

Lancaster County Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Committee

Quarterly Meeting

February 7, 2020

Attendance: Casey Karges (Mediation Center), Kay Mathews (Friendship Home), Karen Bell-Dancy (YWCA), Lesley Ahrens (Human Services), Chris Turner (County Attorney), Lori Griggs (Juvenile Probation), Vicky Smith (Cedars), Joe Wright (LPS), Jason Stille (LPD), Russ Uhing (LPS), Sheli Schindler (LCYSC), Mindy Vogel (Juvenile Probation), Sara Hoyle (Human Services), Becky Steiner (Human Services), and Jenni Ryan (Human Services)

This was the quarterly meeting that is open to the community.

1. JDAI (Juvenile Detention Alternatives Initiative)

- a. Family Engagement – Family Navigators are available outside Juvenile Court on Tues & Thurs from 1-3pm. We may be adjusting the time and/or location to reach more families. We are exploring doing something at detention.
- b. Case Processing – They are looking at data regarding the length of time to adjudication & when services are put in place, etc. They met with LPD, Public Defenders, County Attorney, and PACS. They've collected data on youth who had over 100 days from adjudication to disposition to dig into why things were continued and what happened in each case.
- c. Prevention – Friendship Home is bringing in a training on handling domestic violence in Middle Eastern cultures. It will be on Feb 28th from 9-12 in the City Council Chambers. We are planning another statewide juvenile justice conference for Nov 4-5, 2020 at the Cornhusker. The keynote will be a collaboration by Adam Foss, Lincoln & Colfax Police Chiefs and County Attorneys, as well as a journalism student. Let Sara know if you have any ideas for speakers.

2. RESTORE Update

Please see attached handout. It's been a little bit busier this last semester. Our partnership with the YWCA to engage more African American families has been going well.

3. SAMI Update

Please see attached handout. It only includes referrals that have come through the County Attorney. In many cases the schools are offering SAMI directly themselves without a law referral. Currently we aren't receiving many referrals due to the Hemp law that was passed last year. Out of 48 referrals only 10 were eligible (mostly MIPs and a few plant based marijuana's). Chris sends a letter to families offering resources to families through the Human Services office on cases he declines to prosecute. We are currently exploring another curriculum besides 3rd Millennium which is cheaper and offers modules of different lengths.

4. Probation Override Data

Please see attached handout. 254 youth were served in 2019. Sheli asked for the number of youth on a new law violation who had no other supervision already in place. The RED committee wants to determine if there are programs the community can provide to impact disproportionate numbers of African American youth going into detention. They asked if the data can be broken down further to show override reasons by race. Mindy explained there are some difficulties working with the 2019 data since the statute (LB1112) went into effect July 1.

5. Dr. Weiner's Data

Dr. Wiener will be presenting his data at the JDAI Collaborative meeting on Feb 20th at 1pm in the County/City Building (555 S 10th St, Room 303). His data tracks individual youth through the system from LPD/LSO/UNL Police/State Patrol/LPS to County Attorney, Diversion, and Detention. If an SRO referral, youth are less likely to be adjudicated as they are often diverted out through SAMI or Restore. We are

working on capturing data on how the referrals come to the SRO. Currently data shows that Hispanic youth are more likely to have SRO involvement. The data also looks at case processing – the lengths of time from referral to County Attorney opening a file, to the next system point & so on. Data shows:

- Date of offense to file = 6.5 days
- County Attorney's office to diversion = 26 days
- County Attorney's office to file in court = 28 days
- Restore referral times: LPD referral to intake is 10 days.
- 4% refuse diversion
- 83% success rate for diversion
- A higher NYS score indicates a higher likelihood for recidivism

6. Other

- The prosecutor training grant can be used to send juvenile prosecutors to the upcoming Georgetown trainings.

7. Next Meeting: April 3, 2020, 12pm-1pm County/City Building (555 S 10th St, Room 303)

Respectfully Submitted:

Jenni Ryan, Lancaster County Human Services