

From: Josef Lavanway

Sent: Wednesday, January 25, 2023 1:42 PM

Subject: [External] Regarding H41 and other Legislation

Good Afternoon Martin,

Wishing you well this afternoon. I am reaching out as I have been in communication with several CJC directors regarding H41 and would like to state that the South Burlington Community Justice Center is in support of this bill. I would like to highlight that the bill as presented does not entail an either or approach, but aims to open the door a crack regarding Community Justice Centers and the ability to engage in cases. There has been much thought and collaboration between the Network and the Community Justice Centers regarding expanding Restorative Justice practices to DV/SV cases. While there are concerns regarding the prospects of doing the work the bill allows for avenues to be explored and funding to be established for pilot practices. As mentioned via email relationships where DV/SV are present bring forth repeatedly traumas and coercion in some cases. I believe that the more tools we can have in our toolbox to assist members of community and hold folks accountable the more able we will be able to reach the diverse needs of our communities. Restorative Justice is a process rooted in relationships and repairing harm caused by responsibility parties. Being able to engage in a Restorative Practice in theory is a process that can be applied to wide range of harm, including the harms caused by DV/SV. While the harms are complex I believe that much care has been put into the bill and the intention behind the bill is sound. The journey of a thousand leagues begins with one step and through beginning to pilot RJ/DV/SV work Restoratively there is much promise in being able to have a profound impact on individuals who have been harmed that go beyond what traditionally occurs in the courtroom.

I am wondering if you would be able to set aside to chat via zoom regarding H41 and other legislature such as the proposal to codify precharge/criminal direct referrals and aligning Community Justice Centers practices with those of court diversion. I am concerned regarding the impact of applying Court Diversion Statue to Restorative Justice Practices. Looking forward to connecting Martin. I know that things are extremely busy, but it would be great to connect. I hope that you have a fantastic day.

Warmly,

Josef

~~~~~

Josef Lavanway, Director  
South Burlington Community Justice Center