Community Engagement Opportunities

The District Task Force on Jails & Justice want to hear about your experience with the system and your vision for the future. The Task Force is utilizing four levels of community engagement, the first of which (focus groups) is underway. Please check here for updates as further engagement opportunities are scheduled.

Community Hearing

August 21, 2019 – Session A: 3:00-5:00 pm, Session B: 5:30-7:30 pm
DC Bar, 901 4th St NW (Use Gallery Place/Chinatown Metro)

This Town Hall will serve as a space for DC residents to be heard directly by Task Force members and formally present their positions. All stakeholders are invited to attend regardless of participation in previous engagement events.

The Town Hall will take place over two 2-hour blocks of time, Session A: 3:00-5:00 PM and Session B: 5:30-7:30 PM. Members of the Task Force will listen to your statement and ask questions. Each person has 3 minutes to speak. If you cannot attend, you can still submit written testimony for consideration.

Sign Up for the Town Hall:

1. Email michael.logsdon@courtexcellence.org by 5 pm Friday, August 16. Send your name, plus your organization, and title (if applicable). Pick a Town Hall session: either Session A: 3:00-5:00 PM or Session B: 5:30-7:30 PM.

We will contact you to confirm your participation.

Community Survey

June 15 – August 4, 2019

DC resident were invited to complete our community survey. Responses will allow the broadest possible array of District residents to communicate their experience and vision for this project. Survey results will be analyzed and presented to the Task Force.
Community Workshops

These community gatherings will facilitate community engagement in the project in a low-pressure environment. Hosted in community spaces, these events can support a larger number of attendees than the focus groups. These facilitated workshops are open to all DC residents.

- Thursday, August 1st, 6:30-8:30pm, New Bethel Baptist Church, 1739 9th St. NW
- Monday, August 5th, 6:30-8:30pm, UDC School of Law, 4340 Connecticut Ave. NW

Focus Groups

Focus groups host up to 15 participants who engage in a guided, yet open-ended discussion during a 2-hour session. Participants are invited to share their experiences, thoughts, and their vision for the future of jails and justice in DC in this confidential setting. The National Reentry Network will synthesize the themes of these conversations into a report to the Task Force. The results will also inform the development of an electronic survey.

Focus groups will be organized around specific stakeholder groups, including returning citizens, families of those incarcerated, neighbors of the current jail, Spanish speakers, currently incarcerated individuals, DOC correctional officers, and DOC staff. There will also be open groups for any community member to attend. All DC residents over age 18 are eligible to attend a focus group.

To RSVP to a focus group session, follow the links below.

- Returning Citizens:
  - Tuesday, May 7th, 6-8pm at Anacostia Library Medium Meeting Room 2, 1800 Good Hope Rd. SE
  - Saturday, May 25th, 10-noon at Woodridge Library Conference Room 2, 1801 Hamlin St NE
- Families of Incarcerated People:
  - Saturday, May 4th, 1:30-3:30pm at Northeast Library Conference Room Mezzanine, 330 7th St. NE
  - Saturday, May 11th, 1-3pm at Bellevue Library Main Meeting Room, 115 Atlantic St. SW
  - Tuesday, May 14th, 6-8pm, at Anacostia Library Ora Glover Room, 1800 Good Hope Rd. SE
- Community Members:
  - Saturday, May 18th, 10-noon, at Shaw Library Meeting Room, 1630 7th St. NW
  - Tuesday, May 21st, 6-8pm, at Southeast Library Meeting Room, 403 7th St. SE
- People Incarcerated at DOC:
  - Monday, June 17th, at CDF & CTF
- Crime Victims and Victim Advocates:
  - Tuesday, July 9th, 6-8pm, at Cleveland Park Library, 3310 Connecticut Ave. NW
- Neighbors of the Jail:
o Tuesday, July 30th, 6-8 pm, at St Mark’s Episcopal Church, Elder’s Room, 301 A St. SE
- **DOC Correctional Officers**: TBA
- **DOC Staff**: TBA
- **Spanish Language Focus Group**: TBA