

# Spokane Regional Law and Justice Council

## Racial Equity Committee

### Minutes of Meeting

**Date:** October 2, 2019

**Time:** 11:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m.

**Location:** The Gathering House

733 W. Garland Ave. Spokane WA 99205

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- Call to order by Carmen Pacheco Jones, chair REC.

### Municipal Justice Facility – Howard Delany.

- Break system of reoffending by providing educational opportunities to change behavior. The lack of space creates a challenge. We've been looking at spaces for about ten years, and this year we gained traction. We'd like all involved to be in a common facility with residential bed space. We're looking beyond the old model of "bed and bars." We also need to plan for the future, so we're looking ahead 30 to 50 years.
- Look at other municipalities. We're thinking of a facility that is 76,000 sq. ft that includes office, courtroom, multiple purpose, and common spaces. Spaces can be used for people going through criminal justice space, by also beyond. We think there should be some minimum security beds. Continuing to contract with jail.
- Currently the average stay is 14 days or less for Misdemeanor for 60 individuals 150 residential spaces planning 40 years in advance. Do in pods. include residential drug treatment.
- City looking for real-estate. Gardner
- Goal put all agencies together for efficiency Logistical advantages. Defendants pass through system, to reduce recidivism. Appropriate assessment of risk and needs to get them in the right spot so that they can be successful citizens when released.
- We're in the very early stages. Stockholder input needed. Right now we're setting precursors in place. Training in risk/needs assessment.
- Question: It the new proposed jail a county effort.

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- Answer: Our facility is separate and apart from jail.
- Question: How does resource center Envision Center.
  - Answer: We're talking about finding big enough facility that we would merge all of some of them. Holding sentenced people and pre-trial individuals. There are now two large facilities. Dorm styles goal not to have it be a traditional bed and bars.
- Question: Can you talk about people not offenders.
  - Answer: Yes, certainly.
- Question: What are we doing with system level to address traumatization?
  - Answer: Stakeholder process. Discussion thus far. Standing monthly meeting city criminal justice. Every other month Thursday at noon. Gloria Ochoa-Bruck schedules these meetings - minutes are available. City administrator Teresa Sanders is the lead.
- Question: Have stakeholders present from the beginning. Community and impacted people need to be involved through the process, and not be simply a piece of the process.
  - Answer: Call Gloria or Teresa about this request.
  - EM will follow up on stakeholder from now and forward. Notes needed.
- Observation: we're told about it after it has started. Even if we're told it is only private conversations - it comes across as an insult. We're not an afterthought.
  - Response: It's gone from a giant pipe dream to active only in last 60 days. It's in its infancy.

### Additional Comments:

- 1. Inclusive nature of community and system. Significant conversation on who is incarcerated. Sense of shame for low income. Not just how to keep a budget. Drivers of recidivism:
  - +Poverty
  - +Drugs

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- Not knowing is a good example of need to have people who have experienced is the best to give input.
- 2. Topic of how many citizens police practices. We need a strategy for reducing jail population now.
- 3. It is now a political season. New mayor and city council might change direction. This may factor in to why there is not more public conversation.
- 4. New facilities does not impact systemic dysfunction. Critical need to change the system first. If we build without making systemic changes it's a colossal waste of money.
- 5. Concern that people will end up being warehoused. Address timing of treatment: 30, 60 90 day. Hit bottom in addiction and these is no bed available, they go back. Have beds available not as a sentence but for them. Coercion.
- 6. Design, programs, evidence-based missing. post-sentence side is moving to the evidence =-based side. Community support. Best practices should be core to conversation. Core best practices. What we're trying to adopt. Core part of planning team. Different philosophy leading.
- 7. Address disparities. Assume that will be part of classification design should eliminate unfairness.
- 8. Total number of incarcerated people will remain the same, but we'll be sending them to two locations instead of one location.
- 9. SPD pipeline and park enforcement input enforcement of city codes. Therefore racial disparity starts with this input. Court part of decide. Pre-trial release factors. City can address those issues. Set bail amounts. FTA problem.

### **HB 1517 Domestic Violence Therapeutic Programs and Risk Assessment**

- Racial Equity Committee will participate in this statewide process through two or three members being involved. There are two different categories: Risk Assessment and Offenders. We need to have more representation by impacted people.

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### Update on Justice Task Force and Committees

- The committees are meet weekly for one hour. Lots of members are not showing up, especially systems people. Rethinking Incarceration Committee is talking about FTA's when we need a system change. America shows a need to arrest people. We may get a report card in a few months on areas identified in the Blueprint or Reform, but the slowness shows lack of urgency. The Criminal Justice System urgently needs to be looking through the racial equity lens. We're not addressing trauma resulting from incarceration on people of color and poor people. We need to be thinking long range and to look at root causes, such as education. We cannot save everyone, but need to address root causes.
- Since systems people are not attending do we need to bring to SRLJC? Carmen will bring up this concern. However, even members of the Task Force are not always showing up, and sometimes send a representative in their place.

### Reentry Task Force

### Criminalizing Homelessness and Poverty

Jewell's Helping Hands Report: Addressing people traumatized since birth. Current support system programs do not work. Peer support is able to help them to at least be willing to talk. We're working with the Spokane Valley Police to remove people without the police getting involved.

- Question: How many people do you serve?
  - Answer: Clothing and food for approximately 300 per month. Example: Family of six children loose children. Spokane Valley Police called me. We collected them. We're looking to open a warming center. If they are arrested they have seconds or minutes to collect items, including medications and baby formula. They often lose their possessions.
- Homeless people are preyed upon by others. Drug addiction is often the result of trauma of homelessness. Three out of five women on the street

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are raped. Advocate for community services rather than criminalization. Without basic needs being met you cannot advance your life. Reforms are for the wellbeing of the entire community, as well as for impacted people. 58 people died on our streets this year so far. If you're homeless when having a baby, you will not bring that baby home.

### **Culture of Incarceration**

### **Community Representative Opening**

#### **TO DO**

- Em follow up with Teresa
- Early next year meet with new mayor and city council we want to be in the planning stage.
- Create meeting with Vera.
- Carmen on agenda of SRLJC and then present the following motion.

#### **Motions**

1. Bring to attention of the SRLJC through Carmen Pacheco-Jones that the RE Committee is very concerned that many Justice Task Force Committee members are not attending weekly meetings, specifically systems appointed people. Em moved, Francis seconded.
2. Em Daniels moved to approve the August 2019 minutes, Carmen seconded. Motion carried.