

REIAL Racial Equity Impact Assessment League

Wednesday, February 12, 2025, Monthly Meeting

Notes and Minutes ZOOM

REIAL Mission: The Racial Equity Impact Assessment League's (REIAL) mission is to create safer communities by preventing firearm violence and fostering an inclusive culture of peace, respect and understanding which will allow for comprehensive strategies that address root causes to gun related harm.

Summary:

The session focused on updates regarding violence in Joliet, with Dr. Brass reported two recent shootings linked to gang conflicts and expressing concerns about a potential rise in violence following the release of an individual from jail. She emphasized the need for community support in providing resources for victims, particularly for property damage and outreach initiatives. LeShae Hudson reinforced this call for assistance, urging participants to contribute supplies and services to enhance community engagement and victim support. Updates on the violence prevention council's restructuring were also shared, along with the news that Joliet Township Government did not receive a violence intervention grant, although efforts in community violence prevention will continue.

Discussions included the expansion of sports programs and fundraising efforts through an upcoming gala, with Donnie Chestnutt highlighting partnerships with local schools for after-school programs. Keshia Ellis raised the need for official information on recipient organizations to aid in client transitions, while LeShae Hudson offered her support in this process. DeMarcus W. and Dr. Brass acknowledged similar challenges and emphasized the importance of improved communication and support for organizations managing multiple sites. The session concluded with a reminder for follow-up on scheduling matters.

LeShae Hudson announced that the violence prevention council's contract will end on March 31st, with a restructuring planned for April 1st. Angel Contreras indicated that while Joliet Township Government did not receive a grant, they will continue to invest in community violence prevention through collaborative partnerships and restructuring efforts.

LeShae Hudson highlighted the need for collaboration among organizations to secure funding for victims, mentioning the criteria that must be met. Geraldo from the Illinois Department of Human Services confirmed that there are no significant changes to the services they provide, including SNAP and Medicaid. He assured that they would share any updates as they arise.

Updates on YMCA Programs and Community Partnerships

Donnie Chestnutt provided updates on the YMCA's community engagement, including the opening of new facilities in Morris and Shorewood. She emphasized the importance of partnerships with local schools, such as District 86, to offer after-school programs and summer camps, ensuring accessibility for families. The YMCA continues to adapt its services to meet community needs, particularly in light of recent facility closures.

Client Transition and Funding Opportunities

Keshia Ellis emphasized the importance of identifying recipient organizations in the Joliet area to ensure a successful transition for about 25 clients. Demarcus W. introduced the Walmart Spark Good program as a potential funding opportunity, prompting Dr. Brass to recall a previous application related to it.

Coordination on Grant Applications and Community Support

Donnie Chestnutt raised concerns about the application process for grants, noting that her submissions were often denied because they were linked to the wrong community address. DeMarcus W. offered to assist in connecting Donnie with the right contacts to resolve these issues. Dr. Brass also mentioned potential complications with their own applications.

Action Items:

- * Angel Contreras will work on restructuring the community violence prevention plan to ensure continued investment in community violence intervention.
- * LeShae Hudson will connect with Dr. Brass regarding the outreach team for assistance with property damage resources.
- * Keshia Ellis will gather information on the recipients of services in the Joliet area to facilitate a smooth transition for clients.

DeMarcus W. will provide contact information for the Walmart Spark Good program to assist with grant opportunities.

ATTENDANCE

Donnie Chestnut

Angel Contreras

Dr. Brass

Demarcus Wilfong

Kris Kistingner

Keshia Ellis

Gerardo Ruiz