Champaign County Racial Justice Task Force (RJTF)
Meeting Minutes
Champaign Public Library Douglass Branch
Thursday, February 9, 2017
6:30 pm

I.   Call to Order
Sara Balgoyen called the meeting to order at 6:44pm.

II.   Roll Call
Members Present: S. Balgoyen, S. Byndom, L. Branham, A. Felty, R. Hughes, A. James, E. Patt, S. Silver, D. Turner, G. Walter.

Members Absent: M. Ar-Raheem, E. Dee, A. Evans, D. Harber, S. Lerner, C. Randolph, H. Ross, A. Shelton.

There was no quorum at the time of item III. The task force allowed for items V and VI and a discussion surrounding the presentation by Yuyan Huang.

A quorum was met at 7:50pm.

III.   Approval of Agenda
Sara moved to approve agenda (quorum present). Susan seconded. The motion carried.

IV.   Approval of Minutes
Sara moved to approve the minutes (quorum present). Susan seconded the motion. The motion carried.

V.   Public Participation
There were two members of the public who addressed the task force. Matt Hiser is a member of the County Board and is the Chair of the justice committee. He wanted to express his desire to begin working with the RJTF more closely. He was at the meeting to listen and learn more about the task force.

Elaine Shpungin is with Conflict 180, a restorative justice group, and she does restorative justice with schools. She is working with Urbana High School, and she was at the meeting to learn more about the task force's work.

VI.   Presentations
Yuyan Huang came to present questions regarding the data projects. There was a projector but the Library could not provide access to it. This made following her questions and assisting her very difficult. She talked about building a data portal that is more robust than the shiny apps that

her class developed last semester. She talked about being able to work with the statistics class students who are working with the data this semester.

Yuyan asked about the difference between "individual bonding" and "bonded out." Lynn said that "bonded out" probably means D-bond which is when a person pays 10% of bond (as bail). I-bond (Individual bond) is when someone is released on recognizance.

It was difficult not being able to see the data tables that Yuyan was presenting. Sara suggested that Yuyan send the RJTF questions so that they can find people who can answer the questions. Gerry suggested recommending that the data sets be designed to be compatible. Lynn suggested reviewing the task force's process of how to answer questions. It was suggested that Yuyan send questions to Carolyn and then Ryan will ask questions to police departments and Esther will ask questions to the Sheriff's office. Susan will try to answer the broad questions about the criminal justice system.

Yuyan asked what "disposition type" means in the Circuit Clerk data. The group responded that it means how the case finished. Yuyan will send the definitions of the terms she is unsure about to the group.

Matt (County Board) suggested that the County Board would be able to use the data portal that the task force is developing.

Susan noted that right now we cannot follow an individual's path through the justice system. Yuyan discussed whether being able to track a person through the system would help the analysis of the data. She also discussed the issue of searching for bias in disparities without controlling for crime types. Lynn suggested reaching out to the MacArthur Foundation who has worked with Cook County jail data.

Matt (County Board) suggested that being able to look at individuals who go through the criminal justice system at that level would be very beneficial. Lynn said that we need to consider how much time Yuyan has to work on these issues and whether she should focus on individuals' paths through the criminal justice system. Yuyan suggested that she could make new FOIA requests for the data and request names as part of it.

VII. New Business
Review of Engagement Letter to Public Officials

Lynn explained the letters that she had written. One question to determine is whether to send a letter to the State's Attorney. She also asked whether we want to ask any additional questions. Lynn stated that Esther suggested sending a letter to a group of criminal defense lawyers. Sara believes all the letters should encourage sharing the letter with other people. Sara also asked about the invitation through the letters for the individuals to come forward to the task force with their responses; this could be off-putting. Esther responded that offering a choice of coming to the task force, meeting with someone on the task force, or writing responses would be better. There was discussion on this topic. Esther moved to approve the letters as written, including changes proposed to the letters regarding the ways that individuals can respond to the letters, and including the addition of other recipients (quorum present). Lynn asked for a clarification: "we

would be pleased to have you meet with us, but if you prefer…" This was deemed acceptable. Gerry seconded the motion. Sara asked who would send them. Lynn said she would pass them to Sam and he would email and mail them. It was suggested that both hard copies and emails of the letters be sent.

The motion carried by vocal vote.

VIII.   Task Force Member Comments
Collaboration with Stats 427

Gerry met with the Stats 427 today. They are forming a team of three students to work with the data. The class usually works with big data but he believes it will be a positive experience. He told the class that we want to be able to know what claims we can make with the data.

Meeting Locations

Sara again introduced the options for going before the County Board to discuss meeting locations. There was a discussion about when to go before the Board. Artice, Esther, Sara, and Gerry committed to going to the Committee of the Whole Meeting next Tuesday to speak during public participation on the topic of meeting space.

Sara said that there are multiple presentations on March 9th.

IX.   Subcommittee Meetings
Sam tabled this item.

X.   Adjournment
Artice moved to adjourn.