Regional Law Safety & Justice Committee

REGIONAL LAW SAFETY AND JUSTICE COMMITTEE
Thursday, February 23, 2016,
MEETING SUMMARY

Applying King County Demographic Data, Chandler Felt, King County Demographer

Looking at King County demographics as a whole, compared to the entire US, we have more people of color, more languages spoken, higher life-expectancy, and lower poverty. When we take a closer look, there are significant disparities by race in income, high school graduation rates, and other measures.

Over the last 20 years, most of King County's population growth has come from people of color. Since 1990, half the growth has been from natural increase and half has been from migration, mostly from overseas. Now, 25% of residents speak a language other than English at home and about 10% have limited English proficiency. More than 170 languages are spoken in King County schools. Spanish and Chinese speakers are both widely distributed but in different areas. King County has the 2nd largest concentration of Somali residents in the US.

When looking at subareas, Seattle is now the fastest growing part of the county (used to be South). South King has 1/3 of the population and a higher percent of children. A majority of the children in South King are people of color. There is a large disparity in distribution of income with 17% growth in East King County and 7% in South over the last seven years.

Income changes have primary affected the lowest and highest categories with a shrinking middle class. Poverty has had modest growth among whites and a high increase for Latina/o and African American communities and has been shifting to suburbs.

Into the future, we can expect continuing growth in Puget Sound/King County. Continuing diversity is now more uncertain and it is likely that disparities will continue to grow.

The group discussed the importance of cultural competency/multilingual capacity in law enforcement. The King County Sheriff's Office reported looking to hire more multilingual deputies. Other agencies reported increasing use of the language line for interpretation and outreach to cultural communities.

Data Driven Justice and Familiar Faces Initiative, Jesse Benet and Deb Srebnik, King County Department of Community and Human Services

The Familiar Faces Initiative is focused on a marginalized population that experiences high utilization of human services and criminal justice systems. It uses lean management approaches to map how residents flow through these systems and design an improved future state.

Currently, the US has 4% of the world's population and 25% of the incarcerated population. This population has increased 800% in 40 years, primarily after the onset of the War on Drugs. The initiative

sees this as a disparate criminal justice response to health and human services needs and has examined the racial disparities involved in risk of criminal justice involvement.

Familiar Faces began by examining interagency data on a cohort of people with frequent visits to the King County jail. The cohort was defined as people coming through the jail four or more times in 2013-2014 which as 1,300 people or 2,000 if a rolling two year period had been used. Nearly all (94%) have a behavioral health condition and experience homelessness. The Familiar Faces population is disproportionately African American (40%) and 84% male. Many are young; 20% are transition aged (18-24). Many have chronic and acute physical health needs.

The data also showed that 40% of the population's charges were related to non-compliance and only 8% have opted into specialty courts. King County spent $35 million per year on this group, only $6 million of which was on health and human services, primarily behavioral health crisis services.

After mapping the complex current state of how this population navigates through the health, human services, and criminal justice systems, they envisioned a desire future state that is founded on these principles: person centered, trauma informed, harm reduction, motivational interviewing, evidence based, and irrelevant of payer.

The project is working on several new initiatives including:

- Demonstration of Flexible Care Management
- Jai Release Planning
- Cross-sector data project
- Single Care Planning w/use of integrated data systems
- Prosecutorial Resources & Diversion
- Single Diversion Portal

The initiatives is partnering with the national Data Driven Justice Initiative, started by the Obama White House and now carried on by Arnold Foundation and National Association of Counties. It focuses on diversion and creating real alternatives to divert people to.

Data Driven Prosecution, Karissa Taylor and Dan Carew King County Prosecutor's Office

This initiative selected a focus on gun violence which kills more people in King County than car crashes.[1] It is focused on youth/young adults. Lack of data is a challenge and they are working with Public Health on gathering data and conducting Young Adult Violence Reviews, similar to Child Death Reviews. The data collected will be analyzed and used inform law enforcement and prosecution priorities.

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[1] Includes firearm suicides.