

Lancaster County Reducing Racial and Ethnic Disparities (RED) Committee

Meeting Minutes

April 1, 2022

Attendance: Amanda Conradt (CASA), Chris Turner (County Attorney), Russ Uhing (LPS), Ericka Lewon (Unite Us), Steve Solorio (El Centro), Karen Bell-Dancy (YWCA), Joe Wright (LPS), Rich Wiener (UNL), Kay Mathews (Friendship Home), Ana Cienfuegos (CCFL-UNL), Vicky Smith (CEDARS), Kimberly Goins (BGC), Quinton Furr (Juvenile Probation), Jason Stille (LPD), Stephanie Pospisil (Ponca Tribe of Nebraska), Ishma Valenti (Malone Center), Renee Dozier (Region V), Eve Brank (CCFL-UNL), Stanford Bradley Jr. (Malone Center), Christa Yoakum (County Board), John Goodwin (Malone Center), Sara Hoyle (Human Services), and Jenni Ryan (Human Services)

Follow-up from Jason Szanyi:

Reviewed the Current Areas of Focus slide – we’ve had in-depth conversations on all these in this committee.

- Youth & Community Partnership – building on services you already have or can build with the community agencies.
- Pre-arrest/Pre-referral Diversion – we have Restore, are there other ways we can grow?
- Expansion of Use of Restorative Practices
 - Russ shared that LPS has 4 equity goals. 1 deals with behavior and the increased use of restorative practices.
 - Discussions down the road of joint trainings & continue to broaden community efforts
 - Already have a staff person embedded in the schools to do restorative practices. Chris has seen several middle schools utilize this.
- Conversations about the Role of Police in Schools
- Targeted Race Equity Impact Assessments

Jason’s links (from the Feb minutes) – please review these prior to our next meeting, we can review them more at that time. Sara pointed out the Reimagining Youth Justice Report – it’s long but they did a great job and touched on a lot of the kind of work we’ve done.

Review of Priorities:

- SRO Involvement – current data does not show increased juvenile justice involvement, though this is a concern nationally. Keep as a priority & continue to monitor.
- Detention & waiting for placements – this issue was identified by the County Board as a priority to use ARPA funds, we have a partnership with RFK to develop a residential option
- Analysis on why disproportionality exists – Data project with Dr. Wiener, will continue to monitor & discuss. We need to start having conversations on what to do to impact disproportionality.
- Data from Probation & courts – we are still not where we want to be with Probation sending individual level data to Dr. Wiener. We have some from the courts. Probation is also working with RFK on strategic planning. County Attorney has data on length on Probation, successful/unsuccessful release, and outcomes of revocation hearings. It would be interesting to know how decisions are made by Probation on RAI and recidivism data.
- Work with youth on understanding rights – There’s been work at Malone Center. Their Take Pause program builds relationships with law enforcement and teaches rights and best practice for interacting with officers, receive referrals from diversion, schools, and community programs. They use pre- & post-surveys to track outcomes. They utilize a game that goes over laws & rights, basketball games, and

serious conversations after building rapport. The City also continues to have a lot of contact with Malone & good collaboration. We will have our Bridging the Gap event in June at ClubLNK.

Other:

- Do we want to have another juvenile justice training with LPS? We can discuss this more at our next meeting. LPS will be doing a Threat Management Training at their traditional July meeting. We could set up another time for the JJ training. Is there a different LPS group we could address instead of the administrators?
- Moving forward do we want to meet in person or via zoom? Jenni will send out a survey.
- Next meeting we will finish reviewing our priorities and Eve & Ana can present on Restorative Justice.

Next Meeting: June 3, 2022 from 12pm-1pm

Respectfully Submitted:

Jenni Ryan, Lancaster County Human Services