

Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)  
Meeting Minutes  
Thursday, August 11, 2016  
6:30 pm

**I. Call to Order**

Facilitator Byndom called the meeting to order at 6:30pm.

**II. Roll Call**

*Members Present:*

M. Ar-Raheem, L. Branham, S. Byndom, R. Byrd, E. Dee, A. Evans, A Felty, D. Harber, R. Hughes, A. James, E. Patt, C. Randolph, H. Ross, K. Schneider, S. Silver, D. Turner, G. Walter.

*Members Absent:*

S. Balgoyen, B. Butts.

**III. Approval of Agenda**

Kevin Schneider moved to approve agenda. Gerald Walter seconded. The motion carried.

**IV. Approval of Minutes**

Susan Silver noted that she was present but was marked absent. Lynn Branham asked that the notes by her name for the volunteer groups not include the parenthesis.

Gerald Walter moved to approve the minutes as amended. Esther Patt seconded the motion. The motion carried.

**V. Public Participation**

There were no public comments at the time of this agenda item.

**VI. Volunteer Group Meetings**

Kevin moved to suspend the meeting rules for the volunteer subgroups. Lynn seconded the motion. The motion carried.

The task force reviewed the volunteer working groups that were proposed at the previous meeting. The task force then split up into groups.

The chair called the meeting back to order at 8:05pm.

**VII. New Business**

Sam informed the task force of a professor at U of I (Bev Wilson) who is interested in collaborating. He would like to have his class help with collecting and organizing data. Sam asked the groups to consider questions about data that they would like to collect.

### **VIII. Task Force Member Comments**

Sam discussed the meaning and importance of including cultural competency in the work that this organization does.

Kevin asked everyone from working groups to send Ryan Hughes a list of what they did and who was present.

Sam would like to define formal subcommittees by the next meeting.

### **IX. Adjournment**

The meeting adjourned at 8:15pm.

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Meeting summaries from working group meetings:

#### *Legal Process Working Group*

- Members: Demario, Maryam, Kevin, Lynn, Artice, Susan, Esther
- Discussed different points of contact with justice system
- Kevin will research and report on Illinois statutory requirements
- Susan will distribute Q/A with the Sheriff
- Lynn will distribute the assessment tool validation

#### *Justice System Involvement*

- Members: Ellen
- Ellen read the Correct Care Services contract with the jail
- Ellen has a consent form for individuals wishing to be interviewed
- Ellen will request a tour of the jail

#### *Restorative Justice/Practices*

- Members: Lynn
- Lynn will develop ways to share restorative justice with the other groups

#### *Community Engagement*

- Members: Gerry, Ryan, Sam, Carolyn, David
- David shared with the group a list of possible questions for data collection
- Sam discussed the U of I professor who wants to collaborate to create a database
- The group discussed what an extensive database for the county's criminal justice system might look like
- The group will begin organizing a list of groups who have data that could be useful

#### *Education and Employment*

- Members: Amy, Henry, Rosita, Alex, David Sutton (community member)

- discussed ideas and possible recommendations dealing with these topics
  - o re-entry needs around I.D., transportation, driver's license, housing, jobs, food, medical access
  - o regular (non-prison) community access to information for employment and for housing – could there be a website clearing house?
  - o the problems with a website that businesses may be using to determine whether employment is offered <http://www.cccircuitclerk.com>
  - o how to empower people about their employment rights: EEOC, HRC, sealing or expunging records
  - o education in prison so that a person leaves prison with marketable skills, knowledge, possible degrees, certification, a resume, some money for work done
  - o detox/mental health emergency care in jail
  - o how to prepare businesses to change attitudes about diversifying their workforce, have training on diversity and cultural differences
  - o addressing stress of prejudice head on; providing mental health counseling from businesses and government (Urbana allows free weekly mental health counseling)
  - o parenting programs to help youth