

PROJECT UNITY

MEETING SYNOPSIS | Education Subcommittee

October 22, 2020 | 4:15 pm

The following is a summary of the first meeting of the Education subcommittee. The meeting was held at Tuscaloosa Police Department's temporary headquarters, 2501 Hargrove Road East. The meeting was not streamed on Zoom due to technical difficulties.

Subcommittee Members Present:

Qadeem Ali Hassan
Jill Beck
Isaiah Harper
Katherine Waldon
Jacquan Winters
Alexis Wilson

Staff Present:

LaParry Howell (Project Team Leader)
Carly Standridge (Team Leader)
Stephanie Taylor (Team Leader)

Welcome and Introductions:

Committee members present introduced themselves and over the course of the meeting discussed their professional and personal background experiences that will help shape the ideas that come from this committee.

The discussion led to a list of ideas that can be implemented and a list of identified issues we can work to solve.

Challenges:

- Many young people in the community have a lack of a parental figure. They lack security and nurturing which leads to both aggressive and defensive behavior as they grow older.
- There is a lack of treatment for child survivors or sexual assault and other types of trauma. Trauma being anything from child abuse to uncertainty of where the next meal is coming from.
- In some cases, people use the resources made available by government programs, which can discourage them from furthering their education or seeking higher-paying employment.
- The multitude of individuals and groups that respond to those who need assistance or care doesn't create a relationship of trust. If a parent/guardian is talking to a DHR worker, a teacher, a social worker etc. about the same issue they begin to distrust the system.
- Social media has become much more of an influence on children today than any previous generation.

Ideas:

- Gun safety education programs could be in schools, similar to sex ed; law enforcement training
- Children should have mentors; consistent. Possibly direct resources to Big Brothers/Big Sisters and other mentorship programs
- Include parents in education plans
- Early intervention is SO important. Work on programs for young mothers, possibly modeled on similar program in Brooklyn NY
- Number of school absences that trigger a 'warning' could be lowered

Members agreed that we should meet at least twice a month, possibly drop to monthly as project moves forward.

Adjourned at 6:30 p.m.