



Racial Justice Task Force Kickoff Meeting Minutes
Racial Justice Task Force Members
3.7.18

Member	In Attendance
1. Todd Billeci, Chief Probation Officer	Present
2. Debra Mason, Mount Diablo Unified School District (MDUSD)	Present
3. Robin Lipetzky, Public Defender	Present
4. Dennisha Marsh, First Five CCC, City of Pittsburg Community Advisory Council	Present
5. Venus Johnson, Assistant District Attorney	Not Present
6. Magda Lopez, Director of Court Programs and Services	Present
7. Harlan Grossman, Government Alliance of Race & Equity (GARE)	Present
8. John Lowden, Contra Costa County Sherriff’s Office	Not Present
9. Dr. Christine Gerchow, Psychologist at Juvenile Hall Martinez	Not Present
10. Stephanie Medley, RYSE & AB109 CAB	Present
11. Marcus Walton, Director of Communications West Contra Costa Unified School District	Not Present
12. Bisa French, Assistant Chief at Richmond Police Department	Present
13. Dr. Cardenas Shackelford, Coordinator Student Intervention and Support, Antioch Unified School District	Not Present
14. Tamisha Walker, Founder & Director Safe Return Project	Present
15. Pastor Donnell Jones, Richmond Ceasefire	Not Present
16. Reverend Leslie Takahashi, Mt. Diablo Universalist Church	Present
17. Dr. William Walker, Health Services Director	Present

Resource Development Associates

- Mikaela Rabinowitz
- David Muhammad
- Lupe Garcia

Public Attendees

- Melvin Willis
- Cheryl Sudduth
- Doug Leich
- Judith Tannenbaum





Meeting Notes

- I. Introductions
- II. Meeting Objectives
 - RDA will review the project timeline, inform task force members of tentative plans to prepare for community forums, review criminal justice best practices and current practices in the county and recommendations.
- III. Approval of Meeting Minutes
 - February meeting minutes were approved with revisions.
- IV. Public Comment (items not on the agenda)
 - The Racial Justice Coalition shared they would like one of the recommendations from the Task Force to the Board of Supervisors to focus on a private investigation for the ICE contract and County facilities based on recent events relating to a detainee's death.
 - Since this discussion cannot be itemized to this month's meeting, it will be placed on the agenda for the next meeting.
 - No other public comments.
- V. Planning for Community Forums
 - Community forums will be held in early May in which community members will be given the opportunity to provide feedback on the preliminary recommendations presented. Afterwards, Task Force members will finalize and vote on the final set of recommendations.
 - The planning workgroup shared they are working on locking down the dates and venues to host the forums. Due to previous attendance, there will be three community forums rather than five, across the district- East, West, and Central County.
 - The East County community forum will be held in Delta Bay Church in Antioch
 - The West County community forum will be held in Richmond.
 - We will look to hold the central community forum in Concord.
 - The workgroup shared they need help identifying a location in Concord, preferably a community center or church that allows for group discussion.
 - Debra offered if they are looking at the schools in central to contact her.
 - Leslie said she can help out with churches in Concord, if needed.
 - The goal is to have dates and venues confirmed within the two next weeks to allow for early outreach. The task force agreed the sooner outreach is done, the better the participation outcome. Members will start thinking about community organizations and groups that they par take in and inform members of the community forums.
 - The tentative dates for the forums are May 7, 8, and 9, from 6-8 pm.
- VI. Review of Criminal Justice System Best Practices and Local Practices
 - RDA presented best and local practices on diversion, bail pre-trial detention, pre-trial release, charging, enhancements, reentry programming and jury selection.



Contra Costa County

Racial Justice Task Force—Meeting #12 Notes

- A task force member shared the county offers diversion for first time theft offenses and specific drug offenses as well as other specialty courts such as a veteran's court.
- Task force members raised the concern around the community court ran by the for-profit company as it may contribute to a net widening effect. A member shared that the District Attorney's office allows the company to use their letterhead to reach out to individuals that have offended. A member suggested the task force recommend the letters to explicitly state its affiliation as a for-profit company. The District Attorney office acknowledges the concerns and is in discussion about this practice with stakeholders.
- **RDA will forward the Reentry Solutions PowerPoint. Venus can provide an update about where the District Attorney's office is at with this.**
- A task member shared there is legislation moving through the state that would mandate counties to establish alternatives to monetary bail to prevent pre-trial detention based on financial ability rather than risk. Another task member shared recent court decisions are speeding the implementation process such as Humphrey's Decision. In the State of California, judges must change their common practice of setting bail solely based on the bail schedule, which does not take into account a defendant's ability to pay. However, there are concerns regarding resources. Task force members agree pre-trial services need to be established to support this court decision.
 - A task force member clarified Humphrey's Decision will not eliminate the bail schedule as it is still statutory.
 - A task force member shared the courts are trying to place more people on electronic monitoring but the Sheriff's Department is rejecting them so they are staying in-custody.
 - A public member asked how rejection from electronic monitoring is determined. The task force is uncertain about the determination process.
- A task force member asked RDA what is the difference between the County's first strategic planning and the one that is occurring presently. RDA shared the new strategic planning process will build on the previous strategic plans. The new strategic plan has a high emphasis on transitional services and addressing the variation of services and access across the facilities.
 - A task force member raised the need to have a public review for the strategic plan to allow for community input. The strategic planning process will host community forums for feedback and input.
- Task force members shared detainees inside the County's facilities need to feel safe and heard. Task force members raised concerns around the safety and rights of inmates and undocumented detainees.
- **RDA will share what the Sheriff's protocols and services are regarding access to programming.**



Contra Costa County

Racial Justice Task Force—Meeting #12 Notes

- A task force member shared the reentry planning process with in-custody individuals. Task members discussed services co located with probation and what other jurisdictions are doing with day reporting centers.

VII. Recommendations

- Task force member requested to consider diversion for individuals charged with benefits fraud as these charges disproportionately impact poor women of color and have detrimental long-term consequences as a recommendation.
- Task force member requested diverting minors accused of “statutory rape” due to consensual sex between minors as these charges disproportionately impact young men of color.
- Task force member requested to add a recommendation on charges.
- Task force member and public member requested the addition of recommendations that address the in-custody grievance process in the County and the establishment of an independent monitoring agency to oversee the conditions of confinement in the County detention facilities.
- **Task force members asked for a simple cost analysis (low, medium, and high) for each recommendation as well as an impact analysis.**
- The task force will have a formal voting process as to which recommendations will be prioritized.

VIII. Next Steps

- **Due to schedules of conflict and the need for maximum representation at the following meeting, RDA will follow up with an alternative date for the next meeting via email.**