Reimagining Public Safety: Listening-and-Learning Sessions

3/22/22

Community Work Group Goals for Listening-and-Learning Sessions:

- Create safe spaces for honest sharing and dialogue amongst participants.
- Listen to and learn from a diverse and inclusive spectrum of community member perspectives and experiences.
- Listen to and learn from the perspectives and experiences of marginalized community members.
- Listen to and learn from the experiences of individuals who have been in the City's public safety system.
- Learn about individuals' and groups' outcomes from their experiences.

Session Hosts & Roles:

- Councilmembers Attend sessions and listen
- Community Work Group Members Host, listen, and take notes
- City staff Attend sessions and listen
- Community Partner Help distribute invitations, reduce barriers to participation, and (in some situations) co-host
- City of Olympia Poet Laureate Engage participants in art to collect and share input

What we will be seeking to hear and learn about from participants:

- What is 'public safety'?
- Individuals' experiences with the City's public safety system
- Parts of the system that need attention
- What does success feel and look like? How do we know when we've accomplished it?

All sessions will have similar questions to collect a variety of experiences and perspectives.

Listening-and-Learning Sessions: Participant groups and potential partners for hosting and/or supporting outreach and engagement as identified by the Community Work Group. Unless otherwise noted, sessions will be planned for in-person attendance.

	Participant Group	Potential Partners	Anticipated Size
			Focus Groups
1	Individuals experiencing barriers to reentry and stabilization	Catholic Community Services, Civil Survival	10
2	Individuals experiencing mental and/or behavioral health challenges	Behavioral Health Resources, Capitol Recovery Center	10
3	Houseless community members	Interfaith Works	10-15
4	Youth and families impacted by the public safety system	Community Youth Services, ESD 113 (Gravity Learning Center)	15
			Topical Conversations
5	Non-profit organizations*	Community Youth Services, Enterprise for Equity, Family Support Center, GRuB, Haki Farmers Collective, Homes First, Interfaith Works, Pizza Klatch, Power, Monarch Children's Justice and Advocacy Center, Olympia Film Society, PCAF, Sidewalk, The Bridge Music Project, Thurston Asset Building Coalition, Thurston Climate Action Team, Together, Veterans Ecological Trades Collective, and YWCA	27 (virtual)
6	People of Color	Community leaders, BLAST, business owner groups, YWCA, SPSCC, Black Student Unions	40
7	Faith communities	Interfaith Works, faith communities (ex. Jewish, Muslim, Buddhist, LatinX, Asian-Pacific Islander, Black, etc.)	40

	Participant Group	Partners	Anticipated Size
8	LGBTQ+ community members	PFLAG, Stonewall Youth, Pizza Klatch, PCAF, Partners in Prevention (PiPE), The New Boyz Club	40
9	Organizers/advocates (service providers and non-profits) engaged in diversion, treatment, stabilization	Behavioral Health Resources, Capitol Recovery Center (and Olympia Bupe Clinic), Catholic Community Services, Civil Survival	50
10	Business and property owners	Olympia Downtown Alliance, Parking Business Improvement Area (PBIA), Thurston County Chamber, business owners, People of Color business owner groups, Thurston Asset Building Coalition, Economic Development Council	100+ (virtual)
11	Olympia School District students, families, and staff	Olympia School District	100+ (series of Focus Groups)
12	Neighborhood residents	Coalition of Neighborhood Associations	100+ (virtual)
			Community Conversations
13	Olympia Community Members	Open to all community members	150+ (virtual)
14	Engage Olympia	Open to all community members	250+ (survey)

^{*}City Council Work Session with representatives of the 20 local non-profit organizations that sent a letter to City Council on *Thurston County Nonprofit Community Racial Justice Priorities for Elected Leaders* (March 2021). This meeting is scheduled for April 12, 2022.