



social +
economic
vitality

Racial Equity and Social Justice Action Team

January 8, 2020 12:30 P.M.

Minutes

Attendees: Clif Lavenhouse, Lonnie Ervin, Charlenzo Belcher, Geraldine Alshamy, Yvonne Liquet, Melissa Forde, Monique Raeford, Bage' Shade, Felise Knight, Melanie Hemphill, Derrick Byrd, Donald Pinchback, Michael Ballen

Welcome, Introductions-Nikki Lyons and Michael Ballen, Co-chairs

SPACES -Charlenzo Belcher

- Charlenzo pointed out that systems are developed to break us and not help us. Avoiding the system all together is the goal.
- Charlenzo Belcher will send copies of the brochures to Stephanie and send to the group. There are extra hard copies available at the front desk.

Raise the Age

- The parents of youth are notified of any complaints.
- The separation of ages is very important as the older children can have a large influence on younger children. Often children become institutionalized from being in the system.
- Also, its important to separate different offenders as this promotes safety. Minor offenders should not be in a "learning environment" for delinquency.
- A community member pointed out that it may be beneficial to compose some type of booklet that explains what being Black in America means and how to navigate life in the South.
- Geraldine Alshamy stated that most students don't read anymore, it may be more beneficial to create an app. Also, the target should be the parents at home. It is almost impossible to move this work forward without focusing on this aspect. The goal is to make community circles a household thing.
- We must find ways to keep parents engaged in the conversation. It may be beneficial to explore an Equity Coalition or Circle to collaborate with RESJ. Also, we can use social media as a marketing tool for circle training.
- Stephanie will send the Circle Training information to the group once received from Geraldine Alshamy.
- The group asked if there is a way to get officers to have an open house? Community members can meet local officers, and this can help build a relationship and transforming each other.

- Mr Ballen pointed out that police often respond based on what people and the operator say, it can create a heightened sense of danger and safety.
- It may be beneficial to hold Circle Trainings in a police precinct and invite the community.
- Verna mentioned that we need to make sure RESJ is held accountable to acting.

Action Steps:

- RESJ can help continue the work of circle training by marketing enrollment on social media.
- RESJ timeframe can be used for a circle training.
- Felise Knight will send a proposal to Mr Clif and the CAG co-chair about conducting a circle training or meeting with local law enforcement.
- We can invite SPACES students to meet law enforcement. Felise is invited to connect with Charlenzo and the SPACES program.
- Melanie Hemphill will send the flyer to Stephanie.

Adjourn.

Next Meeting: February 12, 2020 12:30 PM