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RECIDIVISM

**CRIMINAL JUSTICE
IN ARIZONA**

COMMUNITY TOWN HALL
FINAL REPORTS

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Downtown Phoenix Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – April 19, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Downtown Phoenix Community Town Hall Report

April 19, 2018 – Westward Ho

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Arizona's criminal justice system is one part of our larger society, and we should consider how interconnected public systems, from schools to foster care to mental health care, can work together to prevent criminal behavior and reduce its impacts. We should begin with prevention, and preventative efforts should include public education as well as education of children in public schools. If we provide mental health services and drug treatment programs and assist people to meet their basic needs, we can work to break the cycles that lead to incarceration. We should focus on factors such as racism and poverty that fuel the preschool-to-prison pipeline. We also should focus on the individual and make appropriate distinctions between violent and nonviolent crimes and offenders. To reduce the need for prisons we should look at programs such as those in Scandinavian countries, which have made significant progress in that realm.

We should not be soft on crime, but smart about crime. We should recognize that prison is not always the best solution. The criminal justice system should operate as a public service, not a for profit business. We should look at unduly harsh sentencing and consider more programs such as diversion and restorative justice programs that will address the underlying causes of crime rather than simply punishing the offender.

Although public safety is the principal goal of the criminal justice system, rehabilitation also is an important goal, and we should begin to focus on rehabilitation when a convicted person enters the system. Most incarcerated persons will eventually reenter society and we should be preparing them to succeed upon release, rather than to return to prison. We should put greater emphasis on reducing recidivism. We need to provide services to prepare inmates for productive work, to treat drug addiction problems.

SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION

Arizona must shift the paradigm from incarceration to prevention, and reduction of recidivism. To accomplish that Arizona needs elected officials who reflect Arizona's diversity and will more thoughtfully address criminal justice issues, for example, by reducing mandatory sentences. To make the best decisions we need to use independent data that helps us determine who is in the criminal justice system and why they are there, and we should listen to people who have been in the system.

When holding offenders accountable, we should consider the multiple viewpoints of the offender, the victim, law enforcement, and the public at large. The impacts of the criminal justice system upon children and families of incarcerated persons should be considered. We should reevaluate restitution requirements and how they operate. Fines and fees make it much more difficult for persons to exit the system and for ex-offenders to succeed upon release. We should put greater emphasis on diversion programs and alternatives to incarceration.

In addressing criminal justice issues, we should engage the assistance of multiple partners, including the business community, the public schools, and community colleges.

Arizona should eliminate private prisons, but we need to consider the impacts of doing so. Arizona should eliminate cash bail, truth in sentencing, and mandatory sentences. We should better fund community based policing, to enable police forces to recruit more qualified officers who are better equipped to deal with difficult social issues, and provide more on-the-job training. We should invest in smart policing instead of over-policing.

To reduce prison populations and recidivism we need to have more affordable housing, job training and placement services. We should make it easier for ex-felons to get jobs and to find decent housing. Reduction in recidivism should be an explicit goal of Arizona's criminal justice policy. There should be incentives and accountability for achievement of reductions in recidivism rates.

Arizona's sentencing laws and process could be improved and made fairer. Mandatory sentences often are unfair and too harsh, and sentencing practices may vary substantially from county to county. Arizona's sentencing structure needs to be evaluated statewide, and sentencing discretion should be restored to judges rather than being committed to prosecutors. This is an issue that may not be best addressed in the political realm, and sentencing should be evaluated in the light of data about what is effective and appropriate.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Downtown Phoenix Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Learn more and educate others on the preschool to prison pipeline.
- Continue to inform and engage community, and to work with legislators who will continue the Governor's Taskforce on Recidivism.
- Identify and support political leaders who support change in the criminal justice systems, and elect same.
- Find partners to test a program for families experiencing parental incarceration to PREVENT intergenerational transmission of incarceration.
- Talk about fines and their implications.
- Continue to network and educate the public on how to change laws and put politicians in office who are willing to listen to answers to prevent recidivism rates from going up.
- I will personally get more people with a background in law enforcement involved in the town hall process.
- Talk to as many individuals as possible about things learned here.
- Work to elect legislators who will change our laws; get rid of cash bail.
- De-stigmatize people who are imprisoned and get the general public to view prisoners as people first.
- Encourage awareness of issues and candidates promoting voting based on the above.
- Further promote knowledge of ELCA (faith based) social statements.
- Volunteer in a school in an at-risk neighborhood to discuss constitutional rights and crimes in order to educate youth in an effort to reduce the path toward prisons.
- Continue to have a comprehensive, holistic and open dialogue on the dynamics of the criminal justice system.
- Continue to be an advocate and supporter for people with mental illnesses through promotion of awareness.

DOWNTOWN PHOENIX COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

St. Vincent de Paul Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – May 1, 2018



Artwork from Youth Participants

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Notes from Community Town Hall at St. Vincent de Paul
May 1, 2018 – St. Vincent de Paul Family Dining Room

On May 1, 2018, people served by St. Vincent de Paul shared their opinions and stories about Arizona's criminal justice system. Below, their comments are summarized in both English and Spanish.

Included with this report are copies of artwork created by children at the event. The first two pieces were created when they were allowed to create whatever they wanted. The last three pieces were created after they were asked to think about police, courts and other parts of the criminal justice system.

WHAT HAVE BEEN YOUR EXPERIENCES WITH THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM?

One person was frustrated with the criminal detention process and said it is inefficient. This person explained that a criminal is arrested and detained at one location, then transferred to another location to be arraigned, and if he qualifies to post bail, the bail must be paid in another location. The person recommended a more centralized process that is more convenient for all parties.

Some people are scared to report criminal activity to the police because they do not have legal status to live in the United States and they also fear that the police will question them about their legal status when reporting a crime.

Some people fear that if they report a crime to the police the criminal will seek revenge against them.

Some people reported that the police do not respond quickly enough to the scene after they report criminal activity. Some people reported waiting over 30 minutes for police to respond. In some cases where the police arrived late and the reporting person had left for work, the police would leave a note on the person's door. Neighbors and the criminal would see the police leaving the note and would discover who reported the crime. One recommendation is to have more frequent police patrols in areas that have high incidents of crime.

The criminal justice system needs to have more flexible criminal penalties with fewer sentences requiring lengthy incarcerations. For example, sentences for non-violent crimes need to focus on community service, which allows the criminal to serve his punishment while maintaining his employment and family obligations.

Some people feel that the police ask for too much personal information when a person reports criminal activity. These people are concerned about criminals seeking revenge against them or intimidating them.

There is a lack of communication between ICE, police departments, courts, criminals and their families, and victims about the circumstances when a criminal will be allowed to post bail or when he will be transferred to ICE and deported.

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Notas de Community Town Hall en St. Vincent de Paul
1 de mayo de 2018 – St. Vincent de Paul Family Dining Room

El 1 de mayo de 2018, las personas atendidas por St. Vincent de Paul compartieron sus opiniones e historias sobre el sistema de justicia penal de Arizona. A continuación, sus comentarios se resumen en inglés y español.

Al final de este informe hay copias de obras de arte creadas por niños que asistieron el evento. Las primeras dos piezas se crearon cuando se les permitió crear lo que quisieran. Las últimas tres piezas se crearon después de que se les pidió que pensarán en la policía, los tribunales y otras partes del sistema de justicia penal.

CUÁLES HAN SIDO SUS EXPERIENCIAS CON EL SISTEMA CRIMINAL DE JUSTICIA?

Una persona estuvo frustrada con el proceso de detención de criminales y dijo que el proceso es ineficiente. Esta persona explicó que un criminal está adestrado y detenido en un lugar, transferido a otro lugar para ser procesado, y si califica para la fianza, la fianza debe pagarse en otro lugar. Esta persona recomienda un proceso más centralizado que es más conveniente para todos los partidos.

Algunas personas tienen miedo de reportar actividades criminales porque ellos no tienen estatus legal para vivir en Los Estados Unidos y ellos también tienen miedo que la policía les pregunte sobre su estatus migratorio cuando reporten un crimen.

Algunas personas tienen miedo que si reporta un crimen a la policía que el criminal buscara revancha contra ellos.

Algunas personas reportan que la policía no responde lo suficientemente rápido al lugar donde ocurrió el crimen. Algunas personas reportaron que esperaron más de 30 minutos para que llegara la policía. En algunos casos cuando la policía llega tarde y la persona que reporto el crimen ha salido a trabajar, la policía debería dejar una nota en la puerta de la persona. Los Vecinos y el criminal verían a la policía dejando la nota y descubrirían la identidad de la persona que reporto el crimen. Una recomendación es para tener patrullas más frecuentemente en las áreas que tienen una alta nivel de incidentes criminales.

El sistema criminal de justicia necesita tener sanciones más flexibles con menos tiempo de detención. Por ejemplo, sanciones para crímenes no violentos tendrían que enfocarse en servicio a la comunidad que permita al criminal mantener sus obligaciones de empleo y de familia.

Algunas personas sienten que la policía pregunta mucha información personal cuando una persona reporta actividad criminal. Estas personas están preocupadas que los criminales van a buscar revancha y bucarán intimidarlos.

Hay una falta de comunicación entre ICE, departamentos de policía, cortes, criminales y sus familias, y víctimas sobre las circunstancias cuando el corte permitirá un criminal pagar una fianza o cuando el criminal transferirá a ICE y deportará.

“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

White Mountains Community Town Hall Report

Lakeside, AZ – July 28, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

White Mountains Community Town Hall Report
July 28, 2018 – White Mountain Nature Center

Participants of the July 2018 White Mountains Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Before considering goals, we should consider Arizona's responsibilities. First, we have the responsibility to define what a crime is. Mental health and substance abuse, for example, may need to be taken out of the current criminal justice system entirely, or addressed differently. There should be early identification of mental health issues, and we must avoid counterproductive consequences, such as when incarcerated individuals with mental health issues lose their health coverage. We also owe our youth opportunities and programs that will help keep them from becoming part of the criminal justice system in the first instance.

Turning to the principal goals of Arizona's criminal justice system, we must, first and foremost, ensure that our communities are protected, which includes preventing criminal offenses before they occur and supporting rehabilitation after incarceration. Examples of programs that support rehabilitation and reduce recidivism include mentorships and other support systems, like those created through Arizona's current veterans' courts. The costs of the criminal justice system, both intended and unintended, must be considered.

Punishment, on the other hand, is not a goal. Consequences should be proportional to the crimes committed—fair and productive.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

More programs should be available to help steer individuals away from incarceration when appropriate. For example, Medicated-Assisted Treatment (MAT) is a program for people struggling with mental illness that helps promote alternatives to incarceration. Specialized courts, such as the Navajo County drug court, or mental health courts, could similarly help match specific types of offenders to the type of help that best suits their needs and reduces recidivism. For these programs to be effective, they must be funded. Civil forfeiture can be one source of funding, but a dedicated source would be more reliable.

In addition to such specific programs, judges—who should be highly qualified and not politically elected—should have more discretion to impose non-incarceration options. If, for example, someone is not a public safety threat, incarceration is probably not the most effective option.

In addition to court-oriented programs, we should have more public and community outreach programs to help youth and repeat offenders. Ohio, for example, has programs where police officers connect with youth in low-income communities. Similar programs can come from churches, community organizations, schools and families.

Finally, we should improve police training and agency coordination, and work to reduce bureaucratic red tape. Police should be trained to better identify mental health, substance abuse and domestic abuse situations. This will improve responses, trust and consistency.

AFTER INCARCERATION

Most of those who are released from prison come back into the community without the skills and resources necessary to find housing, employment and transportation. A few former inmates are connected with programs that supply those services, but that's a small portion of the population.

For some crimes, incarceration could be transformed into a more progressive learning process where classes are mandatory and eventually a participating inmate could “graduate” from prison with the skills necessary to reintegrate into society. This system could also incentivize good behavior during and after incarceration, and would give the Arizona Department of Corrections (ADOC) more input into whether and when particular inmates are ready to return to society.

Furthermore, prisons themselves could help inmates locate housing and employment prior to release. This could include contacting potential employers who may need inmates with particular skill sets. This would help ease former inmates’ transition into society. Once in society, the transition should remain gradual. Former inmates should have opportunities at halfway houses to be accountable and receive additional classes or counseling. We also need enough parole officers to form relationships with former inmates and mentorship programs to ease the transition and help reduce recidivism.

Social institutions and programs could also do more to help the families of those who are incarcerated, such as spouses and children, who may need financial and emotional aid. Finally, we need specialized systems in place to deal with mental health and substance abuse or addiction recovery needs.

THE WHITE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY

In the White Mountains, prevalent crimes include substance-abuse-related crimes, such as opioid abuse and shoplifting alcohol. Domestic violence and sexual assault against minors are also unfortunately prevalent in this area. Furthermore, housing, treatment, jobs and transportation are not as available here as in urban communities, which makes it more difficult to implement prevention and re-entry programs.

The White Mountains community has a mobile population—many of the people who are here in the summer leave during the winter—which creates opportunity for property crimes against vacant properties. The Native American reservations in the area—predominately the White Mountain Apache Tribe reservation—create jurisdictional issues in the criminal justice system.

Solutions for this region, in addition to those that apply to all of Arizona, include increasing communication between tribal and non-tribal jurisdictions, requesting additional federal funding as needed, working to increase awareness of the types of crimes that occur here and collaborating with tribal governments to help reduce on-reservation crime.

The veterans’ and metal health courts in this county have been productive, but there is no drug court, which is needed. Most of these issues, however, are statewide and there should be state funding to help resolve these statewide issues that is not allocated based on population alone.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the White Mountains Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to try to create a mental health court in Navajo County.
- Volunteer in community service.
- Share what I learned today and continue the conversation with others.
- Encourage discussion of these problems.
- Vote for those who are open to looking for solutions to criminal justice problems.
- Contact my legislature regarding criminal justice reforms.
- Push for a change in the law to impose higher standards for judges.
- Report back to the town council on results of the town hall.
- Be open to volunteering with retraining and re-entry programs for inmates and former inmates.
- Commit to reducing recidivism in Arizona.

- Continue to give presentations on the criminal justice system.
- Look into a center or school to mentor children with issues at home—whether drug or abuse related.
- Contact Arizona legislators to increase the number of parole officers.
- Attend suicide awareness/training.
- Continue to participate in drug education in the community.
- Work with the League of Women Voters on these issues.
- Attend additional Arizona Town Halls.
- Become a more informed citizen in order to contribute factual information to these conversations.
- Encourage more discussion about the criminal justice system.

WHITE MOUNTAINS COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS



Navajo County Bar Association, John and Diana Burton, and Public Service and Public Safety organizations in the White Mountains.

“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Prescott Community Town Hall Report

Prescott, AZ – September 12, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Prescott Community Town Hall Report
September 12, 2018 – Embry-Riddle Aeronautical University

Participants of the September 2018 Prescott Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Criminal justice in Arizona is a complex system which must satisfy many different needs. Paramount is the need to ensure and promote public safety and accountability while simultaneously playing a significant role in prevention—especially among youth. To achieve this goal, the system must provide punishment and deterrence balanced with providing rehabilitation and post-incarceration preparation in an environment that is also safe for inmates. The system must be fair and equitable to all and provide justice for victims of crime. The system is also called upon to play a preventative role in the community including diversion programs, school-based programs, early intervention in the lives of our youth, actively engaging with families, and leadership in drug and mental health treatment. Reducing recidivism is also a critical role—recognizing the importance of re-integration programs that include vocational training and requiring that the criminal justice system be an integral part of our communities.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

One of the most significant issues we face is the need for robust mental health and substance abuse treatment programs that reach people in need before they are arrested. Arizona's prisons and jails have become the largest facilities housing the mentally ill in the state. The movement away from state mental hospitals and similar facilities have made the criminal justice system their place of last resort.

We need to reach our youth while they are still in school. Programs that incorporate ex-offenders with lived experience can be extremely effective. More counseling resources in our schools could identify at-risk youth early and get them the help and guidance they need. Schools should also promote civic responsibility and incorporate community service.

Police need to be approachable—many in need of mental health and substance abuse care are fearful of police and authorities so we need to find new approaches to outreach. We need to ensure that our police and other first responders have mental first aid training combined with resources such as mobile crisis intervention teams. We need to work closely with police to train and provide consistent policies that help them make the best decision about how to address and possibly divert people with mental illness and substance abuse issues. Advocates could be leveraged to work with the families of first offenders to help create a supportive environment. We should implement a universal phone number to provide access to mental health and substance abuse resources.

We invest significant resources in probation and post-conviction treatment programs but we should be making those investments early to prevent criminal activity. There is also a major equity issue in rural versus urban funding. Diversion and treatment programs are not adequately funded in rural Arizona.

We need to continue to expand collaborative, cross-functional approaches that involve law enforcement, healthcare, all three branches of government, non-profits and other professionals. A very successful example in Yavapai County has been MATFORCE. Another important program is the Crisis Stabilization Unit at West Yavapai Guidance Center. We need to create and expand public awareness of the importance of treatment and prevention programs to support legislative action and public funding.

AFTER INCARCERATION

We need to ensure that convictions do not become a life sentence. Effective re-entry programs are critical to reducing recidivism. They need to include job readiness, and assistance in finding jobs, transportation and housing. Community-based re-entry coalitions including government, faith-based organizations, non-profits, and parole/probation are extremely successful. Parole and probation in Yavapai County work successfully with many community organizations to create a continuum of care. Programs that include peer supports and counselors are also very important.

Education during incarceration—especially vocational training for living wage, sustainable jobs—is very important to rehabilitation and re-entry. Cognitive behavioral programs in addition to substance abuse and mental health assistance are also important. Pre-release counseling is needed to help people develop plans that include transportation, housing, and available community resources. Availability of these resources is critical and can be very challenging in rural Arizona.

While we need to be respectful of victims of crime and address their trauma, we also need to recognize the burden that criminal fines place on people who are convicted and consider alternatives such as community service.

Substance abuse training during incarceration must be continued during re-entry and may include monitoring halfway houses and promoting access and attendance in 12-step programs.

Tax incentives could be used to encourage hiring people who have been convicted. Volunteer coordinators who can assist and coach people in re-entry should also be encouraged.

The Yavapai County Re-Entry Program that engages a mentor to help community re-entry and includes families has been very effective. Family support including pre-release intervention with the family creates an environment which promotes rehabilitation. Yavapai County mental health and veterans court diversion programs have also been very effective. Expanding community involvement in re-entry will keep recidivism down.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Prescott Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Be a mentor for someone in need and encourage others to do the same.
- Become a prisoner advocate.
- Be a voice for victims.
- Get involved.
- Be better informed and provide support where appropriate.
- Speak to high school students.
- Maintain collaboration with local judges, attorneys, law enforcement, and counseling agencies.
- Initiate discussions on this topic.
- Discuss re-entry planning.
- Promote the Yavapai Re-entry Program.
- Monitor and educate myself on criminal justice reform.
- Educate youth by hosting a Future Leaders Town Hall at Yavapai College.
- Volunteer for a rehabilitation program – I was previously unaware of this issue.
- Engage with children transitioning from the juvenile justice system.
- Work to bring robust improvements to the criminal justice system.
- Continue to promote the Navajo County Inmate Re-Entry Coordinator Position.

- Finish school and prepare for a career in criminal justice.
- Spread communication and knowledge to other young people and those who may not be aware of the criminal justice system, like me.
- Continue to promote Prescott Opinion.com, a blog I created to enable local citizen impact.
- Make time to listen to those who need someone to talk to and to keep giving it my all as the Yavapai County Re-Entry Program assistant.
- Continue to promote and facilitate the creation of a community re-entry coalition.
- Continue to use influence, passion, commitment and position to bring about robust changes to improve the criminal justice system in Yavapai County.
- Begin this discussion with citizens through social media.
- Invite students and citizens to the Town Hall at the Lewis Facility.
- Send Town Hall information to city government.
- Utilize the report from this Town Hall to support strategies and goals of the Yavapai justice and mental health coalition.
- Learn more about and advocate for reentry work and planning.
- Contact my local representatives to discuss transportation issues and resolutions for providing transport to rural areas such as Ash Fork and Seligman.
- Volunteer to assist those newly released from DOC.
- Talk to my legislators to encourage them to be courageous to do the right thing.
- Work toward being a mentor for someone in need. Encourage others to do the same.
- Investigate what resources and programs exist in my area (Sedona Verde Valley) and see what is needed. Look at how the school/community college can help. Create more school/community partnerships to make resources available to families.
- Finish school in order to prepare myself for a career within the criminal justice system.

PRESCOTT COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS

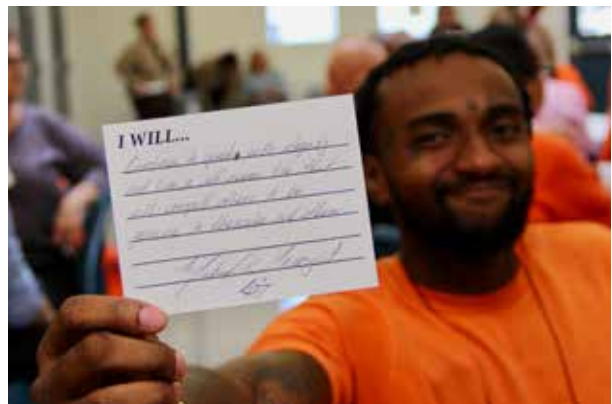
*Ray and Patty Newton
Family Foundation*

EMBRY-RIDDLE
Aeronautical University
PRESCOTT, ARIZONA

“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall Report

Tucson, AZ – September 13, 2018



Photos courtesy of the Arizona Department of Corrections

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall Report
September 13, 2018 – Arizona Department of Corrections, Whetstone Unit

Participants of the September 2018 Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Safety is an important goal for the criminal justice system, as is punishment for crimes committed. However, the punishment doesn't always fit the crime. The scales of justice are out of balance. The punishment is not often just, does not allow for a focus on individual circumstances, and does not adequately take into account mental health and other life circumstances.

The system currently also focuses too much on punishment as opposed to addressing the causes of the behavior that landed people in prison.

It is critical that the criminal justice system focus on how to help people interact effectively with their community so that they don't enter the system in the first place, and that they do not return.

Often, this means providing resources like education and drug rehabilitation for those who need it. Education programs that address behavior issues and life traumas are also critical. The system should address these issues with programs that teach people how to modify their behavior so they can make better choices in the future. Programs like Second Chance are a good example of programs that work towards these goals. Rehabilitation programs should be individualized to the needs of prisoners. If we target rehabilitation efforts to individuals, using individual interactions instead of algorithms, we will get a better return on our investment and improve safety.

We should also support a change of attitude both within the system and in the broader community. Within the system, we should emphasize policies that reward and encourage positive behaviors and attitudes. In the broader communities, we should focus on changing attitudes away from dehumanizing those who commit crimes and instead addressing the issues that led to criminal choices.

Getting the best return on investment is also an important goal to consider. The best return on investment for money spent and resources applied happens if we work collectively towards solving the issues that led to imprisonment and that cause people to return. This includes treatment as needed, programs to learn life and vocational skills, and support from the community at large once leaving prison so that when prisoners are released they can more effectively reintegrate back into the community.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Arizona's criminal justice system should be more transparent, fair and targeted towards the causes of criminal action. It could be improved prior to incarceration by addressing the circumstances that often lead to incarceration. Often a life of crime starts early when children do not have adequate support. This can be a lack of access to education, lack of family support or lack of positive role models. Substance abuse is also a major factor. Programs that address these issues could have a big impact on reducing the number of people who enter the system, whether as juveniles or adults.

Once someone is in the juvenile system, we could focus a lot more on programs that keep juvenile offenders from becoming lifelong prisoners. This should include mentors who have been through the system.

For adults, both the issues to address and the changes needed are similar.

To improve the system prior to incarceration, we simply need more support for mental health and substance abuse. We should work to destigmatize these areas so the communities will better support those who experience them. Community members and the media can help. They can play a role in providing more well-rounded and less sensationalized stories.

Police are an important part of the community and the criminal justice system. The system could be improved by having police who are better educated to handle mental health, substance abuse and child trauma issues.

More and expanded pretrial services would make a big difference, as would prison diversion services. We should make it easier to get treatment for substance abuse and mental illness so that people don't come into prison in the first place. We should also consider more job skills training and consider the use of military and work diversion programs.

Our legislators need to understand that resources would be better used helping those with substance abuse rather than imprisoning them. Canada has some good examples to consider.

The entire system could be improved by considering substance abuse, mental health issues and other factors more in making sentencing decisions. We need to make the public in general more aware and understanding of the impact of mental illness and substance abuse.

We should change the incentives for prosecutors so that they are not incentivized to file the most serious charges and to convict but instead incentivized to consider individualized needs and rehabilitation. We should consider having prosecutors certified they have disclosed everything under the law and we should consider Grand Jury reform. We need to reconsider the use of priors in giving longer sentences. We also should give judges more discretion to determine sentences that are based on individualized circumstances.

AFTER INCARCERATION

The criminal justice system could be improved after incarceration by preparing released prisoners better for integrating effectively into the community

We should start supportive programs inside the system that can continue outside the system such as the Second Chance programs, a version of twelve steps, substance abuse programs, programs that teach behavior modification or other transitional support systems. We should try to form more partnerships with groups like the Veteran's Administration (VA) who can help support inmates once they are out.

We should also consider methods to increase inmate wages that could be saved up to allow them to more effectively transition once released. Alternatively, we should consider tax credits for employers and others that can help released prisoners make a more effective transition.

We need to look at housing programs like permanent supportive housing and even structured housing programs that allow for a smoother transition into the community.

Effective transportation is also an issue related to effectively integrating into the community and to getting and keeping jobs. We may want to consider an Uber/Lyft type service through community groups to help released prisoners get to work.

Job skills are important for inmates to integrate into the communities. The programs currently in place are good. They can be improved with additional programs and having more individualized selection of the programs by personal preference. We should consider eliminating restrictions on professional licenses that limit job opportunities. We should also consider restoring other rights to released prisoners that keep them from fully integrating back into their communities.

We should look at how to create more supportive social networks, including with families. We need to prepare families for inmates getting out and support families in staying connected both during and after incarceration.

Often, released prisoners are not aware of resources that may be there to assist them. Making released prisoners more aware of resources is critical. It is also important to reevaluate the mental health of prisoners upon release so that they can get proper treatment.

If we set prisoners up with the needed tools—job training, housing, transportation and supportive services for substance abuse and mental illness, we will drastically reduce recidivism.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Whetstone Unit Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to work to change the narrative about people with prior convictions in Tucson, Arizona and the United States.
- Work to help released prisoners secure employment, housing transportation, etc.
- Continue to write and work with legislators to promote the emphasis on community safety in the criminal justice field over the promotion of a graduated reentry/release program.
- Expose myself to providers and services available to be eligible for community re-entry; including mental health services; substance abuse counseling and rapid rehousing.
- Continue to advocate and knocking on doors until the right people answer to help me and my efforts in reducing recidivism and guiding fellow inmates to succeed after incarceration.
- Become more knowledgeable of resources available and bring awareness to the prison community of those resources. I will create new connections in the community and also write legislators.
- Share all these good perspectives with everyone and anyone willing to listen. Provide my time, effort, and life to pursuing these goals – a very needed on at that
- Share my new appreciation for the issues and problems within the criminal justice system and advocate for sensible reform.
- Continue to work to change the narrative about people with prior convictions in Tucson and work to help them secure employment, housing, transportation, etc.
- Share my experience and increased understanding about what will make the criminal system work more efficiently.
- Continue to speak with integrity and live a self-aware life that will compel others to be genuine to their selves and others.
- Look into volunteering at Old Pueblo Community Services – an organization that helps newly released prisoners and writing legislators.
- Continue to stay aware of current events affecting the criminal justice system. Advocate and assist with legislative efforts that will bring about positive change.
- Further educate myself on fees associated with the criminal justice system (pre and post incarceration) to understand how they may create a barrier to successful re-entry or result in incarceration and what can be done to remove or lessen the burden they create.
- Help out with my full potential to help change the community and recidivism.
- Stay sober, living through God!
- Continue to support Arizona Town Hall's mission to affect change. Share the ideas I learned today with my circle of influence.
- Continue to speak with integrity and live a self-aware life that will compel others to be genuine to themselves and others.
- Continue to commit myself to changing myself so that I can help these other men that I surround myself to make better choices and find a new direction for their lives.
- Engage in my own recovery and I will maintain a positive attitude when I am released. I will also educate others on the yard about the issues discussed here today.
- Work within the community to help inmates be successful.

- Continue to educate the community regarding state prisons and inmates; emphasizing the positive. Work with the community to build a partnership to develop resources for inmates upon release and emphasize the need for programs pre-incarceration.
- Advocate for others so that not only myself but my peers will not be without a voice. Helping all those that seek it!
- Continue to push more inmates to stop the cycle of going back to prison, to reach out for help before that happens and to find a life coach, someone that can help them in time of need.
- Help with ideas to reduce recidivism on the yard.
- Bring the university community into the conversation.
- Dedicate myself to legislative change to reduce penalties for possession of pocket drugs, and volunteer to help tutor in jails/prisons to increase literacy.
- Write to Senators and Legislators to help promote legislations to reduce prison time, mandatory sentencing, and to suggest an oversight committee on legislation.
- Work towards adding more peer aides for education and substance abuse.
- Continue to be confused on why the Department of Correction allows tobacco products within the system, and try to educate more inmates on quitting! Addictions come in many forms.
- Continue to teach inmates to learn construction and to believe in themselves.
- Try to arrange public speaking opportunities for Department of Correction administration to discuss system challenges and needs.
- Continue the conversation and dedication to change, and help others to make the changes they would like to make to better their lives.
- Make it a practice to learn more about the criminal justice system, and what might be done to make improvements to it. The way I see it, there's much room for a major overhaul to the system.
- Be heard and a voice for my community. Help for a better change and a better understanding and make strong, positive choices.
- Tell my fellow inmates about the things discussed for positive influence on the yard and moving forward to go back home.
- Continually advocate for a more involved method of treatment for people involved in the criminal justice system and advocate for more resources to be directed towards prerelease programs.
- Talk more freely about the issues we have in the justice system. Ask for help before doing another crime.
- Talk to those I know about what I learned today as well as the positives that I heard about and about what we can all do to educate the legislators and citizenry.
- Be an advocate in educating the public about facts with regard to the efforts being made by the Department of Corrections in transitioning inmates back into the community to be a contributing citizen in their communities.
- Spread the knowledge that I learned today about the prison system. Emphasize that prisoners are humans like the rest of us and deserve better treatment.
- Take steps to make changes in the recidivism rate, by thinking of the consequences of my actions before I make a choice.
- Make sure my children and grandchildren are supported and given proper guidance to get an education. Give my family time and love.
- Keep educating myself by listening to others, and keep giving back in my job in the Department of Corrections as a Recovery Support Specialist hoping to also work with individuals getting out when I get out myself. I will speak out for those who don't feel they have a voice. Help all people.

- Continue to facilitate and advocate Recovery Support/Peer Support program in the prison community as well as the outside community.
- Continue to seek information and knowledge on how to better myself as well as others.
- Continue to support criminal justice reform in Pima County.
- Spread the word to fellow inmates and my community. Practice the goals inside and outside to help people understand the deeper problem.
- Continue to be a mentor and positive role model to each individual that come my way.
- Remember these conversations and recommendations and apply them to my own research and work with police departments across Arizona.
- Look into prison chaplaincy work and youth mentoring, skill instruction.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Marana Community Town Hall Report

Marana, AZ – September 14, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Marana Community Town Hall Report

September 14, 2018 – The Highlands at Dove Mountain

Participants of the September 2018 Marana Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The core goals of the criminal justice system should be based on safety including prevention, rehabilitation, and reduced recidivism, and should include the following:

- A focus on the deployment of community resources to prevent crimes, such as mental health services, substance abuse treatment, early education for children and continued education throughout their development;
- A respect for the role of the victim, including victim safety and closure through the process of justice; and
- A return on investment reflecting an increase in community safety and true rehabilitation of offenders rather than a simple ratio of dollars spent to crimes committed, including a focus on services throughout the pendency of the justice process, on education designed to reduce recidivism, and on an appropriate series of consequences and alternatives specifically related to the nature of the offense.

These goals should be adequately and sustainably funded.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Prior to the point of incarceration, the process of criminal justice can be improved by strong efforts in the following areas:

- Education, involving sustainable funding for early education continuing through adulthood in areas of a specific relation to crime prevention and building skills for successful lives outside of crime; educating citizens through civic engagement efforts focused on awareness of their role in criminal justice and how to promote community safety through involvement; and better education within the criminal justice system itself, in order to provide resources and programs to the pre-incarcerated offenders which strengthen their skill sets prior to becoming incarcerated.
- Support for our youth, specifically defined as increased funding and support for child protective services; better support for youth involved in the juvenile justice system, including increased educational resources; increasing resources for parents and parent surrogates, including community resources such as YMCA and Big Brother Big Sister; and providing vocational education and job training to prepare young people for paying careers.
- Specialty Courts, including a specific focus on the efficacy of the misdemeanor level intervention; including the provision of the appropriate amount of services and resources for professionals in the field of mental health, substance abuse, and other areas related to the specialties to participate adequately in the justice process; appropriate funding for diversion and deflection programs; and increased and sustainable funding to reflect the true value the Specialty Courts provide; collaboration and coordination among misdemeanor problem-solving courts within each county; ensuring adherence within the problem-solving courts to evidence-based best practices published by the National Drug Court Institute; training by National Association of Drug Court Professionals, for judges, prosecutors, and other criminal justice professionals alike.

- Reforms of certain pre-incarceration practices, such as the fee structure of fines within the process of justice and how to decrease the instances of increased entrenchment within the criminal justice system due to the inability to pay fees; the focus on deflection and diversion programs, when appropriate, in place of incarceration, including the relationship-building efforts necessary between criminal justice agencies and community services organizations such as CRC or CBI; reducing racial and ethnic disparities through tools such as the risk assessment instrument; legislation should be enacted to allow for institutionalization of dangerous, violent offenders who are incompetent and cannot be restored to competency.
- Increased support and funding for public safety, with the simple appropriation of additional officers being a core strategy in this regard, but also the integration of specialized professionals, such as mental health and substance abuse treatment providers, into the front-line approach to criminal justice.

AFTER INCARCERATION

After incarceration, steps that can be taken to improve Arizona’s criminal justice system include:

- The general policy that the re-entry process begins upon incarceration, and that a continuum of service should be instituted to ensure the best possible rehabilitation and outcome for society, including the speedy assignment of appropriate sentencing, leading to reduced recidivism; and the appropriate inclusion of victims and victim families in the re-entry process.
- A robust program of transitioning inmates back to society, including job training; discussion and training related to inmate safety, health, and wellness; community-based inmate work programs; educational offerings throughout and after incarceration; and an established system of support for the released to actively rely upon for access to these program element.
- Availability of post-incarceration services to inmates after release, including continuing mental health and substance treatment; accessible housing; job placement services; and accountability on the part of those service providers to ensure that the released are meeting the goals of transitioning into society.
- Access to the rights afforded to them as post-incarcerated individuals, including the support and education necessary to understand their rights.
- The reduction of legal and administrative barriers to re-entry, for example in the form of “ban the box” type initiatives; and community outreach and education necessary to reduce collateral consequences of incarceration.

THE MARANA COMMUNITY

The most critical criminal justice issues facing the Marana/Pima County community are lack or misallocation of resources, funding, and staffing for criminal justice-related services regionally; substance abuse and mental health and their effects on the justice process; lack of coordination between different jurisdictions, agencies, and mental and behavioral health treatment professionals in Pima County, leading to gaps in service and missed opportunities for appropriate treatment or sentencing; pay disparity between public employees, leading to larger state and federal agencies being more attractive employers for experienced criminal justice professionals; lack of access to basic health services; and an underfunded child safety program statewide.

Solutions offered to these critical issues include increased funding for resources and staffing in the region, to the point of ensuring local jurisdictions are able to offer pay which is competitive with larger state and federal agencies; eliminating silos through better coordination between jurisdictions, agencies, and community service providers to ensure that the criminal justice process makes the most efficient use of all of its resources; greater education and outreach regarding the current services available to all involved in the justice process, including pre-trial services and their benefits to offenders; and statewide focus on supporting child safety and services not only through increased funding but also greater education such as domestic violence awareness campaigns, access to health services from an early age, and a strong education system which support children throughout childhood, adolescence, and early adulthood.

SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION

Participants first determined the most important priorities and goals for addressing criminal justice issues in the Marana Community. The areas identified (in no particular order) are: re-entry programs; collaboration; early intervention; and alternatives to incarceration. Participants then self-selected into groups to develop outlines of needs and action plans for accomplishing the identified goals.

- Re-entry programs
 - a. There should be services available to someone post-conviction.
 - b. Have dedicated case managers to provide necessary accountability and to ensure they are adequately transitioned back into community.
 - c. Before they are released into custody, ensure that they have adequate time to have job training and soft skills training.
 - d. Do a better job of identifying high demand employment areas for post-conviction.
 - e. Provide vocational training.
 - f. Make individuals aware of what services they need to have readily available post-release and create connections for those services to be made available.
 - g. Workforce development grants should be restructured to be focused on people with convictions specifically.
 - h. Create a task force at the County level to work with every player in the criminal justice system process (from behavioral health to attorneys to the court) to provide information on re-entry services as soon as the process begins for any particular individual.
- Collaboration
 - a. Create more collaboration between all players in the criminal justice system.
 - b. Get coordinated community responses to address families and individuals.
 - c. There is a great opportunity in Pima County given its reasonably manageable size and willingness of participating jurisdictions.
 - d. Information sharing is a major challenge, with technology being costly and requirements such as HIPAA being barriers to increased participation. Develop a consistent release form for all stakeholders to share so that all can feel comfortable sharing information.
 - e. Amelia Cramer is going to speak to the Pima County Justice Coordinating Council about expanding participation by creating smaller county groups made up of criminal justice professionals which will discuss specific issues.
 - f. Training will be provided on evidence-based best practices.
- Early intervention
 - a. Develop good relationships between police and the community through initiatives such as school resource officers in middle schools in Marana.
 - i. Address substance abuse before it starts through early education by having school resource officers (SROs).
 - ii. Identify funding for SROs by researching ways to allocate court fines to SROs, school bonds and overrides, funding within police agencies, technology fees, grants and lottery funds.
 - iii. David Udall & Ed Nossem volunteered to get together with middle schools to assess and see how to make these goals happen.
 - iv. Use people with lived experiences, such as former inmates, to educate children on impact of substance abuse.
 - b. Provide education at well-child checks to parents who may not have the knowledge.
 - i. Madeleine Hernandez will work with Vic Paric to get these handouts to MHC Healthcare centers.

- Alternatives to incarceration
 - a. Look at opportunities to expand drug diversion and other programs as a way to identify situations where someone does not require incarceration but should not be released into society and could be placed in a treatment facility.
 - b. Personnel, funding, and community partnerships all present challenges to the above goal.
 - c. Specialty Courts are in need of more dedicated funding beyond grant-based funds.
 - d. The County Attorney's office can collaborate with other public organizations in the region to increase the efficacy of these existing programs.
 - e. These efforts should involve not only criminal justice system professionals but also health care providers and other community partners.
 - f. Continue to apply for grant funds when and where available.
 - g. Successes with alternative programs should be documented and publicized to increase the public's awareness, which will aid in lobbying for increasing funding for these programs.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Marana Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to attend Town Hall meetings to gain further knowledge of how I can impact my community in a positive and effective way. I will take what I learn out to the community and my co-workers.
- Be more proactive in strengthening my knowledge and relationships of and with other agencies and entities of the criminal justice system in my community in order to better serve it.
- I would like to facilitate communication between criminal justice organizations and service agencies to break down the silo approach that currently exists.
- Focus on prevention by presenting to and communicating with school-aged children on being a responsible and contributing member of a community.
- Make an effort to better engage members of the criminal justice system in treatment planning for behavioral health clinics.
- Make efforts to coordinate/communicate with other participants in the criminal justice system.
- Work with other agencies to increase collaborative services and lobby elected officials.
- Enhance publicizing and training on evidence-based best practices for Drug Courts and Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison and Diversion.
- Continue to educate, continue to advocate for change, and use social networking to help others
- Be a mentor; volunteer in junior high school.
- Refine my mental health court program.
- Reintegration and employment opportunities with employers participating in AZ@Work prevention initiatives.
- Talk with other community members about criminal justice system issues that were discussed today; correct inaccuracies about the criminal justice system when people discuss reforms to ensure meaningful reforms are discussed and proposed.
- Advocate for early intervention at grade school level.
- Develop and participate in the education of defendants and their families regarding available community services.

- Continue to work to build a diverse coalition of stakeholders to support more effective offender reentry within my jurisdiction.
- Continue to share the insights and ideas that I have learned through the community town halls throughout the state.
- Look into the feasibility of a portion of court fees/fines being allocated towards education; look for other creative sources of funding.
- Vote.
- Participate in community meetings to increase collaboration and connectivity to behavioral health services.
- Go to church and pray for our community.
- Continue to make an impact on offenders lives while incarcerated and prepare for successful integration back into society.
- Advocate for victims of violence so their voice is not forgotten as agencies focus on reentry and decreasing jail population; advocate for the broadened use of 13-3601.01; use best practices supported by evidence to interact with defendants and victims.
- Increase communication between agencies and community partners.
- Educate my family, friends, community, and networks regarding issues within the criminal justice system so that they can make more informed decisions on legislation – legislators and their involvement in community activism.
- Work with my administration regarding creating better communication efforts between agencies
- Contact behavioral health provider in our area to better communicate needs of accused and families in criminal justice system.
- Participate in non-profit organizations that serve underprivileged children.
- Bring info from today's session to Metropolitan Education Commission/Youth Advisory Council for further discussion and formulation of ideas and action items.
- Get involved!
- Continue to empower victims to seek justice and connect to resources to regain control and establish their new normal.
- Continue to pay attention to communication and info on criminal justice practices. Lobby state legislators to increase funding and close the gap on incompetents being released.

MARANA COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSOR



“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

East Valley Community Town Hall Report

Mesa, AZ – September 28, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

East Valley Community Town Hall Report September 18, 2018 – Mesa Community College

Participants of the September 2018 East Valley Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

We can best keep our communities safe when we base our laws on facts, not fear. Equality and fairness are critical, and ethnic and racial disparities must be addressed, but there are important differences between offender types that should be considered (e.g. men vs. women, young vs. old, etc.). A one size fits all approach is not necessarily effective or desirable.

Punishment is often necessary to maintain public safety and to produce a deterrent effect. However, for the benefit of safe communities and offenders alike, our focus should primarily be on transformative and restorative justice that both corrects aberrant behavior and releases productive citizens into safe communities. A significant focus should be on preventing crime before it happens through education, mental health services, etc.

Issues that should be examined carefully include prisoner safety; prevention of crime before it happens; desirability or effectiveness of community restrictions on sex offenders; ensuring punishment fits the crime; effectiveness of pre- and post-crime services and diversion sentencing options; implementing the most time and cost-effective crime prevention and correction for a measurable return on investment.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Arizona should implement and fund significant sentencing alternatives to incarceration. Education, mental health treatment, community policing, substance abuse treatment and rehabilitation, community advocacy, and approving additional judgeships and increased judicial discretion may reduce criminal behavior before it occurs. Arizona needs to talk about these issues at all levels and not merely for political gain.

Many issues are public health and social issues and should not be viewed as justice issues—or should be resolved before they become justice issues. 911 should not be our primary conflict resolution resource and the Arizona correction system should not be viewed as the catch-all solution to these issues. Rather, Arizona needs to recognize it takes a village. A significant commitment to funding pre-crime resolution of public health and social issues is necessary. Identification and support of at-risk youth is critical.

AFTER INCARCERATION

Post-crime, Arizona should focus on sentence diversion alternatives and ensuring that inmates, particularly non-violent inmates, have a more transformative and rehabilitative correctional sentence. Mandatory sentencing laws, vast prosecutorial charging power, and the potential for over-policing of poor communities need to be examined carefully. Arizona's bail system, as well as fines and surcharges, should also be carefully examined.

Probation and parole in Arizona should be a support system to transition criminals to full civilian engagement in the community. They should be part of a fresh start, not be a gotcha to ensure further punishment. Increasing the number of well-trained parole and probation officers and their support systems will be required to accomplish this goal.

Arizona needs to properly fund a support system, pre- and post-crime, based on facts, not fear. These systems might include social services, substance rehabilitations services, job placement and training services, mentoring services, food services, transitional and permanent housing services, and many others. Early assessments and ongoing assessments during incarceration will help ensure the effective placement in these services. Institutionalization must be properly addressed.

All Arizonans can play a critical role in helping convicted criminals to transition to home, to our communities, to our places of employment and worship, etc. We cannot just warehouse individuals convicted of a crime and turn them back into society without change or worse than when they entered the justice system. We are all safer and more productive when every member of our society is engaged to their potential.

Employment, and particularly the limited availability of employment for individuals convicted of a crime, should be a critical Arizona priority. Arizona should consider expungement laws, setting aside convictions, implementing employment application limitations and other actions to resolve this issue.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the East Valley Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Attend the statewide town hall. Speak to friends about my experience.
- Job training, substance abuse counseling, substance abuse counseling, and crisis intervention – clinical services.
- Work with Arizonans for Rational Sex Offence Laws (AZRSOL) to limit the registry, educate the public about wide-net sex offence laws, and allow sex offenders to reintegrate successfully.
- Communicate what I have learned to others and take action based on what I have learned.
- Educate myself further about these issues. Try to raise awareness about issues to others, especially those that tend to go unnoticed or unheard of. Connect with law enforcement in a more positive way.
- Educate my peers about the complexity of our justice system and to enlighten them that those who are incarcerated are still people.
- Share what I have learned with family and friends. Evaluate how I can contribute to the many issues faced by individuals faced with potential incarceration.
- Tell others about this experience. Educate myself more about how to change the criminal justice system in Arizona.
- Continue my advocacy work with volunteering with Valley Interfaith Project in justice reform.
- Commit continued advocacy for pre-arrest diversion opportunities especially the disparity of the justice system for people of color.
- Change my own mindset with offenders and support them in their journey to rehabilitation, especially juvenile offenders need health and social services.
- Read the Book of Mormon daily. Go to the Temple twice a month. Post a spiritual thought on Tinder. Not go to jail.
- Educate myself further to understand the issues of the Arizona criminal justice system.
- Find more events like the Arizona Town Halls to keep myself involved.
- Gain a stronger understanding of issues surrounding criminal justice, in Arizona especially. Search for opportunities to be more active in social issues.
- Continue to support inmate families. Continue to tell it like it is with others.
- Continue to be Educational Director of Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws. Continue to present information to anyone available to listen. Support sex offenders.
- Hold my legislators accountable and vote for candidates who support criminal justice reform. Become and stay informed on criminal justice issues and share this information with others I know.
- Contact my state legislators to urge them to change the mandatory sentencing guidelines.

- Continue to talk about issues discussed today with members of community to stress the importance of reform. Contact lawmakers to make them aware of my beliefs on issues that need to be addressed. Encourage other people to take action on a grass roots level and with law makers. Vote.
- Continue to share these ideas with the Governor's desk. Hold civic academies with our forty member organizations. Attend further sessions at Lewis on Thursday. Recruit more for later sessions.
- Become a billionaire.
- Bring back information learned and try to get buy in from local officials in my city. Policy changes with those in charge at the local level. Can translate to county/state level.
- Work in my agency to "ban the box" and reduce stigma associated with someone who has paid their debt to society.
- Speak to my government teacher about speaking to the class about criminal justice in Arizona and its serious problems. Also, I'd like to give info on the Future Leaders Town Hall. Send letters to legislation.
- Tell my family about the criminal justice lecture: New ideas. Bring awareness. Also, I will look at the criminal justice system and the people in this system in a new light- a more educated light.
- Discuss what I learned with my parents and family, and watch how I treat people because I never know what they have been through.
- Commit to educating myself more thoroughly about this issue so I can engage with policy on this more thoroughly with policy on this more thoughtfully and with more info.
- Work on sex offender registration changes.
- Attend Arizona Town Hall.
- Continue to work to change offense categories and sentences.
- Fight the stigma of "criminal" re-introduction in order to aid the cause of rehabilitation instead of adding fear in into the general public.
- Remain committed to educating my community to provide solutions.
- Work on shortening the probation conditions. Instead of twenty-two, try to have less than ten statewide standard probation conditions.
- Teach the skills I use in work to former criminals, helping them have something to use in job interviews and networking.
- Vote.
- Understand the sentencing laws we have now and how we can change them; help with re-entry programs in the prisons; help with community support—jobs, housing, and the felons.
- Commit to making sexual offenders a part of the judicial reform conversation.
- Continue to educate the general population about the true meaning of sexual offenses and promote elimination of mandatory sentences.
- Attend the statewide town hall. Speak with friends about the experience.
- Follow all bills affecting criminal justice going through legislature and contact legislators.
- Continue to speak-up for and educate others of the need for a Restorative Justice System. I am a model of a productive restored inmate and a kind, loving community member.
- Meet with our legislatures to encourage them to enact rational legislation to reduce crime and protect the public while lessening the prison population and sharing the constitutional rights of all Arizonians.
- Specific changes we'd like to make this legislature include modernizing ARS 13-923, 13-3821, and 13-3826 all of which provide some relief of a plural offence.

EAST VALLEY COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSORS

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Lewis Facility Community Town Hall Report

Buckeye, AZ – September 20, 2018



Photos courtesy of the Arizona Department of Corrections

CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Lewis Facility Community Town Hall Report
September 20, 2018 – Arizona Department of Corrections, Lewis Facility

Participants of the September 2018 Lewis Facility Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The goals of the criminal justice system should be examined from the perspectives of both the individual offender and society as a whole. Public safety is a principal goal, but we should be concerned with safety for both individuals (including incarcerated persons) and society. For example, there is a need to separate violent and non-violent offenders, and to protect inmates who suffer from mental illness. Accountability is important, for both the individual and society. Public officials should be held accountable for the system. But sentences are too onerous, and the cost of punishment might be better spent on prevention and treatment efforts. The criminal justice system should be focused on serious offenses, rather than petty offenses, such as minor drug offenses. The system should be fair, unbiased and consistent.

More focus should be placed on understanding the causes of crime, on prevention, and on rehabilitation. The public should be better educated about the causes, costs and consequences of criminal behavior, the justice system, and incarceration. We need better programs to address issues that contribute to incarceration, such as substance abuse, serious mental illness and PTSD. Treatment and training programs should be available starting at the beginning of a prison term, rather than just in the last sixty days. The Second Chance program is very effective, but is too limited in time and scope. Provision should be made to address relapse and other behavioral health issues other than through isolation or punishment.

Addiction and substance abuse are major contributors to incarceration. We need better ways to educate, train, and support inmates from the first day they enter the criminal justice system until they are released.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

In Arizona, the punishment is often not proportional to the crime. The U.S. has five percent of the world's population and twenty-five percent of its incarcerated persons. Many things contribute to this result, including harsh sentencing laws, inconsistent and unfair application of penalties, the fact that judges have limited discretion and prosecutors have too much power and too much discretion. Mandatory minimum sentences and guidelines contribute to large prison populations and unfair punishment. There is usually more to the story of a crime than is presented to the judge at sentencing, and the lack of information can contribute to unfairness of the outcome.

There are racial and other disparities in the system, from initial interactions with police to sentencing and incarceration. There should be greater emphasis on community policing, to improve the interactions between police and the communities they serve and reduce the effects of racial bias.

Proposition 200 established a three-strike rule for minor drug offenses, primarily those involving marijuana, which begins with probation for a first offense, and increasing severity of consequences for subsequent offenses. This approach should be expanded to include sales offenses for drugs, at least first and second offenses, and generally to make more people eligible for this treatment.

Money should not determine the outcome of criminal cases. With no money for a good defense you get a raw deal. The plea bargaining process should be improved, to give the accused more dignity, information and options. We should have more specialized courts and services, and more and better diversion programs. Fines, fees and bail money should be set aside to help inmates get set up upon their release from prison. We should find ways to accomplish the goals of the system by less onerous means. Other states offer programs that are more flexible and less punitive, and Arizona should consider implementing such programs.

We have become good at punishing but not treating and training. Defendants are too often punished for a substance abuse/addiction problem. Many people enter the criminal justice system because of mental

illness or substance abuse. We need more funding for the behavioral health system, better training for police and prosecutors to help them more effectively deal with behavioral health issues, conflict resolution and de-escalation of problems.

Failure to treat behavioral health problems, including substance abuse, contributes to a system in which children are more likely to become involved in crime and the criminal justice system because that is what they are exposed to at home. Treatment and preventive efforts, including drug education in schools, could short circuit this cycle and produce benefits for individuals, families and the community at large. Children should be made aware that the eventual consequences of their behavior could include imprisonment and that prison is not a place where anyone wants to go.

Many prisoners sit in county jail for three to six months awaiting trial. Time spent in jail or prison provides an opportunity for treatment of behavioral health issues instead of simply warehousing people. We should take advantage of these opportunities.

Those concerned about the problems with our criminal justice system need to become involved in communicating those concerns to legislators and to the general public. For example, many people believe that prisoners have access to education while in prison; the reality is that they generally do not.

AFTER INCARCERATION

In order to change the man, we must shape what he thinks. If we don't change that thought process the prison gate will be a revolving door. Inmates must take personal responsibility for their conduct, the consequences of that conduct, and for taking advantages of opportunities for improvement and change. But they also need mentoring. Formerly incarcerated persons are the people who are best able and best situated to help those who are being released from prison to successfully reenter society. However, our system restrictions on probation and release generally prevent formerly incarcerated persons from associating with other persons who have a criminal record. Inmates released from prison are at risk of being sent back to prison if they violate these restrictions. This is just one example of how formerly incarcerated persons are judged by society based on their past, and how that past follows them around after their release, but is arguably the biggest contributor to recidivism.

To be successful upon release, incarcerated persons must know what is expected of them and be prepared with the skills and resources they need to succeed. For example, an inmate who enters the system at age eighteen and is released after a fifteen-year sentence may have no experience at holding a regular job, or even using a smart phone. Due to lack of funding, there are limited educational opportunities and the resources needed to help incarcerated persons prepare for success on the outside are lacking. When a person emerges from prison with \$150 he is expected to become self-supporting, to find housing and to find a job. Yet the mere fact of having a criminal record makes it more difficult for that person to find decent housing and a job. Those without family support are particularly vulnerable.

There are a number of strategies that could be pursued within the correctional system to better prepare inmates to succeed upon release. Inmates with mental health issues should receive meaningful treatment. More jobs should be made available to help inmates accumulate the resources they will need to provide for their own support upon release. There should be more and better training for correctional officers, and the Department of Corrections should work to change the prevailing culture. There should be better preparation of inmates for reintegration with their families. There should be work furlough programs. Programs should follow the inmate, rather than being interrupted when the inmate is transferred to a different yard. There should be Second Chance centers at every Department of Corrections campus.

It may appear that there are resources available to assist persons released from prison, but in reality the available resources are inadequate. There are too few programs and supports to help prevent or address relapses. Halfway houses are not regulated, and many are drug-infested opportunities for relapse.

We need reentry programs that have career support specialists, supportive housing programs, and better oversight of halfway houses. Probation and parole officers should be better trained to provide support and guidance for released inmates. Voting rights should be restored as soon as possible. Recidivism is a specialty problem. Perhaps there should be a special center where those released from prison can get all the services and resources they need in a single place.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Lewis Facility Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Do my best to pass on the information and ideas that I have learned at this Community Town Hall. We all know there is a problem now we can focus on being part of the answer.
- Continue to stay on the path to success by going to work going to substance abuse meetings, church and surround myself with successful people instead of the old friends I'm used to hanging around.
- Be the change in the criminal justice system.
- Try to seek out places and programs where I can assist and give an opinion like today. It was nice to be acknowledged.
- Be as productive as society allows me to be.
- Write about this experience and educate people. Work on legislative agenda to make changes.
- Write a letter to Doug Ducey.
- Take an active approach to helping others who have struggles. I am going to use my voice to make change.
- Make the effort to share the information and knowledge that I have gained from this meeting with inmates and family, and continue to voice myself in any community I am in.
- Vote!
- Stay out of prison and do my best out on the streets. Tell guys in the yard about the stuff I learned today.
- Continue to support organizations like Middle Ground and Town Hall dedicated to prison reform.
- Help restore voting rights to felons.
- Share what we discovered today and encourage others to attend town halls. Research candidates' stances on criminal justice policies and legislature.
- Take responsibility for my sobriety, and understand that there are people willing to help if I need it. It is really all up to my choices.
- Get what I can out of the second chance center, and take my change seriously now and when I am released.
- Help others begin their rehabilitation process immediately.
- Help to educate the community on ways to improve the system and how they can help. Community awareness is a major factor and educating the community could provide great impact to improving the justice system.
- Get involved.
- Continue to give my all in doing the right thing by being a productive member of society in both my personal and professional lives.
- Continue to grow my Second Chance program, providing as many resources as possible, overcoming as many obstacles as possible, releasing more productive and well-rounded individuals who contribute to their community in a positive manner.
- Continue to work advocating with felons and the mentally ill involved with the judicial system.
- Inform my family and friends about the issues, vote for people who will change this for the better, seek out opportunities to personally help.
- Do whatever it takes to stay with my family.

- Continue to advocate for sentence reform. Work with non-governmental organizations and faith based groups to help provide program access to assist released offenders in their transition back to the community.
- Continue to embrace change and bring my experience, strength and hope to the community. Take personal responsibility, always being mindful of how my behavior affects others. Understand it's my responsibility to re-enter successfully.
- Be more open minded to view things in all perspectives. Hope to attend a future Town Hall meeting from a non-incarcerated sense.
- Address my mental problems and my drug addiction and try to help others. Bring more light to this program, get all the help I need to improve and help others.
- Help spread awareness about mental health and the issues those who are ill face in prison. I will also find a way to help my fellow inmates upon release that will give us a better chance to stay out of prison.
- Be more considerate about my future career and be thoughtful over my opinions.
- Be more proactive in grass root programs to assist in change in sentencing laws and reentry programming in all yards.
- Continue to work to change sentencing laws.
- Hold education forums in communities.
- Vote and encourage voting.
- Meet with police and sheriff.
- Ensure that community connections reexamines their term of supervision to allow for healthy prosocial interactions between inmates.
- Continue to set groups and challenge myself daily. Continue to stay sober and strive to be a better member of society.
- Continue my focus on positive thinking and working on change dealing with decision making and work on staying productive to society.
- Continue my sobriety.
- Give my commitment to the community. Stay sober.
- Be a help to others who are struggling with their goals and plans in life.
- Help others to not make the same mistakes I did.
- Help with ideas to reduce recidivism on the yard, help my peer inmates with the program to give them the best chances for success possible.
- Ensure more meaningful programs are available for the inmate population at all institutions.
- Contact my legislators to urge sentencing, criminal; justice reform.
- Help inform my local communities of problems in the prison and criminal justice system and the possible solutions offered by inmates and other participants.
- Write to legislators to get minimum mandatory changed on low level drug offences.
- Do more to understand the prison system and the prisoners' perspectives.
- Continue to make better choices that have such a huge impact on me as wee as the community as a whole.
- Try to help recidivism on the yard.
- Share this conversation with others and encourage others to attend town halls.
- Educate self on local candidates' stance on criminal justice policies/legislation.
- Finish school to be a voice for those who don't have one and slowly and surely change the criminal justice system for the benefit of the community, offenders, and society in general.

- Continue to enlighten civilization, representing my minority groups, whether that be racial, inmate or socioeconomic. By continually expanding the dialog that is being had in society.
- Continue to work or re-entry.
- Have group discussions with fellow inmates about having or starting a support group for those coming off of long term sentences.
- Contact my legislators to promote prison reform.
- Continue my education to assist in increasing knowledge about the system.
- Be a success story and use my experience to help others. Participate with town halls.
- Expand my knowledge on re-entry.
- Inform my family about Arizona Town Hall so they can become involved to help me and others upon my release.
- Get my family involved in re-entry issues.
- Contact legislators and the Department of Corrections with suggestions about how to address the re-entry issue.
- Continue to advocate and be a voice for these gentleman. I am going to work on building a post-release mentor program to provide hope and guidance for pre- and post-release.
- Make the conscious decision to make better choices using the tools available as well as the hope for a better future. I will also work as hard as it takes to not return.
- Become more active in my local community.
- Advocate for the rights of formerly incarcerated individuals.
- Educate my local officials.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

West Valley Community Town Hall Report

Avondale, AZ – September 21, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

West Valley Community Town Hall Report September 21, 2018 – Estrella Conference Center

Participants of the September 2018 West Valley Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The primary goal of Arizona's Criminal Justice System is the rehabilitation of offenders. Public safety, and safety within prisons also are important goals.

To meet these goals, we must understand the root causes of criminal conduct, including behavioral health issues and mental illness. Rehabilitation could be improved through better initial assessment of inmates, incorporating trauma informed care, and taking a more holistic approach to treatment while they are incarcerated. Prevention and cost effectiveness are also considerations. There is concern about the impact of private companies that profit from the criminal justice system.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Because the majority of criminal cases are resolved through plea bargains, there is opportunity for improvement of the system by holding prosecutors accountable for certifying the evidentiary basis for a charge.

Another opportunity for improvement lies in sentencing reform. In Arizona the sentences are unduly harsh and lengthy. Prosecutors have too much power, which leads to overcharging, and that contributes to unfair sentencing. As a result, judges have too little discretion in sentencing, and judges may be less knowledgeable about the issues affecting sentencing and outcomes.

Instead of immediately taking recourse to the criminal justice system, police should be encouraged to use their discretion to de-escalate situations.

The greatest potential for improvement lies in programs that address the underlying causes of crime. Trauma affects children beginning at an early age. The lack of quality education and jobs also contributes to the conditions that may increase the incidence of crime in a community. As prison populations and funding of corrections has increased, funding has been reduced for programs that address the underlying conditions that cause or contribute to criminal conduct, such as education, early childhood development programs and family support programs. There is a great need for programs that address substance abuse and mental illness, both of which contribute to crime. The reduction in such programs disproportionately affects inner cities and people of color. Higher incarceration rates in those communities magnify those conditions, as families suffer when a parent is not in the home. We should use cost savings that will result from reducing prison populations to fund programs that address the conditions that lead to incarceration, and to fund efforts to rehabilitate incarcerated persons.

Our system of bail and fines also needs reform. Too often people who lack financial resources languish in jail.

If these reforms are to be achieved, it is necessary that members of the public become aware of and informed about the issues, and take responsibility for raising awareness in others and advocating for change.

AFTER INCARCERATION

People in prison learn how to live in prison, but they don't learn how to succeed in the outside world. The correctional system should fund and implement programs to address behavioral health and substance abuse issues and prepare inmates for their eventual release, including more and better services, counseling, education and medication.

Some prisoners suffer abuse and violence in prison, and the correctional system should take steps to prevent such conduct. Vulnerable inmates, including the many who are mentally ill, are particularly in need of protection. Prisoners should be separated based on the nature and severity of their conduct. Prisoners are subjected to extreme and damaging punishment such as isolation. This should stop.

As it is, people released from prison face many challenges. They need help preparing for release and adjusting to their new circumstances. Although they have served their time, their criminal record follows them throughout their lives, and as a result they face many barriers and burdens that make it even more difficult for them to return to productive lives in the community. It is a barrier to decent housing, particularly affordable housing. Released inmates often lack access to transportation, basic medical and dental care, behavioral health and substance abuse treatment, and education. They face probation and law enforcement officers who may impose inconsistent requirements.

To prepare prisoners for successful reentry the correctional system should provide better education and training opportunities, including trade schools. They should help prisoners maintain social and community connections, and strengthen family connections. There should be a more gradual, multi-phased transition process that prepares prisoners for return to the community.

Once a prisoner is released, help and support is needed from a variety of sources, including families, social service agencies and the criminal justice system. Supportive services, including counseling, should be made available. Funding for such services is greatly needed.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the West Valley Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Write a report on this meeting and the important topics about the criminal justice system to the public and citizens of the West Valley so they are aware of these issues.
- Get more involved.
- Share the information that I have learned with others, and use my information to improve my schoolwork.
- Share this with others and continue to fight for change.
- Vote – Early and Often!
- Continue to learn more.
- Be an advocate and a voice for those who are incarcerated/released, as well as implement new ways to educate and support our youth.
- Share on Facebook, vote knowledgeably, and find a house for reentry.
- Work with organizations to approach the legislative body to reform the criminal justice system to reduce recidivism and incarceration as a whole.
- Create awareness through all of my platforms of certain concerns as well as come to more town hall meetings and do my best to make change.
- Take these ideas to the state legislature.
- Spread the word on various Arizona Town Hall meetings and discussion groups through personal contacts and social media. Be more active in my community, school system and political areas.
- Always treat every human being—despite their criminal history—with respect. Every individual is worth more than the worst thing they've done.
- Become active in the community to make necessary corrections. I will also participate in voting.
- Try to integrate consensus building into my daily life. Vote.

- Share my ideas with people who are in need, such as young adults. Share with the world my words on crime trends. Try to get involved with criminal justice police officers. Have them engage with community.
- Educate myself more on the justice system to share the ideas I got today and I will learn more in the future to share with either classmates or members of my community.
- Continue with St. John's prison ministry.
- Continue to support individuals in the correctional system, I will continue to educate others on the correctional system and substance abuse. I will continue to break down negative stigma associated to corrections and substance abuse.
- Share what I have learned with others and take action where possible.
- Share what I have learned today, make a difference in the criminal justice system and vote. Seek more services for our clients who are released from prison.
- Get law enforcement to attend November conference.
- Share what I have learned with my work peers and community and educate myself more on other aspects of the criminal justice system.
- Speak at community forums, council meetings, and the state legislature to plea for basic reforms, better use of dollars spent "in the system." More money spent on social services.
- Share information and work to impact community awareness.
- Share what I have learned about this issue with family and friends.
- Get more involved with Middle Ground Prison Reform. The abused are sent to the hole far too often for far too long periods. Once released they need support systems.
- Become better informed on laws impacting this community and vote informed.
- Speak up to educate others on the re-entry population needs.
- Communicate these ideas/thoughts to co-workers, which include judges and prosecutors.
- Share what I know with elected officials, community leaders, and business about what is needed to improve the criminal justice system.
- Educate myself before I vote to ensure I am giving my honest and educated input.
- Continue to attend town hall meetings to learn more about the criminal justice system and contribute to the discussion about the system in Arizona.
- Educate myself more on the criminal justice system to share ideas I learned today and in my future to classmates, friends, and my community.
- Promote fairness, understanding and discretion for those who enter the criminal justice system and implement policies and actions for my organization.
- Dedicate my efforts to education for incarcerated students.
- Utilize the consensus learning motel with my criminal justice class to learn and teach the state of Arizona's criminal justice system. I will share what I've learned this morning with my family and friends.
- Become active in the community to make necessary corrections. I will participate in voting.
- Continue to learn more about issues and see how our programs can be developed to meet needs.
- I will vote more knowledgeably, early and often.
- I will stand diligently with all agencies and myself at the Legislature to support needed reforms.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Tucson Community Town Hall Report

Tucson, AZ – September 28, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Tucson Community Town Hall Report

September 28, 2018 – YWCA Conference Center

Participants of the September 2018 Tucson Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Goals for Arizona's criminal justice system must include promoting community safety, rehabilitation, reducing recidivism, providing accountability and consequences, and preventing people from entering the system in the first place. These goals are interwoven and interconnected, and the criminal justice system must serve all of them. Prisons may not be the most cost-effective solution for these goals.

The system should fund and provide effective treatment for persons who need mental health care or substance abuse treatment. Achieving improved quality and access to treatment will require improved funding; it will also require replicating successful models that already exist. We must recognize that prisons may not be the most effective place to provide long-term support for mental health or substance abuse issues. These are social issues, not simply criminal justice issues, and should be addressed accordingly.

The system should provide life skills, career training, and other resources that help incarcerated persons reenter society and help persons on probation transition to a successful future. Reducing recidivism requires a concerted effort to create job opportunities for people when they leave the system. It also requires advocating for services for families of persons in the criminal justice system, who become the support network for people when they leave the system. Prevention is linked to early intervention—including through childhood education—that can help reduce the number of people who enter the criminal justice system.

Accomplishing these goals touches upon programs and systems outside the purview of the criminal justice system, including our education system, our job training system and employment laws.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Substance abuse correlates strongly to contact with the criminal justice system. We should seek to reduce the impact of substance abuse in our communities. This requires a comprehensive approach, which should reach into schools and neighborhood groups.

Education, including vocational and career training, can help instill passions and goals in our citizens to keep them away from crime. Schools also can serve as a first line of prevention and early intervention. Schools can benefit from improved access to mental health professionals to help with prevention. We must recognize that prevention can be less expensive and more cost-effective than punishment. Redoubling our emphasis on mentoring programs in schools can also pay dividends. Arizona ranks near the bottom nationally in spending on counselors in its schools. This must change.

We should help our law enforcement agencies by providing better training and rethinking who needs to be in jail and prison. Law enforcement are at the front lines of recognizing opportunities for intervention and treatment, along with teachers, mental health professionals and emergency room doctors. Training should focus on de-escalating conflict, decriminalizing poverty and helping identify treatment and services for at-risk populations. At the same time, we ask a lot of law enforcement, and need a more collaborative approach with other service providers to reduce the burden on them.

Regarding prosecution and courts, more funding is needed for probation officers and for alternatives to incarceration, such as Pima County's Drug Treatment Alternative to Prison program (DTAP), which provides a last chance at intensive treatment and services for persons who do not qualify for other treatment alternatives and would otherwise be headed to prison.

We need to understand the needs of the population in the system and look for ways to help them to make the system more efficient—a system of text-message reminders about pending court dates is an example. Arizona should adopt a system for merit-based selection for judges in all counties, instead of electing its judges

We also need to seek more efficient uses for scarce tax dollars. For instance, it costs about \$100 a day to jail a person in Pima County, but it would only be \$8 to \$15 per day for electronic monitoring. Reform of bond and bail laws should also be addressed to prevent unintended consequences. Arizona should evaluate the system of criminal fees and fines and the way that these can impose severe economic consequences for people who cannot afford them.

We should look to other states for best practices and innovative approaches that can be adopted here. We should also promote best practices locally and spread those to the rest of the state. As an example, Pima County has a criminal justice reform unit dedicated to reducing jail populations and improving opportunities for re-entry.

AFTER INCARCERATION

Arizona’s criminal justice system could be improved by having reentry programs begin with the first day of incarceration. We also should explore how to better support families who have people incarcerated.

When in prison, we need to foster more ties with the outside. We need to look at how wages are paid to inmates in prison and consider whether they should be paid real wages for prison labor that could then be paid into the victim restitution fund or otherwise used to help with effective reintegration after release. We should also consider reintroducing the policy of giving time off of sentences for working or good behavior

We should support workforce development and life skills programs in prison that continue after release. We should also support programs that give inmates a source of pride and hope for their future.

With respect to private prisons, we need to analyze the impact of private prisons and whether they are meeting our goals of rehabilitation. We should consider having a requirement that private prisons provide resources and services based on industry best practices.

After release, we need to continue assistance—perhaps with “Community Integration Officers” who can help released inmates to transition with wrap-around services that allow them to better integrate into society.

We need to foster relationships with families and, if possible, reunify those released with their families. If this is not possible, we need to provide community based housing and other support. We need to look at what we can do as a community to reduce recidivism. We can all play a role. This may include providing transportation, housing or job training. It may also be as simple and powerful as being available to provide an ear for a recovering addict who needs someone to talk to when experiencing difficult times.

We need to have cultural changes that truly allows released prisoners to reintegrate back into society with the support of various community members and organizations. This includes providing incentives and support for them to reenter society. We should consider when it is important to require a criminal history and when it is not on applications for jobs and housing. “Ban the box efforts” should be supported for initial applications. We should consider restoring rights such as voting and expunging criminal records when appropriate.

THE TUCSON COMMUNITY

Pima County’s geography contains different and distinct populations, each with a unique dynamic. These include a metropolitan area, a large rural area, and several Native American tribal communities. Compared with the rest of the state, Tucson and Pima County face special challenges posed by a high poverty rate, and by their proximity to the U.S.-Mexico border—specifically the proximity to corridors for drug smuggling and human trafficking.

As in other parts of Arizona, Tucson and Pima County suffer from a lack of funding for local law enforcement, and our populations have been hit hard by the effects of substance abuse and the rising tide of the opioid epidemic.

Solutions include local initiatives to move cases through the system more efficiently, and to explore lower-cost alternatives to having people remain in jail, such as electronic monitoring.

Solutions extend beyond the realm of law enforcement. We should invest more in education. We should also engineer streets, parks and other social environments that promote safe and healthy behaviors.

Mental health services need to be provided and funded. Without them, we lose a key piece in prevention.

We need a culture of collaboration and integration between the public, private and non-profit sectors. Arizona is rich with non-profit organizations, but we seldom bring them to the table together at the same time.

We also should promote more effective communication between law enforcement, prosecutors, mental health professionals and corrections and parole agencies. For instance, if we break down silos between corrections and parole agencies, this may create benefits for our citizens as they re-enter society.

After incarceration, prisoners need an opportunity to gain stability and access to resources. Post-incarceration services are lacking and need to be funded better with the goal of helping people reintegrate into society

Our conversation must include victims. Improved services for victims, including culturally appropriate support, are needed to further the goal of justice for all.

We need to foster a political conversation that focuses on prevention, and not just on campaign promises about punishment. We and our legislators need to agree not only that action is needed, but that those actions have value, and require resources.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Tucson Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Work with prisoner re-entry programs.
- Serve as a mentoring or literacy volunteer for adults (or youth in jail or juvenile detention).
- Support funding for improved behavioral health care and substance abuse treatment and better mental health treatment facilities.
- Continue advocating at the Legislature for criminal justice reform, and work to elect legislators that will advance criminal justice reform.
- Support “wrap-around” services for recently released inmates.
- Work on removing barriers to re-entry, such as a lack of education and counseling programs.
- Support programs to assist re-entry, such as restoration of rights for persons who successfully complete sentences.
- Continue to volunteer to Arizona Town Hall and continue conversations about issues of importance.
- Promote “Grow in Place” as a key element to safer neighborhoods.
- Strive to further my own education.
- Help organize a panel in Southern Arizona to discuss private prisons.
- Leverage my sphere of influence to educate and involve others; be a connector and a champion.
- Share what I have learned with others.
- Teach my students about criminal justice issues relative to health and planning issues in an integrated planning process.
- Look at mandatory sentencing laws, time-off sentences for time worked, and low-level drug laws to change the system and reduce the prison population.
- Advocate increased funding for teachers, counselors, and school nurses.
- Work with the Legislature to change laws on marijuana possession, mandatory sentencing and private prisons.

- Do not ignore families “left behind” when a family member is incarcerated.
- Work on reform with victim perspectives in mind.
- Vote to fund more law enforcement officers.
- Publicize the idea that education and criminal justice programs are an investment, not an expense.
- Help organize a panel in southern Arizona discussing private prisons.
- Support drug prevention and education programs in schools.
- Talk with other community members about the need for change in the criminal justice system to help them be better educated voters.
- Collaborate with local agencies and organizations to improve services.
- Provide programming for girls with incarcerated parents—including advocacy and civic engagement training.
- Actively serve on relevant coalitions and committees.
- Encourage adults in my circles to engage in mentorship programs for elementary aged children especially in marginalized communities.
- Continually work to get people to vote through phone calls, emails and social media.
- Learn more about issues, support education so children will be less vulnerable to becoming a criminal, work so the prisons provide more preparation for entering life after prison, learn more about privatized prisons.
- Try to better myself and tell others about what I have learned.
- Support candidates who believe in positive change in our criminal justice system.
- Continue to explore and pursue using my skill set and career to impact criminal justice system.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Sierra Vista Community Town Hall Report

Sierra Vista, AZ – October 4, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Sierra Vista Community Town Hall Report
October 4, 2018 – Cochise College Sierra Vista Campus

Participants of the October 2018 Sierra Vista Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The principal goals for Arizona's criminal justice system should be to provide proportional punishment that is met with effective rehabilitative social services addressing underlying problems. The services should include counseling, education, psychological, mental health, self-esteem, mentoring, opportunities to volunteer and interaction with the community. The focus should include creating opportunities for work coming out of prison, such as incentives for businesses and safe environments that reduce the stigma around felonies. To increase the return on investment, judges should be given discretion in sentencing and support deferment into treatment for those who can be rehabilitated. The system should ensure that all crimes are reported and investigated, providing safety from all crimes. We must evaluate disparities in sentencing based on racial or social status and prior convictions. The most important goals are rehabilitation and safety and security for everyone involved.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Improvements to Arizona's criminal justice system prior to incarceration should include meaningful pre-trial services that provide access to bus passes, text reminders, housing and counseling. There should be treatment way stations that include diversion programs that front load treatment for mental health and rehabilitation, and that address learning disabilities.

We need to provide flexibility and training that foster public officer accountability through internal means and citizen review boards. We also need to:

1. Make use of resources other than jail such as mental health care, rehabilitation, diversion programs and drug courts;
2. Remove minimum sentences and increase the ability of judges to offset prosecution over charging;
3. Increase support of indigent defense and assure that fines and fees are proportional to income and do not result in being stuck in the system; and
4. Reinvest money from private prisons into education and law enforcement.

We are all responsible for what we want in our communities; it takes a village. We should foster and support investments in education that create champions not criminals.

AFTER INCARCERATION

Improvements to Arizona's criminal justice system after incarceration should include recognizing that getting out of prison is like getting out of the military. We should issue state IDs while incarcerated. We should allow and create opportunities to graduate and decompress in prison while implementing evidence-based correction practices. We should ban the felony box and review collateral consequences that impact job opportunities. We must bridge the gaps between the prison and the community while considering closing private prisons. We should pay for jobs that are performed while incarcerated and establish savings for use once released. We should use services performed as a means of restitution while considering the removal of probation fees and increase fine forgiveness. We must incentivize employers to work with the Department of Corrections. We should recognize the role of the faith community, community advocates, organizations and families in developing the life skills of our returning citizens. We must provide mental health, health, rehab, peer mentoring and legal services. We must consider if prison is the only way.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Sierra Vista Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Have conversations with people I disagree with instead of disregarding them.
- Reach out to programs that are assisting people in all stages of the criminal justice process, as well as those who have mental illness.
- Advocate for the rights of returning citizens.
- Be more aware of struggles that someone entering back into society after being incarcerated have to go through.
- Research local volunteer opportunities for dealing with offender families during incarceration and re-entry.
- Continue to hire ex-cons when possible.
- Support political candidates who will implement innovative measures to help rehabilitate inmates, focus more on rehab rather than punishment, redirect private prison money to education and rehab, and reduce prison population.
- Be more informed and engaged in the community. Also talk to more people and the criminal justice system and what we can do to help.
- Use the terminology “citizens returning to the community.”
- Educate my child to get as far as he can in his education, teach him tolerance, and to reach out to those around him.
- Be more sensitive to those incarcerated by checking on family members and their children.
- Make donations and volunteer time for re-entry program and the like venues.
- Work on a ministry program to encourage folks toward stability.
- Create an entrepreneur program to help ideas become reality for those getting out of prison.
- Examine the police academy curriculum for ethics and mental first aid.
- Converse the benefits of plea bargains vs. costs and risks of jury trial and the benefits of prosecutorial discretion.
- Work on developing a volunteer program to address transportation needs in rural communities.
- Offer free legal services for restoration of voting rights for Cochise County residents.
- Help to educate people on becoming homeowners.

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Criminal Justice

in Yuma County

FINAL REPORT

 **SWATH**
South West Arizona Town Hall

Southwest Arizona Town Hall
CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN YUMA COUNTY
October 5, 2018 – Final Report

THE PRINCIPAL GOALS FOR ARIZONA’S AND YUMA COUNTY’S ADULT AND JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

While the adult and juvenile criminal justice systems may have different individualized methods and processes of achieving criminal justice, the principal goals for the Arizona and Yuma County adult and juvenile criminal justice systems should be the same. They should include a balanced approach to the promotion of fair and timely justice, ensuring the safety of the community, prevention and deterrence of future crime, and responsibly utilizing community resources to carry out its objectives. There are many ways to achieve these goals, but the system should illicit community involvement to allow whatever processes are chosen to be most successful.

First, and simply put, the goal of the criminal justice system should be to lessen crime in our community and one of the ways to do so is to ensure that victims, defendants and the community obtain justice in a fair and timely fashion. It is critical that the system guarantees that due process protections are upheld while also holding defendants accountable for their actions and keeping our community safe. The criminal justice system should place a high priority on public safety out of concern for family and property, with a broad definition of public safety. There is a question, however, of whether removing someone from society means true safety since that person will likely return to the community. The consequences for criminal behavior should, therefore, be meaningful and encourage community involvement.

Thus, it is imperative that our criminal justice systems take a holistic approach in determining how an offender should be held accountable to ensure the safety of the community, which includes intervention and help with basic life needs. Courts should consider what level of punishment is necessary for the specific individual and the specific crime and the effect on the victim. In making this determination, community resources should be utilized to allow offenders to be held accountable and keep the community safe, while also helping to prevent recidivism.

Lastly, the criminal justice system must ensure that all available tools are being used effectively to maximize return on tax-payer investment and protecting the welfare of the community. The community relies on the criminal justice system to enact procedures and processes to ensure that these principal goals are achieved for the betterment of the whole community.

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ARIZONA’S AND YUMA COUNTY’S ADULT AND JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

There are many opportunities to take action in improving Arizona’s and Yuma County’s adult and juvenile criminal justice system prior to incarceration. As Benjamin Franklin famously once said, an “ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure.” This maxim applies here, in discussion of reformation to the criminal justice process. Simply put, the best way to improve the criminal justice system is in the prevention of the development of the future offender, and prevention of involvement in the system itself. So much of the current focus is in addressing the symptoms of the problems, but not the root cause—the prevention of the problems all together. Early intervention has a cost, but that cost has a return on investment that prevents the higher societal costs of later incarceration.

These actions start at their most fundamental—in the home and in the family, whether such families and homes be defined as traditional or non-traditional. Early intervention with at-risk children, such as those within the foster system, help to place children on constructive paths of promise rather than destructive paths of hopelessness. These interventions can range from teaching life skills and offering mentorship, to individualized therapy or specially-designed preventative programs, to placement in jobs and after-school programs that occupy children’s time and remove the opportunity for crime. Certain programs like Kids at Hope, Campesinos Sin Fronteras, and Successful Futures, have successful models in place that can be expanded or used by other willing organizations as a roadmap. Exposing children to non-criminal activity early and modeling correct behavior greatly assists in those children rejecting criminal behavior in teenage and adult years. Intervention

solely after the criminal act is often too late, as the offender is already in the system and subject to the often life-long implications of the same.

Interventions must also involve the parents, as so often the parental problems are the root cause of the children's, leading to generational cycles of criminality, mental illness, domestic violence, and drug use. Parents who are at-risk, such as those already in the DCS system or offenders themselves, would benefit from training in some of the same areas, including life skills, parenting, reading (and other core educational needs), and finance (e.g., writing checks and budgeting). The goal is to break the cycle of poverty and abuse, such that parents can step off the wheel with their children, leading to better outcomes for both at-risk groups.

It is critical to develop outreach programs to the community so that these at-risk populations are aware of the services available to them. Additionally, such individuals must be educated on what agencies can and cannot do and the limits of discretion available to authority when deciding outcomes.

The goal for approaching both groups once they find themselves in criminal trouble or in crisis due to issues such as domestic violence, mental illness, and drug addiction should shift to one of intervention, diversion, and treatment rather than incarceration. Police officers, once given wide latitude to ignore certain offenses and simply cart juveniles home for discipline by the parent, now often have their hands tied. Mandatory minimums constrict the judiciary. Nevertheless, there are programs for diversion and intervention available rather than arrest, and continued training of law enforcement officers and prosecutors can enable the removal of offenders from the traditional criminal justice system to one of treatment and diversion. However, additional resources for law enforcement officers and criminal justice professionals, such as more programs for mental health and substance abuse, and training in the use of such programs and handling encounters with at-risk individuals, should be a component of any reform.

Further, for individuals intersecting with the criminal justice system, for both victims and defendants, it is crucial that they have efficient and equal access to the system and fair and timely justice. The red-tape that exists in the system right now, and the, at times, bureaucratic inefficiencies, can be difficult for at-risk populations to understand and successfully function within. These groups often lack basic understanding of how the system works, and an overly complicated process makes it more likely they will never function well within its constraints. Providing education on the how the system works, and assisting individuals to function within it, leads to better outcomes that are not one-sized fits all, as individuals are better able to advocate for themselves. One option would be to use prior offenders who have navigated the system and successfully been rehabilitated to serve as a model for individuals facing the criminal justice system. Such an approach to equitable access leads to lower recidivism, as individuals receive the resources they need. Community participation is also key to a healthy criminal justice system.

Community-led involvement adds a vital component to prevention, including Opportunities for employment, mentorship, education, and treatment access. Employment alone is a huge factor in both prevention and recidivism. By collecting and analyzing data on the economic impact of successful rehabilitation and the trends and needs of preventative intervention, the system can support its advocacy for use of diversion of treatment and appeal to the business-minded community.

ACTIONS TO IMPROVE ARIZONA'S AND YUMA COUNTY'S ADULT AND JUVENILE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM AFTER INCARCERATION

There are several actions that can be taken to improve Arizona's and Yuma County's adult and juvenile criminal justice system after incarceration. Again, similar to the approach with at-risk populations prior to any offense, prevention is the key. Prevention begins during incarceration. Incarceration is a fork in the road; failing to assist during incarceration leads to a singular pathway to recidivism. During incarceration, a key opportunity is presented to screen individuals for issues and treat them. Issues to be assessed include mental health, substance abuse, reading and other educational deficiencies, medical issues such as vision and hearing, and others. While these issues are often symptoms of offenders, they may not be the cause. But regardless, even if these issues were not the cause of the offense, these disabilities or lack of life skills exacerbate recidivism. Additionally, employment and vocational training should be provided to give real-world skills to inmate prior to release. Educational programs during incarceration should focus on being a productive part of the community, including for example curriculum directed to life skills, and job training, and to replace negative influences with positive influences.

Though there are some programs in place now for services during incarceration, much depends on the particular facility. But starting services during incarceration brings hope for changed behavior. When an inmate is excited about future possibilities and can visualize a pathway to achieve them, the changes for recidivism are reduced.

Certainly, as an individual approaches release from incarceration, recidivism is the main concern, and protecting both the offender and society from re-offense is the primary goal. A lot of repeat offenders do well for a while, then fall back to old behaviors. However, most recidivism tends to occur in the first six months, with the first two weeks being particularly critical, so it is important to closely monitor and work with high risk people during this early period.

Offenders sometimes reoffend because of lack of other assistance, such as housing or jobs, or a lack of knowledge to other ways of life. Work on re-entry plans should begin before the individual is released in order to prepare them for their new life and to acquaint them with resources available, particularly given their assessed needs (e.g., mental health, substance abuse, etc.). The reentry plan should include assistance to the individual to obtain identification, find appropriate housing, secure AHCCCS coverage, and explore employment opportunities. Without such planning, the person could end up homeless or in an emergency room. Additionally, inmates should be provided information about what kinds of crimes can be set aside and how to restore of civil rights.

While in jail and after, pairing with mentors can lead to critical support and real-world models for success. Video feeds into the facility for inmates to meet with peers to learn about what life will be like once the individual is released and how to ease the transition provides one such pathway. Mentors can help develop a plan for re-entry based on real, successful experience. Education for families of incarcerated so that they can learn how to help the individual transition from incarceration can also provide needed support. More recently, re-entry simulations are being used for providers to prepare for an inmate's release. These simulations include basic problem-solving strategies, and are based on maneuvering through real-life issues.

Indeed, many of these programs in a more abbreviated form should be expanded to low-level offenders. There are very few programs available for those convicted of misdemeanors or those being released from justice and municipal courts. By better addressing the underlying issues of this group (example mental health) it may reduce the chance they will go on to commit felonies.

Intersection between the offender and the community is obviously an eventual consequence of release. While much attention is paid to how to prepare the inmate, attention should also be paid to preparing the community for reception of formerly incarcerated individuals. As an educational opportunity, the community should understand the challenges facing an individual who is released from incarceration to change the mindset of the community towards offenders and encourage empathy. For example, encouraging employers to hire felons through appropriate incentives and training helps reintegration and reduces recidivism. Additionally, "impact panels" or forums that bring victims of crimes together with offenders for interaction and education helps many to understand the consequence of wrongful actions and also prevent re-offense. None of this is meant to diminish the effect on and cost to victims of crimes, and support should be given to them in tandem with assistance to offenders. Lastly, a system of data tracking should be put into place to monitor the efficacy of programs and to identify weak spots in recidivism. Such data helps bolster community support for the cost of assistance and benefits inmates by providing better services.

THERE ARE SEVERAL CRITICAL CRIMINAL JUSTICE ISSUES FACING YUMA COUNTY THAT ARE BOTH SIMILAR AND DIFFERENT FROM THOSE FACING ARIZONA AS A WHOLE AND THAT CAN BE ADDRESSED AND IMPROVED

As a border town, Yuma is unique. Yuma's uniqueness includes our fluctuating and seasonal populations, high unemployment rate and close proximity to Mexico and California borders. As a result, Yuma faces several critical criminal justice issues including high incidents of drug-related crimes, lack of professional resources to adequately address mental health and substance abuse issues, and high unemployment rates (including higher turnover rates of law enforcement officers to higher paying jobs elsewhere).

Many of these issues can and should be addressed by education. We need education in our schools, communities, local businesses, non-profit organizations, and local and state leaders. A targeted campaign,

through social media, television and community outreach presentations should be instituted to educate our community about the cost-benefit analysis of rehabilitative programs versus the incarceration cycle, including ways in which community members can get involved. Such a program should help the community shift the perception that all criminal offenders are bad people to one that understands that a large majority of offenders simply need help with underlying issues like drug addiction, mental health conditions, or poverty issues. The educational campaign should also include information on risk factors, intervention programs, and resources available in the community to promote use of the resources as a preventative measure without shame or stigma. This campaign should also encourage voluntarism and increase the feeling of neighbor helping neighbor.

Additionally, there needs to be a focus on collaboration between law enforcement, the courts and legal system, and businesses and non-profit organizations. Through this collaboration, it could be possible to develop a program to help offenders obtain long-term employment upon release to help them become contributing members of the community with purpose and value. There also needs to be collaboration about how to attract and keep good professionals, such as licensed substance abuse counselors and mental health professionals, educators and law enforcement personnel. This could potentially permit the existence of more specialty courts to focus on drug or mental health issues, thereby decreasing the risk of re-offense and building a safer and stronger community.

Lastly, the court system and legislators should re-exam the appropriateness of existing sentencing structures and the effect of a criminal record on a person's employability. Courts need to utilize, and be given the opportunity to utilize, alternative solutions to issues involving an inability to pay fines and fees associated with a conviction which lead to violations of probation and incarceration. Such alternatives could include community service, release or (extended) probation. Lawmakers should also consider allowing and setting forth guidelines to permit courts to expunge a person's conviction, versus merely setting it aside. This action would permit more offenders to secure employment and take away a cause for recidivism.

THERE ARE THREE TOP PRIORITIES FOR REFORM FROM THE COMMUNITY MINDS OF THE YUMA COUNTY SAFF

The over-arching priority is to make our community safer, which is achieved by better support and intervention for at-risk populations and services and reformation for transitional offenders to avoid recidivism. This can be achieved by:

1. Improved and more readily available support services for at-risk children and adults to address the underlying issues that often lead to criminal behavior, such as mental health, substance abuse, poverty, life skills, parenting, career development, and educational disparities. Improved and more readily available support services for the identification and rehabilitation of the issues in inmates and other low-level offenders, along with robust transitional support services prior to and upon release, including job training, mentorship, housing plans, medical care, and concrete, attainable plans for reintegration in society.
2. Community education and outreach that fosters community awareness of, funding support for, and engagement in the programs and services identified in goal number 1. Such community education should include people and families close to at-risk populations and inmates but should extend far broader.
3. Involvement of the State's rule making bodies (e.g., state legislature) to allocate adequate funds for the support programs needed and identified in goal number 1, as well as to reevaluate the criminal justice system, including mandatory sentencing provisions and the accessibility of the criminal justice system.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

South Phoenix Community Town Hall Report

Phoenix, AZ – October 11, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

South Phoenix Community Town Hall Report October 11, 2018 – Mountain Park Health Center

Participants of the October 2018 South Phoenix Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Arizona's criminal justice system should serve and protect. It should be just and it should balance safety, punishment and rehabilitation or restoration of those who enter the system. It should not simply be a warehousing system. Rehabilitation should address mental illness and substance abuse issues and it should begin as soon as someone enters the system. People should not leave the criminal justice system with greater mental illness and substance abuse issues than what they had entering the system. The criminal justice system should focus on how to restore people so that they become constructive members of their community.

SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION

We need to build a system that honors relationships, expand communications and education and that teaches respect between communities and those who run the criminal justice system. We need to consider broad changes that include diverse and underrepresented voices.

We need to change the current methods of policing and the culture surrounding it. We need more community policing and more involvement of the community in the entire criminal justice system—including possibilities like a community court. Police need to have more education, including how to better deal with different kinds of people.

There should be more equity in sentencing. We should reevaluate what we are criminalizing and should avoid criminalizing lifestyle choices that do not harm others. We also need to look at reforming or eliminating our bail system.

Instead of sending so many people to jail, we should shift to a system that is more of a restorative model. As part of this system, we should consider diversion programs that are more effective for those with substance abuse or mental illness issues. Or, if someone commits a nonviolent crime, we could require them to do community service instead of going to jail.

We should reform the system so that people do not feel forced to take an unfair plea deal. We also need more qualified judges.

Once people are in the system, we should be running the system using best practices that are outcomes-based. We need to provide programs that allow inmates to transition to life outside of prison. This may include treatment programs, education and life skills.

Our criminal justice system, including our prisons and transitional or halfway houses, should not be based on or motivated by profit.

After release, we need to change policies that keep people from getting housing or employment. For example, we should ban the box on job and housing applications that requires ex inmates to disclose if they have been convicted of a crime. We could also do a better job at helping former inmates to reintegrate back into society, including how to guide them to restore rights such as voting.

Communities can help educate each other and assist former inmates in finding programs that can help them. Change doesn't happen unless we as community members take action. If you want to make change you have to advocate for change.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the South Phoenix Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Follow Arizona Town Hall future activities.
- Continue to improve access and services for our patients.
- Come to another Town Hall meeting and invite someone.
- No longer judge others simply based off of their being experienced in the criminal justice system. Understanding that the system is not just for violent offenders.
- Opinar que cuando asen un delito simple nol os encarselen sino les ayuden con un programa y si usan una droqa que les ayuden nolos metan presos.
- Share the truth of our criminal justice system's data with my family, workplace, and friends, so that we can all consider what is necessary to do to create change for all involved and that they should include in their advocacy that equality is not equal and a broad approach may not work. Some will need more support than others.
- Make contact with criminal justice agencies and distribute information on email and Facebook.
- Continue to work in and for the criminal justice system in a capacity to enact meaningful change.
- Continue to work to connect people to resources they can use to impact change in the local criminal justice system.
- Seek to understand views that are different from my own.
- Ask for understanding of systems that impact my community.
- Use my voice to help communicate with stakeholders on all sides with equity.
- Running for office to be the change I want to see in the community.
- Become more involved in my local government.
- Continue advocating for people in situations that my sons have been in and the sad result of my son's experience in prison and their inability thus far to become members of society.
- Connect with Alison Rapping to find Synergy.
- Connect with Let's Talk.
- Stay involved.
- Guide people through the process to restore Civil Rights.
- I will present the Town Hall Report and the Report of this community Town Hall with the people I work with.
- Participate more in my community and be a voice for change.
- Share the final report with my network.
- Communicate the recommendations with my legislators.
- Educate myself better on this important topic.
- Enhance my skill sets and knowledge to better support my community and those around.
- Continue to build the Arouet Foundation. Support as many women as we can who are currently incarcerated and coming out of incarceration. Serve on State and National Boards and commissions. Advocate, educate, and support. Build community!
- Vote, raise my voice, support organizations and intervention programs.

- Continue to educate for humanity and educate.
- Have discussion with friends about criminal justice in our state.
- Stay more informed about the Town Halls and read the report. Petition our legislature to do more toward prison reform.
- Continue to volunteer in AZ prisons and share any experience and concerns with other members of the community hopefully changing their feelings about those who are incarcerated.
- I want to change with those who have committed murder and don't spend much time in jail but then there are people who are innocent that get too much time in prison.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Criminal Justice Town Hall for Affected Populations Report Tucson, AZ – October 13, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Criminal Justice Town Hall for Affected Populations Report October 13, 2018 – Habitat for Humanity Tucson

Participants of the October 2018 Criminal Justice Town Hall for Affected Populations make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The criminal justice system should focus on safety, prevention and rehabilitation (which includes reducing recidivism) instead of punishment. It should be fair and it should be just. It should focus on facts and research rather than political and emotional responses to different types of crime. We should reconsider the use of private prisons motivated by profit.

We should tailor responsibility for crimes committed to the crime itself while accounting for the needs of the victim. To meet these goals, we need to consider an overhaul of the system that includes looking at the role of discretion across the system and our current sentencing structure.

Incarceration should be looked at as a last resort—especially as it relates to drug abuse or mental illness. Sustainable funding for rehabilitation and diversion programs will result in healthy individuals, families and communities. It is a better return on investment of funds than money spent on punishment.

Rehabilitation, which will help reduce recidivism, should involve programs that start immediately and should have as a goal how to make people successful outside of the system. This may include greater assistance for mental illness and substance abuse, life skills training, educational opportunities and providing job skills that can be used upon release. There should be a case manager assigned from the beginning who can help guide inmates through these programs.

The programs that would have the greatest impact for those being released from the criminal justice system are those that provide transitional housing, transportation and jobs. We should also look at returning rights so that former inmates can more effectively transition back into society.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

Better education, including early education, is critical for preventing actions that may cause someone to enter the criminal justice system. The more we invest in education, the less we will need to spend on the criminal justice system.

We simply need to invest more money in education, including social workers and extracurricular activities that help prevent criminal activity. Literacy is a significant issue for many who are in the system. If we can improve literacy and educational opportunities, we will reduce the number of those who enter the system and those who recidivate.

We need to try to break the cycle with prevention programs, social service programs and programs that consider all victims, including family members of those incarcerated.

Families are critical for preventing incarceration. We need to provide more support for families in need and look for ways that we can constructively intervene before a problem happens. We also should look for ways to support families who have members who are incarcerated.

We should provide more training for police officers on mental illness, substance abuse, mindfulness and how to build better communication with the communities they serve.

We should look into more deflection and diversion programs that can help people stay out of jail and that address the issues underlying any activity that may be criminalized. This includes programs for mental illness and substance abuse, programs that are community based and “last chance” programs.

Court fees and fines and the bail system create challenges for those with low income which creates inequities in the system that disproportionately affects those who don't have the funds to pay the fines. We need to consider changes to this aspect of the system.

We should look at all aspects of the system that involve discretion on the part of police, prosecutors, judges and others. We need to also look at sentencing guidelines, especially mandatory minimums.

We can prevent people from reentering the system if we better address repeat offenders who commit nonviolent crimes and restore rights to those who have served their time so that they can become more integrated into their communities. We need to stop identifying people for the rest of the life by the worst thing they've ever done.

Finally, to improve the criminal justice system, we as citizens need to be involved with public policy through informing and talking to legislators. Tax dollars pay for a lobbyist for prosecutors. This should be balanced with a lobbyist that supports other perspectives. We also need to vote.

AFTER INCARCERATION

As soon as someone is incarcerated, we should assign a case manager who will work with people to set goals and design programs that allow them to succeed. These programs should be provided to all inmates, including those who have been convicted for crimes that currently prevent them from having access to such programs. They should include programs that address substance abuse, health needs (including mental health), job training and life skills. The goal should be to provide the best foundation for successfully reintegrating into society once they get out and to avoid technical violations that may cause them to return.

Essentially, we need to have a comprehensive support system that provides assessments of needs, available programs and resources to help inmates address issues both within the prison system and upon release. This should include better mental health and addiction management, necessary medications, positive daily routines that help with transition to the outside, and job training that is mapped to opportunities and jobs that are actually available on the outside.

Once released, we should provide identification cards, necessary medications and resources that can help with housing, transportation and jobs. We also need a process that addresses reintegration with families and communities.

We should consider standards, benchmarks and other incentives that encourage stakeholders running the system to be more accountable for the success of inmates once released. We should tailor laws and our systems for reentry to allow for success after release rather than failures.

Probation and parole need to be more of a support system than a continued system of punishment. A system that uses care workers instead of probation officers would be more effective. Intensive probation and other overly restrictive requirements should be reimaged so that ex-offenders have greater opportunities for employment. For example, there should be an opportunity to petition to get off of lifetime probation. We also should consider restoring rights in a way that allows all offenders to better integrate and take responsibility for the success of their own life. This may include restoring access to the internet for sex offenders as appropriate and specifically includes the right to vote. We should also consider a pathway for a more clearly defined and expanded opportunities for expungement or restoration of rights.

Reeducating the public is crucial. Public perception often leads to the inability of ex-offender to get housing and employment. Ex-offenders and others need to get their stories out so that the public can better understand what actually works to create a safer community and allow ex-offenders to become productive members of their communities. The media should provide a more balance portrayal and employers should be encouraged and incentivized to hire ex-offenders.

Education and community support is critical to end the cycle of incarceration. The entire community needs to shift to common sense notions around the system. For example, this might include restitution to the community through more community work which would help the ex-offenders reintegrate and allow them to give back instead of being saddled with the burden of fines.

It's also important to consider the rights of victims. We should have a centralized database that makes it easier for post-conviction notification by text or other electronic means.

In the end, it all comes down to us. We need to have productive conversations with neighbors and friends to make these changes happen.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Criminal Justice Town Hall for Affected Populations. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Educate the staff at the next meeting about this organization and topics discussed. I will educate the residents (former and current inmates) about the same information.
- Support Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws. I am convinced we need more evidence-based laws and fewer fear-based laws.
- Engage in conversations about the importance of criminal justice system reforms.
- Spread the word and further the cause. I will participate and contribute my time and resources to Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws. I will stand up for the rights and dignity of sex offenders.
- Do what I can to get legislators elected who are concerned with improving our criminal justice system. Also, push for cutting out national defense spending by one-third so we have more money available for these programs.
- Continue to increase my community activism to help move forward the much needed criminal "justice" system in Arizona.
- Contact Boy Scouts to see if they have a troop like Girl Scouts with incarcerated parents.
- Vote! – Continue to share and speak up/out about how to help those incarcerated. I will continue to help support and encourage those in and getting out.
- Be part and support Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws. I will contact legislators and attend additional Town Hall meetings.
- Communicate what I have learned with others.
- Advocate for Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws.
- Continue to further the conversation to educate others.
- Talk with my colleagues and friends re this Town Hall and use the information I learned in my work.
- Put together a list of resources for ex-offenders in Pima County.
- Continue to stay sober and make a difference in others' lives!
- Meet with our legislators to encourage them to enact rational legislation to reduce crime and protect the public with a focus with relief for youthful offenders.
- Personally send Arizona Town Hall reports on Criminal Justice in Arizona to government and legislative representatives for my community. I will include a personalized note or have a conversation.
- Do my part and speak up!
- Continue to educate my community on the impact of the criminal justice system and the need for reform.
- Work with Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws to educate the public and our legislature to change the sex offender registry to be less onerous!
- Continue to participate in the discussion of these issues by educating myself and staying aware of legislation that could impact it.

- Work with Families Against Mandatory Minimums and American Friends Service Committee to become a legislative advocate for sentencing and incarceration reform.
- Continue working directly with incarcerated individuals and providing them with info on successful transition to the outside.
- Support Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws. Meet with legislators. Find a legislator to support bills that will allow those convicted as a youth a way to get off the sex offender registry.
- Continue to increase my knowledge on the legal system of Arizona, including listening to perspectives different than my own, do volunteer work with organizations such as Arizonans for Rational Sex Offense Laws and American Friends Service Committee, and share what I know with friends, neighbors and peers.

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“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

**Phoenix - Soroptimist Community Town Hall Report
Phoenix, AZ – October 25, 2018**



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Phoenix – Soroptimist Community Town Hall Report October 25, 2018 – Hilton Garden Inn

Participants of the October 2018 Phoenix – Soroptimist Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

The most important goal of the criminal justice system is public safety and deterrence of undesirable behaviors. Other goals include holding people accountable for their conduct, rehabilitation, and dealing with offenders in ways that are designed to reduce the harm of incarceration and criminal conduct and reduce the risk of recidivism. We should use evidence-based best practices. For example, there is evidence that low-risk criminals should be diverted rather than incarcerated, as even three days in prison can cause lasting harm. There are more people on probation than in prison, and community supervision is an important resource that should be used to best advantage.

Although it may be natural to think of punishment as a principal goal of the criminal justice system, increasingly we are recognizing that interaction with the criminal justice system offers opportunities to correct circumstances that lead to criminal conduct. The operator of the prison system is called the Department of Corrections, not the Department of Punishment. It should be more focused on dealing with prisoners based on the totality of their individual circumstances rather than just their sentence, providing educational opportunities, preparing inmates to transition back to the community, dealing with substance abuse and helping prisoners learn social and problem solving skills.

SETTING PRIORITIES AND TAKING ACTION

When people talk about the criminal justice system they most often think of prison, but that is the last stop in the process and the least susceptible to cost-effective reform. Money spent on programs that divert people from prison (including preventative programs such as early education programs and drug treatment programs, and criminal justice programs such as probation and effective diversion programs) is a better investment than spending money on prisons.

By some estimates substance abuse has a direct role in approximately 75% of all crimes that result in incarceration. Addressing this problem could have a major impact on the criminal justice system. Children in foster care are dumped out of the system at age 18 with few resources and connections, and there are other populations of young people who lack resources and family support. There is a strong correlation between inability to read in third grade and future criminal conduct. Addressing these social conditions would make a difference.

It is important to recognize that prisoners will eventually be returned to the community. Our society needs to be educated about the challenges that prisoners face upon their release, including barriers that make it difficult to find jobs and housing. The Department of Corrections is taking steps to help prisoners apply for AHCCCS and other needed services. The business community and the Department of Corrections are collaborating to provide training and job opportunities for prisoners preparing for release that will improve the odds of successful transition.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Phoenix – Soroptimist Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Try to raise awareness on problems facing inmates being release from incarceration.
- Continue to share my thoughts with friends and neighbors as it pertains to substance abuse and how we can each spot early signs in our children, friends and families.
- Increase capacity to offer proven intervention strategies to probationers in order to change behavior.
- Continue educating community members about the criminal justice system.
- Communicate with someone incarcerated.
- Consider how I might impact drug abuse and drug training.
- Become more knowledgeable of the criminal justice system and small ways I can be involved.
- Share what I've learned with friends and neighbors to raise awareness.
- Because 90% of female inmates experience physical or sexual violence prior to prison—I will continue to work through Soroptimist to eradicate violence against women.
- Be open to discussion and/or support to inmates as they reenter society (i.e. supporting businesses who hire those with a record, being open to halfway houses, etc.).
- Look into why the D.A.R.E. program was discontinued and how it can be started again.
- Investigate the relationship between foster kids reaching maturity and percentage who get involved in the criminal justice system.
- Consider criminal justice issues in considering candidates for office.
- Identify opportunities to educate individuals within the community about challenges ex-cons face and how we can change our thinking about such. All should be given opportunities to reenter our communities without harsh obstacles.

PHOENIX - SOROPTIMIST COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSOR



“Criminal Justice in Arizona”

Flagstaff Community Town Hall Report

Flagstaff, AZ – November 7, 2018



CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA

Flagstaff Community Town Hall Report

November 7, 2018 – High Country Conference Center

Participants of the November 2018 Flagstaff Community Town Hall make the following findings and recommendations. This report reflects the consensus achieved through group discussions by Community Town Hall participants.

GOALS FOR ARIZONA'S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

Criminal justice in Arizona must begin with a fair, equitable and impartial framework promoting public safety and accountability while simultaneously playing a significant role in prevention. We also need to proactively and systemically provide early intervention and prevention through systems outside of the criminal justice systems including education and healthcare that also address the needs of people with mental health and substance abuse challenges. We need evidence-based, data driven decision-making that starts with early intervention and supportive legislation. We need to understand that one way to assess a community's values is how we prioritize resources and need to use the least intrusive intervention or measure such as diversion to address or promote justice, public safety and return on community investment. We need to move away from ideological and charged thinking.

PRIOR TO INCARCERATION

One of the most significant issues we face is the need for early intervention and both robust mental health and substance abuse programs that begin with parents and early childhood education. We currently invest significant resources in probation and post-conviction treatment programs but we should be making those investments early to prevent criminal activity. We need to ensure that we include youth in the discussion and need to create and expand public awareness of the importance of treatment and prevention programs to support legislative action and public funding. Our focus should be on community wellbeing increasing funding for education and preventative programs. Annual assessments of all K-12 students could be offered along with providing counseling resources that will lead us to growing healthy kids instead of attempting to fix adults through the criminal justice system.

It is critical for legislation requiring diversion programs and alternatives instead of mandatory incarceration. We should not be relying on the criminal justice system being the social service agency of last resort. We should also consider de-criminalizing, or reducing to misdemeanors, some drug offenses.

We need more transparency in public funding and budgeting is needed, including prioritizing preventative measures. A thousand beds a year are added through the legislative allocation process to the prison system and this needs more thoughtfulness and consideration. Savings in the criminal justice system resulting in reduced incarceration should be tracked and incentives for alternative programs should be offered.

We should require that all prisons have outcome measure that promote a reduction in recidivism.

We need to continue and expand community recidivism and re-entry programs that include families. Family support should also be incorporated in pre-release intervention to foster an environment which promotes accountability and rehabilitation. Expanding community involvement in re-entry will keep recidivism down.

We need to eliminate silos in the criminal justice system and re-allocate resources to address basic needs and expand connections in the community between law enforcement, education, and mental and physical healthcare providers.

AFTER INCARCERATION

Effective re-entry programs are critical to reducing recidivism and should begin at the time of initial incarceration and need to seamlessly include community-based coalitions including government, faith-based organizations, youth, educators and non-profits. We also need to ensure funding and sustainability of these

programs, provide shared data systems, and track outcome measures. These programs need to include providing people who are released from incarceration with Arizona identification cards, food vouchers, clothing, counseling, prescribed medication, transportation from jail, a list of employers and trades that will accept them, assistance in establishing credit, behavioral health and social service connections. We need effective pre-planning that also encourages family support and includes appropriate step-downs including halfway houses.

Mental health should be classified as a public health issue and resources allocated accordingly.

We need to remove barriers to employment including creating statewide incentives for fair chance employment and banning the box. Coconino County's decision to ban the box has encouraged private employers to participate.

INDIVIDUAL ACTIONS

Recognizing that the power to change the future begins with each individual, participants committed to take personal actions based on their experience and discussions at the Flagstaff Community Town Hall. Below are individual actions that were shared.

I WILL...

- Continue to advocate for criminal justice reform.
- Advocate for the people who have been impacted by the criminal justice system by creating an innovative nonprofit that focuses on helping transform the lives and perspectives of those impacted.
- Make it my priority to form my actions based on what's good and right.
- Engage our youth.
- Meet with Board of Supervisors of Coconino County to seek partnership in choosing a location for our residential, educational nonprofit for men who have been convicted.
- Continue to advocate for front-end investments and focus on justice as community wellness.
- Join others to take action based on what I learned or people I met.
- Communicate what I have learned with others.
- Encourage people to vote!
- Continue to keep an eye on policy and legislative opportunities to improve things for people who are entangled in the criminal justice system.
- Work with the Collective Impact Project to help break down silos.
- Participate in future events.
- Actively become involved in my community's engagement and roles of leaders at each level.
- Become more informed of criminal justice and its role in social justice.
- Vote at every opportunity for reforms in regard to criminal justice.
- With the Criminal Justice Coordinating Council (CJCC), lead the initiative in Coconino County to tackle justice reform including: non-monetary alternatives to bail/bond; reduction of recidivism; addressing mental illness in our jails; and discretion for judges to have a variety of options for sentencing, rehabilitation, etc.
- Listen and become more aware of what the justice system is doing and how it impacts my community.
- Continue to advocate for people of color in the criminal justice system by using my privilege and education to change and create policy.
- Continue to establish diversion programs that bring the justice and behavioral health systems together to provide better programs for those trapped in the justice system.
- Continue to advocate for equity and the renewal of justice in the criminal justice system.
- Vote.
- Speak out and educate regarding social injustice.

- Fight against, in small and big ways, the insidious impacts of patriarchy and white supremacy.
- Become informed about the Task Force on Fair Justice for All in order to become involved in this issue.
- Work on technical training and opportunities for young people.
- Engage in transformative acts.
- Champion and provide policy discussions and decisions that will align resource allocation and efforts of criminal justice, behavioral and physical health for outcomes that improve the lives of members of our community.
- Facilitate front line officer training in mental health first aid to educate law enforcement in identifying and successfully dealing with alternative solutions to incarceration.
- Seek and create opportunities to engage the community in dialogue and feedback regarding criminal justice issues, mental health and substance abuse.
- After receiving and digesting final statewide town hall report, I will write my Arizona Legislative District 6 legislators with a succinct request for reflection and action, and make an appointment to visit both the district and Phoenix offices.
- Lobby legislature.
- Show up and continue to be part of the transformative change process.
- Work to break down challenges and silos, and meet the needs of individuals struggling with mental health involved with criminal justice.
- Transfer resources to the front-end of system.
- Continue my work with the homeless community to prevent criminal activity.
- Leverage my position to convene stakeholders for cross-system, integrated, and coordinated improvements.
- Advocate among health system leaders to improve alignment with criminal justice system goals.
- Communicate the ideas forwarded at the Town Hall to policy-makers as opportunities arise.
- Be an outspoken advocate for the value of proactive resources that deal with mental health and substance abuse and support the reduction of barriers to reentry after incarceration.
- Endeavor to work more closely with individuals in the criminal justice system to identify positives and negatives in their lives that may impact that person's ability to be successful post-incarceration.
- Offer opportunities to learn more about how reentry for people in the criminal justice system can be improved.
- Lobby my legislators.

FLAGSTAFF COMMUNITY TOWN HALL SPONSOR



FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALLS ON “CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA”

“It is a great experience for gaining knowledge on important topics and having an opportunity to make your voice heard.”

Participant, Tucson Future Leaders Town Hall



FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL LOCATIONS

Mesa Community College

City of Phoenix – Burton Barr Central Library

Arizona State University – Downtown Phoenix Campus

University of Arizona – Tucson Campus

Arizona Western College – Yuma Campus

Cochise College – Sierra Vista Campus

Yavapai College – Prescott Campus

KEY POINTS FROM FUTURE LEADERS TOWN HALL ON “CRIMINAL JUSTICE IN ARIZONA”

GOALS OF ARIZONA’S CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Ensure fairness and justice for all including criminals, victims, and the community.
- Make punishment equitable and specific to the offense.
- Focus on rehabilitation during incarceration.
- Have consequences and accountability for those who commit crimes.
- Provide for the safety of the community.
- Offer programs and services after release that reduce recidivism.
- Consider the return on investment of dollars spent on incarceration vs. rehabilitation vs. crime prevention.
- Create safe environments for learning, work, worship and public gathering.

WAYS TO IMPROVE OUR CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM

- Create more therapy and rehabilitation programs for substance abusers and people with mental illnesses.
- Give judges more discretion to allow them to make case-specific decisions on sentencing.
- Train police officers on how to focus more on the preservation of peace and better interact with people who have mental health and communication issues.
- Expand diversion programs like drug, mental health and homeless courts that keep people out of prison and rehabilitate them to become productive members of society.
- Reduce the stigma of being a criminal through programs like the pen pal system, community service projects and work-release opportunities.
- Reform the bail system to reflect the severity of the offense and provide alternatives for those who lack financial resources.
- Focus on crime prevention by cleaning up neighborhoods, making social services more accessible, and improving job training and educational opportunities.
- Provide education and counseling to families and students to reduce interaction with the criminal justice system.

“This program has enlightened me. I feel I can express my ideas and use my voice. I have learned a lot.”

Participant, Tucson Future Leaders Town Hall

“I felt heard for the first time and it felt good.”

Participant, City of Phoenix Future Leaders Town Hall

MESSAGES FOR ARIZONA'S ELECTED LEADERS

- Strengthen our education system to recognize and address problems to prevent young people from becoming involved with the criminal justice system.
- Increase funding for organizations delivering re-entry programs and services.
- Provide incentives to businesses to hire those with a criminal record.
- Make laws based on what is best to create safe communities and productive citizens vs. a mindset of being “tough on crime.”
- Provide sufficient funding to public defenders and their offices to ensure adequate legal representation for those who cannot afford an attorney.
- Revisit why and how we use private prisons and contractors.
- Consider legislation that looks at changes needed in sentencing guidelines, parole, fees, crime prevention and rights after release.
- Shift resources to focus on building healthy communities and improving trust in the criminal justice system.

INDIVIDUAL COMMITMENTS TO ACTION

- Contact elected officials to advocate for the issues and ideas we discussed at the Town Hall.
- Get more involved in programs that stop the school to prison pipeline.
- Talk to our peers about the specific issues facing the criminal justice system and the stereotypes of those caught up in it.
- Present our colleagues with statistics and factual evidence that they can share with those in their networks.
- Register to vote and educate myself on the current state of our criminal justice system.
- Support elected officials and other leaders who advocate for fairness for criminals, victims and their family members.
- Learn about available services to help point others to better their situation and avoid a criminal path.
- Seek educational opportunities to better understand the criminal justice system such as internships, explorer programs and interactions with those who work in the system.



Participants at the Yavapai College - Prescott Campus Future Leaders Town Hall

COMMUNITY TOWN HALLS FAQs

What is a Community Town Hall?

- A Community Town Hall is a gathering that includes discussion about a topic being addressed by Arizona Town Hall that is informed and facilitated using Arizona Town Hall methods. Generally, they culminate in a written consensus report, published by Arizona Town Hall.
- Working in partnership with the Arizona Town Hall, each community designs the event to meet its particular needs.
- The length depends on the community. Typically, the event lasts three hours, but it may be as short as one-and-a-half-hours or as long as one or two days.
- Community Town Halls may be held as part of a previously scheduled event, such as a regular meeting, or a conference.

Why sponsor a Community Town Hall?

- To provide both communities and leaders with tools that will help them resolve difficult issues.
- To educate community members about, and engage them in, tackling important policy issues.
- To provide communities with a voice that will inform policymakers and others not only about the community's perspectives but also to share their creative ideas.
- To empower communities and their members to become more effective action agents through powerful discussion and connection to resources.
- To enable those who cannot attend a statewide Town Hall to share their ideas and recommendations.



How can my organization sponsor a Community Town Hall?

- Start by contacting Arizona Town Hall so that we can help you to design an event that will best meet your community's needs.
- Determine a date, time, location and facility. Many communities minimize costs by obtaining in-kind donations of facilities and refreshments.
- Arizona Town Hall charges approximately \$5,000 to support and facilitate a Community Town Hall. The fee varies depending on the community and scope of the event; it does not include the cost of facilities or refreshments.
- Arizona Town Hall actively seeks philanthropic funding to help support Community Town Halls. Funding may also be obtained from local governments, businesses, registration fees and in-kind donations.

Why does Arizona Town Hall charge a fee and what does it cover?

- Arizona Town Hall staff provides operational guidance and support, training materials, background information on the issue, discussion questions and either training or trained facilitators.
- Arizona Town Hall assists in finalizing, publishing and publicizing reports.
- Arizona Town Hall provides additional services and resources including: participant registration, bookkeeping, press releases, contacts for in-kind services, catering and potential media coverage.
- Arizona Town Hall is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit with limited resources. Our staff and volunteers, many of whom are highly-skilled professionals, have expertise developed over years of training and practice. Fees cover a portion of the costs of providing these services.

•••
“This process is fabulous and a template for Arizona organizations and communities.”

Suzy Clarke, Participant, South Phoenix Community Town Hall

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