



Town of Wethersfield: Social Justice Coalition Summary of Efforts: July 29, 2020, August 12, 2020

The Town of Wethersfield has engaged in a collaborative multi-year partnership with the State Education Resource (SERC). SERC is an educational agency first established in Connecticut General Statute under section 10-4q over 45 years ago. SERC's sole purpose is to assist with the provision of professional learning opportunities that promote educational equity and excellence in schools and districts across the state through various training programs, technical assistance, resources, and other related continuing education activities.

The Wethersfield Public Schools Board of Education, the Town, and SERC will partner to provide community-wide discussions around social justice and racial equity. It is the hope that this collaboration will promote understanding through community engagement and support.

This new effort will develop a town-wide "Social Justice Strategic Plan" through personal reflections, problem-solving and decision making. Three levels will be created – a Steering Committee, an Equity Leadership Team, and the Wethersfield Social Justice Coalition. We are encouraging all residents and business owners to participate in the Social Justice Coalition to help guide conversations that support the development of the plan.

Four strategic planning meetings with the Steering Committee were planned to work on setting initial dates and provide guidance to engage the Social Justice Coalition (SJC) in the development, designing, and implementation of the Town's Social Justice Strategic Plan. It is anticipated that the first town-wide SJC meeting will take place in September.

Below is a summary of the Steering Committee's work to date:

July 29, 2020

Steering Committee Meeting #1

In Attendance: Kim Bobin, Ingrid M. Canady (Facilitator, SERC), Sally Dastoli, Doris Duggins, Dr. AJ Eckert, Michael Emmett, Gary Evans, Norberto Mendez, Iran Nazario, Pam Jones, and Erica Texeira

The initial meeting focused on the introduction of the identified members of the Steering Committee. The outcomes of the first meeting were as follow:

- ✓ To define the committee's charge/task/roles/actions
- ✓ To introduce and practice the Courageous Conversations Protocol™
- ✓ To engage in courageous conversations regarding equity and social justice and its impact on the Town of Wethersfield
- ✓ To identify the next steps as a Steering Committee

At the conclusion of the meeting, the members were charged with submitting their definition of social justice to the facilitator. Additionally, members were asked to identify what they perceived to be the number one priority for the community related to racial equity and social justice.

August 12, 2020

Steering Committee Meeting #2

In Attendance: Kim Bobin, Ingrid M. Canady (Facilitator, SERC), Sally Dastoli, Doris Duggins, Michael Emmett, Gary Evans, Norberto Mendez, Iran Nazario, Pam Jones, and Erica Teixeira

The second meeting of the Steering Committee focused on the review of the Courageous Conversations Protocol™, and the level of racial consciousness. The outcomes of the meeting were identified as follows:

- ✓ Review of social justice as a definition and its implication for the work of the full Social Justice coalition
- ✓ Identification and review of the submitted priorities by the members of the Steering Committee

Future Steering Committee Meetings:

August 26, 2020, and September 9, 2020

Tentative Social Justice Coalition Timeline

September 2020	SJC First Meeting
October 2020	SJC Second Meeting- Identify Social Justice Priorities-Target Goals
November 2020	Meeting #3- SJC-Definition of Social Justice
December 2020	Development of Subcommittees
January 2021	First Meeting of Equity Leadership Team Steering Committee Meeting SJC Meeting
February 2021	Development of First Draft- Social Justice Strategic Plan
March 2021	Review First Draft- Social Justice Strategic Plan
April 2021	Priorities/Implementation/Strategic Plan

The Steering Committee will send out information soon about meetings dates and times to ensure the greatest amount of participation. Please subscribe to the town notification web-page at <https://wethersfieldct.gov/e-notifications> to receive the most up-to-date information.