

KINGDOM CHURCH INTERNATIONAL
DBA as Empowered People Church
Violence Prevention Coordinating Council
Chicago Heights Cluster (Chicago Heights, Park Forest, Sauk Village)
3-26-24 VPCC Meeting NOTES FINAL

- I. **10:55 am** - Early Bird Special - Three multiple-choice questions about gun violence from our “Gun Violence Spin the Wheel” game were placed in the chat for early arrivals to answer.
- II. **Meeting start time 11 am** - Welcome (Mini Intro & Brief Intent) by Pastor Kisia Coleman: “Under the guidance of the Office of Firearm Violence Prevention (OFVP) and the Illinois Department of Human Services, we have been assigned as the Violence Prevention Council Coordinator (VPCC) to coordinate the violence prevention efforts across various agencies and with community stakeholders in what OFVP’s Research Group has labeled as the Chicago Heights Cluster which comprises the Chicago Heights, Park Forest, and Sauk Village municipalities. It is our job to encourage effective, collaborative working relationships across providers in areas like violence prevention, mental health, and youth development. This is an effort to build consensus around community priorities and resource needs related to reducing firearm violence and increasing public safety.”
- III. Last Month’s Meeting Recap (If you have not already, please read on your own for the sake of time AND let us know by the COB day Wednesday if there are corrections that need to be made.) Go to trykci.org/vpcc
- IV. March Newsletter - Please make sure you have viewed it if you have not already. Go to trykci.org/vpcc-newsletter
- V. Gun Violence Prevention & Mental Health Workshop Update & Details
 - A. Attendees were asked to inform us if they didn’t receive the flyer sent via Mailchimp yesterday and if they could send it to their lists. If anyone needs hard copies to distribute, they should let us know. If anyone has access to printing full-color versions for us to distribute, they should let us know.
 - B. The following Workshop Planning Benchmarks were provided for feedback and approval:
 1. Week of the 25th, know our agenda for the workshop, team members, and speakers.
 2. Week of April 1st - Have a minimum of 50 RSVPs, know how many tables are needed for our vendors
 3. By April 5th - Press Release sent by Nick from Senator Joyce’s office.
 4. Week of the 8th have min 100 RSVPs and submit our lunch orders.
 5. By April 8th - Speaker powerpoints due (if applicable). No exceptions.
 6. By April 10th - All gifts, raffle, and sponsorship donations should be received or identified. Contact leena@trykci.org if you have donations.
 7. By April 12th - In-house team have gift bags ready. Final walk-through and set-up of everything.
 8. On April 13th - The building is opened and prepped @ 8 am. Vendor and Council members arrivals at 9 am. All vendors arrive and set up by 9:30 am. Speakers arrive at least 30 minutes before they speak.

C. The following main speakers (no particular order yet) were identified and some of our “promo” speakers, and others will just be highlighting their programs and services. These are also proposed titles for their topics and will be sent out for the speakers’ approval:

1. William Anderson with Aunt Martha’s Health Care facility in Park Forest, IL - “Youth & Us - Youth & Justice”- How Comprehensive Community-Based Youth Services and a Juvenile Justice Reporting Center can have a positive impact on gun violence and the mental well-being of our community. Information will include their new Empowerment Program YOUTH4WARD.
2. Sauk Village Police Chief Malcolm White - “Our Safety & Security - How does gun safety look?” Training on using gun locks, their importance, and more.
3. LeShae Hudson, Joliet Township VPCC - “Help & Hope - How should a Violence Prevention organization and community respond when a gun violence-related incident happens?”
4. Shelley Williams, Founder of In Tandem, Inc. in partnership with I & F Inc., and Kingdom Church International, “Boots on the Ground is How We Get Down”- How effective community outreach and violence prevention in the streets should look.”
5. Sherise Harris, Sauk Village Resident and Department of Human Services Case Worker - “Silence the Violence” How Domestic Violence and Gun Violence affects our community.
6. Dr. Marie Camper, Founder of Reestablishing Hope in Hazel Crest, IL - “Good Mental Health is Your Wealth” How certain strategies and skills can bring stability to your soul.
7. NYAP (National Youth Advocate Program will provide a brief representative introduction.) (up to 3 minutes) **Before Lunch Vendor Spotlight**
8. Birthto5Illinois representative introduction. (up to 3 minutes) **Before Lunch Vendor Spotlight**
9. Other vendors and organizations will do a promo to get attendees to visit their tables (1 minute). **Before Lunch Vendor Spotlight**

D. The following tentative agenda was provided for the workshop and the Council’s approval, and the time slots need to be confirmed by the speakers:

- 9:30 - Sign in, greet guests, distribute food, and raffle tickets, mingle at vendor tables.
- 10:10 - Announce gifts for prompt arrivals. VPCC Welcome & Workshop Intro (No vendor activity once workshops start.)
 - First Speaker - 25-minute Workshop (includes 5-minute Q & A) **White**
 - Second Speaker - 15-minute Program & Services Introduction **Harris**
- 10:50 - Gifts and Raffles
 - Third Speaker - 25-minute Workshop (includes 5-minute Q & A) **Camper**
 - Fourth Speaker - 15-minute Program & Services Introduction **Anderson**
- 11:45 - Vendors Spotlight & Services Promo (2 - 3 minutes each)
- 12:00 pm - Group 1 (Downstairs for lunch.) Group 2 (Mingle with vendors, “Gun Violence Prevention Spin the Wheel” Trivia & Prizes)
- 12:25 - Group 2 (Downstairs for lunch.) Group 1 (Mingle with vendors, Gun Violence Prevention Spin the Wheel Trivia & Prizes)
- 12:55 - Lunch is completed. All vendor activity pauses. Vendors receive their food at the table or downstairs.)
- 1 pm - Fifth Speaker - 25-minute Workshop (includes 5-minute Q & A) **Hudson**
- 1:25 - Sixth Speaker - 25-minute Workshop (includes 5-minute Q & A) **Williams**
- 1:50 - Final Closing words, gifts, and raffles. Dismissal.
- 2 pm - 2:30 (Vendor and attendee engagement.)
- 3 pm - Everyone out of the building.

E. Misc. items that the Council was asked to give feedback on:

1. Raffles at various intervals and in between speaker transitions.
2. Pastor Kisia asked the Council their thoughts about having a counselor's room available for those who may get triggered or need mini-private consultations conducted only by professional counselors. It was agreed that this was a great idea and that we would work to identify 2 - 3 professional counselors within our group and connections who could serve in this capacity.
3. It was proposed that if necessary, we would have a brief tentative meeting for workshop attendees/speakers via Zoom that would take place the week of the event.

VI. Community Response Activities (2 - 3 minutes each)

A. Youth & Community Relations

1. Karrie Mills, Executive Director with NYAP (National Youth Advocate Program) report synopsis: "We oversee violence prevention and youth development services within the State of Illinois for NYAP, the National Youth Advocacy Program, and we have an additional grant for the Reimagined Youth Intervention Services that is in the Chicago Heights Cluster...Capri Cook is the program manager. Her team is doing amazing work as we have just started programming for youth, specifically right now in Rickover Junior High. They are running programs at the center with groups that focus on mentorship, life skills, and academic tutoring. We also are doing employment, and job readiness skills... Taurus Griffin is the Activities Coordinator. We accept youth after school and we pick them up from school. We bring them to our location and then we take each of them home afterward. We provide them with a nutritional snack and time to be a part of people who really care for them. We are targeting our youth who are suffering specifically from behavioral issues within the school... so that's what we're doing in Chicago Heights.

In Greater Grand Crossing, Auburn Gresham, and Chatham, we are building and have built programming for violence prevention as we are doing multiple programs that include paying for funeral services for families. We respond to CPIC calls from any beat in the Chicago police district. We respond within 60 minutes and we go to either the crime scene or the hospital, which is more than likely the University of Illinois at Chicago, and provide the family support. We help with victim compensation through the State of Illinois. We are also able to provide mental health services by a licensed clinical therapist. We're able to offer grief counseling, wellness counseling in groups, employment services, resume writing, and job skills development. We are also in the schools in these areas: Perspectives Middle School, Gresham Elementary, South Shore High School, and Ruggles High School. We're providing conflict resolution and mediation for fights and any type of behavior issues within the schools.

2. Jamie Garibay, Family, and Community Engagement Specialist: Region 1-B-C

Birth to Five Illinois report synopsis:

- A. At the end of last month, the Birth to Five Illinois: Region 1-B-C team received a Mental Health First Aid certification.
- B. We continue with our semimonthly Action and Family Council Meetings. We have had guest speakers to discuss the Infant and Early Childhood Mental Health Consultation (I/ECMHC). The families and stakeholders continue to analyze the data and information to determine the strengths and needs around I/ECMHC in our region.

- C. We are seeking individuals interested in an interview to share their insight around our region's mental and behavioral health for children and families. **We have a deadline of April 5, 2024.**
- D. The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) has launched the FY2025 Early Childhood Block Grant Request for Proposals to expand access to preschool. **Applications are due by 4pm May 16.** Here is additional information: https://mailchi.mp/birthtofiveil/news_0324_ecbg_rfp
- E. Not related to us, but just sharing resources that were shared with us. **Deadline to apply: 4/30/2024.** See attached file: ICJIA Announces \$30-Million Grant Opportunity for the Restore, Reinvest, and Renew (R3) Program. <https://r3.illinois.gov/>

B. Government & Law Enforcement, Community Relations- Madame Clerk of Sauk Village, Marva Campbell-Pruitt:

“Last week, the *League of Women Voters* had its monthly program meeting, and Pastor Coleman was the speaker....She represented the community very well...it garnered a lot of attention and interest, so I would think that many of them will join us on April 13th.”

Pastor Kisia replied to Marva's comments by saying she was glad to get the opportunity to speak about our Violence Prevention efforts and what we're doing with our Council. There were trustees present from Park Forest and we're trying to get them involved in what we're doing. We're glad they were able to see us from another perspective.

C. Violence Prevention - Pastor John Coleman gave the following update on behalf of Shelley Williams of *In Tandem Workforce, Inc.* in partnership with I & F, Inc. Violence Prevention (street outreach in Chicago Heights). March activities specific to our Cluster included:

Meeting with Integrity and Fidelity (I&F) Inc. – Discussion included planning for engaging with the various Southland police departments. The organization expressed that they needed support with coordinating meetings with local law enforcement. Andre, the Executive Director, and his team shared that the main needs of their participants are housing, literacy support, job training and placement, and mental health support. Integrity and Fidelity are coalescing a partnership with OAI to offer some of these services to their participants. Priority at this time is to establish a linkage agreement with law enforcement in Matteson, Park Forest, Ford Heights, Chicago Heights (Southland) so we can formalize an agreement to co-create public safety in the region.

Meeting with Xiaofan and Taunya - to expand restorative justice peace circle training in the Park Forest area and to expand our services into IDOC to provide intervention workshops for inmates prior to returning home from incarceration. The idea is to equip said individuals with workforce development skills to ease their transition back into society.

Park Forest Police Department - Discussed community activations campaign in Park Forest with Rachel Waggs, Community Engagement Officer, to support law enforcement with a community-led initiative to bring awareness to firearm violence incidents and to highlight our grass root campaign to design intervention that will be utilized in a community-wide anti-violence action plan.

Peace Circle at OAI - Facilitated a *Restorative Justice Peace Circle* with men who are re-entering society and receiving substance abuse support.

Planning for an upcoming introductory meeting with the Commissioner to discuss our Violence Prevention Work in the Southland Area.

- VII. Lead Council Positions & Trainings - Communication was that those who attended our January and February Zoom meetings who did not tell us that they wanted to opt out of our Council are being considered as Council members and would be treated as such.
- A. Council Trainings include access to all of the State trainings by all the TTAs who offer services as it relates to Youth Development, Violence Prevention, Mental Health, Organizational structures, etc. They are free of charge and many will come with CEUs.
 - B. Council Positions - These are based on your current positions with the organizations and/or communities you represent. Your position also requires that you take State trainings within 60 days of becoming a member.
 - C. Open Meetings Act Training
 - 1. Our Agenda for our Council meetings are posted on our website at trykci.org/vpcc within 48 hours of our meetings. (You'll notice that we also email them.)
 - 2. Our Meeting Minutes (Recap for us) are posted on our website for at least 60 days at trykci.org/vpcc.
 - 3. Council members are required to go through Open Meetings Act (OMA training) and complete it within 90 days after you've joined the Council. Training <https://foiapac.ilag.gov/>
 - 4. Annual Trainings: All council members must complete these annual trainings:
 - a. Ethics- OneNetTraining: Training Report (Boards) (illinois.gov)
 - b. HIPAA- OneNetTraining: Training Report (Boards) (illinois.gov)
 - c. Harassment and Discrimination Prevention - OneNetTraining: Training Report (Boards) (illinois.gov)
 - d. Security Awareness- OneNetTraining: Training Report (Boards) (illinois.gov)
 - e. LGBTQIA+ Equity and Inclusion- OneNetTraining: Training Report (Boards) (illinois.gov)
 - f. Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility - OneNetTraining: Training Report (Boards) (illinois.gov)
 - D. Attendance Sheet is imperative to sign at every meeting:
 - 1. Doing this makes sure we have your information and can communicate properly.
 - 2. Did anyone NOT receive our email YESTERDAY sent through Mailchimp?

VIII. Important Links

- A. Council Meeting Survey Link from the State: https://uic.ca1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_3yjFpXxscQ9zDAa
- B. Chicago Heights Cluster Survey for the Resource Guide: <https://forms.gle/sHeUHTZwxP79yfWW9>
- C. Dr. Camper (Reestablishing Hope Inc.) State Providers' Survey Link to Express Concerns: https://northwestern.az1.qualtrics.com/jfe/form/SV_29uzDolehiIQEHI
- D. Gigi Moore with Prevention First TTA: <https://www.prevention.org/>

IX. Next Meeting

- A. April 23rd, Every 4th Tuesday @ 11 am here on Zoom until further notice.
- B. *June is National Violence Prevention Month.* Pastor Kisia suggested a symposium or some type of forum with government officials. We would need a space and a committed team to make it happen, preferably at a college or University like Prairie State or Governor's State University. The Council was asked to think of other suggestions as to what to do for June and present them at the next meeting.

The Meeting Ended at 12:20 pm.