# **Project RENEW**



TAY Sub Committee Presentation June 4<sup>th</sup>, 2012 Costa Mesa Community Center

# RENEW TAY population Demographics

- Approximately 31 TAY Participants and 25 siblings
- Typically TAY lives at home with Single mother
- $\geq$  2 to 3 siblings and little to no male role model
- Many TAY have poor attendance at school
  - 1/3 involved in gangs
  - 25% have a co-occurring disorder (drug or alcohol) with a mental health condition



# **Our Efforts**

Stabilizing TAY lives
Increasing success at school
Increasing success in obtaining work
Looking forward to an academic or employment future, with hopes of a combination of both



# **RENEW Services**

- TAY employment counseling
  - Employment specialist developed a model directed to TAY
    - In-house support
    - Promoting success in finding and keeping a job

Job preparation group for TAY

- Dealing with issues specific to age group
  - Lack of experience
  - Legal history
  - Punctuality skills
  - Presentation for interviews





# **TAY Groups**

#### Girl-Talk Group

- Girl talk and support on issues
  - Peer pressure
  - Relationships
  - Gossip
  - Family issues

#### Buddy-Group

- Young TAY men-Outdoor Activities (Fishing, Basketball)
  - Avoiding gangs, School Clicks
  - Relationships
  - Drugs
  - Family issues





#### **Assistance with Transitional Goal**

- Help in setting path for goal TAY decides to pursue
   Educational Group coordinated by Employment/Education Specialist
  - Help in obtaining continued education after high school
  - Assisting with paperwork
  - Tours of community colleges
  - Education on 2 yr certified vocational programs



### **RENEW's Direction**

Starting a TAY co-occurring disorder group
 Adding a TAY to current partner Advisory Board
 Help TAY participate in program planning





## Letter from former 17 yr old TAY

"I am a victim of sexual abuse..."

"At the age of 10, I first experimented with drugs.."

"I was still fighting at school, and cutting class..using drugs, and constantly fighting with my mother"

"When I started working with personal service coordinator Katia at RENEW, I began to open up and trusting others"

"The thing I found most helpful about RENEW was how the program helped me change my attitude and the way I viewed life...I liked how I had someone to connect with and was able to learn how to trust in others"

What I liked about my personal service coordinator was that she was able to help me through the hard times, she gave me the tools I needed to face my problems, and she helped me face reality, and mature more.."

"The program changed my life in many ways. It helped me get out of a dark place and helped me have hope again"