

# DANE COUNTY CJC AND CENTER FOR COURT INNOVATION

DATA, UNIQUE PARTNERSHIPS, AND MOVING FORWARD



BUILDING  
BLOCKS OF THE  
COMMUNITY  
RESTORATIVE  
COURT

# COUNTY, COMMUNITY AND CITY LEADERS COLLABORATE FOR SUCCESS



- RECOMMENDATION OF THE 2009 TASK FORCE ON RACIAL DISPARITIES IN THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM
- CJC-RACIAL DISPARITIES SUBCOMMITTEE REACHES OUT TO LOCAL AND NATIONAL EXPERTS
- BJA GRANT RECEIVED 2014
- BJA-NTTAC BLOG-2019:  
[HTTPS://BJATA.BJA.OJP.GOV/MEDIA/BLOG/CREATING-MODEL-COMMUNITY-RESTORATIVE-COURTS-DANE-COUNTY-WISCONSIN?FBCLID=IWAR0MO5HS-PUQBWYLEoS3LOSlsAwwGJGT3HOLRLU2FQHINWLLUHD1fSMR7NM](https://bjatta.bja.ojp.gov/media/blog/creating-model-community-restorative-courts-dane-county-wisconsin?fbclid=IwAR0MO5HS-PUQBWYLEoS3LOSlsAwwGJGT3HOLRLU2FQHINWLLUHD1fSMR7NM)

# COMMUNITY CONVERSATION:

COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER—  
OCTOBER 2020.

HOSTED BY THE CJC OF DANE COUNTY  
MORE THAN 150 PARTICIPANTS

## COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

As Dane County considers developing a community justice center, the Dane County Criminal Justice Council is excited to announce a community educational event on community justice centers.

The event will include a presentation from the following featured speakers:

Judge Calabrese, Presiding Judge for the Red Hook Community Justice Center in New York

Brett Taylor, Center for Court Innovation

Dr. Alex Gee, Jr., President/Founder, Nehemiah Center for Urban Leadership Development

State Representative Shelia Stubbs

Dane County District Attorney Ismael Ozanne



[cjc.countyofdane.com](http://cjc.countyofdane.com)

## Community Justice Center – Pre-Engagement Focus Group Feedback

“This community justice center could be the hub of a lot of opportunities and resources for our community who are in need. This would indeed change the mindset because this isn't a policy thing or a behavior thing, it's really a heart thing when it comes to a lot of the feelings and impressions that individuals have in our community about the criminal justice system.” **Walter Williams, Charles Hamilton Houston Institute**

“If this model is embraced, and embraced fully, then it could be a really positive thing, but they're really skeptical that it will be fully embraced and instead be half-baked.” **Linda Ketchum, Just Dane**

“Everyone really agreed that it's critical that we have all stakeholders on board for this. ... Everybody's got to be on the same page. Everyone involved has to be willing to go forward. Significant effort, and just being aware of different needs for different people.” **Karen Reece, Nehemiah**

“Many of them wanted to see, could there be educational services at the center to really educate folks about the process and about the person's legal rights. ... Everyone felt that in addition to those cultural differences, if there were more Southeast Asians in leadership roles in the legal system, that might help reduce those fears and distrust in the legal system. Overall, folks liked the idea of the social justice center so much that even some Hmong youth wanted to volunteer to be in the youth court.” **Peng Her, The Hmong Institute**

“There is a lot of distrust in the justice system and how things have already been working, so they're very skeptical about how this will be different than what's already going on in Dane County. How do we make it different? How is the space different? How do we create a separation between the courts and the center? ... They also saw the potential of the community justice center as well. So it's a lot of people are open to it and looking forward to it, they just really want to make sure it's done correctly the first time and there is actually longevity in the people running it and how it's passed down.” **Alex Booker, Urban Triage**

“One of the themes that rose across the board, in addition to the need for accessibility both linguistically and culturally for immigrant communities, is also the ability to share information about what the criminal system looks like, what are the agencies that compose that, and what are the ways to better access the system. Another theme that was discussed across the board was discrimination or racism and how that oftentimes makes them feel dehumanized by the process – there was a lot of conversation about what the experience is and ways that the system could support them. ... They felt that this would be a way of humanizing and supporting immigrant communities.” **Evelyn Cruz, Centro Hispano**

# Community Justice Center – Pre-Engagement Focus Group Video



**COMMUNITY JUSTICE CENTER**  
**COMMUNITY ORGANIZATION PRE-ENGAGEMENT DISCUSSION**  
**FEBRUARY 25, 2021**  
**CJC VIRTUAL MEETING**