Community Engagement Workgroup

Presented by
Terry M. Bellamy and Brent Bailey
Community Engagement Workgroup

Members of the workgroup: Community members, community based organizations staff, county and state staff, district attorney and public defender offices – staff, and law enforcement

Frequency of meetings: Monthly

Goal of the workgroup: Provide outreach and education on the justice system, collaborate with community members to develop interventions that address community safety and drivers of incarceration; and partner with community groups on events.
Community Engagement Workgroup’s Accomplishments
Hosted listening sessions
Hosted online an online town hall during the COVID pandemic
Community Engagement Workgroup

- Public Safety Assessment town forum
- Experiences in the justice system survey Pre-COVID
- Experiences in the justice system survey post COVID-19
- Community table at Black Wall Street’s Grindfest
Community Engagement Workgroup

Created the Buncombe County Criminal Justice System 101 video
Community Engagement Workgroup - Planning for 2023
Community Engagement Workgroup

Justice Resource Advisory Council
Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Goal 4: Broadening Opportunities for Community Engagement

**Initiative 1:** Conduct Education and Outreach

- **Action 1.1** Partner with & build on existing organizations, initiatives, and meetings to provide education and outreach, listening sessions, focus groups, etc.
- **Action 1.2** Create infrastructure to ensure continuous feedback loop for community to be heard and responded to/acted upon and informed of updates to policies, procedures, and practices
- **Action 1.3** Create new methods of communication - e.g., social media

**Initiative 2:** Implement Participatory Decision-Making Models

- **Action 2.1** Increase/ensure representation of those most impacted by systems on councils and workgroups
- **Action 2.2** Explore community interest in participatory defense
- **Action 2.3** Create opportunities for continuous authentic community conversations and participation in decision-making
Community Engagement Workgroup

Justice Resource Advisory Council
Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Focus Area: Resident Well-being
Tier 1 Goal: Reduce jail population and enhance public safety
Tier 2 Goal: Improve engagement and collaboration among councils and committees to build community trust, accountability and service delivery

Initiative 1: Review accessibility for councils and committees
  Action 1.2 Evaluate current communications mechanisms for recruitment
  Action 1.3 Ensure translation services are available and information is translated
Community Engagement Workgroup

Justice Resource Advisory Council
Strategic Plan 2020-2025

Focus Area: Resident Well-being
Tier 1 Goal: Reduce jail population and enhance public safety
Tier 2 Goal: Improve engagement and collaboration among councils and committees to build community trust, accountability and service delivery

Initiative 2 Conduct community outreach and engagement
Action 2.2 Develop comprehensive community outreach and engagement plan
Action 2.3 Create calendar for board rotation
Action 2.4 Use strategies from plan to recruit members, with a focus on increasing membership diversity
Action 2.5 Employ strategies from the plan to ensure community participation
Action 2.6 Assess and reevaluate
Community Engagement Workgroup

Racial Equity Action Plan
Focus Area: Quality of Life
Tier 1 Goal: Improve Quality of Life Outcomes through Racial Equity Initiatives

Improve justice outcomes for the most impacted communities:
1. Partner with community, schools and justice system to end the school-to-prison pipeline and prevent youth from entering the criminal justice system
2. Enhance community safety by providing trauma-informed criminal justice responses for the Black community
3. Develop crisis response plan and initiative that reduces arrest rates for low-level offenses
4. Coordinate with justice and community partners to reduce adult and juvenile recidivism and enhance reentry planning and programming
The subcommittees’ PowerPoint presentations will be presented during the June 28, 2023, Community Engagement Workgroup's meeting.
Communications Subcommittee – Brent Bailey & Eric Jackson

Committee members: Mollie Gordon, Ari Moore, Betsy Chavez, Meredith Pressley, Kecia White, and Terry Bellamy

Instructions for the subcommittee:
- Create your subcommittee’s purpose statement
- Identify the strategies your subcommittee will implement
- Develop a schedule for implementing your subcommittee’s strategies
- Create a PowerPoint presentation to share your subcommittee’s work
Membership Subcommittee – Brent Bailey

Committee Members: Tara Irby, Kecia White, and Terry Bellamy

Instructions for the subcommittee:
- Create your subcommittee’s purpose statement
- Identify the strategies your subcommittee will implement
- Develop a schedule for implementing your subcommittee’s strategies
- Create a PowerPoint presentation to share your subcommittee’s work
Input and Analysis Subcommittee – Bill Lowrey

Committee Members: Tara Irby, Chaplain James, Lauren Jackson, Lauren Garvey, Hannah Calloway

Instructions for the subcommittee:
- Create your subcommittee’s purpose statement
- Identify the strategies your subcommittee will implement
- Develop a schedule for implementing your subcommittee’s strategies
- Create a PowerPoint presentation to share your subcommittee’s work
Community Input & Analysis (CIA) Subcommittee

Safety & Justice Challenge Grant
Community Engagement Workgroup

Bill Lowrey, Nnweyna Smith, Hannah Calloway, Vanessa James, Phyllis Utley, Lauren Garvie, Tara Irby and Lauren Jackson
Committee Purposes

• Engage with community members and organizations to gain input regarding their experiences, insights, and recommendations on ways to improve the criminal justice system.

• Analyze input from the community to articulate recommendations, select target groups to be informed, and recommend priorities for the full Community Engagement Workgroup.
Action Steps

1. Develop an action plan for the year to gain community input on criminal justice system reform
2. Identify community organizations and groups with which to partner in order to gain input from diverse populations in Buncombe County regarding the criminal justice system
3. Incorporate listening sessions, focus groups, and surveys into the action plan of the sub-committee
4. Conduct analyses of community input activities to gain critical insights and recommendations
5. Provide feedback loops to participating communities to test and modify analyses and recommendations, and ultimately make recommendations to the Community Engagement Workgroup
6. Transfer findings to the Communications Subcommittee for their work of informing the broader community and the criminal justice formal system
Thank you