

**Washtenaw Equity Partnership Working Group Meeting Notes**  
**September 19<sup>th</sup>, 2022 6:00 – 8:00**

In attendance:

Alma Smith  
Belinda Dulin  
Alyshia Dyer  
Ariana Gonzalez  
S. Joy Gaines  
Jeanette Hadden  
Natalie Holbrook  
Heather Martin  
MaryAnn Sarosi  
Eli Savit  
Desirae Simmons  
Peri Stone-Palmquist  
Rachelle Wilson

Angie Carpio (Vera)  
Tara Dhanraj (Vera)  
Alex Roth (Vera)  
Ashley Demyan (Vera)

1) Welcome and Introduction by Chair

- Introduction of new team members, Jen and Ashley
- Summary from last meeting reviewed, determined to be substantively correct. Meeting added to proceedings of working group. Tonight is informational session to working group.
- Presentation started at 6:15pm
  - Vera staff giving intro on summer activities, acknowledging summer staff
  - Tonight is an overview of emerging themes

2) Subcommittee Updates

a. Research Methods and Data Limitations

- i. Overview on research activities and various data limitations [see presentation deck]
- ii. Update on behavioral health provider survey being delayed until 10/3 for IRB review
- iii. Qualitative interviews-- informed the group that the screener survey used to determine eligibility for interviews/focus groups] excluded a lot of people and we had some fake responses

b. Youth Justice & Schools

- i. Overview of priority areas [see presentation deck]

- ii. Data visual overview showing racial disparities of youth; members noted the secure detention and delinquent finding
      - 1. Members emphasized the importance of knowing referral sources and looking at trends over time
- c. Court Process
  - i. Overview of priority areas [see presentation deck]
    - 1. Restorative court data is lacking and data not tracked by race
    - 2. Specialty courts—Black residents are underrepresented but outcomes are mixed
      - a. Member asked about comparisons to CREW report; Prosecutor Transparency Project focuses on data through disposition; tracking cases through start to finish
      - b. Member stated that pleas are hard to track in the data because plea forms aren't used in Washtenaw. More work to be done in terms of tracking data in terms of pleas
    - 3. Chat (Member): Also, I wonder about the use of firearm felony and habitual offender.
      - a. Reply—HYTA data 2017-present
    - 4. Chat (Member): The WCPO analysis will be really helpful because of its granularity and the ability to compare apple to apple cases.
    - 5. Chat (Member): There's a bunch of research showing youth age out of criminality around 25. Are you able to look at charging rates for youth between 18-25, otherwise known as emerging adults.
      - a. Answer: yes, the data is broken down by age brackets (< 27, 27-37, and 37+)
- d. Behavioral Health
  - i. Overview of priority areas [see presentation deck]
  - ii. Harm reduction—Washtenaw well resourced, but not implementing more progressive ideals of harm reduction
  - iii. Q: was there any discussion about high bar to admission to mental health court; any discussion about how many people coming into circuit court with mental health issues?
    - 1. A: not on the subcommittee level, but it does need to be looked into.
  - iv. Chat (Member): Are you looking to see whether services are culturally appropriate?
    - 1. A: yes, will be part of provider survey
- e. Data
  - i. Overview of priority areas [see presentation deck]
  - ii. Lack of analytic capacity, tracking and consistency issues across all units
  - iii. The Data Subcommittee chose to focus on two counties that have good data warehouses; having data analysts on staff have been crucial to success (both in using data and securing grant funding)
  - iv. Need for greater transparency
    - 1. Chat (Member): Do we see that those places are practicing different forms of community wellness and health?

2. Chat (Member): Are we able to look at this in more detail at a policing level given police start a lot of the disparities depending on their discretion on where they are patrolling, where they are assigned, and the policies they are following at the given police department? By sheer numbers in Washtenaw County if we have for example 180 officers per 24 hours county wide but a majority of the officers are in Ann Arbor and Eastern Washtenaw then more cases are referred from that area.
  - a. A: coming up in next section

f. Front-end and Prevention

- i. Overview of priority areas [see presentation deck]
- ii. Housing challenges for those with criminal system involvement (including documents needed, charge restrictions, and eligibility by city within Washtenaw).
- iii. Employment is also challenging. Michigan Works! runs business resource network to assist with success but not a lot of businesses are interested in paying into the system.
- iv. Understanding 911 calls, most recent county data is from 2017, but Pittsfield has current data dashboard
  1. Chat (Member): Does the Sheriff's report from 2017 include information from the city law enforcement departments too?
- v. Transparency—5 oversight committees in Washtenaw, some are active and some inactive
- vi. Disparities in policing—look at changes in FBI Uniform Crime Reporting—does this affect numbers?
  1. Look at raw numbers of population and arrests—next iteration of visuals will depict these

g. Post-Sentencing and Reentry

- i. Overview of priority areas [see presentation deck]
- ii. A bit limited in themes due to data availability

h. Feedback/Discussion

- i. Q: Are we looking at parole terms?
  1. A: Limited at what we can say due to lack of data from MDOC.
- ii. Q: Is there any consideration to the range of probation/parole conditions that may not be related to the conviction offense?
  1. A: not a law, but you'd hope the conditions were related.
  2. A: to obtain this data would require a full case file review
- iii. Q: can we look at trends over time?
  1. Yes, will present as much data as we have in final report
- iv. Q: Is it possible to look at law enforcement staffing over time vs trends? Unfilled vs. filled positions?
  1. Maybe police chief/look in budgets?
  2. Check staffing list on Ypsilanti Police Department website
  3. You can but you would have to go department by department. Some of this is public.

- 4. WeROC has a rough estimate but it's not exact. Also important to look at patrol versus command
- v. Q: With the juvenile data, is an apples-to-apples comparison possible—looking at youth involvement compared to race, by charges and outcomes. Probation outcomes are very context specific and can be influenced by a youth's personal/home circumstances.
  - 1. A: yes, this is what we're working on with the Child and Adolescent Data Lab

3) Next steps

- a. Workplan updates—changes did not alter project deadlines, just allowed for more iterative process and additional research time
  - i. Upcoming months
    - November meeting reschedule - Link to google form for new day/time
- b. Upcoming Vera Visit to Washtenaw
  - i. Process—this is the meeting to discuss recommendations; hoping to get more material to the groups before the meetings and suggested recommendations
  - ii. Draft recommendations will be presented to the working group at the October meeting.
  - iii. Prioritizing actionable recommendations; no recommendations will be coming out of the blue—all will come out of the committee processes

4) Close out