

MEETING MINUTES
RESTORATIVE JUSTICE/PRACTICES WORKING GROUP
RACIAL JUSTICE TASK FORCE

Two members of the Restorative Justice/Restorative Practices Working Group, Sara Balgoyen and Lynn Branham, met on September 14, 2016 at the Café Kopi in Champaign, Illinois at 11 a.m. The restorative-justice/practices topics discussed included the following:

1. What steps should be taken to inform the Racial Justice Task Force about restorative justice/practices (RJ/RP) and how it bears on the work of the Racial Justice Task Force? A decision was made to ask that time be reserved at an RJTF meeting in late October or early November for Sara and Lynn to deliver a presentation about RJ/RP.
2. At what junctures in the criminal-justice system could restorative practices be integrated in a way that reduces and, over time, helps to eliminate the racial disparity in the county's criminal-justice system? What followed was a discussion of the integration of restorative practices into the following: (1) policing ("restorative policing"); (2) diversion options from the criminal-justice process that can be utilized by police (as exists currently in Champaign County's juvenile-justice system), the State's Attorney (prosecutor), and the courts; (3) probation; (4) the local jail; and (5) reentry from jails and prisons. The need to integrate restorative practices into the state's prisons, in particular for the benefit of the persons returning from prison to Champaign County, was discussed. The benefits of a Restorative Justice Center were discussed, including how it could be employed to address and resolve conflicts that can culminate in crimes, particularly conflicts and crimes in areas of the county in which violent crimes have disproportionately occurred.
3. What restorative practices should be the focus of the presentation before the RJTF and the RFTF's potential recommendations? A decision was made that the broad swath of restorative practices, including restorative-justice conferences, family group decision-making, circles of support and accountability for those who have committed particularly serious crimes, and other restorative practices, should be considered as the RJTF completes its work.
4. Should the RJTF request a U. of I. class lending data-related assistance to the RJTF to collect data in the county at this point concerning restorative practices in the county? Since the county has implemented very few restorative practices in the county and none that are "fully restorative," it was decided that this is not, for now, a data-collection priority for the RJTF.

Minutes Prepared by Lynn Branham
September 14, 2016