

# Central Ohio Community Action for Peace



"Reduce Gun Violence  
and Build Community"

## Vision

Central Ohio Community Action for Peace (COCAP) works with governmental organizations, law enforcement, and community-based organizations, which focuses on street-level outreach, conflict mediation, and the changing of community norms to reduce violence, particularly shootings. COCAP uses prevention, intervention, and community-mobilization strategies to reduce gun violence.

## Mission

COCAP's mission, as a faith-based initiative, is to establish a community program with approaches to building collaborations in Columbus, Ohio. The successes of this program will require collaboration efforts with law enforcement agencies, businesses, service providers, schools, community groups, political leaders and one of COCAP's most important partners, churches, to work together. COCAP is focused on reducing group related violence by 30 to 60% in our neighborhood through implementation of a multi-faceted, cross-sector proven strategy for violence intervention. COCAP plans to use various tools to target this violence:

- Community mobilization.
- A major public education campaign.
- Services, such as GED programs, anger-management counseling, drug or alcohol treatment, and help finding child care or looking for a job that can improve the lives of at-risk youth, including gang members.
- Working partnerships across sectors of government, law enforcement, and the community.

COCAP is patterned after the Boston Operation Ceasefire model, which targeted youth and adult gang members in a multiagency coordinated Youth Violence Strike Force. It was based on an analysis of homicide among Boston's youth that determined that this violence was gang-centered, neighborhood-based, and concentrated in a small number of repeat-offending, gang-involved youth. COCAP is working with Dr. David M. Kennedy, who was a part of the Boston Operation Ceasefire model. This campaign began with an orientation for community groups and was then often carried out face to face with gang members, who were given the message that gang violence had provoked a zero-tolerance approach and that only an end to gang violence would stop new gang-focused suppression activities. The long sentences that offenders received were publicized in high-crime neighborhoods. The program components described above built upon and integrated the efforts of grassroots organizations and the faith community.

Dr. Kennedy, author of the book *Don't Shoot*, has devoted his career to reducing gang and drug-related inner-city violence. He started going to drug markets all over the United States, met with police officials and attorney generals, and developed a program — first piloted in Boston — that dramatically reduced youth homicide rates by as much as 66 percent. That program, nicknamed the "Boston Miracle," has been implemented in more than 70 cities nationwide.

Listed below are COCAP public safety team members:

LAW ENFORCEMENT TEAM

City of Columbus Police Department	Franklin County Prosecutor's Office
U.S. Attorney's Office	City of Columbus Attorney's Office
Franklin County Sheriff's Office	

GOVERNMENTAL TEAM

Court of Common Pleas and Probation Officers	
City of Columbus Mayor's Office	City of Columbus Recreation and Parks
State of Ohio Department of Public Safety	Ohio Coalition against Gun Violence

COMMUNITY TEAM

Local Community Churches	The Ohio State University
Capital University	Columbus State Community College
Center for Community Change	Area Commissions
Block Watch Organizations	Columbus Compact, Inc.
Business Owners and Residents	

SOCIAL SERVICES TEAM

Franklin County Children Services	Columbus Workforce Alliance (COWIC)
United Way of Central Ohio	Central Community House
Lutheran Social Services	

COCAP meetings are held at Rock of Faith Baptist Church, located at 1661 East Main Street, Columbus OH 43205. If anyone has any questions, please contact Pastor Norman J. Brown at (614) 405-8328 or email: [norman.brown@juno.com](mailto:norman.brown@juno.com).