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Racial Equity and Social Justice Action Team

May 8, 2019 12:30 P.M.

Agenda

Attendees: Michael Ballen, Crystal Wynn Lewis, Nikki Lyons, Verna Best, Deidre McCullers, Francis Bisby, Dynasty Winters

- Welcome and approval of May minutes – Nikki Lyons
 - Nikki suggested having a RESJ representative at the school board meetings. Speakers must sign up online. Sign-up starts at 12:00 pm on the day of the meeting, and ends at 5 pm. Speakers must provide name, city and topic. Find more information here: <https://www.wcpss.net/site/Default.aspx?PageID=3727>. Past meetings are posted here: https://assistive.eboardsolutions.com/SB_Meetings/SB_MeetingListing.aspx?S=920

- Raise the Age Movement and Workshop
 - The Raise the Age Movement details changes made in legislation for youth ages 16-17 with misdemeanor charges that won't be tried as an adult. This legislation only impacts class I-J felonies and takes effect December 1, 2019. This is beneficial in that juvenile records may be sealed or expunged as opposed to felony records that follow individuals for the rest of their life. Rather than having long term negative effects, this legislation allows for rehabilitation of youth and an opportunity for parent and child to address the trauma and move forward.
 - Currently NCDOJ is working to construct a tailored presentation to community residents about the details of the Raise the Age movement (RAM).
 - There are currently multiple job openings for juvenile court councilors, and various other positions. Training may be provided, no need for experience, 2 years' experience or a bachelor's degree accepted. Visit this website: <https://oshr.nc.gov/work-for-nc> for open positions.
 - Verna suggested that the 4H SPACES program may be able to connect as they deal with youth rehabilitation.
 - Dynasty and Stephanie suggested that RESJ host a community forum about community relationships with law enforcement, diversion, RAM, etc.
 - Deidre suggested that we choose a facilitator that can talk more openly about issues in the community. She also expressed in the past that it seems that the community has had multiple forums involving these topics and not much has been done.
 - Michael stated that the next meeting will be used to strategize how to create a plan of action and how we may be able to impact change.

- Restorative Discipline Update

- The Circle Keepers meet on the 4th Saturday of the month. The community Circles are on the 2nd Saturday and open to anyone able to attend at 2421 Timber Drive. Dinner will be served at 5 and the meetings starts at 6 PM.
- Action Steps
 - Due to the TUM and RESJ action team content overlap as well as the proximity of meeting dates, Verna asks the committee to consider holding these action team meetings on the same day but at different times. This has been tabled for the next meeting.

Adjourn

Next meeting: June 12, 12:30 PM