Walking Through Time as One:
Contextualizing the Impact of the Champaign County Community Coalition

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Community Data Clinic in partnership with the Champaign County Community Coalition
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INTRODUCTION
Executive Summary

The Champaign County Community Coalition (hereafter “Coalition”) is a network led by the City of Champaign and funded by contributions from the Coalition executive committee member organizations. It aims to bridge police departments, civil rights- and racial justice-focused civic organizations, and local social service organizations. Since 2010 it has worked to foster dialogue between stakeholder groups, develop and innovate new programs to empower youth of color and their families, and “promote effective law enforcement and positive police-community relations” in Champaign County. With increasing calls for social justice in the public arena today, many cities have been newly prompted to consider how municipal resources can be utilized to address systemic inequalities. The Coalition provides Champaign County with a unique asset in this context. This report shows that the Coalition embodies an overlooked history of how some mid-sized cities — like Champaign — had worked to develop programs around police-community relations, while at once fortifying mental health services, educational programming and youth support as means to repair systemic inequities.

The Coalition was thus founded as a multi-pronged strategy to achieve five identified goals of a community working forum in 2010 after the fatal shooting of 15-year-old Kiwane Carrington by Champaign Police in 2009. Since its founding, the Coalition has approached solutions-development as a collective issue, bringing together diverse individuals and organizations in order to identify, support and expand effective "strengths-based programs" throughout Champaign County. Through a combination of monthly meetings facilitated by the Coalition Facilitator Tracy Parsons and a strategically diverse array of community programming, the Coalition creates opportunities for open communication and joint problem-solving. It joins a handful of other notable national organizations that preceded its founding, such as Wraparound in Minnesota, the Coalition Against Bias & Hate in the City of Worcester (2000), the Birmingham Metro Diversity Coalition (2000), and the Prevention Institute (Oakland, 1997), which develop policy initiatives around police-community relations out of collaborative dialogue with community leaders and concerned citizens. Such organizations have grown over the past two decades in cities like Minneapolis, Oakland, Houston and others, particularly to address growing public concerns in police-community relations and the use of excessive force by police.

The community partnership approach that the Coalition has adopted for its work thus offers an innovative, collaboration-centered model for other medium-sized municipalities to draw lessons from or build upon. Public fora around hashtags like #Kenosha and #ElizabethCity indeed demonstrate how awareness around the challenges to police-community relations extend well beyond big metropolitan areas. For such a possibility to be achieved, however, more comprehensive assessment and a fuller review of the Coalition needs to be undertaken to better identify how its work is conducted, how it documents key achievements, and how it addresses evolving challenges.

This report is designed to provide preliminary groundwork for such an effort. We focus on establishing a baseline history of the Coalition, covering a wide range of
Coalition Mission

"To lead the process of analyzing and identifying the needs and strengths of the community at large and facilitating collaboration with an array of organizations to provide interventions to youth and families."

This report is organized as follows:

First, the Coalition is briefly contextualized within the history of local, regional and national developments. Salient narratives, policies and programs for institutional and social reform are outlined to provide a sense of how the Coalition is situated within a broader ecology of civic-community partnerships and reform movements.

Second, after a brief discussion of methods, the primary initiatives of the Coalition are discussed with emphasis on the philosophy, goals and vision these programs had for change in Champaign County.

Third, media coverage and archives are analyzed to assess the discourse and public visibility of Coalition programs both online and among local and national news reports.

We conclude with suggestions for further assessment and review of the Coalition. In particular, we will outline steps for more robust data collection and analysis, which can be useful for understanding the impact of various initiatives. While specific to the Coalition, these suggestions may be helpful to other organizations working to better understand their work with regard to police-community relations, civic commitments to youth development (particularly in underrepresented and minority communities), and the civic impacts of long-standing inequities around race and class.
The Coalition Includes Representation From:

Behavioral Health Organizations
Local Businesses
Child Welfare Organizations
Government
Education
Faith-Based Organizations
Juvenile Justice Organizations
Law Enforcement
Grass Roots Organizations
Not-For-Profit Organizations
Park Districts
Social Services Organizations
Residents
Health Institutions
Youth & Families
1962
Policy: Community Mental Health Act passes by IL general assembly

1983
Organization: NAMI Champaign (National Alliance on Mental Illness) founded

1992
Organization: Mothers Reclaiming our Children founded in LA

1994
Organization: Audre Lorde Project founded in Brooklyn, NY

1997
Organization: Prevention Institute founded in Oakland, CA

2000
Activism: Incite Conference held in Santa Cruz, CA

2006
Event: Subprime mortgage crisis signals beginning of the Great Recession

2006
Organization: Trauma Resource Institute Founded

2007
Policy: Federal Reserve responds to subprime mortgage crisis by adding $24 billion in liquidity to the banking system rise in violent crime involving youth in Minneapolis leads to 'citywide effort to reduce youth violence in 2007

2008
Policy: Mental Health Parity Act signed into law

2008
Event: Stock market crashes: Dow registers one of largest point drops in history

2008
Policy: “Troubled Asset Relief Program”: congress approves $700 billion bank bailout

2008
Policy: Minneapolis’ Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence

2009
Organization: Access Initiative Founded

2009
Police Violence: 15 year-old Kiwane Carrington shot and killed by Champaign police officer setting off civic protest

2009
Policy: President Obama proposes $787 billion economic stimulus package

2009
Organization: NAMI Champaign (National Alliance on Mental Illness) founded

2009
Organization: Mothers Reclaiming our Children founded in LA

2009
Organization: Audre Lorde Project founded in Brooklyn, NY

2009
Policy: Minneapolis’ Blueprint for Action to Prevent Youth Violence

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Policy: Mental Health Parity Act signed into law

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Event: Stock market crashes: Dow registers one of largest point drops in history

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Policy: “Troubled Asset Relief Program”: congress approves $700 billion bank bailout

2009
Organization: Access Initiative Founded

2009
Police Violence: 15 year-old Kiwane Carrington shot and killed by Champaign police officer setting off civic protest

A brief selection of relevant events 1962-2020

2016 Research: National Survey of Children’s Health – 49.4% of children with a mental health disorder did not receive needed treatment or counseling from a mental health professional.


2017 Gun Violence: Central High School Shooting

2017 Organization: Walk as one for Kindergarten Readiness, hosted by United Way

2019 Organization: Coalition Walk as One event responds to recent gun violence, including Elijah Booker shooting

2019 Gun Violence: 14-year-old Elijah Booker shot and killed in Champaign

2019 Organization: Champaign County Community Coalition creates Race Relations Subcommittee

2020 Research: Mental illness appears to continue increasing among young people aged 12 to 17

2020 Research: Nearly 1 in 4 people shot and killed by police officers between 2015 and 2020 had a mental health condition
Coalition Beginnings

archival documents on the Coalition’s early work, notable projects, as well as reports and documents on similar initiatives and programs founded across the country over the past several decades. This archival research is brought into conversation with textual analysis of news-media reports, online reports and documents, and social media to identify key models from which the Coalition drew along with the context in which it emerged.

The City of Champaign founded the Coalition as a strategy to achieve the goals of the Community Forum Working Group (2010), an important and innovative first step for repairing unsettled police community relations and youth issues in the Champaign community. In December 2009, the Champaign City Manager Steve Carter announced six initiatives to rebuild trust between the community, City and Police Department9 in response to the fatal police shooting of Kiwane Carrington. These included: changes to the police’s “Use of Force Policy”; the review of police complaints processes; increasing diversity of the police force and community participation in the hiring of officers; improving relationships between police officers and the community; and central to this report, the hosting of a Community Forum, in which residents could identify police-community issues and suggest solutions.10

A range of evolving concerns by community members, and communities of color in particular, have long pointed to police-community relations as a central issue. Individuals, community groups, and organizations have found new channels of expression, made visible by social media hashtags and the rise of solidarity movements, coalitions and alliances following the murder of George Floyd in the summer of 2020. Often these responses build on political or technological models developed elsewhere, such as Civilian Review Boards11 or body cameras by police12. Alternatively, municipalities develop their own context-specific programming, working directly with stakeholders to collaboratively design policy changes.13

The Community Forum and Community Forum Working Group organized and educated across divisions.14 On March 15, 2010, the Community Forum brought together over 300 students, parents, educators, law enforcement and citizens to address such questions as:

- What do good police-community relations look like?
- What are police barriers to good police-community relations, and what steps can be taken to eliminate those barriers?
- What are community barriers to good police-community relations, and what steps can be taken to eliminate those barriers?
- What are Champaign youth facing, and how might these issues be overcome?

This forum created an opportunity for wider engagement by residents to collectively work through questions of community interest in a focused setting. Conversations such as these may often take place in small groups among similar interest groups: teachers among teachers, parents among parents, police among police. This forum uniquely fostered cross-demographic and cross-profession conversation, to bring in alternative viewpoints for considered reflection. Based on these conversations, the Community Forum Working group arrived at five goals to improve community-city-police relations:15

- Build and enhance community-community and city-police-community partnerships.
- Develop police-community engagement.
- Promote open, accountable and transparent police-community communications.

Coalition, founded in 2006, aims to “serve as a catalyst for one community living in harmony where diverse, independent leaders create understanding, justice, and unity through honest dialogue, principled advocacy, and courageous engagement on issues related to human dignity and equality. The BMDC strives to foster mutual respect and equality for all through advocacy, education, and collaboration” (https://www.birmingham365.org/organization/birmingham-metro-diversity-coalition/). In 2009, the Cuyahoga County Board of Health helped found the Health Improvement Partnership—Cuyahoga, which incorporates a “head and heart” approach to build “understanding of structural racism as a public health issue” (https://healthequityguide.org/case-studies/cuyahoga-county-uses-health-improvement-process-to-lift-up-equity-and-racial-inclusion/). The National Wraparound Initiative, founded in 2003, created a model for “flexible and locally adaptable” strategies to provide “individualized, comprehensive, community-based care for children and their families” (“History of Wraparound and the National Wraparound Initiative”, also see “History of the Wraparound Process”). Since 1997, the Prevention Institute has “partnered with communities, local government entities, foundations, multiple sectors, and public health agencies to bring cutting-edge research, practice, strategy, and analysis to the pressing health and safety concerns of the day. We have applied our approach to injury and violence prevention; healthy eating and active living; land use; health systems transformation, and mental health and wellbeing; among other issues.”14

For further description of Community Forum methods, see Whitley, 2002

Carter, 2010
Methods

The findings from this report are based on a mixed-method strategy to research design. We aggregated and analyzed news reports via Lexis Nexis (about 150 to 250 news reports in all), news reports with city/county/organization meeting minutes, publicly accessible census and Champaign city-government data, Coalition reports and online-offline participant observation. These news reports include local, regional and national news, providing context and a range of discourse on the Coalition. This was also in part facilitated by a collaborative research partnership with key stakeholders of the Coalition, who helped to provide access to various archival documents and resources. The methods adopted here thus brought multiple sources of information together about the Coalition, its context, its work and its impact. In the future, further data collection to clarify findings in this report could include a comprehensive oral history of key leadership involved in the founding and stewardship of the Coalition and a survey of key stakeholder populations.

Context

- Enhance youth development, especially for marginalized, racialized and underserved youth.
- Specifically address and improve police-youth interaction.

In order to coordinate and sustain effective strategies to achieve these five goals, the Champaign City Council created the Community Coalition, whose responsibility included identifying, coordinating and linking together community programs and resources; as well as researching, identifying, evaluating and developing strategies to address poverty, youth instability and police-community relations. After a brief methods section, there is a historical analysis of the Coalition’s initiatives, followed by a discussion and suggestions for further development.

Initiatives

This section contextualizes a series of Coalition initiatives developed with and innovated for the community with respect to the original goals set forth by the 2010 Community Forum, institutional reports and news media. It also identifies key participants, stakeholders, activities, challenges and accomplishments. This will provide greater clarity on how the Coalition approached the goals set forth in 2010, what the results were, and what might be important next steps.

Coalition Meetings

Monthly meetings are a centerpiece of the Coalition and the focal point for all Coalition activities. Facilitated by the Community Relations Manager for the City of Champaign, Tracy Parsons, these meetings serve to achieve the first three of five goals of the Community forum: bringing together community partners, enhancing police-community engagement and promoting police-community communications. These meetings also allow an opportunity to recognize achievements in youth development and engagement, goals four and five. From early beginnings of 20 - 30 participants in the Douglass Branch of the Champaign Public Library, these meetings have slowly grown to resemble quite large town halls of approximately 200 people. As attendance grew, these meetings had to continually change venues, increasing capacity to permit larger attendance and wider, more diverse dialogue.

When held in-person, Coalition meetings always open with a “roll-call,” which allows community members and organizations to bridge institutional and operational silos, to see and be seen. This is a crucial moment of witnessing, which provides the foundation for the Coalition goals to “identify, support, and expand effective strengths-based programs that exist throughout the community.”

Sheldon Turner (Director of Goal Getters, pictured left) and two other Goal Getters. Retrieved from https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/02/about6-2048x1371.jpg

16 Mixed-methods use more than one source of information, more than one way to access information and more than one way to analyze information. For example, let’s say you want to know if it’s raining. You might check the weather report and look outside; or you might additionally ask a friend who just came back from another part of town. This would involve analysis of media (weather report), direct observation (going outside), and interview data (ask a friend). All three involve different forms of analysis: text/discourse analysis for weather reports, ethnography for direct observation, and text/speech analysis for interview data. Mixed-methods assumes that you can know more and be less ambiguous about your knowledge if you do not check the weather report alone, or look outside alone, or ask a friend alone. It “mixes” these “methods” of accessing and analyzing information so that you can be more clear about what you know and what you do not.

17 Lexis Nexis is a news aggregation, collation and search platform.

18 This number specifically refers to pre-Covid attendance numbers during 2019 and early 2020.

19 Douglass Branch of the Champaign Library to the Champaign City Police Department to the Green Street Branch of the Champaign Library; to the Champaign Holiday Inn.

20 Retrieved from https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/about-us/
workers, social service providers, teachers and educators, representatives from the National Association of Colored People, local religious leaders, law enforcement, residents, youth and families all come together to give updates on programs and discuss matters of shared concern. It is quite uncommon for such a diverse group of individuals, leaders and institutions to come together, especially in a forum that is designed for open and direct communication. Roll-call is a way to highlight the importance of the event. Both these reports and Q&A sessions serve as opportunities for individuals and organizations who have a vested interest in youth development and improving police-community relations. The need to show up in order to do the work is made visible and audible during roll-call, producing a space for further interaction, engagement and connection. While not an end in and of itself, the roll-call is an important and innovative first step in forging longer-lasting reciprocal (police-community, community-community, community-institutions) relationships.

After the roll-call, three anchoring moments structure Coalition meetings: police presented neighborhood crime and safety reports, community presentations and Q&A/open comment. Police presentations address the initial goal to increase police-community communications by creating a moment for direct reporting. Both these reports and the community presentation period that follows serve as opportunities for individuals and organizations to bridge divides and strengthen collaborative engagement. Frequently, individuals and organizations discuss initiatives and project developments, with Q&A. These have included youth involved in programs such as Goal Getters and Self Made Kingz, individuals impacted by CU TRI or CU Fresh Start, as well as a host of leaders and organizations engaging in community work. Coalition members and participants from across the community also invite each other to become involved in each other’s projects, to become informed of ongoing events across the county, and to offer support and suggestions.

In addition to “roll-call,” the community presentation period helps to achieve Goal 1 of developing community partnerships and connections, Goal 4 of youth development and Goal 5 of youth engagement. By creating a space for community organizations working with youth, education, community development and related themes to come together, the Coalition works to achieve these goals set forth by the community forum of 2010.

Walk as One

Inaugurated on February 20, 2013 as a “campus walk” to distribute alcohol safety information to University of Illinois students prior to “Unofficial St. Patrick’s Day,” Walk as One has become an annual deliverable comprising a variety of events. It is noteworthy for its ability to organize and mobilize individuals and organizations through partnerships that range from the diverse local organizations. As Patrick Wade, communications director for the University of Illinois Division of Public Safety said, the event “had 240 volunteers from [UIUC] sororities and fraternities and they’ve always been super supportive of that event since the day we started doing it … [w]e really couldn’t do it without them.” These provide a structure for organizations and individuals to directly communicate and connect with one another.

Since its beginning, Walk as One has developed an open communication strategy that uses direct canvassing and talking with people on doorsteps, on the street and in other public spaces. Standard protocols,

University of Illinois, the Champaign Police, and the City of Champaign to the Champaign County Unit for Schools and Parkland College. Events include informing families about summer youth programming, inviting residents to Neighborhood Safety Forums to discuss safety concerns, delivering kindergarten readiness kits to families, informing residents of community violence crisis response efforts, distributing safety and crime prevention information, and informing residents about mental health resources.

For instance, the 2019 Walk as One received news coverage in the News-Gazette and the Daily Illini for its remarkable growth of volunteer staff to support the event from

22 “Community Tool Box”
23 retrieved from https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/priorities/police-and-community-relations/
24 six Initiatives, Draft Community-Police Forum Plan – SS 2016-056
operating procedures and other necessary practices of civic life, while essential to coordinate, sustain and document civic duties, can produce obstacles or barriers to direct and semi-direct communication. Walk as One creates opportunities for different forms of sociality and connections across geographic, class-, race-, or gender-based divides. Media coverage of the annual event since its founding stresses its function as a way "to improve relationships with the community, police and community relations and to just bring the whole community together to work as one group to address the issues that occur." In this way, Walk as One operationalizes the goals of community-police partnerships through direct communication and outreach.

### Police-Community Relations

The Coalition’s work on police-community relations is a constant reminder of its focal goal to address safety, connections, trust and wellness. The Coalition particularly works to build projects for strategic objectives, such as changes in leadership, which included the hiring of Chief Anthony Cobb in 2012 to the Champaign Police Department after the fatal shooting of Kiwane Carrington. Since then, aspects of police-community building projects have become key to Coalition meetings and Walk as One events. Police are often primary sponsors of Coalition activities and one of the most visible and vocal presences at Coalition events. They speak at Coalition meetings, walk with residents during Walk as One events, and participate in programs such as CU TRI, CU Fresh Start, Goal Getters, and Self Made Kingz. The Coalition maintains a proactive approach to building alternative spaces and fora for police-community connection and exchange. Through neighborhood block parties; community forums, trainings and recreational activities; promotional campaigns; and "best practice community engagement activities," substantial work has been invested to foster a climate for "the unwavering protection of all citizens, through unconditional respect and collaborative efforts with our community." Working to re-contextualize and reframe interactions, the Coalition has developed programs and events to promote "community safety and connections", "trust and trust building", and "employee wellness, training and development", as well as better policy and oversight. In coordination with the Coalition, the Champaign police strategic plan suggests "efforts to be more transparent, to build relationships by seeking community input and fostering trust" by hosting community dialogues between police and communities. These activities and initiatives directly address Community forum Goal 1 and 2, to improve, develop and promote community-police relations; as well as Goal 3, to promote openness, accountability and transparency between the police and community.

### CU Fresh Start

CU Fresh Start was an initiative launched in 2016 to bridge police-community relations to address neighborhood health, safety and wellbeing. Via the three "pillars" of law enforcement, services, and community, the program is based on a "focused deterrence" model with the ultimate goal of saving lives in our community" by reducing gun violence. Bridging community partners and law enforcement through service and resource provision is a hallmark of CU Fresh Start and Coalition work as a whole. The CU Fresh Start model is a process to provide support and resources to individuals involved in gun related activities who choose to engage with the initiative. Through community referrals and "call-in" events, the program identifies and works directly with "core offenders" who have a history of committing the acts of gun violence and shootings. Recently, CU Fresh Start discontinued the call-in and currently approaches candidates with an individual meeting called a "custom notification." The Coalition’s website and public materials indicate that since its founding, it maintains a framework of counterbalancing needs assessment and resource provision, which extend the system of care model characteristic of Coalition activities, are positioned against "swift and certain consequences". Within the broader context of the Coalition, this program builds on the police-community relations work of Coalition meetings and Walk as One events, addresses community violence, provides support for formerly incarcerated community members, and fosters and elevates dialogic communication between residents, service providers, law enforcement and civic providers, law enforcement and civic providers, law enforcement and civic providers, law enforcement and civic providers, law enforcement and civic

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32. Lt. Jim Clark of the Champaign Police Department, quoted in "University students distribute alcohol safety information", 2014.
34. Such activities include "coordinate the Community Coalition and adopt a plan for long-term sustainability, support the Champaign County Youth Assessment Center through collaboration with Community Coalition partners, assure a safe community and protect the rights of citizens, continue to strengthen police-community relations, recruit and retain innovative green business and industry." (David, 2015; also see [https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/priorities/police-and-community-relations](https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/priorities/police-and-community-relations))
39. "Focused deterrence is a problem-oriented policing approach that aims to address a specific crime problem that has been deemed worthy of special attention. This policing approach differs from other policing approaches that address individual incidents rather than the collection of incidents connected to a specific crime problem (Cordner & Biebel, 2005). The rationale for focused deterrence is that many crime problems require targeted attention and targeted resources to be adequately addressed. By understanding a problem's causes and participants, and applying focused strategies with these causes and participants in mind, law enforcement can better aim to address the specific crime problem of focus (Kennedy, Braga, Piehl, & Waring, 2001; Scott, 2015)" (Institution Builders, Inc., 2017, p. 2). Note, this citation comes from a first year assessment report completed with the Illinois Criminal Justice, Information Authority, CU Fresh Start Multidisciplinary Team, City of Champaign Community Relations Office, and Joan Walls, City of Champaign Deputy City Manager.
40. Champaign Community Relations Specialist Mary Catherine Roberson quoted in Herman, 2019.
41. "Local law enforcement and community leaders "call in" a group of participants to share about the effects of gun violence within our community" (CU Fresh Start Holds First Call In Event of 2019)
42. Retrieved from [https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/initiatives/cufresh-start/](https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/initiatives/cufresh-start/).
Institutions.45

CU TRI: Trauma and Resiliency Initiative

The CU Trauma and Resiliency Initiative (“CU TRI”, founded April 2019) grew from trauma-informed community work seeded in the Coalition after the fatal shooting of Kiwane Carrington in 2009.46 Led by licensed therapist Karen Simms, this initiative hosts free community-wide trainings to strengthen and improve the ability of community members responding to families affected by trauma. From early beginnings as a group of volunteers supported in part by the Coalition and the Champaign County Mental Health board, CU TRI developed through the “System of Care transformation effort called the ACCESS Initiative” (2009).47 Programs included the development of “community violence response teams: volunteers who are able to provide short-term support for families who’ve been impacted by community violence,” which allowed the group to be more intentional about supporting and engaging with impacted individuals and families.48 Later, CU TRI gained further support through the National Council for Behavioral Health’s Trauma Informed Care Learning Collaborative (2014), which was designed to “increase the availability of trauma specific practices in Champaign County”.49 By educating participants in the root causes of community and gun violence, and best practices to address them, CU TRI aims to build community knowledge in supporting families and individuals affected by violence and trauma. Similar to “wraparound” mental health and wellbeing initiatives, CU TRI nurtures a form of trauma education and response by building capacity across all levels of communities, from families to volunteers to trauma educators.50 This model extends the partnering work that the Coalition stewards across all its programs, which is based on community-institution dialogue and cooperation.

Educational Programming

In addition to CU TRI, the Coalition’s youth education and development initiatives are at the core of their strategic programming. Programs such as Goal Getters and Self Made Kingz, established in 2018 and 2019 respectively, work directly with marginalized, racialized and underserved youth by providing mentoring and educational resources.51 For youth who are more likely to experience negative life outcomes, these initiatives support educational achievement, social and emotional mental health, and resource development.52 They connect youth with reliable and caring adults who can have a positive impact on the lives of youth especially involve younger youth in need and youth who have been involved in incidents of community violence, these Coalition programs are one opportunity to build better relationships between community youth and families and law enforcement.53 Joint trainings and educational programs supporting best practices in police-community engaged activities, as an attempt to repair distrustful relationships.54 These programs are strategic attempts to address all five of the original community forum themes, to improve community partnerships around police-community relations, encourage open and accountable communication, youth development and youth engagement.

Panelists discussing schools and trauma at News and Breus on Tuesday, June 12, 2018. Retrieved from https://illinoisnewsroom.org/community-works-towards-solutions-for-traumatized-students/

Centring youth-led conversations that

45 Lask, 2021.
46 “History”, retrieved from https://www.traumaresilienceinc.org/about-us/history
47 ibid.
48 Karen Simms, quoted in Herman, 2019.
49 ibid.
50 Retrieved from https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/initiatives/cu-trauma-and-resiliency-initiative/
52 “Goal Getters Celebration”, 2018.
53 The Mayor Feinen Podcast, 2021.
54 “History of the Wraparound Process”.
55 The Mayor Feinen Podcast, 2021.
56 Gaines, 2019.
58 David, 2015.
CONCLUSION
Key Takeaways

The Coalition is a unique space for active, open and accountable communication across institutional divides. Public officials and commentary reflects recognition of how novel its existence is, and that few models like it exist nationwide and outside of large, metropolitan areas. Dedicating work to assessing and creating instruments for review and feedback will create opportunities to strengthen programs developed to foster public trust and community engagement.

The rich history of the Coalition is important to continually renew effort by leadership, stakeholders and participants, especially under times of duress. A full archive of news reports, oral histories by founding members, and media artifacts could help the Coalition to better tell its story to stakeholders and broader publics alike. This archive could be maintained in an accessible location, with both an offline and online presence.

The continual development and use of surveys and interviews can help the Coalition to gain vital feedback on initiatives. These tools will help provide a clear analysis of who is present at the table. This can yield insights into which members and sectors of the community are participating and who else might be included as relevant populations for Coalition programming and collaboration. It can also yield important resources for future assessment and review practices for individual programs, program leadership, and overall impact.

The Coalition is cited in multiple public arenas as noteworthy for its inspirational innovation and stewardship of programs with and for community members. Many have noted the Coalition’s rapid growth, diverse participant network, ability to generate and sustain highly visible events and programs as examples that indicate successes and potential for further development. By investing in assessment work and data collection to document growth, build on and strengthen achievements, and identify challenges and opportunities in meeting objectives that include elevating and strengthening leadership and resilience in the community, the Coalition can strategically design a pathway to ensure an even more sustainable and impactful future.

Discussion

The variety of Coalition programs and activities are made possible by the continual efforts of a unique and regionally distinctive network of skilled and caring community members, leaders and organizations. While the Coalition has begun to build robust community engagement and is increasingly bridging geographic, institutional, class- and race-based divides, many recognize that this work is still in preliminary stages. To continue this work, it is important to document the rich history of the Coalition and build a robust archive of their work, their struggles and accomplishments. This archive would function to document the achievements of the Coalition and serve as a learning tool for participants and stakeholders hoping to continually improve this system of care and work together to innovate future responses. A formalized process is necessary to curate and collate the Coalition’s history. In addition to building an archive, creating more opportunities for feedback will help the Coalition to fine tune and reassess its programs and initiatives. Surveys and interviews with founding leadership as well as broader civic stakeholders and residents who are most impacted by the Coalition’s efforts can further be used as important tools to gather feedback and organize it in a way that can help the Coalition develop meaningful suggestions for change.

Especially since the Coalition remains a unique forum for collaborative and structural change, considered assessment of its work will help to strengthen future initiatives and better understand the impact of its programs.

59 Six Initiatives, Draft Community-Police Forum Plan – SS 2010-056; retrieved from https://www.champaigncommunitycoalition.org/
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“History” Trauma & Resiliency Initiative, Inc. retrieved from https://www.traumaresilienceinc.org/about-us/history
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