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

Meeting Type:
Regular: _X__
Special: _

Location:
https://kingcounty.zoom.us/j/99232228169
Meeting ID: 992 3222 8169
Passcode: 298581

Called to Order: 4:40
By: Zeeba Khalili

Members Present:
Rebecca Chan
Karol Brown (absent)
Joey Ketah (absent)
Michaela Ayers (absent)
Kathryn Hancock
Hamdi Abdulle (absent)
Jessica Giner
_Po. 8 Pending_
Heena Khatri
Sarah Reyneveld
_Po. 9 Vacant_
Kathy Brasch
_Po. 5 Pending_
Zeeba Khalili
Dionne Foster

Excused/Absent:

Speakers: N/A
Staff: Allison Jurkovich
Guests: Roxanne Thayer
Tarra Simmons & Sirrai Cook, Civil Survival Project at Public Defenders Association

Approval of Agenda:
Motion to Approve: Rebecca Chan & Heena Khatri  Vote: Y

AGENDA ITEMS:

Agenda Item 1: Welcome & Introductions
- Names, introductions and something that would be of interest to the group
- Guests pending formal appointment to the WAB: Roxanne Thayer (District 8) and Regina Elmi (District 5)

Action Items:
Person(s) Responsible: 
Deadline/Due Date: N/A

Agenda Item 2: Public Comment
- Roxanne Thayer – legislative updates on DVSA:
  - [Senate Bill 6198](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary/RW/2021/3/SB6198#status)
  - [Senate Bill 6162](https://app.leg.wa.gov/billsummary/RW/2021/3/SB6162#status) – Concerning victims of nonfatal strangulation
    - Currently when doctors act as expert witnesses it is considered heresy unless they are certified
Action Items:  
- Will be re-introduced in 2021 session

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Agenda Item 3:  
- **Announcements**
  - No announcements

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Agenda Item 4:  
- **Civil Survival**
  - Civil Survival was founded in 2015 and is an autonomous program under the Public Defenders Association (PDA)
    - Mission: Civil Survival organizes people who have been directly impacted by the criminal justice system to build connections, gain knowledge and increase political participation.
    - Theory of change: those impacted should be leading the work – by/for formerly incarcerated people
    - Advance rights and system reform
  - Staff Guests:
    - **Tarra Simmons**: co-founder of Civil Survival, tarra.simmons@defender.org
      - Attorney since 2018
    - **Sarai Cook**: Civil Survival and ARLAP attorney, sarai.cook@defender.org
      - Enrolled member of Muscogee Creek Nation
      - January 2020 as staff attorney
  - State violence and impacts of policies that perpetuate violence in communities:
    - Need a cultural change toward anti-violence
    - Can see a culture change, particularly in young folks, who are moving toward sharing and away from
    - We can change the culture toward respect as the norm
    - Unintended impacts of incarceration as an intervention
    - Working in partnership with other organizations to tackle the trauma to prison pipeline and to humanize everyone
    - People dying in prisons, especially because of COVID
    - Billions of dollars a year for prisons
  - Sit on sentencing task force put forth by the legislature that represent the interest of incarcerated individuals, judges, prosecutors, community leaders, elected, etc.
    - Victim stakeholder work – divide in the GBV movement as on one end folks who do harm should go to prison and stay there and then folks who have also committed harm who understand the cycles of violence. So how do we as survivors get justice and healing – supports, opportunity, access to economic security, etc.
    - People who are incarcerated are disproportionately survivors as well
  - Current work:
    - Organize formerly incarcerated people: game changer groups (re-entering, family members, allies, etc.) – for resources, support, guidance etc. Supports for people trying to escape the lifetime stigma
    - Leadership program: train people to become advocates, tell their stories, etc.
6-month fellowship (in addition to one-day trainings)
- Legislative advocacy work: lead coalitions, work with legislators, allies and stakeholders to pass legislation in Olympia.
  - Been successful in pieces of legislation, such as:
- New project: Office of Civil Legal Aid (OCLA) understood that there was a gap in services for folks reentering from incarceration – no program addressing those issues primarily – so they
  - ARLAP (reentry legal aid) removing civil legal barriers to reentry for formerly incarcerated people, such as: fines and costs, vacating records, educational issues and barriers to education, housing etc. Training pro-bono attorneys to help us with the hotline and to know about the issues for folks
    - Vacate charges
    - Fines
    - Know your rights training (for ex to tell folks that they can vote!)
- Legislative advocacy:
  - National Conference of State Legislatures work on restoration of voting rights for felons (and/or formerly incarcerated folks)
  - Clean Slate Initiative – a national bipartisan coalition advancing policies to automatically clear all eligible criminal records across the United States.
  - Washington State Representative Laurie Dolan – sponsored House Bill 1833 to provide opportunity to qualifying parents with past felony convictions to volunteer at their children’s school.
    - Currently in Kitsap County – Class B felony means you can never volunteer at children’s school
    - Break down generations of oppression in families
    - Bill to not allow schools to do overinclusive policies
  - Sentence to life without opportunity to parole – no resentencing or a second look and would like to see complete restructuring of sentencing grid and opportunities for second changes and second looks
  - Criminalized survivor piece of legislation that the WAB might want to be involved in – outside of civil survival that is mostly re-entry
- Also working with Collective Justice – former WAB guest – on victim defendant work
- Questions from WAB members:
  - I would appreciate hearing more about what you have both seen and heard from formerly incarcerated individuals who perpetrated GBV or DV but who treated the root cause of their crime
  - Could you speak to issues King County might have legislative authority over?
    - Changing cultures of courts, prisons, etc. to be trained to understand trauma and where people are coming from and to understand methods
    - Implementing
    - If you take anger management and trauma courses in jail you can get x amount of time off – before prison
    - Re-entry starts in prison – colloquially called “rehab for poor people”
    - In Seattle – fair chance housing and fair chance employment – can expand to King County (currently working at the state level), but
WAB can push for fair chance housing at county level
- KC Exec has reached out to Reentry legal aid – make reparations for marijuana criminalization, vacate off records, court fines and fees to help people get out from under those fees
- Opportunities for change through budget advocacy. Executive Dow Constantine recently announced budget changes to support an anti-racist agenda, alternatives to the criminal-legal system, and to invest in the community
  - What are the things we can do to decrease stress, etc. for children and adults – rather than focusing on the prevention training-based modalities?
    - Housing, wraparound services, addressing trauma, etc.
    - Intergenerational trauma and trauma histories perpetuates cycles
  - Do you have some suggestions on how all the courts (county and state) can work under the same guidelines?
  - Our current foster care system is traumatic for most kids and it’s a cycle that happens generation after generation. The cycle needs to break. I’ve met many kids in foster care whose parents and grandparents are in prison. I’d like to see the county and state help these families unite and break the cycle.
    - Opportunities for foster care children to reduce barriers to basic opportunities, creating a privilege class (?) – equity through opportunity
- WAB Reflections:
  - Helpful and important information
  - Starts at the family and school level
  - This is something you don’t see – it’s the hidden effects and long-term effects
  - Talked about legal and court-based interventions and have had different opinions but these two presenters have helped frame the limits of those responses
    - More holistic and responsive rather than what feels interventionist
    - Outside of the legal and court system
  - Survivor-defendant work

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**Agenda Item 5: Racial Equity Subcommittee**
- WAB Racial Equity Survey reminder – link sent out via Survey Monkey
  - Only have 5 respondents

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<td>- WAB members to complete Racial Equity Survey by November 1, 2020</td>
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**AJOURNMENT**

Time: 5:59 p.m.
NEXT MEETING

Date: November 18, 2020  Time: 4:00-6:00 p.m.  Location: Zoom/Call-In