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## **Violence Prevention Task Force**

**Monday, September 14, 2020**

**3:00pm-4:00pm**

### **LOCATIONS**

#### **Join by phone**

+1-312-535-8110 United States Toll (Chicago)

+1-415-655-0002 US Toll

Meeting number (access code): 133 773 3118

Meeting password: cyFzpeiw892

#### **Join by web**

<https://illinois.webex.com/illinois/j.php?MTID=m256f744050794d8d1bac7929ba85f432>

### **MINUTES**

1. Call to order—3:03pm
  - a. Members Present: Rep. Ford; Rev McEwen (Sen. Hunter representative);
  - b. Guests Present: Director Ngozi Ezike, Tammy Tunnell; Colleen Cicchetti; Dr. Holloway-Beth; Rebecca Levin; Alyssa Williams; Leslie Helmcamp; Peter Contos; Lanie Kepler; Ponni Arunkumar; Shai Hoffman, Marlita White; Alison Tithe; Karen Phelan; Jennie Pinkwater; Carrie (From DHS)
  - c. IDPH Staff Present: Junaid Afeef; Jennifer Martin; Cris Martinez, Tiffanie Presley; Laura Vaught
2. Introductions
  - a. Welcome and Introduction from Director Ezike
    - i. COVID-19 intersects with everything, including violence
    - ii. This work is heightened in this pandemic
3. Review of the minutes
  - a. Motion to accept minutes—approved
    - i. Rev. McEwen moves
    - ii. Shai Hoffman seconds
4. Group Findings and Recommendations
  - a. Data group –did not meet – but some discussion did occur
    - i. The number of homicides in cook county have increased significantly from this time last year, specifically for Jan 2020-Sept 14. 2020
    - ii. Collecting data on the new law that went into effect

- iii. Firearms restraining order law – civil order to temporarily remove firearm/FOID card from anyone that might harm themselves or someone else
      - 1. 86 counties used it in the last year
    - iv. Rep. Ford asked if there is any data on IDPH's website regarding violence
      - 1. Leading cause of death data, creating a data webpage that really collects all the data IDPH uses regarding violence in one spot
  - b. Registry group – met twice – conversations about how to suggest a registry – because there are different municipalities that are involved – could be challenging. Discussed costs as well
    - i. Could grow to be a useful tool with other stakeholders
    - ii. How do we conceptualize this sort of registry – how would it benefit a CBO?
    - iii. It would help to know about other resources – if there was such a database – would be really helpful for CBOs
    - iv. Still have people working on the ground even though things are mostly virtual
- 5. Old Business—n/a
- 6. New Business
  - a. Public Comments—n/a
  - b. Need to refocus efforts and decide on the direction we need to go
    - i. Registry still a worthy thing to pursue
    - ii. Policy – outreach that different groups are aware of new rules/identify policy/legislation that is needed
    - iii. Annual meetings won't work – need a regular cadence
    - iv. Identify short- and long-term goals
  - c. Identifying priorities
    - i. If we're talking about violence – need something as it relates to behavioral health/mental health, especially since we have agencies and people from the city/county on the line
      - 1. Use this task force as a way to get information out. Mental health should be a focus – could be linked to the violence we are seeing on the street.
    - ii. More mental health support for kids in schools – also need to remove the stigma around mental health
    - iii. Change in the rules about access to telehealth – given the access to mental health – could be good for this group to weigh in on that
    - iv. A substantial increase in over the course of the pandemic in gun buying – would be remiss if we didn't look at the potential impact of that
      - 1. Data around gun sales – what would policy implications be as a result?
    - v. Look at issues regarding the race divide and law enforcement – and the onset of traumas that can show up as a result. Statewide violence needs to be looked at but racial trauma as well
      - 1. How do we get data on this? Talking about violence in the city – looking at transit lines – can look at life expectancy and other fields

- 2. Need a group to look at that – but there could be groups already doing this work we can help with (Chicago Urban League, IL Childhood Trauma Advocacy)
    - a. Who is looking at the intersection between violence/trauma/racism?
  - vi. Are we looking at help in getting data – need to identify data repositories that are out there and getting the access to that data
  - vii. IDPH needs to build awareness of mental health/behavioral health –Need a statement that its okay to seek help. Need to use the taskforce as a voice as it relates to the need for seeking help
  - viii. What is the role of incarceration in ensuring public safety? How do you balance public health considerations around the pandemic vs. the public safety aspect of people being released?
7. Next Steps
- a. Data team – look at what pieces of data are needed and how they can be ascertained
  - b. Policy team – looking at the intersection of race/trauma/equity – and racial violence
  - c. Registry team – an important tool for the communities – Director will look internally at what resources are available at IDPH
  - d. Racial violence and trauma – new for today – don’t have anyone officially part of that group
  - e. Mental health – destigmatizing the need to get and pursue health – policy team – look at what the rules are around tele mental health
    - i. The immediacy of getting messages out there about mental/behavioral health
    - ii. Need to collect all the resources available across the State – great to have in one place and use our different networks to put that out. Also can put out an official statement from the taskforce.
8. Adjournment—4:02pm