

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force
July 2016 Update to County Board

Mission

The Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force seeks to address causes and impact of racial disparities in the jail population and in the criminal justice system more broadly. It will report findings and a list of recommendations to the County Board and community. It is committed to working with all members of the public.

Presentations & data

- Champaign County Community Justice Task Force
- Build Programs Not Jails
- Champaign Community Coalition Fresh Start Initiative
- Court Watch
- Champaign-Urbana Citizens for Peace and Justice
- Urbana Traffic Stop Data Task Force

Community forums

- 2 events held- one at the Church of Living God in Champaign and the other at the IMC in Urbana
- Total participation = approximately 75 people
- Small group format with questions related to personal experiences and recommendations for change
- Feedback for recommendations was organized based on topic and there was a word count analysis completed.
- Personal stories- highlights from stories include:
 - Experiences of "driving while black"
 - Lack of diversity on juries/in court proceedings
 - Mistreatment of kids & parents in the school environment that is very different than white families
- Highest word counts include:

Police	Schools	Public Defender
Driver's License	Health (mental/behavioral)	Employment
Education	Bail/Bond	Drugs

- Most discussed topics include:
 - Police practices
 - Legal process (i.e. pretrial, bail/bond, trial, charging, etc)
 - Schools/Education
 - Mental/Behavioral Health
 - Community awareness/outreach

Working groups- beginning to create

Priorities for all groups:

- Related to racial disparities connected to the Justice System
- Vision for larger culture shift
- Alignment with the Mission statement
- Include community members and focus on existing community data/resources/programs/etc.
- Focus on all minority groups

Groups may include:

- Youth- Juvenile Justice & School issues
- Legal process
- Police practices
- Education & Employment
- Restorative Justice/Practices
- Community engagement
- Justice system involvement
- Mental Health/Behavioral Health

Moving forward

- RJTF will continue to hear from organizations/experts in the community to learn more about the issues, possible solutions and existing resources
- Small groups will work on their topics and present findings and propose direction/next steps for RJTF
- Action items will likely be a part of RJTF efforts in addition to a report & recommendations
- Funds will be needed to support the work. After small groups are formed and their direction/goals are outlined, the RJTF will request funds from the County Board, Mental Health Board and the cities of Champaign & Urbana as appropriate.
- RJTF will provide another update to the county board in a few months