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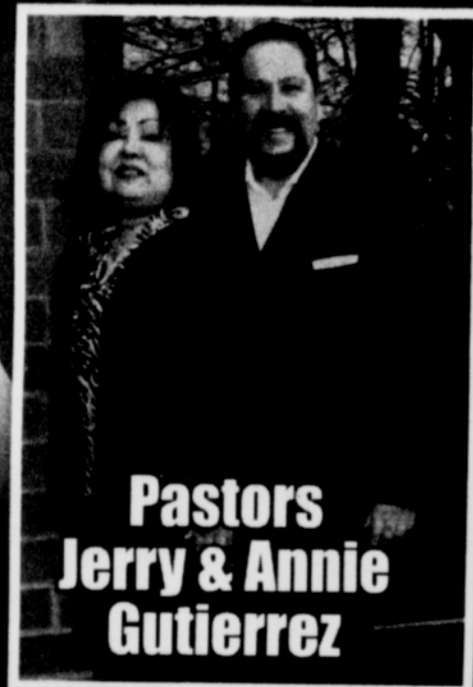
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# Money Runs Out for Gang Prevention

*continued from front*

this year within the city. The five-year \$4.5 million grant that was awarded to Multnomah County's Department of Public Health is part of the Striving to Reduce Youth Violence Everywhere grant, which will provide the county with \$225,000 per year for five-years to lead a number of groups to come up with new programs to prevent youth violence within high-risk communities in north and northeast Portland.

The grant funds are supposed to increase youth services throughout the county, but supporters of House of Umoja and other community activists and youth mentors are asking, what about the successful programs that already exist?

Tina Glover, former program director of the House of Umoja's culturally-specific intervention services, believes the more help that exists for youth within the community the better. But she said, however, there's been a shift in how people are addressing gang culture in the past couple of years.

Glover said when youth are diverted to other programs it doesn't factor in the lost cultural support the House of Umoja was able to provide.

"In February I was informed the contract would be changing from more prevention to intervention services," she said. "Instead

of being out at schools and educating families and supporting youth from becoming involved in gangs, it is now, do you have a family member involved in a gang, incarcerated, or on probation—if so, we will provide services to you."

"We have gone from prevention to intervention, and there needs to be both," she said.

In the past, youth who had the potential to be involved in a gang were referred to a program such as House of Umoja, which would make sure they had safe places to live, and their families were getting the support that they needed.

She said there was a priority on building cultural pride to offset a belief that African-Americans, through the contact with other cultures, had lost a sense of pride.

Glover called changes from prevention to intervention reactionary, like fixing a wound by putting a band aid on it without cleaning the injury first.

"Unless we can come at the issue from all directions—even eventually it will get infected again," she said. "Yes, there is a need for prevention services. And yes, there is a need for intervention like there is a need for outreach. But the three need to co-exist."

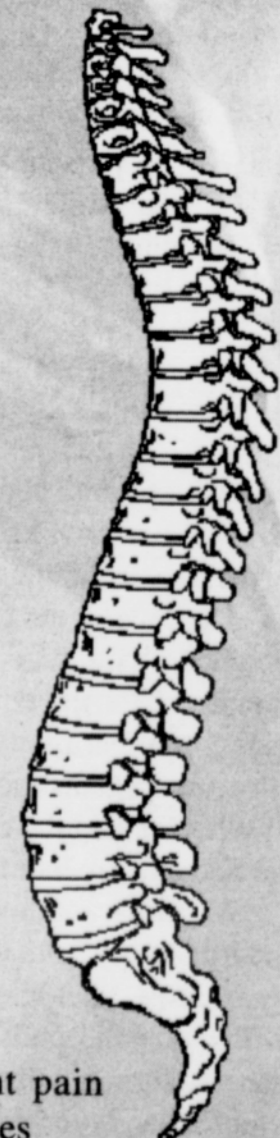
Butler agreed.

"What we do is work with kids on the streets," he said. "The closing down of House of Umoja is a travesty for the community."

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