



**San Francisco Youth Commission
Transformative Justice Committee**

~Draft Minutes~

Monday, April 26th, 2021

5:00 PM – 7:00 PM

Public Comment Call-in:

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United States, San Francisco (toll)

Conference ID: 146 686 1562##

There will be public comment on each item.

Members: Rome Jones (Chair), Gracie Veiga (Vice Chair), Arsema Asfaw, Nora Hylton, Gabbie Listana, Amara Santos,

1. Call to Order and Roll Call

Chair Jones calls the meeting to order at 5:03 pm. Quorum is met. Commissioner Asfaw is tardy and arrives by 5:04pm.

Roll Call Attendance:

Rome Jones, present

Gracie Veiga, present

Arsema Asfaw, present

Nora Hylton, present

Gabbie Listana, present

Amara Santos, present

2. Approval of Agenda (Action Item)

There is no public comment.

Commissioner Hylton motions to approve of the agenda, seconded by Commissioner Listana. The motion passes.

Roll Call vote:

Rome Jones, aye

Gracie Veiga, aye

Arsema Asfaw, aye

Nora Hylton, aye

Gabbie Listana, aye

Amara Santos, aye

3. Approval of Minutes (Action Item)

A. April 12th, 2021

([Document A](#))

There is no public comment.

Commissioner Santos motions to approve of the April 12th, 2021 minutes, seconded by Commissioner Asfaw. The motion passes.

Roll Call vote:

Rome Jones, aye

Gracie Veiga, aye

Arsema Asfaw, aye

Nora Hylton, aye

Gabbie Listana, aye

Amara Santos, aye

4. Public Comment on Items not on Agenda (Discussion Only)

There is no public comment.

5. Business (All Items to Follow Discussion and Possible Action)

A. Check-In: [What does Justice look like to you?](#) [Discussion Only]

Led by Commissioner Jones and Veiga

Preface - as you can share however much you want to and based on your interpretation of what does Justice look like to you? This question was crafted as the verdict of the Chauvin trial and the context of countless murder of black and brown bodies.

Commissioner Jones - reads the question what does justice look like to you? Anybody want to start us off?

Commissioner Veiga - I, like a lot of people, are grappling with prison abolition and in some cases, accountability is determined as the justice system - but it's not justice just endless killing of people.

Commissioner Hylton - i don't think justice exists and it was based on equality, but the idea that we can murder and killing right at anycase isn't possible.

Austin - power dynamics and isn't ever healthy. In the wake of mourning that we're doing for so many who are living, dying every day- justice feels like life and fighting for everyone to be safe justice feels like george floyd alive right now.

Commissioner Santos - it's been a long day, so hard to give an encompassing answer. My mind has gone to ways that the US govt has tried to take some form of accountability to make official statements for the countless afflictions of violence. It just seems a bit, if a life was taken putting someone behind makes it right - no wrong way to determine how black folks feel about the verdict and know this isn't the end all for things - root problem for why these things are happening. This doesn't stop black deaths of black men, black women, black children, black tgnc folks. We as a country need to have an idea of justice and deeper

understanding of justice with compassion. Like an eye for an eye, makes the world blind. Keep having black parents of trauma and losing people and going to the source of the problem - if there's a tumor we just take it out.

Commissioner Asfaw: this question is a lot and I don't know how to really understand it. For me justice wasn't the verdict of the chauvin case, because it is hard to stay hopeful and fighting for justice when it seems like whatever we do - the activists and organizers in minnesota, protesting and advocating for over a year, and this might be a win but he's still dead, daughter will grow up without a father, and there's still black people across the country getting killed. Feels more like an anomaly than change coming - but if change was coming things would be destroyed and built by the right people. Justice isn't unattainable but in the way we are approaching it as a country isn't possible for any of us - to really achieve justice from institutions that exist - like white supremacy still exists.

Commissioner Listana: I agree with everyone's assessment for chauvin's verdict. It is justice not with or for everyone. True justice is when all the isms - are abolished. I don't know what justice looks like to me either - just hopefully a place where all the things that oppress us are abolished, if we are still oppressed in the process.

Commissioner Jones: no reactions to trial. I actually have a brother called by law enforcement, so I am happy for the family that someone is accountable because I know the effects of not having that, and the idea we are living with that the family member is gone - and no level of accountability for that. In a system change, if a police murderer doesn't make it to nba and platform, and they don't cancel a game or 3 games -w e aren't ready to have a conversation. I don't think capitalism allows us any sense of true justice, capitalism makes it so someone is pushed down - there's a winner or loser and not just, and like we often have people who take up space from people directly impacted and then advocate without involving them so i don't think we can do anything without a conversation of those directly impacted and allowing them to make the decision. And even then slavery or reparations - granted we still enslaved your ancestors but we gonna pay you years later to feel better about it - and now we have money, lack of opportunities, and financial literacy and play depper into capitalist system and you will be back in a system of need again. It's like a complicated circle of oppressing each other, and even if pushed down people are being up - it comes at the cost of another thing. And it feels strange to talk about justice and it depends on people how they feel and impacted, and it feels weird to tell someone your way of life is the right way of thinking - you could watch push down people - to get all the education necessary to be at the top of profession or gender neutral all top of profession still be pushed down by men of less education and capability because of systems we live and if we choose not to do that and different route - we still try to nudge towards systems work. The system was not built for you or your life choices. Justice is equitable solutions for those directly impacted. At this point in time, far fetched ideas.

B. Review: [Cosmic Possibilities: An Interactive Youth Guide to Abolition](#)

By Abolitionist Youth Organizing Institute

Pick out a few highlights you liked from it as things we can model for our Transformative Justice BPP report, for the end of the year summary of our work. Commissioners reviewed the zine for 15 minutes and shared their findings.

Commissioner Hylton: must have taken a long time, liked quotes from famous abolitionists and activists and good to remember

Commissioner Listana: changing of icons and organization were good

Commissioner Santos: artistic but also really communal and sincere as oftentimes anytime we do it political, it gets really bureaucratic and weird and feels like westernization but this is accessible and grounding techniques and reflection feels important for me. This allows me time to self reflect and intentional, to read and not just regurgitate, but teach yourself in a way. Really well done and encapsulates what communal healing is not just a dense article in stanford or east coast school with a personal touch.

Commissioner Asfaw: well done zine, with good care for youth by youth. It is way too long as it's not a zine page. It's dense like a novel. And too much to get through. And i really like zines as an art form but if we are making one - make it slow and informational tool as it's counterproductive too much to get through

Commissioner Jones: I liked some of the content, a lot to digest, a lot of colors and pages and shapes. It changes a lot. But some of the content is really cool and pays a lot of attention to elements of accountability. Anything we do, accountability questions are great for us.

Commissioner Veiga: appreciated the variation with poems, facts, and writings - made it easier for us to retain and continue reading.

C. Presentation: Deep Dive into City Alternatives to Policing [Discussion & Possible Action]
Led by Staff Truong

Commissioners split up the reading and reported back on the proposed city alternatives.

a. [Planting Justice - gabbie](#)

On the planting justice handout they suggested 6 alternatives to policing on intermediation and unarmed mediated teams to patrol neighborhoods and follow peer models, to protect from catcalling and violence, another thing is decriminalizing of every crime - widescale that aren't violent, restorative justice where accountability is understood as a community issue and entire community, direct democracy at the community level for purpose and healthier culture, community patrols though can be racists to replace the police but could become police themselves, mental health care - to people who need it and keep those most impacted not in handcuffs - and other examples in real life

b. [DHS 2.10.2021 Alternatives to Policing \(9 slides\) - Arsema](#)

still requires someone to call 911 for medical emergencies which puts those going through drug withdrawals/overdose in a vulnerable position or health crisis because when you think about who call police on homeless people - not a good method, in terms of other aspects it's interesting that successful - street outreach not a lot of information just SF Homeless Outreach Teams - looks to be community members but don't know how they would do this to factor people in the neighborhood ,

c. [DPH Outreach Teams - gracie](#)

Same note as arsema's but with public health's outreach resources - either in categories of street crisis response teams (suicide/self harm, basic medical treatments) - rapid response

Comprehensive crisis services (caters to youth) non street, at home or office space - there could be a response to de escalation for conflict

Street medicine (monthly scheduled outreach - navigation centers and shelters or on urgent basis for street outreach), then low threshold -> more are proactive - example like glide or largely people experiencing homelessness or using drugs and behavioral health needs -> not sure how it differentials from other services or categories but higher specialization one to behavioral health needs and ongoing engagement, one is more on syringe collection

Similar to arsema for rapid response ones - they can respond to service through 911 call triage or 311 - curious as to how these teams are deployed as opposed to police, when they reference to help with violent situations not haven't heard to do a lot and if well intentioned people call in to call and request police service not be deployed -> curious in implementation - > but general overview of what these teams are

d. [BHS 101 Alternatives \(22 slides\) - Lesly + Austin](#)

BHS covers primary care, laguna honda, jail health, and general hospital

Mental health services: outpatient (groups, individual, peer to peer, medication), case management (service needs), crisis (24/hr telephone, crisis counseling), residential (24 hr homelike services), private providers (make appointments), acute services, long term care (locked up facilities)

Substance use services: (prevention/educational, prevention and harm reduction (syringe access, hiv overdose), screening, medically assisted treatment (opiod treatment), mat alcohol, withdrawal management, sobering center, outpatient (specific to communities), residential (adult programs), residential step down - residential to outpatient transition) Points of entry: homeless -> jail -> community -> self..involuntary treatment, locked facilities.. Good to know phrases: outpatient, residential, crisis programs, hospitalization, locked facilities

Primary mental health disorders: highest to low for youth- adjustment disorder (31%), depressive disorders (19%), traumatic stress disorders (14%), other anxiety disorders (10%), attention deficit disorders (8%). Highest to lowest for adults- depressive disorders (33%), psychotic disorders (25%), traumatic stress disorders (9%), bipolar/mani disorders, other anxiety disorders (8%)

Mental Health Clients

- Ethnicity: Majority white // lowest NHOPI, Native American, other
- Age: majority 45-64 // lowest 18-25
- Gender: majoriy male // lowest transgender

SUD Client demographics:

- Gender: majority males
- Ethnicity: majority white

Primary - opioids 3,5k, other stimulants 1.5k, alcohol, cocaine, cannabis

Clients served -> predominantly substance use, withdrawal, redicential, psych urgent, emergency, substance use

Vocational services:

- Peer counseling, clerical, janitorial, construction, it, culinary, landscaping (7 workforce sectors)
- System challenges: disparities and racism, siloed investments, limited awareness of services, significant barriers to access service gaps, high threshold for entry, difficult to navigate, lack of coord between programs systems, high vacancies and low morale and retention, inefficient business operations
- Mental health sf - leg to increased access to treatment to bhs, for homeless-> office of coordinated care (promote, consult/link, case management, data collection), mental health service center (clinical intervention, drug sobering,evaluation, prescribe), new beds and facilities, street crisis response team
- How does it all go together -> medical reforms, mental health sf, prop c, alt to policing

e. [311 calls - Nora](#)

When calls are given to sfpd versus 311, 911. A lot of calls are transferred to sfpd, and there are certain dispatch does for behavioral concerns or wellbeing checks given

For encampments - dispatch does the transfer for 911, 911 non emergency - based on persons description - if violation of sleep safing -> through covid no longer removing tents, but based on caller description (gives too much power) Otrash / sf public works, lacking social distancing (hsoc - healthy streets)

311 what do you even do? Do you remove encampments auto close, but trash/cleaning public works can look for help or legal trouble with police for substance use. Telling people we aren't removing encampments, just transfer to a new dpt

f. [DEM Defining Police responses \(15 slides\) - Rome](#)

Police interactions and defining them by code, or types of calls. 45% of the incidents were 903 (on duty) - seen something and went to participate and 17% traffic stops Shared jurisdiction calls (sfpd, sfmta (parking violations), or traffic (sheriff)

- 2019 almost 3 million calls, a priority or imminent danger, p is possible danger - c priority
- From 2012 - 2016 homelessness related calls increased dramatically
- Observation dem said - people want to call 911 and they don't stop crime being in these places 45% of the time, 17% is traffic incidents, no percentage for sfmta jobs

g. [SCRT \(9 slides\) - Amara](#)

- Rapid trauma informed response calls to people exp crisis in public spaces to ID calls for behavioral health and medical response, therapeutic de-escalation and medically appropriate, peer counseling and appropriate linkages (longer sustained)- they put police on pedestal for counselor/social worker - so it's great to see a different approach
- Team staffing - community paramedic, behavioral health clinician, peer health worker, multiple disciplinary team (follow ups)
- Coverage - geographic needs for equity, goal is 24/7 - citywide, right now tl and budget and staff pending
- Consulted with other jurisdictions: eugene oregon cahoots, alameda, dallas, met with hsoc and city agencies, community based partners, dph programs,

- The avg response time 12 minutes, 2 50150s w no need to engage w sfpd,
- Their interdisciplinary approach is important to them to best support people in any moment
- Question -> last time i spoke to previous person who appointed me, for goals to help our district and big focus was cracking down on side shows, i know that someone is close to sideshows, how would they go about it - there are safety concerns but also cultural impact, they all leave when cops call anyway and more in the moment - so many people are trying to work and do this work - with and because of police. So much money and resources and more improvements for their programs at the very least a sense of awareness, holistic approach and being aware that the average person is okay with talking to cops and basic needs of assistance and do not know punishment, named not in a negative way. So often people are disrespectful to not everyone is going to police, based on what they read on the headlines. and about 5 million programs need to exist and not support problems and 50 bandaids for a festering tumor.

D. Local Report Back [Discussion Only & Possible Action]

a. Community Updates

- Nothing immediate

b. Workgroup Updates

- Meeting next monday - rome
- Sort of still meeting for djo - not clear on scheduling - arsema

c. Action Steps Updates

- Narcan Training scheduled next TJ meeting 5/10 at 5 - 6:15pm with Dope Trainer Frances Fu
- FriscoCopWatch training is typically in person, but is willing to move to digital - in the works of scheduling
- Sup. Walton is the lead sponsor of this SF resolution (see attached for language), with co-sponsors Sup. Ronen, Mar, and Haney. For many years now, San Francisco has already had a strong policy of disentangling local law enforcement from federal immigration agencies. We hope that with the VISION Act, other counties across the state will follow suit.
 - Help pass this resolution in support of the VISION Act on Tuesday 4/27 ~3:30/4 pm (exact time may shift).
 - Sign up here to share public comment and to receive more instructions
 - Each person will have 2 minutes to share
 - The meeting will provide Spanish interpretation
 - Suggested talking points in English and Spanish to come by the end of the day.

E. Work Time: [#MakingCommunitiesWhole](#) – Digital Toolkit

Commissioners commit to doing this by themselves post meeting.

6. Staff Report

Please work together to submit a short clip for our YC applications. Applications are open now 4/9 – 5/23, spread the word at tinyurl.com/SFYCAPP2021 and info sessions rsvp at tinyurl.com/SFYCInfo2021.

Amara, Nora, and Arsema will send a video/quote tonight.

7. Appreciations

Play this song: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z94zxTWzY8A> Ignited by Mumbi Kasumba

Nora - thanks everybody,

amara - always arsema,

arsema - love y'all,

gracie - appreciate y'all,

rome - great conversation,

gabbie - appreciate everyone no synonyms ,

austin - inspired yall,

lesly - great reflections

8. Adjournment

Chair Rome adjourns the meeting at 7:10 pm.