



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



Community Engagement Workgroup



SAFETY + JUSTICE CHALLENGE
Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation



BUNCOMBE COUNTY JUSTICE RESOURCE ADVISORY COUNCIL
Promoting and supporting the criminal justice system's effectiveness, promoting public safety, and community well-being.

"LET'S TALK JUSTICE"

A Report Back to Community
Pisgah View Apartments -
November 2019

EVENT BACKGROUND

As part of the Safety + Justice Challenge, Buncombe County Government is creating opportunities for increasing community engagement in local criminal justice improvement efforts.



EVENT SUMMARY



"Let's Talk Justice," a series of listening sessions hosted by Buncombe County Government with the purpose of gathering community input on their experiences to inform change within the criminal justice system. There are two sessions in each "Let's Talk Justice" event.

11.05.19 - FIRST SESSION



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"LET'S TALK JUSTICE"

A Report Back to Community
Big Ivy - September 2019

EVENT BACKGROUND

As part of the Safety + Justice Challenge, Buncombe County Government is creating opportunities for increasing community engagement in local criminal justice improvement efforts.



EVENT SUMMARY



"Let's Talk Justice," a series of listening sessions hosted by Buncombe County Government with the purpose of gathering community input on their experiences to inform change within the criminal justice system.

9.10.19 - FIRST EVENT

Community members shared their experiences, envisioned aspects of a safe community, and identified what is not working well within the criminal justice system.



7 key problem areas were identified by participants.

Hosted listening sessions
Hosted online an online town hall during the COVID pandemic



Community Engagement Workgroup

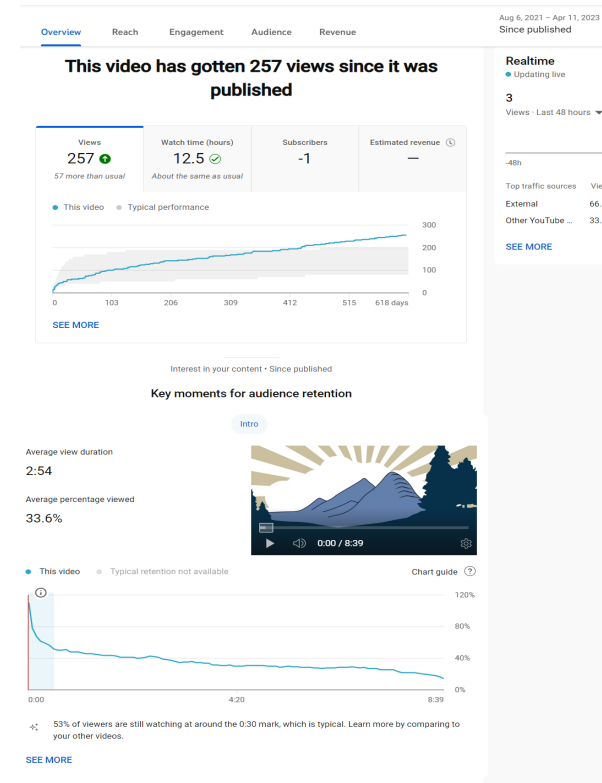
- Public Safety Assessment town forum
- Experiences in the justice system survey Pre-COVID
- Women in jails community awareness event
<https://mountainx.com/blogwire/new-vera-institute-of-justice-report-emphasizes-need-for-community-based-alternatives-to-support-not-punish-women/>
- Experiences in the 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





Finding Solutions Our Network Resources

Finding Solutions

The Safety and Justice Challenge invests in locally developed, evidence-based solutions that take a balanced approach to protecting public safety, including:

- DIVERSION
- SECOND LOOK HEARINGS
- BAIL REFORM
- DRUG TREATMENT
- REENTRY PROGRAMS
- MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

Our goal is to:

Our goal is to support policies and practices that will safely reduce populations by 50% across all Safety and Justice Challenge jurisdictions by 2025 and eliminate racial inequities. We're providing practical guidance and scaffolding to communities that are taking bold action in response to centuries of institutional and systemic racism, honoring the experiences of directly impacted communities, and working together to achieve transformational change.



Buncombe County Strategic Plan 2020-2025

POWERED BY FORESIGHT

5/25/2023

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



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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



Community Engagement Workgroup

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
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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



BUNCOMBE COUNTY



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

