

Group #3 – Rodney, Matt, Melissa

What specific gang related issues are being addressed in your schools and communities?

- Bradley County rise in gangs due to proximity of state corridor; growing gang problems in Chattanooga, TN
- I-75 corridor influx in Dooly County
- Bradley County-Law enforcement-increase of drug stops related to several gangs on interstate-Asian gangs coming out of Atlanta-Hispanics gangs out of Dalton, GA; not uncommon to get multi-million dollar drug busts
- Homicide in neighboring county was gang related and graffiti that is gang related; store owner's throat was slit
- Tagging in school bathroom; students are writing gang communications/coding on school papers
- Law enforcement has been able to decode messages

How are these issues being addressed?

- Pender County has gang resistance unit – law enforcement is teaching GREAT program/curriculum to 5th and 7th graders; trying to provide prevention and intervention to older students; more man-power needed
- Hispanic population is the largest gang problem in this county; gang signing in hallways; older students influencing younger students; YouTube has been a resource to decipher; talking to faith-based community
- Bradley County doing public forums to educate the community about the issue- Community Action Network to bring community agencies together to discuss the issue
- Exposed a need in BC for education; HS principals are discussing increased training for teachers and other staff
- Pender County-offering other alternatives to gang membership-boxing camps, etc. Female gangs not very prevalent yet; using sports to offset gang activities