

Roanoke City Gun Violence Commission
 Meeting Minutes
 3/8/22, at 5:38 pm City Council Conference Room

Commissioners Physically Present: Decca Knight, Kathy Cohen, Joe Cobb, Stacey Sheppard, Nicole Ross, Tim Harvey, Elliot Major; Others in attendance: Angie O'Brien, Chris Roberts, media

Commissioners Virtually Present: None

Absent: Taisha Steele, Shakira Williams

Topic (Agenda Item)	Notes from Discussion
Roll Call	<p>See roll call above</p> <p>Quorum present in-person</p>
Approval of Minutes from February 2022	<p>Motion: Tim</p> <p>2nd: Elliot</p> <p>Motion passes</p>
Old Business	<p>Membership of the Commission:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● March 31, 2022 is the end of term for those appointed for one year ● Angela Williams is taking Taisha's place. Taisha has rolled off. ● Joe is reappointed through December 31, 2022 ● Stacey starting 3 year term ● Current Terms: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Decca, Shakira, Elliot up in March of 2023 ○ Tim, Kathy, Nicole up in March of 2024 ● Notify the clerk's office if there are changes <p>Mini-grant and Violence Interruption Proposal Update</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Hosted webinar on February 23rd, 2022 <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 64 registered ● Three applications submitted so far ● Deadline for applications is March 31st ● Laura Carini: City Attorney: conflict of interest <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Members cannot have any contract with an organization that receives the grant, or family members

- Those members cannot participate in the review process at any point
 - Any member who has a conflict will sit out of the review process completely
 - Kathy asks if a member is on the board of an organization, can they participate? Laura will investigate
- During the April meeting, we will do business first, and then commissioners can work on the grants
- Stacey recommends bringing in someone external to the grant review committee
 - Could we find someone objective/neutral? Send suggestions to Joe.

Current Gun Violence Prevention Initiatives Update

- Update: Eddy Smart/Better Agreements/100 peace builders:
 - Has met with his core planning team on three occasions
 - Curriculum development team is working on curriculum
 - Application is about 95% complete
 - Will be on Better Agreements website > volunteer management software
 - Information sheet
 - 20 hours of classroom training
 - Mentoring
 - Met with Jim Hodden: VT
 - Figuring out what matrices make sense
 - What can capture the initiatives?
 - Youth cohort
 - “My Why Not” Group discussions
 - One or two youth cohorts
 - Finding the right youth
 - End of this week there will be a broadcast of application
 - Business cards/QR code/press release
 - Greg Goodman and Envision center meeting on Friday 11th
 - Will provide childcare and transportation assistance
- Chris Roberts asks about referring men to the program
 - Application has places for references
- Joe asks about how the cohorts will be scheduled
 - Scheduling will be based on availability
- Elliot asks about the matrices that have been used in the past
 - Eddy says that he hasn’t done a similar program
 - Looking at the Buck Squad in Charlottesville for possible ideas
- On-call option might be a possibility
 - If law enforcement goes to a call can they make a referral?
- Joe asks that we share out the flyer and press release through the city

Lincoln Terrace Reading Program: Kathy

- 25 volunteers currently

- Most working with 2 children
- 47 children total
- Started off with books that the reading specialist suggested for 2nd and 3rd graders
- Taking money that we had already set aside for the book fair
- Principal loves the program, and the children are enjoying meeting with their reading buddies
- Joe would like to give a report out to the community and make a call for volunteers

Connecting in the Star City: Decca

- Training of Youth Service Providers on curriculum
- April 13th from 1:00-2:30

Parenting videos: Decca

- Funding provided to Ryan Bell's LLC
- \$1,125 per video requested
 - Tim makes a motion to fund the initiative
 - Stacey Seconds
 - Decca Recuses herself
 - Motions Passes

Trauma Presentations for the public

- Going forward breaking up the presentations into smaller components and taking them to different communities

People who need direct service for mental health support: Chris Roberts

- Is there enough funding to connect individuals with providers
- Roanoke Prevention Alliance: Christine Gist: Protective Factors
- Waitlist an issue

Elliot: Lack of resources

- Could it be done at a lower level?
- Not always using therapists but other supports

Stacey: Gun Violence Intervention Grant

- Grant will be submitted this week
- Rapid Response
 - Gap of continuous support for families
 - Too many barriers
 - Current Program: Supportive services, mental health, employment counseling, job readiness skills, etc.
 - 46 families have gone through the program
 - Similar project for gun violence

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● 6-12 families could benefit from the program ● FSRV providing mental health ● Based on need and safety ● Scattered Sites: Air BnB, cooperate hotels, etc. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Submit application for \$350,000 ○ Elliot asks about average cost <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ■ Budget varies depending on the family
New Business	<p>Roanoke Police Department Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See report ● Improvement in inactive cases from 2021 ● Same hotspots ● Homicides and aggravated assaults are up in 2022 already ● Time of incidents is no longer just at night ● Chief Roman reported on arrests yesterday ● Talking with venue owners: vendor of 8th street mart ● Elliot asks how many incidents it may take to shut a place down <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ 8th street in particular? ○ What can government do? Code enforcement? Lighting? ○ Joe states that lighting has provided mitigation in some instances ○ Joe will follow up with the deputy city manager <p>RESET Update Report</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● See attached report <p>Youth and Gang Violence Prevention Team Report: Chris Roberts</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Joe asks about gaps in connecting individuals with support? ● Four therapists working with Chris Roberts ● Stacey contracts with retired therapists ● Antonio is launching an after school program <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Rights of Passage program at Forest Park ○ 4-16 weeks ● Met with school last week <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Currently at Noel C – building up participation - started on Feb. 1st ○ Working on discipline ● Three active cases former or current gang mentors <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ One just completed mentoring program ● Two families from a case management standpoint ● Working with The Foundry for mentoring services

- Got a contract with the YMCA, the music lab, Doug Jackson at Arts Commission
- Meeting with a group of women to have older women being supports for younger women: launching April 1st
- Measurables
 - Create access points

Joe had a meeting with the RCPS school board and asked for the Youth and Gang Violence Assessment to be taken similar to the YRBS

- Asked for the Youth Development Coordinator position in RCPS strategic plan to coordinate with the commission
- Hayley Poland will be our school liaison

Joe: Measurements: modeled our initial framework from the Philadelphia model

3 measurables in their program

1. By the end of 2023 violence reduced by 30%: relevant programs
2. By the end of 2023 100% of known individuals will receive outreach to offer a different path
3. By the end of 2023 100% of known victims and their families offered support within 7 days of engagement

Operation pinpoint

- Identify hot spots
- Road map tacticle meetings
- Intervention program: credible messengers, prevention efforts
- CCIP: Community Crises Intervention Program
- Environmental issues: property cleanup, demolished buildings, etc.

Joe has reached out to the planning department and asked what points in the strategic plan address violence reduction

Shifting to prevention, intervention, and response working groups

- Safer neighborhoods and Education are prevention focused
- Move the working groups into prevention, intervention, and response
- Put out a new call to community stakeholders and informing them of this shift
 - Youth providers should be a part of this plan
- At April meeting define measurables, look at comprehensive plan, launch new working groups, and schedule stakeholder meetings
- Elliot asks about opening up prevention efforts beyond violence such as housing, education, etc.
- Putting more focus and funding on prevention?

Tim: Soul Box:

- Funds received from donor to support the project
- Involve ROTEC

The Youth Citizens Service Board: Anita Price

- Date: Weekend of Saturday/Sunday June 25th/26th
- Celebration of Roanoke's Youth
 - Pull in Youth and Gang Violence Team

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Whole of Government Response <p>Chris met with the Northwest Clergy Group</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Church Uber? ● Can we come up with a list of the things that churches can help with?
Announcements	<p>Gun Violence Prevention Commission Meeting, Tuesday, April 12, 2022 at 5:30pm</p> <p>Friday May 6th: Basketball Tournament: 4-8 pm</p> <p>May 19th: 6-9; Ericka Jenkins: Holiday Inn Tanglewood: Host a fundraiser for a families affected by Gun Violence</p> <p>Thursday March 31st: 3:00: Planting of Tree for Greg at Melrose Library, EBS team, Dinner, etc.</p> <p>Tim doing a presentation for the local Brethren churches</p>
Adjournment	7:55 Adjournment