

# CCYVC BOARD MEETING MINUTES

Thursday, September 9, 2021

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The recording of this meeting can be accessed [here](#) with the password Am&qR90h.

## WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

### RESTORATIVE AND TRANSFORMATIVE JUSTICE FOR YOUTHS AND COMMUNITIES PILOT PROGRAM PRESENTATION

Brittany Aydelotte, the director of TCNJ's Center for Community Engagement, presented on the new Restorative And Transformative Justice For Youths And Communities Pilot Program. This initiative connects to the CCYVC [Trenton Youth Safety Playbook](#) under Strategy 1.1.1: Develop community-based violence response program, Strategy 3.1.1: Develop trainings for adults to increase knowledge and build trust, and Strategy 5.1.1: Increase number of individual, reintegration mentors, supporters and advocates.

Retha Onitiri, Ashanti Jones, and Yannick Wood from the New Jersey Institute for Social Justice (NJISJ) answered attendees' questions about the pilot program. In the program's development, the NJISJ looked at Oakland and Chicago as examples of areas with implemented restorative justice hubs and also participated in training in Baltimore, Maryland.

The full presentation is available [here](#). The Restorative And Transformative Justice For Youths And Communities Pilot Program bill is available [here](#) and the legislature [here](#).

### RISE AND STREET TEAM PRESENTATION

Alexis Durlacher of the Trenton Police Department presented on the RISE Center and Street Teams initiative. These initiatives connect to the CCYVC [Trenton Youth Safety Playbook](#) under Objective 3.1: Increase the number of trusted, informed adults in the community and train youth to identify those adults, Objective 3.2: Improve services for families with high-risk factors for youth violence, Objective 4.1: Improve coordination of youth and family services, and Objective 4.2: Expand awareness of evidence-based prevention, intervention, enforcement and Re-Entry practices.

The RISE Center located at 454 North Clinton Avenue in Trenton is making progress with construction. The RISE Center will provide structured and unstructured recreation and after school services for children ages 12-18.

Trenton Street Teams is a new restorative justice initiative with partnership between the police, public safety, and public health to look at crime from a public health lens. The four components of the Street Teams are high risk interventionists, mentoring through case management, community safe passage, and victim support & advocacy. There is also a community centennial program included in the Streets Teams for volunteers. The Street Teams initiative will be bidding out to non profits and is posted on the [City of Trenton website](#).

## **BREAKOUT ROOMS**

The discussion questions for the breakout session were around the Restorative And Transformative Justice For Youths And Communities Pilot Program.

### Community-Based Enhanced Reentry Wraparound Services

1. What services / organizations already exist in Trenton that align with this work?
2. What services in the community-based enhanced reentry wraparound services list are missing or lacking capacity in Trenton?
3. Which services should be prioritized for the Trenton youth?
4. What population of youth should be served?

### Restorative Justice Hub

1. What ideas do you have for the Restorative Justice Hub?
2. What considerations should be had about the location of the hub in Trenton?
3. Are there any current places or organizations in Trenton already doing this work?

### Participants responded with the following feedback:

The program should make sure that there are Spanish-language services provided and/or required, that there are LGBTQIA+ supportive services provided, that there is real and effective police engagement, and that appropriate and accurate information and services are provided regarding undocumented youth's options for education (i.e., that they don't only have to go to work, they can get an education, too). Examples were given of undocumented youth with faked working papers feeling trapped in underpaying jobs who don't know that they can go back to school or IYI or tech school, etc. It was recommended to include a re-engagement center to provide wraparound services for dropouts.

There needs to be credible messengers to ask youth who were already released what they needed when they came home. It is important to make sure that foster care children don't unnecessarily enter into the Juvenile Justice system because they have inappropriate discharges from care. Diversion and prevention need to be included. It would be beneficial to look back over a certain number of years to see what the trending needs were. It would be most effective to meet kids where they are. It is recommended to get out of the silo's of looking at just

those kids who are JJC kids, but also the crossover between JJC and DCP&P. The program should talk to kids and the community to find out what they need in order to do a better job of finding solutions that work.

Employment should be prioritized as a service. The Boys and Girls Club approaches employment issues through a career program internship. Youth involvement should also be prioritized with incorporating peer to peer work. Isles has a social justice youth council and also coordinates case management. Youth education is an important element and Mercer County Community College is very active in that field. Isles' building on Johnston Avenue could be considered for a potential restorative justice hub location.

Considerations for Wraparound Services include coordination between already existing services, communication, and population. Many young people and caring adults do not get the information about the programs available. It will be important that marketing and communications strategies are part of all programming. We do not have many young people coming back from secure care, and there needs to be a focus on prevention work.

#### **NEXT STEPS AND CLOSING**

The next collaboration meeting is in October. A special CCYVC meeting will also be in October. If you have suggestions for presenters for the CCYVC board meetings, email [TrentonCCYVC@gmail.com](mailto:TrentonCCYVC@gmail.com) with your ideas.