

# COOK COUNTY TALKS COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT: OUR LESSONS LEARNED

Presenters: Delrice Adams, Kim Davis-Ambrose, Vanessa Westley

May 8, 2019



Supported by the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation

# Objective

- Learn about Cook County's community engagement process
- Learn about Dialogue to Change approach utilizing a racial equity lens
- Gain knowledge of World Café method of engagement

# Cook County defines Community Engagement

- Historical context
- A priority SJC strategy
- Purpose, goals, and expected outcomes
- Mission/Vision

# MacArthur Pillars of Community Engagement

Authenticity

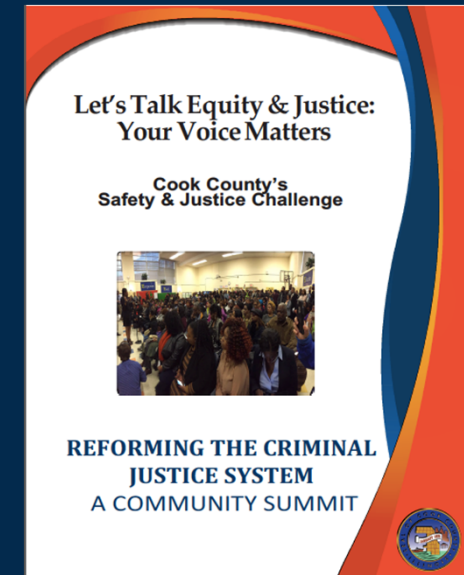
Accessibility  
&  
Transparency

Respect for Diversity

Commitment to Ongoing  
Engagement

# EVERYDAY DEMOCRACY: “DIALOGUES TO CHANGE”

Using Dialogue Circles to  
Raise Community Voice  
through a Racial Equity Lens



# Dialogue to Change Uses Racial Equity Lens



- Organize
- Dialogue
- Action
- Evaluation/Follow-up

# Cook County's Engagement Activities

- Emerging adult forums
- Intergenerational forums
- Community dialogues: A series of 5-week sessions with the same community participants
- Onsite presentations to community and faith based institutions.



# Challenges

- Vulnerability of internal stakeholders to engage community
- Community lack of trust with government
- Relationship building with groups/individuals who have been negatively impacted by justice system
- Traditional outreach ineffective



# Lessons Learned

- Address stakeholders concerns
- Build community trust
- Trust the voices of community

## Outcomes to date

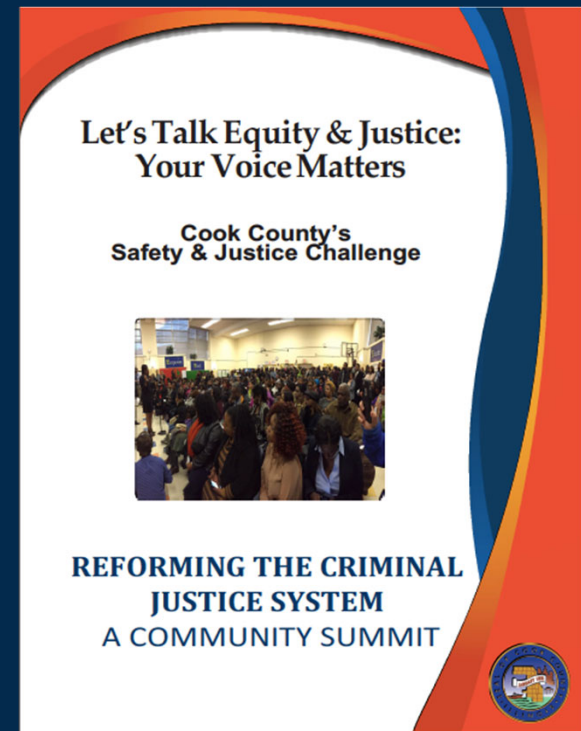
- Over 60 organizations & individuals represented on CEC
- 100% of county public safety stakeholders represented on CEC
- Over 100 community members engaged in initial kick-off community summits



# DIALOGUE CIRCLE ACTIVITY:

## DIALOGUE SESSION:

Question 1: Who do you think is most harmed by our current criminal justice system?



# WORLD CAFÉ MODEL

Raising awareness and educating community on diversion  
and deflection strategies

# Overview- World Cafe

- A structured conversational process for knowledge sharing in which groups of people discuss a topic at several tables, with individuals switching tables periodically and getting introduced to the previous discussion at their new table by a "table host".

# World Café A Participatory Process

- Participatory Processes (PP) are specific methods employed to achieve active participation by all members of a group in a decision making process.
- This approach can be used for most issues and should give equal opportunities for everybody involved.
- The primary goal is to create productive discussions to develop positive solutions.

# Challenges

- Skill set acquisition and practice
- Follow up
- Continuity in interest



# Lessons Learned

- Reaffirming the necessity for processes such as this one
- Collective impact is vital to sustainable change
- The importance of community capacity building

# Successes

- The SJC Stakeholder CAFÉ
  - <https://youtu.be/eRlekv7LvdE>
- The Community CAFÉ's Westside Community Triage and Wellness Center

# WORLD CAFÉ ACTIVITY



For More Information Contact:

Kim Davis-Ambrose

[Kim.DavisAmbrose@cookcountyil.gov](mailto:Kim.DavisAmbrose@cookcountyil.gov)

Vanessa Westley

[Vanessa.Westley@chicagopolice.org](mailto:Vanessa.Westley@chicagopolice.org)



SafetyAndJusticeChallenge.org