

Hi, I am Julia Mitchell and I work for POIC as the Chief Compliance Officer. I managed our gang outreach contracts from 2011 until recently.

POIC's partnership with the City of Gresham and EMGET began in 2013. At that time we hired one outreach worker. We currently employ 3.

- EMGET provides outreach with information such as hot spots where gang impacted youth hang out. Outreach then goes to those areas and see if they can connect with the youth and young adults up to age 25.
- As a prevention measure and with a goal to redirect youth from gangs EMGET officers can and have referred high risk gang impacted youth to outreach workers. Outreach workers then build relationships with the families to connect them with educational, social, medical, and employment related services.
- EMGET has called outreach workers to crime scenes where their role is to console friends and family of victims. Just to be there for the community. They are there to help "keep the peace." *Keep people away from entering the crime scene*
- Outreach workers show up wherever the youth are: area schools, athletic events, trimet bus stops, community activities.
- *Outreach workers* They provide intervention services to city areas considered hotspots for gang-related activity, while working in coordination with law enforcement and other service providers during hours of highest activity probability (after school and weekends). They help get youth back into school, jobs, job training. They also help connect families to resources in the community.
- Outreach workers use effective violence reduction strategies in the cycle of street-level violence between high-risk gang members and their associates. (and I would like to stress that relationships with youth and their families is an effective violence reduction strategy used by outreach workers).
  - Please allow me to share this story as an example of a situation where outreach and EMGET helped to prevent a what could have become a violent incident on the streets of Gresham. Outreach worker Nelson Gonzalez, was driving through area hot spots when he

happened to see a group of rival gang members. He knew the majority of them through his work in the schools and community as an outreach worker. He recognized the situation looked serious and he knew the two groups had been fighting with each other. So, he stopped his car and approached the group of youth. At some point EMGET and other officers arrived. They recognized Nelson and the work he was doing to deescalate the situation. Because of the relationship Nelson had with EMGET he was allowed to get the crowd to disperse without the police. Nelson reported that he felt confident EMGET had his back and would step in if they thought he was in eminent danger.

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- Build relationships with programs in the community for the purposes of connecting gang members/associates and/or their families to educational, social, medical, and employment related services. What does this look like?
- Outreach workers connect with Gresham area middle and High Schools. Friday and Saturday night basketball.
- EMGET officers can and have referred high risk gang impacted youth to outreach workers in an effort to minimize police contact.