



social +  
economic  
vitality

## Racial Equity and Social Justice Action Team

March 14<sup>th</sup>, 2018 12:30 P.M.

### Agenda

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Attendees: Verna P. Best, Derrick Byrd, Willa Casstevens, DeAnna Jackson, Nikki Lyons, Deidre McCullers, Lorna Parker, Shelia Reich, Hannah Taylor

- Review of Minutes from 2/14/18 Meeting
- Resilience Film Screening Discussion
  - This Social and Economic Vitality event was successful and included quality discussion after film. In attendance was a young man who had recently been released from prison and provided a unique contribution to the discussion
  - Dianna Powell recently organized a screening of a film on Rikers Island. It was a dynamic and raw event that focused on at-risk youth, connecting them with individuals who had been justice involved or were returning citizens
  - The group noted that opportunities like these could be better shared with the community.
  - The group emphasized the need for next steps after events like the *Resilience* film screening. Verna Best mentioned that SEV is working with Chavis Community Center on a series of screenings that will be more intentional about including resources for community members such as service providers or experts in working with youth who experience certain ACEs
- RESJ Goals
  - 1) Supporting returning citizens and 2) Addressing inequitable and disproportionate disciplinary treatment of students of color in public schools
    - RESJ action team member Geraldine Alshamy is organizing a program at Poe Elementary focused on disproportionate treatment of black students. The first meeting is on March 19 5:15-6:15 and will aim to engage parents and children on this issue. SEV is also engaged in developing a partnership with Poe Elementary focused on Resilience and ACEs
  - The group agreed the importance of setting feasible goals and avoiding creating large visions and goals that would lead to getting stuck inaction
  - Deidre McCullers agreed to act as a liaison for the action team with Geraldine Alshamy's efforts at Poe
  - Report from the last Capital Area Reentry Council (CARC) meeting: a big barrier for returning citizens is transportation. A proposed solution was to recruit volunteers to be on call to give rides, like Uber but free for returning citizens
- RESJ Project Discussion - Toiletry Drive to benefit FRCSA Reentry Services

- Collect items at sites like churches or community members' workplace
- The grand reopening of Crosby in June could be a venue that could help to solicit donations for the drive.
- June could be a good month, giving the group enough time to plan and advertise
  - New Bethel Church (Life Tranzitions) has a food pantry and is working to build a program focused on returning citizens. New Bethel is poised to support returning citizens and could share information/resources with people who need food or toiletries
- What could our action team do to support this effort? One possibility could be recruiting volunteers.
- Nikki Lyons (chair) proposed that the action team work to build a network and solicit/collect in-kind donations from other nonprofits or churches for the FRC instead of directly fundraising. One source of items could be return-to-vendor items from drugstores, Target, Walmart
- This effort can focus returning citizens as well as justice involved individuals
- SEV Survey and Additional RESJ Committee Members
  - Invite more community members to next action team meeting, educate more community on what RESJ is doing
  - Hannah Taylor will invite community members who expressed interest
- Community Announcements
  - March 24<sup>th</sup> at 3pm at New Bethel - financial literacy class
  - Love Warriors March 29<sup>th</sup> 7pm at New Bethel – support group for women who are married or wish to be married
  - April 7<sup>th</sup> at 3pm Items drive at the Food Lion parking lot on Raleigh Blvd to benefit residents living in Raleigh North Apartments across the street (school supplies, toiletry items, etc.)
  - 2018 NC Fatherhood Conference June 16<sup>th</sup> 2018 8am-2pm at Sheraton Center in RTP, and looking for a new keynote, adding workshops for women
  - June 14<sup>th</sup> Legislative Breakfast NC Strengthening Fatherhood power breakfast
- Closing