A look back on the progress made in Wilmington, Delaware by the Advisory Council and our powerful partners.
A LETTER FROM OUR CO-CHAIRS AND CHAMPION

Most readers of this report will recall that for many years the City of Wilmington was experiencing escalating incidences of gun violence. Exacerbating this tragedy was the fact that the vast majority of the victims of gun violence, as well as the vast majority of the perpetrators, were young African American males – our children.

In response to the growing epidemic, the Honorable Hanifa Shabazz led a rallying cry to invite the Centers for Disease Control (CDC) to come to Wilmington to examine gun violence through new lens, through the lens of viewing the gun violence epidemic as a public health issue. And so it happened. Between 2013 and 2014, the CDC conducted its assessment and provided three recommendations in its November 2015 report, one of which was to create a “Community Advisory Council” to bring forth recommendations for programs, policies and services that could have an ameliorating effect on gun violence in the City of Wilmington. And, thus, was born the CDC Community Advisory Council, now the Wilmington Community Advisory Council to fulfill that purpose.

Between November 2015 and now, the Advisory Council and our powerful partners have done remarkable work around our recommendations to reduce youth violence and promote positive youth development. As well, we have established “Results Targets,” things we will focus on and attempt to achieve in the coming years, based on five pillars:

1. Build Community Capacity through a Youth Engagement Network
2. Enhance/Establish Early Intervention Systems /Behavioral Health
3. Restore Youth by Working with Those Exiting the State’s Deepest Level Services
4. Enhance Employment with Livable Wage/Including Youth Employment
5. Create Safe, Quality Environments Through Policy and Community Resiliency

This report provides, if you will, an account of our hopes (plans) and our dreams (results) for calendar-year 2018. We believe the report, within this context, shows that the Advisory Council continues to deliver on its original charge, summarized in the phrase we have chosen for the ultimate result we hope to achieve – “Wilmington youth age 13 to 24 in zip codes 19801, 19802 and 19805 successfully transition to adulthood.”

Presented on behalf of the Wilmington Community Advisory Council:

-- Hanifa Shabazz, DHL, Champion, Wilmington Community Advisory Council
-- Ray Fitzgerald, Co-Chair, Wilmington Community Advisory Council
-- Tyrone Jones, Co-Chair, Wilmington Community Advisory Council

February 21, 2019
ABOUT

The purpose of the Wilmington Community Advisory Council is to provide guidance, support, and advocacy to the planning and implementation of the Advisory Council’s recommendations on youth violence prevention and positive youth development through early identification of risk and delivery of evidence-based, integrated services to youth and their families living in high need communities in the City of Wilmington.

CHAMPIONS

The Honorable Hanifa Shabazz
President
Wilmington City Council

The Honorable John Carney
Governor
State of Delaware

The Honorable Michael Purzycki
Mayor
City of Wilmington

The Honorable Matthew Meyer
County Executive
New Castle County

CO-CHAIRS

Ray Fitzgerald
Director
Division of Social Services

Tyrone Jones
Community Leader

*Full membership listed online

RECOMMENDATIONS

In 2017, the Advisory Council proposed recommendations to prevent youth violence and promote positive youth development, including:

- Foster violence-free environments and promote positive opportunities and connections to trusted adults
- Intervene with youth and families at the first sign of risk
- Restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
- Invest in year-round employment and meaningful career pathways for youth to “earn and learn”
- Protect children and youth from violence in the community
- Address policy issues that have unintended adverse consequences for youth
According to the Wilmington Police Department Compstat report, overall crime in the City of Wilmington reduced by 6% in 2018.

- Gun homicides decreased by 41% from 32 in 2017 to 19 in 2018
- Homicide clearance rates increased from 33% in 2017 to 62% in 2018
- Shooting incidents decreased from 164 in 2017 to 72 in 2018
- 115 fewer people shot in 2018: 79 in 2018 versus 194 in 2017, which is a 59% decrease

"When compared to the average number of shooting incidents from 2003 through 2017, which is 108, the 72 shooting incidents in 2018 represent a 33% decrease over the 15-year period average."

Data Sources: www.wilmingtonde.gov/Home/Components/News/News/4221/225
2018 NUMBERS TO CELEBRATE

SAFE HAVEN

2,843
Unique Children Participated

75,826.5
Hours Off the Street and in a Safe, Nurturing Environment

YOUTH CAREER DEVELOPMENT

325
Youth Employed

“We’re excited about this program and the opportunity to provide our City’s youth with a solid foundation for both personal and professional growth while also instilling in them an appreciation of the value of service to one’s community.”

- Mayor Mike Purzycki

With support from the Division of Prevention and Behavioral Health Services, Wilmington recreation and community centers hosted the Extended Hours/Safe Haven Program to:

- Provide a safe haven
- Deliver a constructive environment for youth to engage in educational and recreational activities
- Offer a nutritious meal for participants
- Assist participants in a community service project

Wilmington’s Department of Parks and Recreation sponsored the 2018 Youth Career Development program (formerly titled the Summer Youth Employment Program) providing jobs and internships to young people and an opportunity to gain valuable experiences and job skills to prepare youth for a successful future.
RECOMMENDATION PROGRESS

COMMUNITY INTERVENTION TEAM

With support from the Delaware Division of Social Services, the Community Intervention Team (CIT) launched in 2018 to:

- Building strong community relationships
- Promote positive youth development
- Change community norms
- Connect those in need with resources

During the summer, members of CIT assisted in the Christiana Care Health System and Wilmington PAR Street Family "Stop the Bleed" trainings to teach the basics of bleeding control to community members. The training was designed to help community members feel confident and provide support to an individual with a gun shot or open wound until first responders arrive.

To learn more about CIT, visit https://citwilm.wixsite.com/citwilm.

PROVIDER TRAINING

With support from the United Way, Division of Prevention and Behavioral Services and Department of Health and Social Services, over fifty individuals, represented 15 youth serving organizations in the City of Wilmington, were trained on the "Early Identification & Service Referral Guide." to identify youth who may benefit from additional support and implement strategies to help youth get the support they need. Trainings focused on trauma informed practices, brain science and how to identify youth who may benefit from additional support, as well as how to implement strategies to help youth and their families get the support they need.

Download the Guide on the Advisory Council website.

www.wilmcommunityadvisorycouncil.org
COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

A POWERFUL first year for the Advisory Council’s Community Engagement Campaign.

In 2017, the Advisory Council launched POWER: People and Organizations in Wilmington Engaging in Reform.

This strategy was designed to harness the individual and collective power of people and organizations in Wilmington who are committed to preventing youth violence and promoting positive youth development.

In 2018, POWER:

- Hosted a Community Mixer in March to update the community on the progress of the Advisory Council and provide an opportunity for networking
- Hosted a Community Mixer in November to honor youth serving organizations and their young people; over 70 people attended the celebration
- Implemented a media messaging campaign to promote positive youth development and to update the community on local events

Books, toys, games and items of clothes were donated to the P.O.W.E.R. of Partnership Holiday Donation Drive and were distributed at the Wilmington Public Library on December 26, the first day of Kwanzaa. This event was a collaboration between POWER, the Wilmington Public Library, Brookies Classroom, DREAMING Initiative, Empower & Educate, Inc., Sisterhood of Success, Project H.E.A.L. and Harper’s Heart.
YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

In 2018, three Delaware youth were hired as Student Ambassadors for the POWER engagement campaign.

Student Ambassadors work directly with the Advisory Council, POWER Team, community partners, and their peers to create, execute, and evaluate campaigns in their communities that are designed to engage youth and families in violence prevention and positive youth development efforts.

Over the past year, they have:
- Launched their Instagram page
- Engaged with the community at Play Streets throughout the summer months
- Partnered with the Community Intervention Team youth to host "Your Voice Matters," to discuss the POWER of youth activism
- Gave input at Advisory Council meetings
- Conducted outreach at a variety of youth events including Delaware Teen Idol and World AIDS Day

Aniya W. 16 years old
St. Georges
“I want people to know that there is much more to this city than just violence.”

Darius E. 15 years old
St. Georges
“I want to help youth become the best they can.”

Alexis C. 17 years old
Univ. of DE
“I hope to create positive changes in our communities.”

Follow the Ambassadors on their Instagram @POWERinWilmYouth

www.wilmcommunityadvisorycouncil.org
ADDITIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

The Advisory Council’s original “Call to Action” report, posited the need for system changes to address policy issues that have adverse consequences for youth and present barriers to their being able to achieve their full potential.

In 2019, the Advisory Council is prioritizing four broad categories of policies:

- Educational Barriers
- Barriers to Reentering Society for Youthful Offenders
- Transitions between Juvenile & Adult Service Systems
- Administrative Barriers

Those interested in supporting the policy work of the Advisory Council can join the Policy and Community Resiliency Working Group.

ACCESS THE ARTICLE
The Delaware Journal of Public Health is available online at https://issuu.com/damdpha/docs/2018nov_djph_cenr. You can also access the article by visiting the Advisory Council website and clicking on "Resources."
THE PATH FORWARD

There is much more to accomplish, together.

In 2019, the Advisory Council and our powerful partners plan to accelerate change by prioritizing five areas of work, listed below.

To accelerate local efforts to promote positive youth development and prevent youth violence, the Advisory Council has established strategic partnerships and sought guidance from:

**Annie E. Casey Foundation**

In July, Dr. Patrick McCarthy, then CEO of the nationally recognized Annie E. Casey Foundation, visited Delaware to guide the Advisory Council and its members in a thoughtful conversation on sustainability and how to apply a “Results Based” framework.

**OCL Group**

In August, the OCL Group, under the facilitation of Raj Chawla, came to Delaware to provide a more intense training on Results Based Leadership to Advisory Council members. This training resulted in a shared vision, consensus on the target population and the beginning of an ongoing conversation on indicators to measure success of related work.

1. Building community capacity through the development of a Youth Engagement Network
2. Expanding behavioral health support services and early intervention systems
3. Developing an intervention system to help restore youth who have gone down the wrong path
4. Creating opportunities for youth to secure meaningful employment with a livable wage
5. Building safe quality environments through public policy and community resilience

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THE PATH FORWARD CTD.

**CompassRed, Inc.**
In 2019, the Advisory Council will engage CompassRed, a local data and analytics company, to develop, track and report on indicators for the work of pilot projects.

**Social Contract**
The Advisory Council established a strategic partnership with Social Contract, an organization that empowers communities to change the pace of change and catalyze their collective impact. Social Contract will work with key stakeholders to design, implement and evaluate efforts aligned with the 2019 prioritized recommendations.

STRONGER TOGETHER
As the old adage goes: “It takes a village to raise a child,” and it is going to take our entire village to prevent youth violence and promote positive youth development.

You can do your part by:
- Attending Advisory Council bi-monthly public meetings
- Joining an Advisory Council Working Group
- Becoming a P.O.W.E.R. Partner
- Making prevention a community priority
- Supporting those who have been hurt by violence
- Sponsoring community engagement initiatives and prevention programs
- Being a caring adult to at least one youth or young adult
- Role modeling healthy, non-violent behavior
- Providing meaningful opportunities for youth to participate in activities that develop skills and talents
- Helping to build organizational capacity to make data-informed decisions
- Supporting widespread implementation of evidence-based approaches