

Washtenaw Equity Partnership (WEP) Prevention & Front End Subcommittee Meeting

April 12, 2022 5:00-6:30 pm

Meeting Minutes

Attendees:

Desirae Simmons (Co-chair)
Victoria Burton-Harris (Co-chair)
Belinda Dulin
Dr. Vonnie McLoyd
Revered Jeffrey Harrold
Tish Lee
Liz Spring
Lisa Jackson
Alyshia Dyer
Ashley Shukait
Judge Miriam Perry

- Co-chair kicked off meeting.
- Introduction of new Vera member.
- Vera member shared priorities survey results that attendees completed prior to meeting.
 - 12 responses to survey
 - Lack of community-based alternatives to police had most interest
 - Two areas had over 80% of the groups interest: need for more social services that address basic needs and impact of system involvement and access to housing.
 - Ranked third highest was high police presence in specific neighborhoods.
 - Ranked fourth was using jail to treat health challenges
- Discussion from subcommittee members about survey results.
 - Subcommittee member asked if it's necessary to pick 5 or if the group can pick less.
 - Subcommittee member mentioned that there might be overlap between some of the priority areas.
 - Subcommittee member wants to know what the group would try to address with the priority area of high police presence in specific neighborhoods.
 - Co-chair stated based on conversation that there needs to be understanding where the interventions need to be where there is high police presence.
 - Subcommittee member stated that police sometimes surveil neighborhoods rather than being called to them.
 - Subcommittee member thinks all priority areas in survey are important – can areas be integrated into a single priority that doesn't silo categories.
 - Subcommittee member stated that the priority area 'need for more social services to address basic needs' can include employment, and access to benefits. Can see the four priority areas being enough for this subcommittee to address.
 - Co-chair agrees about intersectionality of priority areas. What the group chooses to prioritize are the areas they choose to get very specific in, but that doesn't mean there might not be overlap between areas.

- Co-chair asks if group would like to move forward with only four priority areas. Suggests each member states what area resonates most with them and where they would want to dive into the deepest.
 - Subcommittee members stated:
 - High presence of police in certain neighborhoods and difficulty connecting with community resources.
 - High presence of police and lack of community-based alternatives to police.
 - Lack of alternatives to police.
 - Lack of alternatives and high police presence.
 - Housing
 - High presence of police and difficulty with alternatives.
 - Lack of alternatives but also collateral consequences of any interaction. Also coding, for example disorderly conduct.
 - Need for more social services that address basic needs. Thinking about how income and employment is affected by court fines and credit.
 - Lack of alternatives and maybe police presence in certain areas.
- Is it possible to reframe impact of system involvement and access to housing and broaden to impact of system involvement to access to housing and other resources. Is there a way to make this broader?
 - Another member agrees with this suggestion.
- Vera member thinks housing could fit within the priority area of basic needs. Could add “and other services” to housing.
- Four priority areas would be:
 - Lack of community-based alternatives to police
 - Need for more social services to address basic needs
 - Impact of system involvement in access to housing and other needs
 - High police presence in specific neighborhoods and harms caused
- Subcommittee member would like to change to need for more culturally responsive social services to address basic needs.
- Group conducted fist to five exercise to confirm the priority areas; all members had five showing agreement.
- Meeting concluded.