

## Task Force Meeting 10/9/20 Minutes

Date: 15 July 2022

Time: 10:00 AM EST

A video recording of this meeting may be found on the NCAGO YouTube channel.

A meeting of the North Carolina Task Force for Racial Equity in Criminal Justice convened at 10:00 am on 15 July 2022. The meeting was opened by Co-Chair Josh Stein. Present during the meeting were:

### **Co-Chairs:**

Anita S. Earls

Josh Stein

### **Task Force Members:**

Alan Thornburg

Angelica R. Wind

April Dawson

Billy Gartin

Brooke Locklear Clark

Clarence Birkhead

Deborah Dicks-Maxwell

Eddie Buffaloe

Henderson Hill

James D. Gailliard

James Raeford Woodall, Jr.

Jeff Smythe

Kerwin Pittman

Marcia H. Morey

Mary Sheehan Pollard

Mike Hawkins

Mitch Colvin

Mujtaba A. Mohammed

Ronnie Smith

Talley Wells

Tarrah Callahan

Quentin Miller

**Staff Members:**

Amalia (Mercedes) Restucha-Klem

Ellen Spolar

Greg Sabin

Jasmine McGhee

Leslie Cooley Dismukes-Dismukes

Natalia Botella

Malia Benison

Reginald Boney

Welcome

Co-Chair Stein opens by thanking the working group members for their work.

Updates:

- Learning Series:
  - Last session: adverse childhood experiences (ACEs) and criminal justice system relationship
  - Conducted in conjunction with the chief justice's task force on ACEs. Thanking DA Ben David from new Hanover county for his partnership in the presentation. The session is posted on YouTube
  - Next session: Friday July 22<sup>nd</sup> – fines and fees and will be posted after the session
    - Focus on ways fines and fees impact the courts, local state governments, and communities who are often burdened by often unpayable financial obligations
- Monthly clip emails: compiling news articles and grant opportunities relative to the task force
  - How local governments are engaging in the work

First section of agenda: work that were doing together to try and live and safe communities where everyone is treated fairly, free from violence, we want to do everything we can to keep friends, neighbors, parents, and kids safe

- Violent crime specifically gun violence is an increasing concern
- In 2020, NC had a 31% increase in gun deaths over the previous year 2019
- This was larger than the national increase of 25%

- According to NC Department of health and human services almost five NC residents die from a firearm gun injury every day
- About 1650 people died in 2020 from gun violence
- Nearly 4x that number of people who went to the emergency dept in. NC because of firearm injuries (non-fatal)
- Predominantly a male problem
  - From provisional 2021 data males who comprise 49% of the total population made up 84% of firearm related emergency dept visits
- Almost half of firearm deaths are homicides
- Slightly more than half of firearm deaths are suicides
  - There were 871 firearm suicide death among North carolians in 2020
  - That represented a 12% increase over 2019
- The vast majority of homicides that occur in NC involved firearm
  - More than 3 out of 4
- Firearm homicides increased 32% from 2019 to 2020, totaling 715 in 2020
- Mass shooting nearly doubled in. 2020 from 11 to 20 in 2020
- Guns have become the leading cause of death for children. And adolescents in America
- For the first time in 2021, gun related deaths surpassed motor vehicle crashes as the top cause of death for those under 19 years old
- In 2020, child firearm deaths increased 88% from 2019, went from 56 to 105 and of those 105, 66 were from assaults, 36 was the number for 2019
- Increase in the number of guns confiscated on school grounds
  - In charlotte Mecklenburg schools alone, dozens of guns were found and confiscated
- There has been movement on the federal level
  - Some of the legislation successes depend on states like NC choosing to expand and enforce red flag laws
    - Red flag laws enable family and friends to petition the court to have a gun removed from a loved one who poses risk to him/herself or other people
  - In addition to red flag laws, other things that can be done to reduce gun violence in NC
    - Including comprehensive background checks
    - Age raised to 21 to buy AR-15s and other semiautomatic rifles
    - Promote safe gun storage
    - TREC recommendations for violence interruption programs

**First Speaker: Greg Jackson: Executive Director For The Community Justice Action Fund**

Organizational focus is to end gun violence in black and brown communities by prioritizing strategies that empower those who have been most impacted and focusing on the people

What are the people centered and public health approaches to end gun violence

## **Addressing Misconceptions And Changing Narrative On How Gun Violence Uniquely Impacts Black And Brown Communities**

- Biggest misconception that this is a crime problem only
- 70% of homicides in the black community are not connected to another felony crime
- Only 11% of homicides in black community are connected directly to gun violence
- Gun violence is a public health issue

### **Gun Violence Epidemic**

- More than 100,000 people are injured or killed by guns every year
- 74% of all gun homicides victims in 2019 were Black or Latinx
- Gun violence is spiking during the covid 19 pandemic and there was a 35% increase in homicides since COVID, 39% specifically in the black community
- Violence against women and LGBTQ people particularly transgender women continue to surge
- Police violence against and Latinx people continues to destroy black and brown communities
- Is the number cause of premature death for all youth black men

### **A Public Health Approach**

Violence intervention:

- street outreach violence intervention
- survivor and victim services
- hospital violence intervention
- healing/trauma care

Reducing risk factors:

- proactive cognitive behavior therapy programs
- strategic workforce development and education programs
- reducing firearm and ammunition access
- criminal legal system and law enforcement reforms

Addressing root causes: housing and environmental conditions

- housing and environmental conditions
- physical, emotional, and mental wellness
- economic, educational, and social inequities
- mass incarceration and school to prison pipeline

**The Role Of Community Violence Intervention Strategies:** CVI strategies target those most at risk

60% of gun violence can be predicted through a social network analysis

40% of those shot are killed or injured again within 5 years

Less than 2% are connected to 80% of community violence... This population is the hardest to reach without targeted strategies

## **Common Evidence Based Violence Prevention Models**

- violence intervention: someone in the community or in the hospital intervening before they become fatal
- survivor support services: programs focused on providing social services for survivors of gun violence
- cognitive behavior therapy: shift people towards a healthier lifestyle
- ecological systems: programs that focus on the entire neighborhood

## **Federal Investment In CVI**

- funded \$250 million for CVI strategies in Bipartisan Safer Communities Act
- adjusted eligibility for 26 existing funds to address violence (\$10+ billion)
- signed into law \$50 million dedicated to these efforts in his FY2022 Budget
- Department of treasury and department of education provided guidance that American Rescue Plan funds should prioritize violence prevention

## **Federal CVI Funding Progress**

- Executive actions to refine 26 existing grants to include CVI: estimated \$12+ billion now eligible to grant to CVI
- FY22 Budget (appropriations): \$50 million for CVI in DOJ
- FY22 Community Project Funding (Earmarks): App. \$45 million+ awarded
  - Durham Congressman David Price investing in these strategies with Bull City United (local street outreach violence intervention)
- Safer Communities Act: \$250 million for CVI in DOJ over 5 years
- American Rescue Plan: \$2+ billion committed (\$350 million eligible)
- WH CVI collaborative (targeting 16 cities) and Medicaid coverage for gun violence services: Unknown Amount

## **Paths to investment**

- Prioritize existing and future government funds
- Invest from the American rescue plan funds
- Grant outreach opportunities

## **Speaker Two: Judge Corpening and Cedric Harrison from Port City United**

Judge Corpening states that New Hanover County has decided on a 3-year investment of 39 million in the community in response to community violence. Moreover, the county is working towards the following initiatives:

- Building a grocery store in a food desert
- 14 additional SROs with school justice partnership
- Too good for violence programs in middle school and high school for socioemotional needs
- Adding additional six pre-k programs
- Expand capacity for evidence-based programs to combat violence
- Investing higher education with local community college to increase employment

## **Port City United/ Cedric Harrison**

- Created after shooting at New Hanover High School
- Taking a different route outside of law enforcement standpoint
- 3 components/ divisions : care violence global model
  - Street team : on the ground mediations
  - 24/7 resources and support system hotline
  - CRC- community resource coordinator
- All out resource far
  - Mental health screening, resume/job interview, legal, voter registration, HPV resources

### Discussion Period

- Justice Earls has a question for Cedric. She asks In addition to documenting efforts, are there any particular metrics being used to demonstrate the effectiveness of the programs. Cedric answers that overall, the biggest measure, how many people they connect to resources and what those resources look like. They also use a shot spotter where they are located and how frequent to measure the level of violence
- Mike Hawkins has a question for Cedric. He asks How do you coordinate with the schools/ SROs and how to navigate the responsibilities of other people who are already in schools and make it fit with their vision for schools. Cedric answers that currently there is not a concrete approach to the partnership but working on building that connection; currently partnering with resource coordinators and guidance counselors; staying away from school resource officers to avoid students dealing with law enforcement. Right now, they work on with nonprofits who already had a partnership with the schools
- Josh Stein has a question for Greg. He asks Is it typical for other parts of the country to have a comprehensive strategy or is it atypical? Greg answers that the work in New Hanover it is typical and common compared to the other cities with similar strategies ; Raleigh just committed 2 million ; Durham has bull city united
- Kerwin Pittman has a question for Cedric. He asks if those programs function outside of law enforcement. If so, what success have you seen? Cedric answers that Carolina's global model has an international role of not exactly working with law enforcement; trying to avoid distrust
- Natalia Botella states that a recommendation which is for NC get its own statewide office of violence intervention. She then asks Greg about the 250 million went to HHS, will that be sub awarded to states, will states apply or will localities have to apply. Greg answers that under DOJ under the community violence intervention and prevention initiative, still waiting for details how the money will be awarded
- Rep Marcia Morey asks Cedric regarding expunctions who are they working with/ any problems encountered . Cedric answers that they are partnering with legal aid
- Judge Thornburg asks both Cedric and Greg, How do they identify who the at-risk individuals are. Cedric answers that they are Identified by the leaders of the community who have an influence. Greg adds that hospitals is another great resource to identify who is at risk.

### Legislative update

- TREC was in the budget
- Provisions related to recommendations
  - Funding obtained for two non-sworn mental health professionals at state bureau of investigation

- To help SBI with increases in case referrals from SRO and local law enforcement with people exhibiting concerning behavior
  - Goes with recommendation of Alternative response models for incidents that occur
- Secure several specialized parole and probation officers to support correctional mission to reduce recidivism by addressing needs of people with substance use or mental health issues
  - Rec: called for increase resources for reentry programs and for mental health in prisons
- Extension of new public defender's office in district 29A
- Funding provided for Medication assistance treatment will go to the NC county commissioners
  - \$750 million , 85 % to local governments for the opioid crisis
- Additional funding for school safety competitive grant program, support students in crisis through increased access to mental health services and correct training for law enforcement
- Requires local school boards to consult with teachers, school admin, law enforcement parents to create policy for governing student conduct
  - Rec: implementing school justice partnerships, making sure SROs are properly trained in disciplinary issues to reduce the referrals when they are unnecessary

### **Data Committee Update**

- Ellen Spollar:
  - Meeting with stakeholders around the state,
  - UNC criminal justice innovation lab created a measuring justice dashboard
  - Represents look into court date within the state
  - Speaks to court operations
  - GCC criminal justice analytic center new justice date portal
  - Centralized, interactive online clearinghouse of criminal justice date collected by agencies across NC
  - Institutionalize the work of the data team
- Coward and Baurgartner: Trec Rec 91: diverse and inclusive jury pools
  - Jury pools that pull from voter and drivers list... significant underrepresentation of people in NC
  - Once they get the drivers list can look county by county
- Justice Earls asks question about GCC data portal. She asks about plans to make sure they include racial data. Spollar answers that they were experiencing technical issue but in their plans + traffic stop data

### **Executive Committee Update presented by Natalia Botella**

- Monitoring and advising on rec related to the executive branch
- Public safety recommendations
- Next year: new department of public safety and department of corrections
- DPS: access to victim compensations and making sure that access is equitable
- Working to implement that rec through outreach , moving their process more online, getting rid of notary requirement= more accessible
- Recommendation : Racial equity training for their staff
- SBI use of force center + FBI use of force data collection efforts , partners what more robust data collection would look like

### **Local government implementation committees: presented by Mike Hawkin**

- Mission: Role to raise awareness across the state that Trec has done and the recommendations that Trec has created
- Supporting the staff in the development of model policies
  - Model policy page on Trec website
  - Those are designed to aid local decision makers and best practice concepts
- Others in the pipeline and will be added
- Advisory groups that meet on monthly basis to help think and talk through complications around issues to develop model policies
  - For instance, law enforcement advisory group with about 12-15 members big appeal with meet with co-chair earls and stein ; at end of meeting one of the sheriffs
  - Topic last month: early warning systems, required by statute to develop systems to oversee staff to find issues before they become a problem, involved logistics, philosophy, how can the smaller agencies do what the larger agencies are already doing
  - Victim advisory group that meets on monthly meeting: restorative justice to try to come up with model policies
- Holly jones has worked on outreach
- Next month association of county commissioners, presenting in a breakout session, marry pollard presenting on public defenders , talking about diversion programs

### **Judicial Committee: presented by Judge Clark**

May 25<sup>th</sup> fines and fees training ; revised AOC form, request from fines and fees and other monetary obligations, concerns about reconciling form 415 with rule 28, how to make those two matches

Wishlist items: people on probation

Justice Earls asked a question about racial equity training . States that there was an effort to do the training at admin of courts took control of the content, issued instructions that explicitly did not include it. School of government can still offer it but through judicial conferences. Hostility to the concepts is a misunderstanding. Additionally states that the state bar is considering changing how CLE is done in the state, either ethics, substance abuse, or racial inequity . Another barrier is working on implicit bias jury instruction but then instructed to not to create that instruction.

### **Boney Agenda For Fines And Fees Learning Sessions**

- Focus on driver's license restoration, govt reliance on fines and fees, discussing strategies for reform

### **Public Comment Section**

Justice Earls opens the floor up for two public comments.

*Daniel Bowes: director of policy at ACLU*



Helpful to see what's actually happening, praise rep Morey and senator Muhammad doing everything they could to stop bad bills do their best to promote good bills , continue to make it public , HB 560 was a triumph, racial equity in the criminal justice system is going to be crucial

*Katrina Hayes: Autism Advocate*

Earls concludes public hearing portion. Invites any other task force members for last minute updates.

Stein concludes the meeting. Thanks, two speakers from public section and the speakers that presented in first half of meeting. Appreciation of task force members for their commitment and the work done outside of task force. Final task force meeting will be October 7<sup>th</sup> at 10am.

Earls gives thanks to task force. Trec 2.0 is underway. Trec has a reputation so wants to build on that and wants to highlight the advisory group. Huge part of effort is looking for funding.

Stein adjourns meeting.