



social +  
economic  
vitality

## Racial Equity and Social Justice Action Team

April 11<sup>th</sup>, 2018 12:30 P.M.

Minutes

---

**Attendees:** Derrick Byrd, Deidre McCullers, Shirley E. Hicks, Ursula Jolly, Nikki Lyons, Letha Muhammed, Donald W. Pinchback, Shelia Reich, Kim Stansbury, Hannah Taylor, Bernadine Walden, Mikia Williams, Crystal Wynn-Lewis

- Discussion of the film *Resilience* – upcoming screenings at Chavis Community Center hosted by Social and Economic Vitality and City of Raleigh Parks and Recreation
- Reentry efforts in Wake:
  - Capital Area Re-entry Council
  - Family Resource Center of the South Atlantic - provides case management services for people who have been justice involved, addressing issues like transportation, housing, and employment. Work with people both post-release and pre-release
  - Re-entering youth – challenges in finding employment for youth and find guardians for kids to give work permits
  - Importance of connecting youth with vocational skills training and career exploration opportunities
  - Gap in re-entry efforts: returning citizens from mental health institutions
- Disproportionate minority contact (DMC) – focused on engaging and training the community and helping systems and institutions reflect how they can impact the disproportionate amount of youth of color in the juvenile justice system
  - Stake holders in juvenile justice include, WCHS, WCPSS, community based groups like churches and community advocates
  - Identify root causes of DMC and develop strategies and help systems self-reflect
  - Efforts to address DMC
    - IDDEA training has trained 400+ people in Wake County
    - Color Me Human forums – discuss unintended consequences of policies and systems that disproportionately impact youth of color
  - NC Department of Public Safety has hired Crystal Wynn-Lewis; her role includes focusing on DMC.
    - Promote human capital development to avoid repeat offenders
    - Mental health is a big barrier and can lead to substance abuse
    - DPS can give data to support initiatives addressing DMC in the schools
    - Opportunity to partner with school resource officers to help them learn how to address smaller infractions, provide opportunities/activities for kids at schools, other states/counties have successful programs to engage kids and alleviate bad behavior, numbers going down more slowly for kids of color

- Funding is available from DPS to work on DMC related initiatives (The Governor's Crime Commission Website has resources on how to write the best possible proposal)
  - Data indicates that more complaints/petitions are filed when resource officers are placed in schools (increased by 30%)
    - Need to shift narrative on school resource officers and the harm that comes from them.
    - Implicit bias – the way teachers and administrators treat/view kids
    - Get youth connected with services through ways besides resource officers and giving them records
    - Trying to give more training on juvenile justice for police officers (currently only 4 hours of training)
    - Wake County has a relatively low percentage of complaints/petitions coming from schools compared to the rest of the state
  - School safety forum (Letha Muhammed)

Upcoming events:

- Chavis Community Center: *Resilience* screening – whole family event with dinner included 6pm-8pm
- CARC re-entry week April 23<sup>rd</sup>-27<sup>th</sup>
  - Re-entry simulation 4:30 at Pullen Memorial Baptist church (send out before 4/20) –
- June 8th Crosby-Garfield Building grand re-opening 4-7p.m.
- Next month – planning on toiletries drive for FRCSA
- Add Bernadine Walden to get agenda/minutes – RESJ directory
- Kim Stansbury – upcoming camp