

Justice Not Jails

Vision: A compassionate community assuring equity and dignity.

Mission: Advocating with allies to educate decision makers to create a more equitable ~~treat the oppressed and vulnerable stuck in our~~ justice system.

I) Goals to End Racial Disparity:

- 1) Eliminate the Disparities based on Race in the Justice System

Steven
Carol
Donna
Ruth

Objectives to support Ending Racial Disparity:

- 1) Educate ourselves:
 - a) Sponsor? (Co-sponsor?) a workshop on Institutional Racism?
 - b) Research
 - i) Actual demographics of individuals in Thurston County's Criminal Justice System
 - (1) Contacts between Law Enforcement
 - (2) People arrested
 - (3) People charged
 - (4) People convicted
 - ii) Document or collate what is learned so it can be shared
 - iii) Inventory and Index everything in the Dropbox
 - iv) Identify and list all organizations in Thurston County working on Institutional Racism or invested in reducing Institutional Racism and find out what they know
 - v) Identify where there are disparities based on race and where it is based on income.
 - 2) Share what we learn
 - a) List all ways to share information and expand the coalition to include more groups working on this issue
 - b) Increase resources
 - i) Reach out to identified organizations to learn what they are doing and to explore whether JNJ wishes to replicate, use, or compliment their effort
 - ii) Swap information
 - iii) Develop shared strategies and build coalitions
 - c) Support continued educating of Law Enforcement, Prosecution, the Judiciary, Defense, and Corrections on aspects of our Criminal Justice System that perpetuate Institutional Racism and are attributable to Institutional Racism.
 - 3) Reform the Criminal Justice System (*How?*)
 - a) Reduce Disproportional contacts, arrests, charges
 - i) End prosecution and incarceration for failure to pay Legal Financial Obligations (LFOs) (possibly limit population sheltered: mentally ill? Homeless? Low income?)
 - ii) End prosecution and incarceration for Driving While License Suspended (DWLS)?
 - iii) Continue advocating to end ICE Holds at the city level
 - iv) Change additional laws? Which ones?

Much of this research has already been done by others. We simply need to find it and catalog it so that it is accessible. Then we all need to read it.

Wendy to look for personal stories to use to persuade

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- b) Increase opportunities to volunteer in support of individuals jailed
 - i) What types of volunteer efforts? List.
 - ii) What do volunteers hope will result from their sharing? List.
- c) Continue meeting with elected decision makers and professional staff
 - i) County Commissioners
 - ii) Law and Justice Committee
 - iii) Prosecutors
 - iv) Sheriff
 - v) City Government?

Do we need to define objectives for these meetings? What we want to occur as a result of the meeting?

II) Goals for Law Enforcement and interactions on the street

Terren
Dennis

- 1) Support positive interactions that promote stronger community and increased public safety.
- 2) Reduce violence that unnecessarily escalates conflicts
- 3) Encourage appropriate interventions that route people to medical centers when problems are caused by mental illness or dependency issues

Objectives to achieve the goals for Law Enforcement and interactions on the street

- 1) Research
 - a) What are the challenges?
 - i) Is law enforcement adequately trained?
 - ii) Do officers all know how and when to appropriately intervene without unnecessarily escalating conflicts?
 - b) What is working well?
 - c) How are the individuals who are mentally ill or homeless being treated?
 - d) Are members of one or another race being disproportionately stopped?
- 2) Share the research
- 3) Define and Advocate for the changes research indicates are needed

III) Goals on using time and opportunities in jail to reduce the probability jailed individuals will reoffend and increase the probability of personal success when released:

Ruth
Cathy?
Caroline
True
Zahid

- 1) Support integration of jailed individuals back into the community

Objectives to complete to support the using time and opportunities in jail to reduce the probability jailed individuals will offend:

- 1) Research need (*State Justice Reinvestment Task Force is researching this issue and plans on making recommendations impacting state prisons.*)
 - a) Mental health treatment in jails vs diversion and treatment outside of jail
 - b) Chemical Dependency or Alcohol Dependency treatment inside or outside of the jail

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- c) Develop Job Skills
- d) Education

2) Ban-the-Box

IV) Alternatives to Incarceration:

A) Goals: Keep people out of the criminal justice system as much as possible

- 1) Increase public safety by
 - a) Increasing opportunities for treatment
 - b) Increasing opportunities for training and skill development

B) Objectives to complete to support the Alternatives to Incarceration Goals:

- 1) Advocate for increased community based care to decrease the probability individuals become part of the criminal justice system
 - a) Support Triage Program development (support the county program: \$1.88M to build screening facility)
 - i) Meet with Thurston County Public Health and Social Services Dept Director Don Sloma to learn his recommendations
 - b) Advocate increased funding for treatment instead of incarceration
 - i) Support increased funding for community mental health centers
 - (1) Determine whether state or feds fund and lobby appropriate entity to increase funding
 - (2) Find local allies to build coalition
 - (3) And all other programs
 - ii) Support increased funding mental health inpatient care
 - c) Advocate to increase community support for mental health care by making others aware that those challenged by mental illness and drug addiction are being punished for their diseases, instead of getting needed treatment and help.
 - i) Document relative costs of each and share information
 - ii) Advocate for increased funds in budget
 - iii) Advocate for more progressive taxes to better fund care
 - iv) Advocate for reduced funding for criminal justice if this is the only way to increase support for healthcare and treatment
 - d) Advocate for faster screening and appropriate diversion of individuals with mental health needs to appropriate care centers instead of jail
 - e) Advocate for full funding of the public defender (*ask Darryl for appropriate language*) to ...?
 - i) Increase defense ability to create additional options through plea bargain
 - f) Advocate for increased opportunities to divert individuals out of criminal justice and into appropriate treatment or education program as alternative
 - i) Support appropriate screening, assessment, and referrals
 - (1) The risk they pose
 - ii) Anger Management

Steve
Steven
Carol
Donna
Dorothy
Bernie

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- iii) The underlying causes of domestic violence should be treated.
- iv) Drug and ETOH treatment
- g) Supporting better meeting neighbors material and economic needs when they are challenged
 - i) Their needs – food, housing, treatment
 - ii) Connections to systems that supply their needs
 - iii) The lack of services and housing for the mentally ill prolongs their illness and makes them more likely to be detained.
- h) Build connections with additional organization to strengthen our coalition and increase our ability to create change