



Summary of CJCC Retreat

The Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC) held a day-long retreat for its current Board members and designees on Friday, August 21, 2020. The retreat was facilitated by Devin Lemoine and Gloria West of Success Labs. The purpose of the retreat was to highlight past accomplishments and identify future goals of the CJCC. Attendees included:

Chris Csonka	Executive Director, CJCC	Yvette Alexander	Judge, BR City Court
Brianna Jeansonne	Project Assistant, CJCC	Fred Crifasi	Judge, 19 th JDC
John Spain	EVP, BRAF	Sharon Weston Broome	Mayor-President
Sarah Gardner	BRAF	Darryl Gissel	CAO, City-Parish
Murphy Paul	Chief, BRPD	Michael Mitchell	EBR Public Defender
Myron Daniels	Deputy Chief, BRPD	Lindsay Blouin	EBR Public Defender
Brandi Lawrence	BR City Prosecutor	Lacie Dauzat	EBR Public Defender
Niles Haymer	BR City Prosecutor	Jermaine Guillory	EBR District Attorney
Cathy Fontenot	Deputy Warden		

The following notes represent the products of the activities Success Labs facilitated with the group as a whole and at times in breakout groups.

Strengths of the CJCC

1. Decision makers at the table
2. Stakeholder willingness to communicate on collaborative reforms- open minded
3. Adequately representative of Criminal Justice Community
4. Every agency has same goal - different views of getting there
5. All parties have a desire to make the system better and are willing to work together to do that
6. Desire to help the other parties at the table

Themes & Highlights

- Diverse Stakeholders of the Criminal Justice Community all at one table willing to Communicate! - (Judges, Prosecutors, Public Defender, LEO, etc.) - *build on this*
- Need *LOCAL GOVERNMENT* participation

Weaknesses of the CJCC

1. Community outreach- in the works- step it up (Chris)
2. Legislation to support reforms
3. Data to support...
4. Stakeholder offices under resourced or at max capacity limit ability to be dynamic and implement reforms quickly
5. Media perception by Law Enforcement Agencies
 - Fear

6. Challenge: Law enforcement engagement and court engagement
7. Sustainability- user pay (fines and fees)
8. Increase support to avoid unfair criticism (funding/ sustainability) -> legislation

Themes & Highlights

- Fear of conflict – How do we prepare for and respond to conflict?
- Misperception – How can we best inform the public?
- Lack of community engagement – How do we build/repair relationships?

Opportunities for the CJCC

1. Data Integration
2. Validated Pre-Trial Risk Assessment
3. Grant and other funding opportunities
4. Reducing the jail population and Criminal Justice System reforms
 - Perceived by community differently
 - In large part due to COVID- creating opportunities to go back to the drawing board and build new play books
5. Engage, Educate, and Empower the community
6. Balance public safety with rehab measures
7. Tools/resources to address Mental Health
8. The current climate in the nation towards reform....

Themes & Highlights

- Where are we on risk assessment?
- Risk Assessment – need to explore other opportunities for implementation
- Engage, Educate, and Empower
- Cross/Association with multiple programs

Obstacles faced by the CJCC

1. Funding shortfalls
2. Misconception of criminal justice system
3. Failing to be balanced, fact, and data driven
4. Lack of representative voices
5. Violent crime increases = decreased support for justice reform
6. Complacency towards bettering criminal justice system
7. Current and historical political views/atmosphere

Themes & Highlights

- Politics effect on willing to change
- Funding

IDEAS / PRIORITIES / ACTIONS

1. Continuing current/exploring new grant opportunities
2. Community outreach/ buy-in
3. Case processing Improvement

4. Mental health resources
5. Increasing community capacity to serve
6. New Jail (New Bail System)
7. Focus on first appearances
8. Communication to community Re: CJCC work, goals
9. Work towards a system that does not rely on fines and fees to sustain it
10. Implementing the plan and finding funding and support in the community to sustain the effort over the long term

Themes & Highlights

Priorities:

- Sustainable funding from State Legislature & Local Government

Actions:

- State legislature and local government buy-in.
- Continuation of grant funding.

Ideas:

- Growing resources/outreach.
- Reimagining criminal justice system.
 - Inform with data
 - Addressing barriers/negative connotations associated with “reform”

FOCUS AREAS FOR GROUP BRAINSTORMING

1. Communication (One Voice)
 - a. Inside- with each other
 - b. Outside- 1 voice- Elevator pitch/ 1-minute spiel
2. Funding/Sustainability (Telling the Story)
 - a. Visibility- telling the story to stakeholders
 - b. Grants
 - c. Legislator
 - d. Addressing fear and safety, etc.
 - Sharing data & results
 - Media
 - Spaces we need to be in to tell story
 - Impact
3. Partnerships/Stakeholder Buy In
 - A. ID Stakeholder/Partners
 - Inside (justice agencies)
 - Outside (public, community agencies, service providers)
 - B. Are they “For or Against or Neutral” - what do they have to gain or lose by what we are trying to do or change?
 - Profile our audience, and why are they for, against, or neutral?
 - Action/Approach

All of these should help drive community outreach + buy in

COMMUNICATION

Identity Statement/Elevator Pitch:

- Create a one-pager describing the CJCC
- Create mission/vision statement for the community engagement subcommittee
 - Each agency could add--here is our part, why we do it, why important

How Do We Better Communicate & Align with Each Other?

- Active listening
- Find a messaging platform that connects the board
- Build connections between the silos
- Sharing opinions, thoughts, etc. without judgement

FUNDING/SUSTAINABILITY

Funding:

- City parish
- Grants
- Corporations
- Cost Savings from reducing parish prison population and streamlining case processing

Increasing Visibility and Awareness:

- Inform with data
- Media Plan/Personal Stories
- Community discussion with board spectrum of elected officials in criminal justice
- Connection with social media platforms, website,
- Community discussion
 - *Metro21, social media, web, blogs, outreach #'s, money, story, head + heart, liberal and conservative

INTERNAL & EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDER BUY IN

CJCC External Stakeholders

- Legislators
- Victims
- Community advocates
- Media
- Health/Hospitals
- Schools
- Universities & Law schools – educate them early about the cultural shift
- Business Leaders
- Formerly incarcerated persons (FIPs)

Notes:

- Can't we all just get along!?
- Buy in without money-who is going to CHANGE
- i.e. COVID – building on lessons learned
- Maintain momentum -> don't become complacent

Outsiders:

- For: legislators, faith community, hospitals, schools, community-based service providers
- VS: advocates, business, media
- Identify goals and objectives of outsiders to create profiles
- "Listening" Sessions – gathering information

Insiders:

- We must be comfortable having "Uncomfortable Conversations" with each other

What Do We Need from Chris?

- Talking points, unified vision, one-pager
- Tell Chris how we can do better
- Keep us communicating
- Establish regular communication aside from Board meetings
 - Monthly updates
 - Dashboard
- What are each internal stakeholder needs? (i.e. Public Defenders – help us tell our story)

Who is Missing at our CCJC Table?

- Coroner
- Universities – LSU, Southern, BRCC
- Law schools
- Employers
- Prison medical
- Juvenile services
- Faith based community
- Baton Rouge Area Chamber (BRAC)
- Justice involved
- Businesses
- Advocacy groups