

Creating Safe, Equitable & Thriving Communities Fund Policy Committee

December 11, 2019 12-1:30

Voting Members Present: Ashley Balias, Noreen Bush, Brad Hart, Okpara Rice, Lemi Tilahun, Dale Todd, Stacey Walker, Mary Wilczynski, Leslie Wright

Community Foundation staff: Les Garner, Rachel Rockwell, Karla Twedt-Ball

Guests: Kaitlin Emrich, Tricia Kritzman

Excused/Absent: Nancy Humbles, Anne Carter

AGENDA	DETAILS
Welcome & Announcements	Les welcomed the committee and thanked them for their service as we reach the one-year point. He overviewed the accomplishments of the year – a summer grant cycle to help identify how to engage youth who would not typically participate in summer programming, and a fall cycle to target evidence-based programming for violence reduction. We have seen new partnerships and collaborations develop. And this fund has helped bring violence prevention work to the attention of the nonprofit community. Les expressed appreciation for the dedication of the Policy Committee members.
2020 Strategy	<p>Rachel coordinated a call with Louisa Aviles and Erin Bloom from the National Network for Safe Communities. The NNSC is an action center that works with cities on strategies to reduce the most serious gun violence. She emphasized that research shows that it is generally a tiny percentage of the community population that is at high risk for involvement in violence as either victim or perpetrator (this is generally the same population), and that addressing group dynamics is important to create peer norms. Louisa shared how they help communities organize themselves to respond strategically, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Law enforcement – implementing swift/certain (not necessarily severe) consequences for the entire group • Community moral voice from respected community members (parents, etc.) that can tell the group “we love you, but you have to stop this behavior, you are better than this.” • Support and outreach that goes beyond traditional social services, because this group is hard to serve, doesn’t reach out for help, and has higher barriers to success than other populations accessing services. <p>Louisa explained various approaches that are encouraged by the NNSC and discussed the NNSC technical assistance model that helps communities knit together responses in ways that are appropriate to the specific community.</p> <p>Following the conference call, the Policy Committee agreed that this approach is worth pursuing. This will be part of 2020 conversations.</p>

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	Karla shared an overview of the University of Iowa Forkenbrock lecture series on gun violence that occurred on October 23. The researchers who formed the panel talked about four types of gun violence: suicide, intimate partner, mass shootings, and street/urban/youth violence. Each type has different strategies for intervention. Panelist Thomas Abt researches street violence. Karla has a copy of his new book, “Bleeding Out: The Devastating Consequences of Urban Violence – and a Bold New Plan for Peace in the Streets.”
Funding	The Community Foundation staff is actively seeking options for additional funding. The committee brainstormed options.
Report from Grant Committee	The grant committee reviewed 21 proposals requesting a total of \$454,109. They recommended funding 7 proposals for a total of \$123,730. The recommendations will be formally approved by the Community Foundation Board of Directors at their December 18 board meeting.
2020 Meeting schedule	Karla is tentatively planning to convene the Policy Committee for five meetings in 2020, although this may vary depending the plans for proceeding with the National Network for Safe Communities work.
Adjourn	

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