



# King County

## Adult Services Division

Women's Advisory Board

Department of Community and Human Services

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## WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FROM THE August 13, 2020 MEETING

Meeting Type: Regular: <u>  X  </u> Special: <u>  </u>	Location: <a href="https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/93149795919">https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/93149795919</a> Meeting ID: 931 4979 5919 Password: 935255	Called to Order: 4:33	By: Zeeba Khalili
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<b>Members Present:</b>			
Rebecca Chan	Karol Brown	Joey Ketah	
Michaela Ayers	Kathryn Hancock	Hamdi Abdulle	
Jessica Giner (excused)	Roxanne Thayer (pending appointment)	Heena Khatri	
Sarah Reyneveld	<i>Po. 9 Vacant</i>	Kathy Brasch	
Aimee Grant (excused)	Zeeba Khalili	Dionne Foster	
<b>Excused/Absent:</b>			
Speakers:	Collective Justice Staff		
Staff:	Allison Jurkovich		
Guests:	N/A		
Approval of Minutes:			
Motion to Approve:	Rebecca Chan & Karol Brown	Vote: Y	

### AGENDA ITEMS:

<b>Agenda Item 1:</b>	<b>Welcome &amp; Introductions</b>		
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Names, introductions and most recent book that you read that would be of interest to the group?</li> <li>- Introducing Roxanne Thayer from District 8 – nominated and waiting for appointment as of July 17, 2020. Will be confirmed on August 18, 2020 if no action from King County Council.</li> </ul>		
<b>Action Items:</b>	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date	
N/A			

<b>Agenda Item 2:</b>	<b>Public Comment</b>		
	No public comment.		
<b>Action Items:</b>	Person Responsible	Deadline/Due Date	
N/A			

<b>Agenda Item 3:</b>	<b>Announcements</b>		
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	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Children and Families Strategy Task Force</b> – drafted recommendations</li> <li>- <b>Racial Equity Subcommittee updates:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o Develop an anonymous survey to assess folks current understanding of racial equity and to support people’s learnings</li> <li>o Hamdi Abdulle would like to join the subcommittee</li> <li>o <b><u>Letter to KCSO</u></b>: This letter was written in response to the recent actions and comments of King County Sherriff’s Deputy Mike Brown. The Racial Equity Committee asks that the WAB speak out about the comments of the deputy and request swift action to hold the KCSO accountable.</li> <li>o Context and information: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ <a href="https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/king-county-sheriffs-detective-on-leave-over-facebook-posts-about-seattle-protest/281-2be784cf-8433-4473-b3f9-9b7d26b40865">https://www.king5.com/article/news/local/king-county-sheriffs-detective-on-leave-over-facebook-posts-about-seattle-protest/281-2be784cf-8433-4473-b3f9-9b7d26b40865</a></li> </ul> </li> <li>o Motion to send letter to King County Council with incorporated edits from Chair and Co-Chair, Zeeba and Joey for final review. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Karol Brown (motion) and Kathy Brasch (second)</li> </ul> </li> </ul> </li> </ul>	
<b>Action Items:</b>	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date
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<b>Agenda Item 4:</b>	<b>Collective Justice: Women, Criminalization &amp; the Need for Something New</b>	
	<p><a href="#">Collective Justice</a> (CJ)</p> <p><b>Staff Presenters:</b> Metasabia Rigby (<a href="mailto:metasabia@collectivejusticenw.org">metasabia@collectivejusticenw.org</a>), Dashni Amin (<a href="mailto:dashni@collectivejusticenw.org">dashni@collectivejusticenw.org</a>), Guadalupe Vidaurri (<a href="mailto:guadalupe@collectivejusticenw.org">guadalupe@collectivejusticenw.org</a>) &amp; Martina Kartman (<a href="mailto:martina@collectivejusticenw.org">martina@collectivejusticenw.org</a>)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- <b>Focus: Anti-carceral feminism and community responses to harm</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o The system is full of survivors of harm</li> <li>o CJ firmly believes that there are community answers outside of the carceral system</li> <li>o The System disproportionate harm to people of color</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Who we are:</b> multicultural, multigenerational group of people impacted by state or interpersonal violence – 2 permanent staff, 2 interns, and 24 community-based collective members <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o DAP: Dialogue &amp; Accountability Processes</li> <li>o Rapid Response: community support in response to COVID</li> <li>o Work around healing and accountability at intersection of examining systems that have contributed to the historical harm and violence in our communities</li> <li>o Live deep in questions of accountability and focus on healing and restorative justice</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Polling of WAB:</b> 70% didn’t feel they had the skills to respond to or support someone in their life experiencing violence <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o If we were given the skills to support other people then we would be able to create our own alternatives</li> </ul> </li> <li>- <b>Statistics &amp; Context:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>o 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys sexually abused before 18</li> <li>o 1 in 4 will be assaulted by spouse, date or partner in their lifetime (i.e. one of the biggest safety chociies in our lifetime is who we choose to partner with)</li> <li>o LGBTQ 3x more likely to be raped, 50% of trans people have been raped</li> </ul> </li> </ul>	

- Mortality rates sharply increases if someone has called the police and intervention was not successful. i.e. institutional condoning of VAW and BIPOC and queer folks.
- **Historical Context for Criminal Legislation:** Our historical response to violence has been to legislate punitive responses, including:
  - In the 1960's marital rape was legal, penetration wasn't rape, and you could beat wife with nothing bigger than your thumb
  - [Mandatory Arrest laws](#) were enacted which led to a profoundly punitive approach to violence
  - The [1994 Violence Against Women's Act](#) (VAWA) also deployed more police and more punitive sentencing followed by the [1994 Crime Bill](#) which dispatched 100,000 new police officers and \$1.97 billion for prisons (1999)
  - At the same time social safety nets were cut in 1996 the Clinton Administration enacted the "[Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996](#)" i.e. welfare reform. This created the program known as: [Temporary Assistance to Needy Families](#) (TANF), i.e. what we know as modern welfare
    - [Brief history of welfare in America](#)
    - [Failures of welfare reform and increase in poverty](#)
  - The primary approach to addressing violence was criminal-legal while removing basic needs at the same time. This defunded low-income housing ( which is the number one thing DV survivors have named in national polls as the thing they need to leave since the 1980's) and promised in the name of survivors that we would address violence through the criminal-legal system
- **What has this meant?**
  - We ballooned the criminal-legal system in the name of survivors and with that have cut prevention work, delegitimized community solutions, marginalized communities most likely to experience violence (BIPOC, young people, young Black women, undocumented people, etc.) and harmed folks unable to access services or supports who experience most the most interpersonal violence (IPV) and criminalization themselves
  - It showed the criminal-legal system as the "saviors" for violence
  - What survivors need has little overlap with this response, including:
    - Less than 50% contacting the criminal-legal system after experiencing harm
    - 56% of people would rather not call the police
    - Basic needs – housing, HC, food, material stability that is not being provided but instead there is "short term safety" (i.e. walking someone around the block and bringing back in)\
  - **Carceral Harm:**
    - 68-98% of women in prison have a history of abuse – and the best way to predict if they will be incarcerated is whether or not they have experienced abuse which shows a clear cycle of violence
    - Prison itself is a system of violence and what we know about how violence works is that without appropriate resources and support, individuals will end up back in the system.
      - poverty/lack of resources/material conditions and the social conditions (norms of transphobia, violence, racism, patriarch and history of violence)
      - so when they aren't addressed and you come back to community without access to public assistance then how are

you supposed to get what you need to heal/stop the cycle of violence?

- Washington Corrections Center for Women lawsuit in 2007
  - <https://www.seattletimes.com/seattle-news/1m-awarded-to-5-washington-inmates-in-sex-assault-lawsuit/>
  - <https://www.spokesman.com/stories/2007/dec/19/female-inmates-allege-abuse/>
  - Lawsuit in 2007 led to a 2009-2012 internal investigations, which reported:
    - rampant sexual violence by officers (still incredibly underreported) and when reported inmates were met with retaliation, intimidation and more violence
    - inmates who did report were subjected to lie detector tests that were often administered by the abusers themselves
  - There is still an incredible amount of power and the culture has not shifted – severity has diminished but the level of violence continues which speaks to prisons as an enormous site of violence themselves
- **Violence: an individual matter or a collective issue?**
  - Just because person enacting harm is removed does not mean that the conditions continue
  - Way to address trauma is to listen to those who have been impacted – disabled, BIPOC, queer folks, criminalized folks
  - Guarantee that folks living on the margins have the same access to HC, transportation, education and economic opportunities that privileged populations have been awarded – which will mean a decrease in violence, trauma and harm
  - What we are saying is “give peace a chance” and we would like all of us to move away from and digest that there is no magic pill/recipe/approach to solving violence and harm
- **Restorative Justice:**
  - Including other forms including transformative, or healing justice, which is a community-based responses to harm that has been happening since before colonization.
  - Black/immigrant/BIPOC/indigenous/low income/queer and trans/sex workers have been practicing relation based responses to harm.
  - RJ is a term that folks hear a lot – so we focus in on it because it has fundamental values that are useful for discussion
    - Who was harmed?
    - What needs and obligations arise as a result of the harm?
    - Who can and how must we meet these needs and obligations?
    - i.e. how do we generate the conditions that make accountability possible for people – because that will increase healing
  - This is not new – just because it’s en vogue – it comes from a lineage of Indigenous practices in Yukon, Canada
    - <http://restorativesolutions.us/restorative-justice-blogposts/the-indigenous-origins-of-circles-and-how-non-natives-learned-about-them>
    - <http://restorativejustice.org/restorative-justice/about->

[restorative-justice/tutorial-intro-to-restorative-justice/lesson-3-programs/circles/#sthash.rMyaeCjC.dpbs](https://www.livingjusticepress.org/?SEC=0F6FA816-E094-4B96-8F39-9922F67306E5)

- <http://www.livingjusticepress.org/?SEC=0F6FA816-E094-4B96-8F39-9922F67306E5>
- <https://www.iirp.edu/news/restorative-justice-practices-of-native-american-first-nation-and-other-indigenous-people-of-north-america-part-two>

- *\*note from staff: all links are meant to be opportunities for initial learnings, are not an exhaustive resource and were not specifically recommended by CJ. For more information, please reach out to the organization directly.*

### Questions from WAB:

- *What's something that is happening on a larger scale than what is happening individually?*
  - Fania Davis's work on what it would look like to have a truth and reconciliation on race: <https://www.speakoutnow.org/speaker/davis-fania>
    - "tired of fighting and I wanted to start building" – how do we recon with historical violence and harm in this country
  - Community Accountability Project – a local organizer caused sexual harm but was still involved in community work, so femme and women are asking for a level of accountability that they have not been receiving – which is a direct personal ask but with broad impact on community and work they are doing
- *What conversations could we start having to fundamentally change the way that GBV is address to halt/stop the cycle?*
  - "we are trying to figure that out too" – want to return to your answers which would be a good starting point from the poll
  - Conversations around why are we lacking some of those skills to support one another – we are in community, we love each other, we want to have those skills, but suddenly along the way the concrete skills that would decrease violence and harm, we don't have
  - [API Chaya "Natural Helpers" Program](#) – Working to figure out what it would look like to build up those skills in community when there is someone actively experiencing harm
  - DV power and control has a lot of tentacles that don't look like violence and are not illegal (bank account, check your phone, isolate you before I lay a finger on you) and those are the things that we are primed to respond to in community
  - Economic justice is criminal-legal reform, housing justice, etc. is all violence prevention – what does it look like to build power for women?
  - Tangible skills now – bystander intervention, being vocal that what we are doing isn't working (which is a difficult thing to do but that narrative that this is done for survivors is so prevalent)
- *What additional recommendations or asks do you have for the WAB?*
  - Council has an incredible amount of budgetary power to choose where resources are allocated
  - Nonprofits are overworked, underpaid, get by through volunteer work while managing staff's own grief and trauma
  - Financial support is a way to say thank you and we respect and value the

	<p>work that you are doing</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ As a country we are putting roughly \$9.7 billion dollars into prisons meanwhile folks graduating from school of social work unemployed struggling to find employment</li> </ul>	
<b>Action Items:</b>	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date
- Minutes with links and follow-up	Staff	August 13, 2020

**AJOURNMENT**

Time: 6:05 pm

**NEXT MEETING**

Date: September 9, 2020

Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.

Location: Zoom/Call-In