

Emerging Priorities

1. What are the primary drivers of racial disparities in the criminal legal system and how can they be intervened upon?

What kind of training is there that helps address some disparities?

If a racial impact assessment of policy and procedures can impact disparity in the criminal legal system.

To what extent are racial disparities in the criminal legal system the product of (1) disparate treatment by law enforcement; (2) disparate treatment in prosecution; (3) disparate treatment by courts?

observed racial disparities accounted for by higher crime rates in predominantly minority areas, and to what extent are they caused by (e.g.) disproportionate law-enforcement attention in predominantly

Do some judges send Black defendants to prison for tech violations when they don't use that as much for white defendants

What barriers are there that need to be removed in order to address the disparities?

2. What are gaps in access to community resources/services?

What are the resources available to youth and families in our community to provide preventative support?

We need to know how community resources are utilized by the courts or how folks are referred to resources. We also need to know whether culturally appropriate resources are utilized.

What are the true gaps in services and access to resources that exist in the community

We need to know if there's any statistics regarding the use of community based programs and resources.

What prevents youth and families from accessing services in our community?

What are the barriers in our community that result in individuals living with behavioral health conditions interfacing with the criminal legal system?

3. What do county residents need to thrive and feel safe, and are government agencies and other service providers delivering those needs?

How to manage the jail in a fashion that will produce results that are acceptable for health, wellness and thriving?

Where do youth, individuals, families feel safe in our community?

We think some communities are "overpoliced"; is that perception consistent with how people in those neighborhoods feel?

The ways in which our county's highest budgeted departments are bringing about improved wellness & health for our community

What kinds of changes to the budget do we need to consider to address the issues at the root cause level?

4. What are effective non-punitive/non-carceral approaches to increase safety and how are they being used?

what are the penalties for probation violations and alternatives

how can we develop and implement non-punitive responses to harms in our communities? Harms including violence?

What kinds of interventions work at decreasing/ending physical violence like gun violence, domestic violence...

what services and programs are there for judges to utilize as alternatives to jail and standard probation, for substance abuse, housing, domestic violence, sex offender, etc

Whether diversion, deflection, restorative justice and other non-incarceral approaches can be successful with people accused of violent crimes

Are judges kept apprised of all of the resources at their disposal that do not result in incarceration?

5. What are strategies to increase government transparency and accountability?

Is there mental health education for our community leaders, that they are required to attend as a paid public servant?

How are new 'initiatives' - 'interventions' - 'programs' reviewed by the communities most impacted?

what metrics do we have to see how individual judges and the court as a whole handle cases (e.g. who uses restorative justice, for what issues, who veers towards max punishment)

What accountability is there for when a person in power within the system is suspected of using their position to further disparities?

It would be helpful to know how we're engaging the community and folks from all walks of life to engage with young people and to deter behavior.

What evaluation frameworks are shared across the criminal legal system? Where is this data held?

What tools do County officials have to call out racial/economic disparities when they see them?

6. What are strategies to move problems outside of the criminal legal system?

is there any chance that mental health issues can be addressed outside of the criminal justice system?

how can we stop relying on arrest, jailing, and punishment through prosecution as the go to for "solving" root problems in our communities

How can we address the issues of safety within the community outside of the legal system?

What kinds of resources does the community need to address different kinds of conflict without calling the police?

Has legalization of marijuana reduced the number of people in jail for drug crimes? How has legalization of marijuana affected drug treatment programs?

How to offer acceptance back into the community for drug offenders who have been incarcerated.