

Exhibit 4.1

Alternative Definitions of Youth Gangs

- The term gang tends to designate collectivities that are marginal members of mainstream society, loosely organized, and without a clear, social purpose. (Ball & Curry, 1995, p. 227)
- The gang is an interstitial group (between childhood and maturity) originally formed spontaneously, and then integrated through conflict. (Thrasher, 1927, p. 18)
- [A gang is] any denotable adolescent group of youngsters who (a) are generally perceived as a distinct aggregation by others in the neighborhood, (b) recognize themselves as a denotable group (almost invariably with a group name), and (c) have been involved in a sufficient number of delinquent incidents to call forth a consistently negative response from neighborhood residents and/or law enforcement agencies. (Klein, 1971, p. 13)
- A youth gang is a self-formed association of peers united by mutual interests with identifiable leadership and internal organization who act collectively or as individuals to achieve specific purposes, including the conduct of illegal activity and control of a particular territory, facility, or enterprise. (Miller, 1992, p. 21)
- [A gang is] an age-graded peer group that exhibits some permanence, engages in criminal activity, and has some symbolic representation of membership. (Decker & Van Winkle, 1996, p. 31)
- [A gang is] a self-identified group of kids who act corporately, at least sometimes, and violently, at least sometimes. (Kennedy, Piehl, & Braga, 1996, p. 158)
- A Criminal Street Gang is any ongoing organization, association, or group of three or more persons, whether formal or informal, having as one of its primary activities the commission of . . . criminal acts. (Street Terrorism Enforcement and Prevention Act of 1988, California Penal Code sec. 186.22[f])
- [A gang is] a group that has three or more members, generally aged 12–24, who share an identity, typically linked to a name and other symbols. Members view themselves as a gang and they are recognized by others as a gang. The group has some permanence and degree of organization and is involved in an elevated level of criminal activity. (National Gang Center, 2014)