

Attachment B

Statement of intent between King County and the City of Seattle to continue to address racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system

Overcoming centuries of racial disparity in our nation's criminal justice system will require concerted, ongoing effort from every branch in the system, all levels of government, elected officials, and the communities we serve. King County and the City of Seattle have demonstrated leadership on this important issue and taken action to address disproportionality. Working together, we will continue to be committed to ensuring that our criminal justice system is fair, just, and equitable.

To that end, this document serves as a statement of intent between King County ("County") and City of Seattle ("City") with regard to commitments pertaining to the proposed King County Children and Family Justice Center.

Both parties agree to address the following in order to continue to reduce racial disproportionality in the juvenile justice system:

1. Establish an Ad Hoc work group with the purpose of developing recommendations to address disproportionality in the County juvenile justice system based on the following timeline:
 - a. Fourth Quarter 2014 - Identify members and establish a work group to include representatives from King Juvenile Justice system, City of Seattle, Seattle School District and existing groups providing support or oversight in the juvenile justice field, social and other service providers, and other interested community members and advocacy groups.
 - b. 2015 – Meet at least quarterly or as frequently as committee deems necessary to achieve the following goals:
 - i. Mutual education and understanding of status and root causes of racial and ethnic disparity in the juvenile justice system including the many historic and current efforts to address disparity.
 - ii. Identify gaps/needs – what is not being addressed?
 - c. First Quarter 2016 - Formulate recommendations for future initiatives and activities to address disparity. Recommendations should identify existing or new groups or structures to be tasked with implementation and oversight.
2. Proposed City/County targeted partnerships:
 - a. Restorative Justice Pilot Projects. Throughout 2014, the County's Juvenile Court, Office of Performance, Strategy and Budget, and Alternative Dispute Resolution section have partnered with the City's Office of Restorative Justice to provide training and exposure to restorative justice principles and practices. The City and County should commit to continue these efforts into 2015 and specifically to identify one or more pilot projects to expand the use of restorative justice in our juvenile justice system.

- b. Children In School. Mutual efforts by the County and the City to work with Seattle School District (and, for KC to work with other school districts) to reduce the use of disciplinary suspensions which have been identified as a key precursor to youth involvement in the criminal justice system/detention. Continue to work with school districts across the county to ensure that the filing of a truancy petition is a last resort, after the district has exhausted efforts to work with the families, and that the court's response to the petition is effective in reengaging children in school.
- c. Reducing Warrants and Failures to Appear. Youth who fail to appear for court or to comply with court orders represent a significant percentage of those who end up in detention, adding to disproportionate minority confinement. The city and the county will explore ways to reduce failure to appear in court. Expanding the current warrant reduction program, providing transportation services to Seattle youth with hearings, and other ideas should be explored.
- d. Race and Equity toolkit. County and City will utilize their respective RSJ and ESJ toolkits for this work.