Focus: The public health working group grew in pursuit of more humane and dignified approaches to community safety and well-being.

Goal: Identify examples across jurisdictions and contexts of where a public health approach has worked.

KEY TAKEAWAYS

A healthy community is resilient, able to manage the pressures from within. Key factors include:

- Housing infrastructure,
- Education,
- Poverty,
- Adverse childhood trauma and the lack of safety in schools, and
- The health system.

Greater integration and transparency foster healthier communities with solutions possible outside the criminal justice system.

- Need to link public health system to criminal justice system
- Community consent is critical
- Community consent relies upon trust, transparency, and accountability
- Informal initiatives, like community-based mediation, allow parties and their families to meet as people, apologize, and rebuild

Language and narratives, both within the criminal justice system and beyond are critical.

- Current language of the penal system reduces buy-in
- Dominant narrative emphasizes and disadvantages people of color
- New narratives, new language, and new champions/faces of the affected are essential
- Credible messengers matter

Timing matters.

- When issues shift to affect broader parts of a population, they may be anchors of change
- We must address the problems of the present, however, before looking too far ahead to solve future problems

KEY EXAMPLES

- Glasgow (public health response to violence reduction) vs South London (same, though less successful)
- UK (PREVENT program)
- Baltimore, Maryland (Healing City Act, community-based mediation)
- California (young adult court with re-entry emphasis)
- New Zealand (efforts to create a health economy)
- Scotland (health economy efforts)

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES

- “How Portugal is solving its opioid problem” by Rebecca A. Clay
- “Drug Decriminalization in Portugal: Setting the Record Straight” by Transform Drug Policy Foundation
- Knowledge Exchange from the Butler Trust
- World Prison Brief
- Centre for Mental Health
- Four Nations Webinar Series 2021: Public Health Approaches in Policing and Serious Violence Across the UK: The Learning So Far
- “Still Not Safe: The public health response to youth violence” by the Children’s Commissioner
- “Colombia’s ex-combatant children and adolescents” by Stephany Armas Contreras
- How Domestic Violence Turns Men into Terrorists by Joan Smith
- “Healthy, Wealthy & Wise: Cognitive Behavioral Therapy and Transformative Credible Messenger Mentoring to Reduce Violence and Justice System Involvement” by the National Institute for Criminal Justice Reform