

DRAFT NOTES – Special Meeting, Legislation, Policy and Practices Subcommittee

February 13, 2019

2:30pm

Office of SF Public Defender, 555 7th Street

In attendance: Jose Bernal (chair), Lauren Bell (staff), Mark Walsh, Linda Connelly, Emmeline Sun, Andres Salas, Kara Chien, Tara Anderson, Donna Mandel, Becky Lo Dolce, Victoria Westbrook

Quorum was maintained throughout the entirety of the meetings

The meeting's focus was on 2019 strategic planning. As tools for the discussion, the group reviewed the 12/3/2019 Strategic Planning Retreat Notes and the results of the Survey Monkey that listed all of the possible LPP action items listed in the notes, and presented members with the opportunity to rate how strongly they agreed that a particular item should be a 2019 priority. Of the 29 items in the Survey Monkey, the group agreed to focus attention on the top ten highest valued selections. Through discussion, ultimately the group reviewed 14 items. These selections included: Racial and Ethnic Disparities, Mental Health/Jail Rebuild, Substance Use, BOS Hearings, Prison Phone Calls, Statewide Fines/Fees, Discharge Planning, Gang Injunctions, AB109, Data Informed Stats to Inform Planning, Creating a Previously Incarcerated Co-Chair Role on the Reentry Council, Women's Gender Responsive Work. There was also a request by the Chair for the group to consider Inclusive Language as an item to be discussed and considered and the present members honored the request.

The group then went through a process of reviewing each item against a couple of prioritization considerations, and clustered items accordingly:

Was the item an administrative task that could be done at the staff/council/subcommittee meeting level?

- AB109 – Reentry Council staff will follow up with Sheriff's Department and Adult Probation to learn more about AB109 allocations
- BOS Hearings – The group will work with Reentry Council members to schedule presentations at the BOS to advance public awareness of subcommittee and Council priorities
- SFRC Co-Chair – Reentry Council staff will include this as an agenda item on the April calendar and ask the full Council to permit previously incarcerated members of the Council to be part of the rotation of people who Chairs an RC meeting. This may require a change to the Council By-Laws.
- Data/Stats to inform planning – Members agreed that using data for analysis and to spotlight priority areas was important.

Was the item/work already in development through either city or community leadership?

- Women's Gender Responsive Work – The Young Women's Freedom Center, a range of community organizations, Adult Probation and the Sheriff's Departments prioritize gender responsive services for cis and trans gendered women. Members will support developing work of these groups.
- An end to Gang Injunctions – there is an existing coalition focused on ending gang injunctions
- Statewide Fines and Fees – SB 144 is in development to make this happen. This will be a part of the LPP Legislative priorities conversation.

- Prison Phone Calls – The SF Public Defender’s Office is advancing this work locally.
- Racial and Ethnic Disparities in the Criminal Justice System– Co-Chair Departments of the Reentry Council are using Decision Point Analysis to continue to analyze where there are specific areas in the criminal justice system that a collective impact can be made to mitigate disparities. The Sentencing Commission in partnership with the Reentry Council is also convening the Criminal Justice Racial Equity Working Group which focuses both on disproportionality as well as equity. Lastly, the DA’s Office got the Safety and Justice grant which will continue to direct continuing and needed attention on disparities in the criminal justice system, and make recommendations for improvements.

As a result of a robust conversation, the group agree to confirm the following four 2019 priorities:

1. **Achieve more Inclusive Language in all references to all persons convicted of offenses**, i.e. discontinue using words like inmate, offender etc. Work with City leadership to formally embrace inclusive terminology

Members who committed to working on this goal: Eric, Jose, Linda and Emmeline

2. **Late Night Releases** – Create a work group focused on mitigating administrative, calendaring, logistical/warm hand off challenges related to Late Night Releases, especially for vulnerable populations with no place to go. Consider moving towards a request for a BOS hearing on the issue to raise public awareness of the challenges, and support to troubleshoot the issues.

Members who committed to working non this goal: Donna and Victoria

3. **Mental Health and Substance Use policy and services** – (the LPP opted to combine these items into one priority area) Create a workgroup that successfully strengthens and expands system flexibility, access pathways, services types and policies and protocols related to San Franciscans in need of mental health and substance use support

Members who committed to working on this goal: Mark, Linda, Kara, Kathleen (pending approval)

4. **Maintaining child/parent/guardian connections related to prison commitments.** Create a workgroup that continues to support One Family and other efforts that seek to formalize subsidized transportation for families, a system of letter writing, good bye visits, and explore regular video conferencing

Members who committed to working on this goal: Tara Anderson and Becky

In addition to the above, the group acknowledged that some items/work were opportunities for joint efforts of the LPP and Direct Services Subcommittee. These areas of focus include:

- Hosting a DA Forum – the policy team could devise the questions with input from Direct Services, and the Direct Services can take the lead on logistics and outreach.
- Discharge Planning – LPP connects with SFSD to ensure that discharge plans are completed for people who are released, especially people with TX dates and that discharge planning protocols/coordination are shared with cj partners and community. The Direct Services subcommittee is interested in being part of an effort to complete a reentry/discharge check list.

Member who committed to being a liaison between subcommittees: Victoria

The next regular meeting of the LPP subcommittee:

Thursday, March 20, 2019

2:30-4:30pm

25 Van Ness Avenue

Lower Level Conference