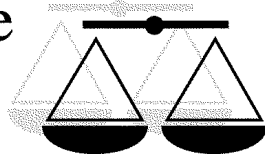


Regional Law Safety & Justice Committee



THURSDAY, MARCH 22, 2018

7:15 – 9:00 A.M.

Seattle City Hall, Bertha Knight Landes Room
600 4th Ave., Seattle, WA 98104

AGENDA

- **Coffee and Networking beginning at 7:15 a.m.**
- **Auburn Prevention Coalition**
 - Ashley Boyd, Coalition Coordinator
 - Jonna Chissus, Operations Manager for Auburn King County Library and Coalition Chair
 - Rhonda Larson, Assistant Superintendent Auburn School District and Coalition Fiscal Agent
 - Isaiah Johnson, Cascade Middle School Principal and School Sector Rep
 - Daniel Miranda, Auburn United Methodist Church Pastor and Faith-Based Organization Sector Rep
- **Community-led Youth Programs:** moderator: Marcus Stubblefield, King County Executive Office
 - **Federal Way Youth Action Team**
 - Cynthia Maccotan
 - Catherine Pickard
 - Winston Bell
 - Charissa Eggelston
 - Youth and Parent representatives
 - **Community Passageways**
 - Dominique Davis, CEO and Founder
 - Community Ambassador and Youth representatives
 - **Rainier Beach Action Coalition**
 - Gregory Davis, Managing Strategist

The March RLSJC meeting featured panels from four different community-led organizations working with youth throughout King County. Organization staff, leaders, and board members shared their perspective, as well as youth who are current and past participants in the programs.

The [Auburn Prevention Coalition](#) representatives spoke about the groups efforts to address drug and alcohol use disorders, which are higher in the Auburn area. Jonna Chissus, Operations Manager for th Auburn King County Library and Coalition chair spoke about her experience seeing drug overdoses in the library and youth problems linked to trauma at home.

Auburn was chosen for a Community Prevention and Wellness Initiative (CPWI) coalition based both on need and on the community's willingness to take on the challenges in their community. The mission "is to reduce, prevent, and eliminate underage drug and alcohol use by engaging, educating, and empowering all members of our multicultural community".

Rhonda Lara, Assistant Superintendent for the Auburn School District and Isaiah Johnson spoke about the need for assistance for youth in the schools. Monthly community meetings are held to talk, not just about problems, but about solutions. The group keeps the community aware of what's going on through community events and offers an 8 week parenting program and a Lifeskills program at schools.

Pastor Daniel Miranda spoke about the organizations focus on prevention.

RLSJC members asked what the organization needs. The representatives noted that there is a lack of therapists available for youth in school and that they need representatives and collaboration for people from all walks of life in order to tackle the issues youth are facing.

The [Federal Way Youth Action Team](#) was created due to youth violence in the community. Federal Way is sending a high number of youth into the criminal justice system and the organization seeks to address that. The organization formed in 2016 and programs have been running for about a year.

Representatives emphasized that everyone is invited to get involved. Many of the youth involved in the organization are on Individual Educational Plans at school and are youth of color. Activities have included Peace Circles, a second chance job fair, a gun buy back program is planned. About 50 youth have been served and concrete positive results are evident.

One program is the Game of Life, led by family therapist Winston Bell. The program offers basketball for youth and young adults. Participants play basketball, get advice from mentors, and connect with outreach managers

Youth of color are overrepresented in the criminal justice system, which is in part related to Adverse Childhood Experiences and trauma. The Federal Way Youth Action Team programs recognize and address that trauma.

Other programs include HYPE and SCOPE. Youth participants shared their experiences with the programs, which have led to high school diplomas and enrollment in college. Youth become leaders and help others.

Community Passageways then shared their model and associated programs. Dominique Davis first founded the 180 Program, but this was not an option for youth charged with felonies. Community Passageways is an option of more intensive engagement for youth charged with serious crimes. The program helps kids find employment and deal with school and gang issues. The guiding principle is to operate with love and support. In partnership with the University of Washington, the program offers Family Integrated Therapy, with community ambassadors currently getting training to provide assessments. Program participants have become college students, construction workers, and one is starting flight school. The program also works with families to prevent evictions.

Community Passageways does not only help youth, but also offers opportunities to adults with a history of criminal justice involvement to help youth. Keith, a community ambassador, shared his experience of working with youth.

Youth participants spoke about getting involved with the organization and avoiding serious criminal justice penalties and instead mentoring others, getting engaged with new interests, and finding positive passions, jobs, and education through the support and love they found in Community Passageways. Youth spoke eloquently about the importance of someone believing in them and having support.

Gregory Davis from [Rainier Beach Action Coalition](#) then shared about the organization and a recent effort to issue community report cards. The approach looks not just at the challenges their community faces, but also the strengths. George Mason University and UW sociology student have helped with research. Safe Passageways is an initiative of the organization that works in specific areas where violence and other incidents occur based on crime data. The interventions have led to a decrease in crime and a partnerships with the Boys and Girls Club. The Best Starts for Kids levy has provided funding for youth stipends.

Marcus Stubblefield concluded the meeting by observing that through their various approaches, all of the groups are about developing young people based on relationships.