



Minutes of a Monthly CREW Meeting  
Illinois Youth and Family Services  
200 S Larkin Ave, Joliet IL 60436  
Wednesday, May 21, 2025, 1:00 p.m.

The Community Response and Engagement Workgroup (CREW), being held at Illinois Youth and Family Services, at S Larkin Ave, Joliet, IL 60436, May 21, 2025, 1:00 P.M. was convened by the Community Convener of the CREW LeShae Hudson. The following business was transacted:

The VPCC called the roll as follows:

**CREW**

- |                     |         |
|---------------------|---------|
| Demarcus Wilfong    | Present |
| Shenette Mitchell   | Present |
| Bishop Steven Evans | Present |
| Uri Rodriguez       | Present |
| Magdalena Campos    | Present |
| Susan Brown         | Present |
| Bill Anderson       | Present |
| Natalie Weeks       | Present |
| Mardi Wunderlich    | Present |

**COMMUNITY CONVENER**

- |               |         |
|---------------|---------|
| LESHAE HUDSON | Present |
|---------------|---------|

**Community Attendees**

- |                 |                |
|-----------------|----------------|
| Jeremiah Mosley |                |
| Sherry Coe      | Jeremiah Eaton |
| Vicki Kroupa    | Tany Arias     |
| Miguel Cambray  | Taylor Shelby  |
| Alexis Porfolio | Sarah Porfolio |

**APPROVAL OF MINUTES:**

VPCC Minutes: VPCC LeShae Hudson asks for a motion. Bishop Evans motions to approve the minutes of the April 30, 2025, meeting and seconded by Shenette Mitchell. A roll call was taken. Motion Carried.

**PUBLIC COMMENT: Crisis Response & Victim Support**

**1. Reintroduction of the CREW**

- The group recognized as the Community Response and Engagement Workgroup "CREW" formally known as the Racial Equity Impact Assessment League "REIAL" encompassing public safety,

community liaison, law enforcement, educational institutions, public health, faith-based, and youth organizations.

- Representatives present included: Illinois Youth and Family Services, Sam's Club, Catholic Charities Daybreak, After the Peanut, Joliet Police Department and Guardian Angel Community Services and community members.
- VPCC introduced the organization's new Community Liaison/Organizer Magdalena Campos and Joliet Township Government CVI consultant Miguel Cambray.

## **2. Purpose**

- The crew assembles in response to firearm incidents (both isolated cases and mass shootings) to coordinate support for victims and survivors, including funerals, burial, and impact services.

## **3. Organizational Updates**

- **Illinois Youth and Family Services (IYFS):** Programs run include the Youth Investment Program (\$17/hour placements), after-school and TeenReach programs, Universal Pre-K in Lockport, and federally funded services for domestic violence and human trafficking survivors. Street outreach services now cover all of Will County and have recently assisted in Bolingbrook.
- **Catholic Charities:** Provides 24/7 emergency shelter (three beds currently open for women), trauma-informed care, harm reduction, and a spectrum of housing, rental, and diversion services.
- **Give Something Back:** Operating the Reimagine Youth Development program (week five, 50 youth enrolled), focusing on civic engagement education and youth job placement.
- **Community Convener/Joliet Township Government:** Grant renewed for 2025, enabling the hiring of a community liaison and organizer. Joliet Township Government was selected as Flex Fund Manager for eight Illinois regions, streamlining fund distribution to support victims across multiple locations.

## **4. Resources & Collaboration**

- Flex Funds introduced to address urgent and non-traditional needs (e.g., car/home repair) for victims of gun violence, with region-specific allocations informed by UIC research.
- Ongoing data collection (surveys, technical violence assessment forms) to inform services and demonstrate the need for continued funding.
- Emphasis on regular communication and partnership meetings to maximize coordinated response.

## **5. Training and Best Practices**

- IYFS presented a video on their expanded trauma-informed mission and approach.
- Advocates and staff follow culturally responsive, survivor-centered protocols, ensuring confidentiality, trust, and family empowerment.
- Families are connected to mental health, legal, compensation, housing, and medical resources via IRIS and United Way 211 networks.
- Ongoing support includes employment guidance, parenting workshops, school integration, and community education events.
- Partnership, information sharing, and creative problem solving are used to meet complex family needs after violence.

## **7. Action Items**

- Compile and distribute resource/contact directories to attendees and via the list served.
- Ensure completion and collection of all participant surveys and violence assessment forms for reporting/funding.
- Maintain regular meetings with rollcall and resource-sharing to strengthen collaboration.
- Distribute brochures and ensure contact information is widely available, with targeted outreach to non-English speaking and diverse communities.

## **VIOLENCE PREVENTION COMMUNITY CONVENER (VPCC) ITEMS:**

**NEW BUSINESS:** LeShae Hudson announced the continued advancements of the monthly convening meetings coupled with the Comprehensive Learning Modules. The third module

“Violence Interruption & Conflict Mediation” presented by Shelly & Tiffany William of In Tandem Workforce takes place on June 18, 2025, at 1pm located at the Ozzie and Peggy Mitchell Center. There will be seven more modules to follow facilitated by CREW members as well as renowned experts in the field of community violence intervention.

**OLD BUSINESS: NONE**

**REPORTS: NONE**

**ADJOURNMENT:** LeShae Hudson asks for a motion to adjourn. Steven Evan motions to adjourn. Shennette Mitchell seconds. A roll call was taken. Motion carried.

The meeting adjourned at 1:28 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

LeShae Hudson, Community Convener  
Community Response and Engagement Workgroup