



Cook County Commission on Social Innovation

Thursday, September 14, 2023, | 4:00 p.m.

In-Person Meeting

MINUTES

1. Call to Order

- The meeting of the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation was convened. The meeting was chaired by Commissioner Alma Anaya, Chair of the Cook County Commission on Social Innovation. This meeting was open to the public.

Commission Member's Present

-Honorable Alma Anaya
-Vice Chair Marc Lane
-Harry Alston
-Patrick Brutus
-Rodger Cooley
-Peter Cretics (Virtual)
-Wendy DuBoe
-Steve Durlauf
-Xochitl Flores
-Jeniffer "sis" Killen
-Howard Males (Virtual)
-Wendy Raymer
-William Schleizer

Commission Staff Present

-Andrea Meneses
-Nancy Negrete

2. Public Testimony

- No Public Testimony was submitted to 7thdistrict.office@gmail.com

3. Approval of minutes

- Minutes were approved by Commissioner Brutus and seconded by Commissioner Flores

4. Presentation from *Dr. Clinton Boyd, Jr. Executive Director of Fathers, Families & Healthy Communities (FFHC). Researcher at Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago*

- This presentation can be found at
 - Mm

"Fathering Through Pain: Integrating Father Engagement into Community Violence Intervention Programs"

Mission

- Across the Chicagoland area, FFHC provides transformative services to black Fathers to improve their quality of life and that of their children, families, and communities.

Vision

- We envision a world where Black fathers experience love from their children and families in thriving and just communities

Program Model

- Trauma-informed Service

- Mental health & wellness services
- Legal Advocacy
 - Legal support with Child support & Custody issues
- Economic Mobility
 - Emerging Industries & entrepreneurship
- Their Hallmark consists of support classes and a 12-week fatherhood curriculum. (group of fathers with other fathers)

Community Violence Intervention (CVI)

- CVI are programs that focus on reducing homicides and shootings by establishing relations with people at the center of gun violence in our communities
- CVI model types
 - Hospital Based Violence interruption programs (HVIPs)
 - They reach survivors of violence in hospitals
 - Group Violence Intervention
 - Collaborating among community leaders, social service providers, and law enforcement
 - “Violence Interrupters”
 - Skilled in intervention and supporting people on their change journeys
 - Street outreach
- CVI Model description: connect people at the highest risk of being victims or perpetrators of violence with mental health support, paid transitional jobs, and professional development and support services
- Becoming a father can serve as a turning point or motivational milestone for men because it has the power to transform their outlook on life, positively alter their decision-making, and redirect their life course
- Fathers who are returning citizens or have previous involvement with the criminal legal system need assistance with
 - Reunification with their families and children
 - Adopting self-sufficient behaviors and habits
 - Navigating complex needs and supports
- Sources of trauma
 - Professional bias within child-serving systems
 - Strained co-parent relationships
 - Interwoven personal challenges
 - Interpersonal violence
 - Punitive and biased legal system
- Trauma-informed system of care
 - Staff training in trauma awareness and response
 - Empower staff to better respond to and support fathers who have experienced trauma
 - Educate staff on the importance of self-care, recognizing various traumas, and communicating about burnouts
 - Encourage staff to support the holistic growth of fathers
 - Facilitate healing and avoid re-traumatization
 - Peer support & trust
 - Cultural, historical, and gender issues
 - Empowerment, choice, and voice
 - Collaborative and mutuality
 - Psychological and physical safety
 - Implement trauma-specific services
 - Formal client screening

- Referrals to mental health and wellness services
 - Creating pathways for social and economic mobility
 - Provide concrete supports
 - Offer pro-bono legal aid
 - Provide job training, placement, and entrepreneurship training services
 - Connect fathers to emergency preparedness & response services
- Recommendations
 - Funding
 - Leverage unspent American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA) funds to integrate fatherhood services into CVI programs
 - Cook County Community Program Initiatives Allocations to target include
 - Healthy communities
 - Vital Communities
 - Safe and thriving communities
 - Research and evaluation
 - Investment in research and evaluation of CVI programs that integrate fatherhood services into their program model
 - Formative evaluations to examine whether
 - Programs are being implemented as intended
 - Expected outputs are being produced
 - Short-term outcomes are trending in the right direction

5. Updates from Chair/Vice Chair

- As a reminder, please submit your affidavits as soon as possible

6. Old Business

- No old business

7. New Business

- Commissioner Cooley will be having a meeting with Commissioner Anaya, Lane, and others to have a conversation about moving forward/next steps
- Social Enterprise of Chicago will be having an event with Commissioner Lane and Katherine Baicker on Wednesday, October 4th at 5 p.m. at the Roosevelt University
- The schedule for next year's Social Innovation Committee is being worked on

8. Adjournment

- The meeting was adjourned. Moved by Commissioner Raymer and seconded by Commissioner "Sis" Killen