



Ferguson Commission:
Working Group Update and
Proposed Next Steps

April 27, 2015

DRAFT FOR CONSIDERATION

WORKING GROUP UPDATES

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: CITIZEN-LAW ENFORCEMENT RELATIONS

DESIRED CHANGE

Design accountability measures and policies that enable law enforcement agencies to serve and protect all citizens based on principles of:

- Trust;
- Mutual respect;
- Transparency;
- Cultural competence; and
- Justice

TACTICAL APPROACH

Use of Force, Civilian Oversight, Anti-Bias & Cultural Competence, Accreditation & Accountability, Community Policing, Mass Demonstration, Special Prosecution and Officer Wellness

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: MUNICIPAL COURTS & GOVERNANCE

DESIRED CHANGE

Just governance aimed at restoring community trust and enforcing laws in fair and intended ways with a focus on:

- Restorative justice and equity;
- Judicial independence;
- Fiscal responsibility; and
- Transparency

TACTICAL APPROACH

Uniform List of Rights - Informing Public on Court Procedures and Individual Rights, Address Failure to Appear Charges, Ability to Pay Hearings, Alternative to Jail Time, Establishment of Alternative Community Service

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: MUNICIPAL COURTS & GOVERNANCE

UPDATE ON SENATE BILL 5

On Wednesday, April 22, the Missouri House of Representatives passed Senate Bill 5. As passed by the House, Senate Bill 5 makes substantive changes to state law that meet the four Calls to Action developed by the Ferguson Commission's Municipal Courts & Governance Working Group.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: MUNICIPAL COURTS & GOVERNANCE

If enacted into law, Missouri Senate Bill 5 would:

- Implement the First Call to Action, enforcing the state-established cap on traffic fine revenue;
- Implement the Second Call to Action, developing alternatives for failure to appear charges;
- Implement the Third Call to Action, allowing defendants to present evidence of their financial condition before fine assessment;
- Implement the Fourth Call to Action, creating a list of procedural rights applicable to all municipal courts

The Bill also calls on the Missouri Supreme Court to develop rules to resolve municipal judges' conflicts of interest; and it limits the state law allowing suspension of driving privileges, exempting from that penalty individuals who have not paid fines for minor traffic violations and are not delinquent on payment for other violations.

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: ECONOMIC INEQUITY & OPPORTUNITY DESIRED CHANGE

Enable new, proven and innovative pathways for all residents to have strengthened and equal access to economic opportunity by addressing critical needs *through*:

- Family & community stability;
- Institutions & organizations; and
- Systemic policy & practices

TACTICAL APPROACH

Job Skills & Training, Employment & Income, Transportation, Housing, Entrepreneurship & Small Business Growth, Health & Wellness, Youth Investment

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: ECONOMIC INEQUITY & OPPORTUNITY

Highlight from Dr. Keon Gilbert's presentation to the Economic Inequality & Opportunity working group on the disparate impact of social welfare policies on "Family & Community Stability":

- Research shows that "the benefit of education for African American males as [related to life expectancy] stops at 12 years [of school]"
- Studies also highlight the unintended impact of child support policies on compounding issues related to poverty

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: CHILD WELL-BEING & EDUCATION EQUITY

DESIRED CHANGE

Child Well-Being: A region that ensures that all children, ages 0-25, are thriving in their daily lives including:

- Growing and developing to their full potential;
- Retaining the ability to be children; and
- Preparing to become fulfilled and contributing adults

Education Equity: Securing educational achievement, fairness, and opportunity for all youth by:

- Setting high expectations ;
- Recognizing unique differences and developmental stages
- Advancing outcome-based approaches;
- Aligning and coordinating customizes services;
- Producing college-ready and career-ready students

WORKING GROUP UPDATE: CHILD WELL-BEING & EDUCATION EQUITY

TACTICAL APPROACH

School District and School Accreditation

Food Instability, Public Education Funding, College Access and Affordability,
Human Capital in Education; Social Service Coordination with Schools,
Caring Adults (mentors, coaches); Early Childhood Education; Parent
Education and Engagement; Childhood Health

PROPOSED NEXT STEPS FOR WORKING GROUPS

THE CHARGE

- On November 18, 2014, Missouri Gov. Jay Nixon appointed the Ferguson Commission – a volunteer group of 16 diverse community leaders – to listen to area organizations, national thought leaders, institutions, experts and citizens in an effort to address the root causes that led to the unrest following Michael Brown’s death.
- The Commission is collecting **data and research and convening subject matter experts on the underlying social and economic conditions** limiting the region’s potential to thrive.
- The Commission is answering the public call for an unflinching report with transformative recommendations for making the region stronger and a better place for everyone to live. It is working toward a delivery date of September 15, 2015 for a final report.

WORKING GROUP STANDARD OPERATING PRINCIPLES

Explore the underlying social and economic issues in the St. Louis metropolitan area using a common set of principles including:

- (1) Honoring community expertise and youth perspective;
- (2) Looking beyond *what is* to create a model for *what can be*;
- (3) Leveraging existing data to generate evidence-based recommendations;
- (4) Centering on principles of equity and justice;
- (5) Prioritizing action with a sense of urgency; and
- (6) *Intentionally applying a racial equity lens**

WORKING GROUP STANDARD OPERATING PRINCIPLES

*Continued from Working Group Standard Operating Principles**

In advancing our commitment to racial equity and reconciliation, we ask working groups to “Intentionally apply a racial equity lens to the work” by asking the following two questions:

- 1) Who does this recommendation benefit?
- 2) Does this recommendation differentially impact racial and ethnic groups?

COMMUNITY PRIORITIES AND WORKING GROUPS

Working Groups will be launched according to the five top priorities the public established during the 1st Commission Meeting:

	<u>Priorities</u>	<u>Working Groups</u>
Central Issues	Citizen Law Enforcement Relations (68%)	Citizen-Law Enforcement Relations
	Municipal Governance (17%)	Municipal Courts and Governance
	Municipal Courts (15%)	
Disparity Focus	Education (63%)	Child Well-Being and Education Equity
	Economic Opportunity (58%)	Economic Inequity and Opportunity
	Racial and Ethnic Relations (53%)	Racial Equity & Reconciliation (Cross-Cutting Work)

WORKING GROUP FINAL PRODUCTS

- Best practice recommendations and models that account for the multi-dimensional and intersecting nature of root cause issues.
- All working groups examining the following levels of intervention, accordingly:
 - Policy-based;
 - Systems level;
 - Practice-based; and
 - Individual-level
- Feasibility assessment
- Implementation and translation
- Community sessions and activities to gather input

OVERALL PROCESS



WORKING GROUP NEXT STEPS FOR APPROVAL

November – April

- Working Groups launched
- Membership confirmed
- Preliminary calls to action in concert with community

June

- *Prioritize the top recommendations across all working groups*

April – May (Deadline: June 1)

- Final urgent calls to action and other recommendations submitted
- Final models for what should be submitted

July/August

- *Draft of Final Report*

WORKING GROUP NEXT STEPS FOR APPROVAL

April:

Transition from calls to action to models

May:

Finalize calls to action and models for consideration across all working groups

June:

Prioritize top calls to action/recommendations for final report

July:

Draft preliminary reports

August:

Refine and finalize report

September:

Submit final report to our region, our communities and policy makers
(September 15th)

September – December:

Continue to build implementation and accountability structure for the work