Town of Chapel Hill Reimagining Community Safety Task Force

**April 5, 2021**

Meeting Minutes

**Welcome & Roll Call**

Meeting convened at 5:35 PM with roll call and welcome.

* Members Present Chapel Hill: Emma Ferriola-Bruckenstein, Jaclyn Gilstrap (Alternate), Malcolm Hunter (Alternate), Paris Miller, Ehmu Ra, Shugong Wang, Robert Campbell, Matthew Sullivan, Andre Masnari, Heather Nash
* Members absent: Delores Bailey, Eliazar Posada, Flo Miller, Jamesha Cannon-Phillips, Marcus Farrow, Jeremy Roberson
* Council Members Present: Tai Huynh and Karen Stegman
* Staff and Others Present: Sarah Vinas, Chris Blue, Loryn Clark, Angie Steele, Wes House, Megan Johnson, Shenekia Weeks
* Amplify Team in attendance: Christine Edwards, CEO; Diego Anselmo, Kelly Little, Kayla Earley

**Review of Agenda**

Christine Edwards reviewed the agenda. Jaclyn Gilstrap provided an update that the Justice & Action Committee and CPAC have partnered to sign a letter of support for SOHRAD funding to be sent to the Town Council.

**Discuss Future Meeting Dates and Format**

Christine Edwards reviewed future agenda dates and feedback regarding moving meetings back to a biweekly schedule rather than weekly. This change will allow the Steering Committee to check in on off weeks. Amplify Consulting’s last meeting with the task force will be Monday, May 17. Meetings will be held from 5:30 - 7:00 PM and will include some additional learning opportunities while honing in on recommendations for the Town Council. The last meeting will include a toolkit to support the task force in its continued work.

The Task Force will present its recommendations to the Town Council on April 21.

**Review Listening Session and Survey Data**

Christine Edwards reviewed the preliminary report of the listening sessions. Kayla Earley reviewed the preliminary survey data. See slides in the meeting materials.

Members expressed concerns regarding the sample size and diversity of participants compared to the Town’s population. Town Councilmember Karen Stegman noted that the listening sessions and survey sare only one source of information to learn from lived experiences and that the group should feel empowered to move forward with the information they have, their own lived experiences, evidence for different approaches, and the information we already know.

**Discuss Major Themes**

Comments from Diego’s breakout group:

1. Many themes presented are those which we expected.
2. I would like to see the community do more cultural education events, maybe including clothes from other culture, etc. to bring the community together.
3. Let’s look at the checklist from the Governor’s Crime Commission and do more outreach rather than reinventing the wheel.
4. Prioritize non-emergency option so that non-police can respond to non-emergency calls.
	1. Police should be good generalists rather than creating “warriors” like we did in the 1980’s.
	2. Triage 911 calls to identify mental health calls, health & human resources appropriately.
5. What sort of language resources are available to people who call 911? I want to ensure we have strong resources for people with Limited English Proficiency.
	1. Diego reported that there is a language line for Spanish, but it may be more difficult to make that transition more quickly with other languages.
	2. Try to ensure that when an officer is responding in-person, they have someone available who can use the person’s language - whether that is an officer or a translator.
	3. Diego reported that there may be some incentive or could be some incentive offered to recruit diverse officers with varying language skills.
6. Is there a way to do an overlay with the zip codes to see where the responses were coming from?
7. How do we break the language barrier? - Churches, Justice United has a model to ensure that interpreters are available; expensive outreach translated to reach the appropriate people - Pacific Islanders & Asian community members

**Plus and Delta Activity**

Members provided feedback on what has been going well and what can improve for future task force meetings. Responses included:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Plus (What is going well)** | **Delta (Things that can improve / change)** |
| * We are more into the deeper content in terms of discussions, conversations
* More space for conversation and learning each other’s experiences and values
* Lots of good education from presentations
	+ Space to learn about Asian American community, Policing 101
* Breakout rooms have been helpful to hear from everyone
* Less observers from Chapel Hill Town staff
 | * We’ve lost several members of our committee who have not been back
* Task force has gone longer than expected, which may contribute to the loss of some members
* Start integrating our own ideas & use our own experience - we have not yet had an opportunity to do this
* More ways for people to contribute if they are not comfortable speaking in this space - editable spreadsheets, or some other asynchronous option for participation
* More breakout rooms
* More involvement from youth groups
* Task force takes some responsibility for community outreach
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**Adjournment**

Christine Edwards reviewed focus of the next meeting and will send the agenda in advance to allow for ample discussion time. Meeting adjourned at 7:11 PM.

**Next meetings**

* Monday April 19
* Monday May 3
* Monday May 17

**Meeting Appendices**

**Reimagine Community Safety Themes:**

* Safety depends on where you live in Chapel Hill
* Safety means treated fairly and equitably
* Safety means Being able to express self
* Safety means Freedom not to be afraid in public
* Safety as an extension of themselves; speaking on behalf of others
* Education and civic awareness is a big part of feeling safe in Chapel Hill; Non-emergency phone number, supporting community organizers and neighborhood groups.
* Some Asian, Black and Hispanic participants reported having different experiences in Chapel Hill than their white counterparts, in terms of police interactions, feeling safe in their own neighborhoods and in wider communities.
* High Priority- In terms of priorities, violent crime, death response and noise ordinance and nuisance control remain top priorities
* Lower Priority- Mental Health, Youth Engagement and Drug and Alcohol Abuse were ranked as lower priorities
* Middle Priority- Traffic safety and management, response to unsheltered persons and Property violations were ranked in the middle
* More collaborations with UNC Campus, other health providers and community resources that can help provide mental health response services
* More collaborations with community organizations to increase cultural understanding in the Asian community
* More collaborations with homelessness prevention and support organizations

**Links/Documents**

[Town of Chapel Hill Community Safety Project Folder](https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1c2OuecOjpHEb9BB-tkPnl2pImoWj_APr?usp=sharing)