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Our group met for the second time in order to conduct a group session for kids who have been experiencing high levels of violence, bullying and gang activity in their school and in their neighborhood. Since this was our second time meeting as a group, we were certainly more open to speaking and in a much more open with each other and engaging in the role play. Carolyn Cuevas filled the role of social worker and the rest of the group played the role of students. Carolyn established the baseline of the group by greeting everyone, letting everyone know that the group was a safe place for sharing.

Carolyn also invited everyone to participate by establishing rules for the group. Most group members participated in this process and took the time to express how they are anxious coming to school and how their anxiety has affected them in school and at home. During the meeting, a group member arrived late to the meeting. Upon introducing himself, it became apparent that he previously had a violent altercation with one of the other group members. After a short period of unrest, Carolyn established control by informing the two members that they would meet with Carolyn separately to further discuss the issue.

While the group did not have enough time to touch base with every group member and their experiences with violence and bullying in the school, Carolyn asserted her role as the group leader to diffuse the escalating tension between the two problematic members by stating they would be meeting with her afterwards. The biggest challenge going forward is that the group did not have enough time to reestablish the therapeutic environment. As a group member, I was left feeling very tense and would most definitely need the therapeutic environment of the group to be re-established in order to feel safe expressing and dealing with the feelings of anxiety.