

Transforming Safety North Aurora Local Planning Team Meeting 5 – February 13, 2018

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

LPT Members Not Attending: Farduus Ahmed, Robert Andrews

Guests Attending: Ernie Duff, Bob Hagedorn, Katie Broz and Yael Berhane (Operation Hope), Amanda Blaurock – Village Exchange Center; Kasey Neiss– intern at Village Exchange Center; Roddel Reddix

Helpers Attending: 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; Alex Wise – CEDS (Transforming Safety business lending partner for North Aurora)

Facilitator: Wendy Talley

Welcome and Introductions: Wendy led the group through a round of introductions.

Priority-Strategy Distinction: Wendy introduced Christie to walk the group through an explanation of the difference between priorities and strategies, to guide the next step in the priority setting process. She stated that all of the work funded by Transforming Safety has to have a Safety Impact. She pointed out that there are only two ways to do that: (1) By preventing crime from occurring in the first place, and (2) By furthering desistance – that is, helping people engaged in crime or criminal behavior, whether involved in the criminal justice system or not, to stop. She then reviewed the Permissible Uses in the Transforming Safety legislation: (1) Improving Academic Achievement; (2) Community Direct Services; (3) Facilitating Neighborhood Connections; and (4) Increasing the Safety of Common Outdoor Spaces. The LPT's role is to devise strategies within the Permissible Uses that are Defined, Measurable, and Achievable. The priorities have to be clearly defined, and they have to be something the funds can achieve in the time period. In order for a priority to fit, it has to make the community safer. Examples of priorities would be reducing school-based violence; or reducing recidivism of people on parole, leaving jail, or on probation. A too-general priority that is not connected to improving safety might be "increasing affordable housing to reduce homelessness." This would not be a strong priority for the Transforming Safety grant program. A narrower priority that would be a better fit because it has a direct connection to improving safety would be "reducing crime among people experiencing homelessness." Nonprofit groups applying for funding might then develop a strategy to advance this priority focused on developing affordable housing to get people experiencing homelessness off the street. This will have the effect of reducing their involvement in crime, either as perpetrators or victims, and thus improving safety.

The LPT members then worked in small groups to develop their draft priorities. After several revisions and rounds of sharpening to draw out the distinctions between priorities and strategies, the groups reported out the following North Aurora grantmaking priorities.

Group 1:

- Increase desistance in people involved with the criminal justice system
- Decrease school violence
- Reduce crime in families experiencing homelessness
- Reduce crime committed by out of school youth
- Reduce home-based violence experienced by children

Group 2:

- Reduce recidivism of people on parole, probation, or leaving jail
- Reduce domestic violence
- Reduce sex trafficking and sexual assault
- Reduce racial disparities in school policing
- Reduce violence resulting from gangs and extremist groups

Group 3:

- Reduce commitment of crime in populations experiencing homelessness
- Reduce rates of expulsion/suspension among students of color in high school
- Increase success of people leaving incarceration
- Reduce youth criminality
- Reduce commitment of crime among immigrant and refugee communities
- Reduce prostitution

Members of the LPT then did a gallery walk to review all the priorities, and each LPT member placed five votes for the priorities that they thought most resonated with the needs that they see in their community. After all the voting was completed, the following four priorities emerged as the strong preferences of the North Aurora LPT members:

- Reduce recidivism of people on parole, probation, or leaving jail
- Reduce rates of suspension/expulsion among students of color in high school
- Reduce commitment of crime in populations experiencing homelessness
- Reduce sex trafficking, sexual assault, and prostitution

Although the LPT sought to establish five priorities, several priorities tied for the fifth position. These were:

- a. Reduce crime committed by out of school youth
- b. Reduce violence resulting from gangs and extremist groups
- c. Decrease school violence

The group decided to table the selection of a fifth priority until the final meeting. Given the small number of votes cast for these priorities, the possibility was also held out that the LPT would advance only four priorities.

Closing: Wendy then asked LPT members to share their reactions to the experience of determining and deciding on priorities. Folks commented on the positive experience of coming together to make hard decisions, and of seeing the commitment of the LPT members to North Aurora. Crystal shared that she will be speaking at a conference in Washington, D.C. at the time of the final LPT meeting. She will try to join by Zoom, but she thanked the LPT members for the opportunity to serve with them.

The next AND FINAL meeting of the North Aurora LPT will be on Tuesday, February 27, 2018. Please note that this meeting is on a Tuesday! 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.