSES
▼ Increase trauma-informed conversations in a coordinated approach between school and community settings.	47.06% 8
▼ Allow youth to lead initiatives, e.g. being a part of designing/planning/executing their ideas for solutions to what they identify as the issues/problems.	47.06% 8
▼ Provide more pro-social activities for youth to engage in where they feel safe.	41.18% 7
▼ Authentically listen to youth, validate their concerns/perspectives, and act based on their feedback to build more trust.	41.18% 7
▼ Increased opportunities for Mental Health services in both school and community-based systems/settings.	35.29% 6
▼ Start providing real-world/life skill instruction much earlier in education, e.g. elementary school	23.53% 4
▼ Create more community-based centers or tap into existing settings like churches for youth to both interaction and life skill development.	23.53% 4
▼ Provide paid internships and other alternative settings/learning opportunities that allow for applying skills in the real world.	17.65% 3
▼ Develop relationships with businesses specifically to coordinate mentorships for youth.	11.76% 2
▼ Provide more access to post-secondary opportunities outside of traditional college/traditional pathways to careers.	11.76% 2
▼ Strategically invite, engage, and empower youth who aren't as engaged/who may not think their voice matters.	5.88% 1
▼ Provide more academic supports and better engagement for 'middle' or 'majority' group of students who are 'coasting along' by engaging them in core/universally-required classes.	5.88% 1
▼ Support youth and families to grow their own healthy foods.	0.00% 0
▼ Look to organizations to help increase mentorships in the community.	0.00% 0
▼ Train seniors/retirees to authentically listen to youth and train their peers/other adults, based on what they learn from youths' input/perspectives.	0.00% 0

NEXT STEPS

CONTINUED ACTION PLANNING

The BCCSB plans to convene ongoing action planning efforts to build out and implement our community's action plan to address youth violence.

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES

The BCCBS released a targeted request for proposals (RFP) on July 13, 2021 to address identified youth needs and will close on August 23, 2021. Visit <https://www.showmeboone.com/purchasing/#> for information and/or sign up as a vendor to stay informed of future funding opportunities.

Visit

<https://www.showmeboone.com/community-services/collective-impact/>

for more information on youth violence and opportunities to participate in action planning.