

Centering Impacted Voices:

Community Task Force Report on the Criminal Legal System

Presentation to City Council
Public Safety Committee

September 24, 2021

Today's Roadmap

- Who We Are
- Acknowledgements
- Principles of Community Led Solutions
- Key Recommendations
- Highlights

Who We Are

- People with lived experience of the Criminal Legal System (CLS).
- Community organizers guided by principles of anti-racism, disability justice, gender justice.
- An accountability to Black, Indigenous, People of Color communities disproportionately impacted by the CLS.

Community Task Force

**David Heppard
(Facilitator)**

Emi Koyama

Sela Mafi

Jarrelle Marshall

KL Shannon

Dorian Taylor

Liletha Williams

Andres Pacificar

Land Acknowledgement



Acknowledgments

Our loved ones and community members who are currently incarcerated.

Our loved ones and community members who live with the trauma of incarceration.

Our loved ones and community members who have lost their lives to state violence.

Our loved ones and community members who risk their lives and safety to organize for a better future.

Future generations.

Principles of Community-Led Solutions

Redefining Terms

Public Safety

Harm Reduction

Trauma-Informed Approach

Accountability for Harm

Public Safety

Safety is a state of physical, emotional, economic, and mental well being & freedom from threat, coercion, and state violence.

Harm Reduction

A set of practices and policies that reduce negative health, social, and legal impacts of drug use and other socially stigmatized behaviors.

Rooted in autonomy, justice, and human rights

Trauma-Informed Approach

Nobody is inherently violent or abusive

Utilize a trauma lens, not a punitive lens

Address harm without blame

Judgmental/punitive model

“Manipulative”

“Attention-seeking”

“Angry”

“Disrespectful”

“Lazy”

“Drug use”

“What is wrong with you?”

Trauma-informed model

Getting needs met in any way you can.

Feeling abandoned and lonely.

Feeling the need to fight back to survive.

Feeling threatened and unsafe.

Overwhelmed and frozen.

Self-medicating.

“What has happened to you?”

Accountability for harm

Accountability for behaviors that cause harm occur on a few levels:

Individual Accountability

The ability to recognize, end, and take responsibility for harm.

Community Accountability

What is the role of surrounding community in ignoring, minimizing and even encouraging harmful behavior as a form of survival?

Addressing root causes

What are the root causes of harmful behaviors? What needs do they meet?

The Criminal Legal System Does Not Foster Accountability

We need resources to build culturally relevant accountability infrastructures based on relationships and trust.

Divest from the CLS & invest in community

Support community capacity to respond to harms independent of the criminal legal system and city roles.

Provide resources and funding to community organizations to do preventative work.

Prioritize survivor support services and resources.

Key Recommendations

Recommendation #1

Do not rely on the CLS to address behaviors arising from unmet needs or behavioral health crises.

Recommendation #2

Address the root causes of CLS engagement.

Recommendation #3

Evaluate diversion programs for their ability to cause harm. Prioritize non-CLS responses over the expansion of diversion programs.

Recommendation #4

Electronic Home Monitoring (EHM) should not be used as an alternative to incarceration.

Recommendation #5

Create a workgroup of community experts and stakeholders to build alternatives to incarceration that address misdemeanor domestic violence.

Recommendation #6

Learn from the disabilities justice movement; End the practice of coercive mental health treatment & the criminalization of people with disabilities.

Recommendation #7

Create a Just Transition for current CLS workers to transition into jobs that do not cause harm and serve a social good.

Recommendation #8

Avoid the use of data-driven and algorithm-based decision making tools in the CLS.

Recommendation #3

Evaluate diversion programs for their ability to cause harm.

Prioritize non-CLS responses over the expansion of diversion programs.

Diversion should only be used when:

- Funding is reallocated from existing funding for criminal legal infrastructures to diversion.
- It is not coercive and does not result in the loss of constitutional trial rights for impacted people.
- It occurs in the pre-filing stage or earlier.
- It is rooted in community and not an expansion of the CLS.

Recommendation #6

What is Disability Justice

- All bodies are unique and essential.
- All bodies have strengths and needs that must be met.
- We are powerful, not despite the complexities of our bodies, but because of them.
- All bodies are confined by ability, race, gender, sexuality, class, nation state, religion, and more, and we cannot separate them.

Coercive mental health treatment through the CLS causes stigma & traumatizes people with disabilities.

Resource and support community care options that uphold the autonomy of people with disabilities and/or harm reduction.

Good working conditions of community mental health facilities are important.

Thank you for your time!

Questions?