

Regional Law
Safety & Justice
Committee



REGIONAL LAW SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Thursday, July 27, 2017

AGENDA

- Coffee and networking: Beginning at 7:15 am
- Introduce new RLSJC Chair: Beth Gappert
- Juvenile Justice Panel:
 - **Juvenile Court:** Judge Wesley Saint Clair and Jason Clark, King County Juvenile Court
 - **Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee (JJESC):** Desire Lyons, JJESC Youth Representative
 - **Raising Our Youth as Leaders (ROYAL):** La Tanya Horace, Therapeutic Health Services
 - **Theft 3 and Mall Safety Pilot Project:** Twyla Carter, King County Department of Public Defense and Kendrick Glover, G.E.M.
 - **Cops and Cards:** David Debois, Cops and Cards

Beth Gappert, the new RLSJC chair introduced herself. She serves as Seattle Mayor Ed Murray's Public Safety Operations Manager. Prior to that she spent eight years with the Seattle Police Department and 14 years in the Seattle City Attorney's Office.

Juvenile Justice Panel

Justice Wesley St. Clair gave an overview of Juvenile Justice efforts in King County. For the last 20 years, the system has been focused on reducing the population of incarcerated youth. In 1999, the average daily population (ADP) in juvenile detention was 200. Yesterday, it was 48. King County has one of the lowest youth incarceration rates in the nation. As ADP has decreased, racial disproportionality has increased. Currently, 54% of youth in detention are African American, while that group comprises 15% of King County's youth population.

Two years ago, Executive Constantine created the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee which is focused on addressing these racial disparities. The committee has created innovative programs based on data. Justice St. Clair's goal is to work himself out of a job and would like to only see the most serious offenses appearing in his court. The committee discusses issues including youth charged as adults and why they are housed in adult detention; how to address metro fare evasion; procurement issues; and legislative action to improve access to services.

Federal Way Action Team

Jason Clark of King County Juvenile Court described a program focused in Federal Way, a community which had high rates of justice involved youth. The Federal Way Youth Action Team includes programs such as the Game of Life which engages young people through sports and connects them with services and mentoring. The group also created a new program called HYPE which is based on surveys completed

by the young participants about what they want to get out of the program, their strengths, and needs. The program helps foster connections between the youth and their community.

Historically, there were few programs for high-risk young people who were previously difficult to engage. They have now received Best Starts for Kids funds to hire credible messengers to lead the program, people with prior criminal justice involvement who have transformed their lives. These leaders mentor the participants and connect them with jobs programs.

The Federal Way Youth Action Team needs additional mentors to support their growing work. Learn more [here](#).

Raising Our Youth and Leaders (ROYALS)

La Tanya Horace of Therapeutic Health Services explained that the ROYAL program has existed for 15 years. They provide case management to youth ages 14-19 who are justice-involved or at-risk of being involved. They receive referrals and directly engage youth at juvenile court. They engage the family and address generational trauma, behavioral health conditions, and employment. They work across county lines if the client lives in King County but has a charge in Pierce or Snohomish County.

Theft 3 and Mall Safety Pilot Project

Twyla Carter of the King County Department of Public Defense and Kendrick Glover of Glover Empowerment Mentoring (GEM) explained how the new Theft 3 and Mall Safety Project is going. The program was started after members of the Juvenile Justice Equity Steering Committee looked at data surrounding theft 3 charges and found that 90% of all those referrals were for kids of color for shoplifting, many of which occurred at SouthCenter Mall. They developed the program with the Tukwila Police Department (TPD), local service providers, Westfield Shopping Center, and researchers at the University of Washington.

Prior to the program, if a theft occurred, a business' loss prevention specialist would call TPD and impose fines and fees, the officer would fill out a report, call the parents, escort the youth from the premises, and trespass them from the location. The referral would sometimes go to a community accountability board diversion program, or the 180 program, a pre-file diversion program which would sometimes occur six-weeks after the theft occurred.

This pilot is testing a more immediate response. Now, a young person gets picked up by a loss prevention specialist, calls TPD, who walks them down to a community resource area staffed by GEM, GEM calls the parents and explains that the child has an opportunity to participate in a program. The youth is referred to a geographically and culturally specific group for case management. The youth writes an apology letter to the business, the theft charge doesn't get filed, and the youth participates in voluntary programming and services. TPD still has discretion over who they bring to the resource center. The program is funded by King County Best Starts for Kids and is being evaluated by the University of Washington and the Best Starts for Kids evaluators.

The program has now expanded to address assault and young people who either get into fights or destroy property. The program now employs community leaders to engage young people and prevent violence from happening.

Cops and Cards

David Debois from Cops & Cards explained the program. This is a new non-profit organization working across the Puget Sound with the goal of creating positive interactions between police officers and children. An officer is assigned sports trading cards that contain a link to a website where young people can create a profile and enter the code on the card. They can trade cards online through the website, earn points, and win prizes. The organization is working to partner with schools to have officers distribute cards at assemblies.

Next Full Committee Meeting

The next full Committee Meeting is **Thursday, September 28, 2017** in Auburn at **Auburn City Hall**.

Auburn City Hall, Council Chambers

25 West Main Street

Auburn, WA 98001

8:30-10:00

The September meeting theme is Immigration. The September Steering Committee meeting will take place from 10:00 to 11:00 on September 28 at Auburn City Hall.

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