

Transforming Safety North Aurora Local Planning Team Meeting 3 – January 18, 2018

LPT Members Attending: LaKeshia Hodge, Tonya Rozencwajg, Ken Crawford, Harry Glidden, Reid Hettich, Hanni Raley, Robert Andrews, Yemane Habtezgi, Farduus Ahmed, Nancy Jackson, Debi Hunter-Holen, Brian Arnold, Dara Goldsby, Omar Montgomery, Crystal Murillo, Ronald Blan, Molli Barker

LPT Members Not Attending: Dana Jenkins, Hassan Latif

Guests Attending: Ernie Duff, Kasey Neiss, Bob Hagedorn, Lea Steed – community members; Richard Morales and Shannon Morales – Latino Coalition for Community Leadership, evaluation and capacity building team; Patrick Horvath – The Denver Foundation; Christie Donner – Colorado Criminal Justice Reform Coalition; Ben Stephan – Community Enterprise Development Services, lender for Transforming Safety business loan program; Kim English – research director for the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice

Facilitators: Wendy Talley and LaDawn Sullivan.

LaDawn introduced an exercise that asked meeting participants to discuss things they know about and things they are curious about. She encouraged participants to think about this difference when they are participating in LPT meetings. At the conclusion of the exercise, everyone introduced themselves.

Wendy then presented a suggestion to the group about how to manage the participation of guests in the LPT meeting and decision-making process. The suggestions included the following:

- Guests will be invited introduce themselves at the beginning of the meeting.
- A short time will be reserved at the start of each agenda for guests to provide verbal comments.
- Guests will be invited to observe at meetings, but may not play an active role in the meeting and may not participate in any decision-making activity.
- After the LPT makes a decision, guests will be invited to offer written comments regarding their observations to Denver Foundation staff, who will compile these comments and distribute them to the LPT, and will also post them on the website.

Several participants shared their feedback on the suggestions. After some discussion, the LPT members agreed by consensus to adopt these rules to guide the participation of guests in the LPT meetings.

Defining North Aurora

Wendy then brought the group back to the decision that was deferred from the end of the prior meeting, defining the boundaries of North Aurora. This is a decision point that the Transforming Safety legislation entrusted to the LPT. Crystal shared her suggestion that the decision about priorities be deferred until after the decision is made about grantmaking priorities, since those priorities may influence the geography. Harry stated that he did some research on the broadest definition of North Aurora that came out of the prior meeting. He said that if the area is extended south to Iliff and east to Watkins, it would include 56 neighborhoods, 5 wards, 3/5 of the total population of the City, two police districts, and a military installation. It is so large an area that he could not pull accurate crime statistics. After brief discussion the group agreed to table the boundary decision until after the priorities are set.

Transforming Safety Loan Program

Ben Stephan from Community Enterprise Development Services (CEDs) provided an overview of the loan program that is also part of the Transforming Safety program. The Transforming Safety legislation

provides \$500,000/year for the three year term of the program in North Aurora. CEDS will make loans through this program to North Aurora based businesses for three purposes:

1. Business Startups
2. Business Expansion
3. Business Acquisition

Loans are available from \$500 to \$50,000, for a term of up to five years at interest rates ranging from 7 – 11%, and CEDS provides technical training and capacity building to borrowers as well. CEDS is partnering with Rocky Mountain MicroFinance Institute and Mi Casa Resource Center for additional technical assistance. A handout on the loan program will be distributed to the LPT members and posted on the Transforming Safety website.

Permissible Uses of Transforming Safety Grant Funds

Christie Donner from CCJRC then handed around copies of sections of the Transforming Safety legislation, HB 17-1326, pointing out the permissible uses of the legislatively designated grant funds. She noted that these were derived from the best research about community reinvestment, and are meant to be interpreted broadly. For example, the permissible use of “academic achievement” includes all grades of school-age children, not just high school. She explained that the LPT does not have to ensure that some grants are made in each of the permissible use areas. Christie then introduced Kim English from the Colorado Division of Criminal Justice. Kim shared a wealth of information about best practices in criminal justice, summarized in handouts called Promoting Successful Community Reintegration and Crime Prevention Strategies, What Works: Effective Recidivism Reduction and Risk-Focused Prevention Programs; and an article called “Cops and Kids: Setting Rules that Save Lives.” All of these resources are also posted on the website. The group engaged Kim in a Q & A and also shared their observations and reflections on criminal justice and crime prevention work in North Aurora. One conclusion that emerged from this discussion is that there are three distinct points of intervention:

1. Young people who have never been involved in crime – how to keep them from ever getting involved in the criminal justice system
2. People who are involved in low-level crime or just starting to engage with the criminal justice system – how to ensure desistance, or positive progress in avoiding further criminal justice involvement
3. People who are returning from the criminal justice system – how to keep them from re-offending

Program Development and Community Impact

Richard Morales from the Latino Coalition gave a brief presentation about the Coalition’s experience making and evaluating the outcomes of grants in communities trying to address the issues that Transforming Safety is designed to address. From doing this work all over the country, he has learned the following lessons:

- Successful programs take longer than you think
- Invest in high performing organizations
- Multi-year funding for successful programs is really important

Each of these points included additional detail, which is included in a handout that is also posted on the website.

Local North Aurora Facts

- Harry Glidden, Aurora Police Department District 1 Commander, handed out and walked the group through a variety of maps showing crime statistics in the area traditionally understood as Original Aurora. He pointed out that, despite the public perception, there are large swaths of North Aurora where there is almost no reported crime. Whatever is happening in these pockets of the community should be looked to for replication.
- Participants asked for the following additional data:
 - Whole city and Original Aurora temporal maps for the third quarter of the year
 - Data and information on trauma and its link to criminal activity, to inform decision-making on priorities
 - Additional information on juvenile crime, suspensions and expulsions by grade and ethnicity for APS
 - Recidivism rates for prison and jail, broken down by race for juveniles and by substance abuse involvement
 - List of resources already existing within North/Original Aurora, plus brief description of services provided – Debi can provide some of this from APS
 - More data on socioeconomic status of residents and linked to crime statistics

Priority Setting

Wendy asked the group to start thinking about priorities between now and the next meeting. Everyone in the group agreed to come with five priorities that they would like to make recommendations to begin the process of identifying grantmaking priorities.

The next meeting of the North Aurora LPT will be on Thursday, February 1, 2018. The meeting will be at the Village Exchange Center from 5:30 – 8:30 pm. If any non-LPT members would like to attend and would need interpretation and/or childcare should notify LaDawn Sullivan at lsullivan@denverfoundation.org.