PUBLIC HEALTH APPROACH TO GUN VIOLENCE

Regional Law Safety & Justice Committee
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Road Map to Zero Youth Detention (ZYD)

A strategic plan to improve community safety and achieve better outcomes for youth and families at risk of juvenile legal system involvement

- Uses a public health approach, focusing on:
  - leading with racial equity
  - well-being of all youth
  - science of adolescent brain development
  - engaging families and communities in solutions
The Road Map: 5 objectives

- **Lead** with racial equity
- **Prevent** youth from entering the juvenile legal system by focusing upstream and on systems to have the greatest impact
- **Divert** youth from further law enforcement, formal legal processes, and secure detention into community-based options
- **Support** youth and families to reduce recurrence of legal system involvement and increase healthy outcomes
- **Align and optimize** connections between systems to increase effectiveness
Racism as a System: Implications

- Disparities in one societal domain are not independent of those in other domains
- Racism is a set of dynamically related components of subsystems.
- Disparities in one domain are a product of causal processes across multiple subsystems
- “It is impossible” to come up with remedies for disparities if we fail to acknowledge and address the interdependence across domains

Reskin, Ann Review of Sociology, 2012
Context Setting

• Gun violence is a source of collective trauma for many young people, particularly Black and Brown young people in King County and surrounding areas.

• Data tells us:
  • Youth who have experienced one form of violence are at higher risk to experience more violence.
  • People who have been shot are at higher risk of being involved in firearm violence again.

• This trauma not only makes it harder for young people to lead safe, happy, healthy lives, but it can also perpetuate more violence.
Who is at the table?
What is the goal of the group?

• Our main objective is to create alignment and optimize connections between systems to increase effectiveness using a Public Health approach.

• Community violence implicates both public health and public safety which require multi-disciplinary and multi-sector responses.
What is Cities United Role?

• Cities United helps City and County leadership in communities across the country to assess their current situations, increase opportunities for awareness, action, advocacy, and accountability.

• The organization provides assistance with planning and implementing solutions by sharing best practices, instituting innovative approaches, and understanding how and where to reconfigure resources.
CITIES UNITED APPROACH

IMMEDIATE STRATEGIES
- Individual and Relationship focused levels of change that impact intra and interpersonal knowledge, skills, actions & behaviors
  - Life After Prison/Incarceration
  - Hospital-Based Intervention
  - Street-Level Intervention
  - Group Violence Intervention

LONG-TERM STRATEGIES
- Systems focused levels of change that impact Communal & Societal norms, values and policies
  - Education
  - Workforce Readiness/Employment
  - Criminal and Juvenile Justice
  - Family Support and Engagement
  - Community Engagement

“how do we stop people from dying”

“how do we create an environment that allows for equitable quality AND quantity of life to exist”

Overview of the Call-in Strategy

• in-person communications with high-risk individuals to warn about the risks of ongoing violence and provide a genuine offer of assistance.

• these communications strategies primarily take the form of call-ins, interventions in which stakeholders communicate with small groups of those most at risk of serious violence, and custom notifications, a personalized method of heading off imminent violence. The 5 things to mention here are;
  • Analysis of violent incidents and trends
  • Respectful In-person communications
  • Relationship based social services
  • Narrowly focused law enforcement actions
  • An intentional management structure i.e, Regional Approach to GV/Office of GV
A supplemental tool to Cities United’s “Roadmap to Safe, Healthy & Hopeful Communities”. This tool assists mayors and city leads to expeditiously develop and/or review a comprehensive public safety action plan.

1. Gather & review city based historical data to tell the story of community violence, community assets as well as risk & protective factors

2. Engage leaders from multiple sectors:
   - Build political will
   - Develop Leadership Team
   - Identify community needs

3. Collaboratively identify common agenda i.e. mission, vision, goals and core activities

4. Draft oversight & accountability measures i.e. governance structure(s), evaluation & communication plan

5. Identify & secure necessary resources to implement the plan by leveraging partnerships & strategic relationships.


Cities United is a Project of Tides Center
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Community Recommendations from The Youth Gun Violence Report.

“It’s easier to get a gun than a job”

- Increase education about gun violence for youth, families, and community members.
- Increase range and scope of community centers.
- Increase youth access to mental health services.
- Provide social and emotional skills training to youth.
- Increase youth employment and educational opportunities.
- Examine and address youth’s ability to easily access guns.
- Develop and increase system’s alignment between government and community supports.
SUGGESTED NEXT STEPS

- Coordination and alignment opportunities across jurisdictions/agencies
- Enhance and leverage political AND public will with focus on elected officials, young leaders and individuals impacted by violence
- Development of a Comprehensive Public Safety Plan
- Development of an Implementation Plan with Communications Strategy and Evaluation Plan as a focus

Opportunity for Engagement

We want your sector, department, jurisdiction at the table!!!
Questions?

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