



JUSTICE COLLAB NEWS

The Justice Collaboratives is an initiative of the Institute of the Black World 21st Century



From the Desk of Dr. Ron Daniels, IBW's President

Greetings Sisters & Brothers,

I am delighted with the progress made in the past few months by IBW's four Justice Collaboratives--Washington DC, Pittsburgh, Baltimore and Philadelphia. The level of engagement and the ongoing enthusiasm for the work demonstrated consistently by the organizational and individual members of the collaboratives is, indeed, impressive. Furthermore, as the word of their fine work spreads throughout the communities and neighborhoods of these four cities, the collaboratives are experiencing growth and expansion.

In mid-February I was privileged to lead an IBW delegation comprised of Justice Collaborative members from Pittsburgh and Washington DC on a site visit to Seattle to review an innovative program called the Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD). We assembled an excellent delegation that took the mission seriously and asked penetrating questions about the program. Subsequent to our Seattle visit, I visited with the DC and Pittsburgh collaboratives where the LEAD program was on the agenda. Both collaboratives would like to explore adapting LEAD to implement within target neighborhoods in their respective cities.

Implementation of LEAD will require buy-in by the offices of the Mayor, Police Commissioner and Prosecutor as well as key community stakeholders. It will also require substantial private and/or public funding to provide the wrap-around services on-demand that are key to the success of the model.

Based on the intense interest in healing Black families and communities and the experience and skill of participants at IBW's recently-concluded retreat in Baltimore, it was proposed that we explore the creation of Father or Family Healing Circles in a select number of cities as a cooperative effort between Black Family Summit members and the four collaboratives.

UPCOMING EVENTS

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May 2nd

Baltimore Town Hall Meeting honoring Nana Jeter from the award-winning film "The House I live in" and featuring a panel discussion with Sis. Andrea James, Sis. Dorothy Johnson-Speight and others. Place--The Real News Media Network, 231 Holliday Street, Baltimore.

May 12-14th

Mothers in Charge Conference in Philadelphia. Place: Downtown Sheraton Hotel, Philadelphia.

June 17th

IBW's Drug & Criminal Justice Policy Summit. Place: Metropolitan AME Church, Washington DC.

June 21st

Free Her Rally organized by the Justice is Healing. Place: Washington DC.

Utilizing the collective experience of the participating organizations, a multifaceted, holistic approach would be devised to provide healing for fathers and sons in terms of the stresses, strains and traumas resulting from racism in its many manifestations; parenting skills; mediation/conflict resolution; counseling for formerly incarcerated persons/returning citizens; intergenerational dialogues; entrepreneurship and economic development; leadership development and organizer training, and civic engagement for social justice/change.



Attorneys Nkechi Taifa (left) and Andrea James at IBW's recent Baltimore Retreat. Sis. Nkechi is holding a copy of Sis. Andrea's new book "Upper Bunkies Unite" in which she takes a critical look at the politics and policies resulting in mass incarceration within the United States.

Plans are moving along nicely for a major Town Hall Meeting on May 2nd in Baltimore at the Real News Media Network building. The purpose of the meeting is to create greater awareness of the destructive impact of the War on Drugs on Black Women and Children and to discuss strategies to the end the epidemic of violence and murder of young Black men in our communities. We will also honor Nanny Jeter for inspiring the Film "The House I Live In".

Panelists will include Sis. Dorothy Johnson-Speight, executive director of Mothers in Charge, and Attorney Andrea James of Justice is Healing in Boston.

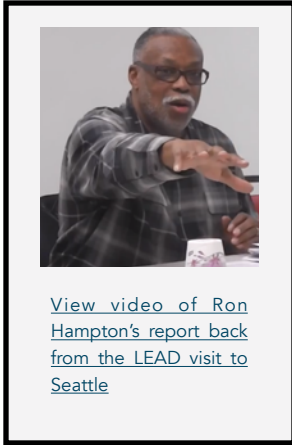
The Baltimore Town Hall meeting will help to mobilize/organize women to participate in the Mothers in Charge Conference in Philadelphia on May 12-13 and the National Free Her Rally, June 21, in Washington, D.C. as well as expand the Baltimore Drug and Criminal Justice Collaborative to build a dynamic movement for change in that city.

On June 17, on the occasion of the anniversary of the "War on Drugs," IBW will convene a Drug and Criminal Justice Policy Summit in Washington, D.C. The goal of the Summit is to present updates on the status of policy reform and discuss investment in America's "dark ghettos." A broad range of Black civil rights, faith, labor, civic, fraternal and political organizations will be invited to participate.

IBW is supporting the Philadelphia Regional Justice Collaborative's effort to convene a Town Hall Meeting and Mini-Conference on Violence and Fratricide in the Black Community. We also have an interest in convening a National Summit of groups working on the issue of violence and fratricide as a component of the Conference. The National Summit may be an opportunity to bring together organizations and agencies to discuss the formulation and implementation of the Fatherhood Healing Circles concept discussed at the Retreat.

Finally, I want to urge all four Justice Collaboratives to establish and maintain active channels of communications among each other in order to facilitate sharing and exchange of information and resources. Keep up the great work.

Washington DCJC Focus On Justice As Healing



Several members of the DC Justice Collaborative, who are returning citizens, used the opportunity of IBW's hosting of sister Andrea James, Founder and President of Justice as Healing (A criminal justice reform organization with a focus on women and children headquartered in Boston, MA) at the November 2013 meeting, by inviting her to visit their organizations.

By the time, Sister James addressed the entire Collaborative and shared her vision to bring 10,000 persons to the national mall in DC on June 21, 2014 for the "Free Her Rally", which is being organized to bring attention to the disintegration of family life, as a result of the incarceration rates of women ,due to mandatory drug sentencing, the group was "fired up and ready to go."

The DCJC agreed to assist Sis. James with local turn out as well as with mobilizing attendance through a number of various social communication networks. Sister James also used this opportunity to highlight key aspects of her recent book, "Upper Bunkies Unite: Other thoughts on the politics of mass incarceration." This book takes a critical look at the politics and policies resulting in mass incarceration in the USA. During the meeting, one could hear a pin drop as sisters James (a former criminal defense lawyer) shared her personal experiences as a formerly incarcerated woman. Sister James provided a painful picture of who is in our prisons and how the politics and policies regarding the criminal justice system have failed to address the war on drugs.

In a follow-up meeting of the DCJC in late February 2014, the group heard a detailed report and assessment of the field visit of an IBW delegation to Seattle, Washington to observe the LEAD program there. The report was delivered by Bros. Ron Hampton and Courtney Stewart.

Washington DCJC members convene Power Meeting with Attorney General

Members of the DCJC collaborative (Frank Malone, Tyrone Parker, and Courtney Stewart) have earned bragging rights as result of the very successful meeting afforded them with the Attorney General Eric Holder. During the meeting, the members commended the recent efforts by the Obama Administration to examine the issue of how mass incarceration has failed to address the war on drugs. The members also presented him with an award to recognize his efforts.



Baltimore to Honor Mother Jeter (The House I Live In)

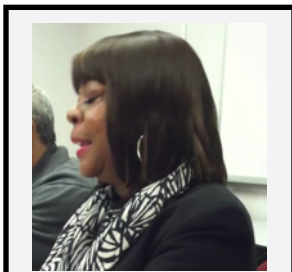


The BJC met several times during the last quarter as the members developed plans to honor Mother (Nanny) Jeter, whose life story inspired the highly acclaimed film, "The House I live in" which was co-produced by Actor/Activist Danny Glover. A Town Hall Meeting at which the film will be shown and Nana Jeter will be honored is now set for Friday, May 2nd at the Real News Network building, 231 Holiday Street in downtown Baltimore. In addition to the film, the event will feature a panel of powerful female speakers including Attorney. Andrea James, executive director of Justice is Healing out of Boston. Sis. Dorothy Johnson-Speight, executive director of Mothers in Charge out of Philadelphia and WEAA radio (Morgan State University) personality Sandy Mallory

BJC hosted "Mothers in Charge," founder and president, Sister Dorothy Johnson-Speight at their February meeting. Mothers in Charge for the past eleven years, has been servicing families affected by violence in the community of Philadelphia and beyond. Brother Kareem Aziz, (director of Institutional Research and Planning at Sojourner Douglas College), welcomed sister Dorothy, as the college hosted the meeting. Sister Dorothy's presentation, left members speechless, as she weaved the story of her painful journey because of senseless violence. Her testimony was recorded and is available for view on the IBW21 website by following the link below:



<http://ibw21.org/videos/dorothy-johnson-speight-on-the-genesis-of-mothers-in-charge/>



[Dorothy Johnson Speight spoke on the genesis of Mothers in Charge](#)

Sister Dorothy invited the BJC to attend the second national conference on "The cost of Violence: The Journey from Pain to Peace", which will be convened on Monday May 12, 2014 through Wednesday, May 14, 2014 at the Downtown Sheraton Hotel, 201 North 17th Street, Philadelphia, PA.

At this meeting, Dr. Ron Daniels greeted the group and offered a summary explanation of the various efforts to further develop the Institute of the Black World 21st Century's Justice Collaborative initiative. These efforts have been documented on the IBW21 website (www.ibw21.org)

In an earlier meeting of the Baltimore Collaborative we were honored with the attendance of several members of the group Mothers of Murdered Sons and Daughters of Maryland who expressed significant concerns regarding the crisis of violence that has been affecting the Baltimore community.

Congrats and Hats off Team Philly

While, the PRJC is still in its infancy, one would never know this given all that it has already accomplished in less than three months.

Building on the momentum established at the highly successful Town Hall Meeting, as convened on November 22, 2013 at the Resurrection Community Methodist Church, located in Northwest Philly, where the Rev. Dr. Michael Tyson serves as senior pastor, the IBW planning committee invited a number of organizations in the region to participate in a working session the following day. This resulted in a commitment to establish the Philadelphia Region Justice Collaborative. To date, two meetings of this group have been held. Sister Lois Hayman-El and Brother James Dickerson (Alliance of Black Social Workers), agreed to serve as the coordinators for the collaborative. In that regard, they have been relentless in getting communication to others about the meeting, and along with the IBW staff assigned to the collaborative, also serve as co-facilitators for the meetings.

As the group forges ahead, plans have already been outlined on how best to convene a regional conference on violence and fratricide on the anniversary of the Town Hall Meeting (November 2014). The members are also forging ahead to ensure that many young people join the collaborative. Already an impressive group of young people has been attending the meetings and the enthusiasm exhibited is most encouraging.

On March 1, Rev. Keith Collins, pastor of the Church of the Overcomer welcomed the collaborative to his church and underscored how honored he was to have such a group meet at this house of worship. By the time the meeting concluded, all those who were not familiar with the activist ministry of this church, left very much impressed. The stated philosophy for the church is noted in its literature as follows: " This is the church for the people that don't go to church. This church endeavors to reach the disillusioned and disconnected. The church is committed to transforming culture and community. It must remain steadfast in its commitment to speak truth to power on behalf of those who are disenfranchised. In its work, the church takes a radical posture when it comes to empowering others to achieve their purpose and destiny."

Lois Haymen-El the co-convenor of the PRJC also welcomed and thanked the group and immediately asked members to introduce themselves. This was followed by a very informative exchange of information/updates by each of the members.

The Church of the Overcomer- Will begin to convene Moral Mondays to call attention to what is going on in the county/community. Beginning, March 28, 2014, the church will host Film Fridays, which will feature historical and educational films, followed by a discussion. The Fatherhood Institution will provide opportunities for graduates of the Black Male Leadership program who have already completed their 12-week training cycle, to remain in the program as graduate assistants.

Three young men from the program were in attendance at the March 1 meeting and are eager to be active members of the collaborative.

Nana Rosaline Preudhomme of IBW gave updates of upcoming IBW events and Baba Leoanrd Dunston , head of the Black Family Summit thanked the group for the great attendance and stimulating discussion and offered some encouraging remarks about how far along the collaborative had come in less than six months and restated IBW's commitment to this effort.

The next quarterly meeting of the collaborative will be held on Friday, June 13, 2014 from 6-8 PM at the offices of PAAN, which is located at 2700 North 17 street, Le high Pavilion, second floor, Philadelphia PA 19132. Tel 215-940-0550

Pittsburgh Delegation Visits Seattle's LEAD Program



Rick Adams
IBW Board Chair
Pittsburgh Justice
Collaborative Convener

The Pittsburgh Justice Collaborative (PJC) sent five members to visit Seattle Washington's Law Enforcement Assisted Diversion (LEAD) program as part of a Institute of the Black World 21st Century led delegation. The Pittsburgh contingent consisted of RaShall M. Brackney, Pittsburgh Police Commander Zone 1, Anna E. Hollis, Executive Director of Amachi Pittsburgh, Ronell Guy Executive Director of the North Side Tenants Organization, Brandi Fisher President and CEO of the Alliance for Police Accountability (APA), and IBW Board Chair and PJC convener Rick Adams.

The Pittsburgh group was impressed with the unique approach of the LEAD program that according to Ronell Guy a departure from the standard model that requires a drug abuse to stop using before receiving services but is rather a services on demand model. Commander Brackney recognized the technique of utilizing the regular 'beat' police to implement a program that has a decidedly social service provider essence to it as a prerequisite to the success implementation of a neighborhood based law enforcement program that she has employed in the city's north side. Anna Hollis would insist that a Pittsburgh model have more of 'family service' focus than merely serving individual offenders and Brandi fisher would like to see young African American males be the focus of any adaptation of LEAD in Pittsburgh.

All agreed with the assessment that there were some models of best practices and some programmatic aspects of LEAD, such as the bi monthly operational group meetings were social service providers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, and criminal justice reform advocates engaged in a collaborative case management program of services.