

DRAFT SUMMARY MINUTES

Thursday, October 26, 2017- 6 p.m.

COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT TASK FORCE

Community Partners
2001 Blue Heron W
Riviera Beach, FL 33404

Members and Guests Present:

Co-Chair Barbara Cheives, Converge and Associates
Roselyn Baker, Circuit Administrator, Florida Department of Corrections
Dr. Angela Bess, Palm Beach County School District
Sharon Edmonds, Senior Supervisor, Florida Department of Corrections
Carey Haughwout, Public Defender, Circuit 15
Serena Schreiber Hoermann, Communications Coordinator, Florida Atlantic University
Ontario Johnson, Community Partners
Captain Chris Keane, Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office
Jennifer Loyless, Program Coordinator, Public Defender's Office
Adam McMichael, Asst. US Attorney, US Attorney's Office
Jeannette Marshall, Project Director, Healthier Together
Chief Sarah Mooney, West Palm Beach Police Department
Cheo Reid, Asst. State Attorney, State Attorney's Office 15th Judicial Circuit
Charlotte Wright, Director, Community Engagement, Community Partners

CJC Staff Present:

Kristina Henson, Executive Director
Katherine Shover, Senior Criminal Justice Analyst

October 26, 2017

- I. Opening comments
- II. Introductions were made.
- III. The July 27, 2017 minutes were approved.
- IV. The October 26, 2017 agenda was approved.
- V. Presentation

Serena Schreiber Hoermann, Communications Coordinator, Florida Atlantic University provided information about the Urban Stories Festival. This is an open storytelling festival that will be held on January 27-28, 2018 at the waterfront in West Palm Beach. After discussion and a variety of suggestions, members came to consensus that Jeannette Marshall's suggestion to host a Kids and Cops storytelling event would be done. Staff will work with Serena and Jeannette to coordinate the event.

- VI. Old Business

Executive Director Henson advised that the CJC received the maximum award of two million dollars for the MacArthur Safety and Justice Challenge. Ms. Henson reviewed the strategies and goal of the project to reduce the jail by 17% in the next two years. She reviewed the jail statistics that indicate African Americans represent 50% of the jail population and 19% of the overall population for the county. They also have the longest length of stay (44 days) as compared to 25 days for whites. A key strategy of the project is to identify disparities such as these and develop remedies.

- XI. New Business

Co-Chair Cheives mentioned that she wants to review the progress and goals of the task force and asked members for thoughts on how to address the serious issues she is hearing about from others occurring between law enforcement and the African American community. A young man from Boynton Beach shared a recent negative encounter with law enforcement which highlighted the tension in the community. Ms. Haughwout noted that there is no outlet to discuss experiences without fear of retribution. Members agreed that the next meeting of the Task Force would be devoted to discussing how the Task Force should move forward.

- X. Adjourn