

ICTC Quarterly Meeting Notes

Thursday, February 2nd, 2017, 12:30 p.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Museum of Contemporary Art in Chicago
220 East Chicago Ave., Chicago, Illinois, 60611

Welcome and Introductions

Gaylord Gieseke, Chair of the Illinois Childhood Trauma Coalition (ICTC), welcomed members of the ICTC and gave some background information to the audience in lieu of the new meeting venue and non-Coalition participants.

ICTC RIC Update

Dr. Rebecca Ford-Paz and Willis Francis, LCPC, co-chairs of the Refugee and Immigrant Ad hoc Committee gave an update on current events with the RIC Ad hoc committee.

A brief introduction to the RIC Ad hoc Committee for non-members was shared. Participants were reminded to be on high alert for recognizing the impact of the new presidential administration's policies and executive orders to create chaos, anxiety and outrage, and to be particularly aware that young people are looking to adults and community groups to provide safety and calm despite confusion and distress.

Late last year, The Center for Childhood Resilience (CCR) successfully acquired internal and foundation funding to support curriculum development work focused on marginalized youth. RIC has plans to make future webinars to address marginalized youth and to reach providers and concerned community members in areas outside Chicagoland. In addition, RIC has been partnering with the IL Refugee MH Task Force and the MH Coalition for Undocumented Immigrants to develop parallel responses for adult refugees/immigrants.

In late November 2016, the "Chicago Is With You" task force, led by Mayor Emanuel, Congressman Gutierrez and Senator Durbin, was established. The task force aims to collaborate on the following areas in an effort to respond to emerging needs and flesh out what it means to be a sanctuary city. The work is broadly focused on marginalized communities: (e.g., refugee/immigrant, ethnic minority, LGBT, religious minorities). CCR and RIC are creating a plan of action to carry out this important initiative. What does the plan of action look like?

Universal:

1. Develop Trauma Training materials and ***train a cadre of community mental health leaders to provide training***
2. Build capacity to deliver Youth Mental Health First Aid and either Adult Mental Health First Aid or NAMI Mental Health Awareness curriculum. ***Trainer the trainer model to build capacity for trainers***
3. Train CWY Collaborators: ***Including Community Navigators, Attorneys, Educators, Clergy and other community leaders***

Clinical Responders:

1. Identify promising interventions to modify and pilot in Chicago community agencies and schools (***in conjunction with national leaders***)
2. Develop training and supported implementation PLCs

Finally, RIC is currently working to develop a comprehensive resource guide geared toward the needs of immigrants and refugees that they hope to make publicly available to increase awareness of existing resources.

To learn more about this important work or to get involved with RIC, please contact us at ccr@luriechildrens.org.

Film Premiere: *Newtown: What Remains After All is Lost*

Filmed over the course of nearly three years, the filmmakers used unique access and never before heard testimonies to tell a story of the aftermath of the mass shooting of school children on December 14, 2012 at Sandy Hook Elementary School in Newtown, CT. *Newtown* documents a traumatized community fractured by grief and provides an intimate look at some of the individual paths taken toward managing grief and developing a sense of individual and community resilience.

* Participants were alerted to the sensitive content of the film, and it was noted that it was being shown with the hope that it might shed light on the universality of grief and loss.

Panel Presentation and Audience Q&A Session:

Dr. Colleen Cicchetti led a moderated panel discussion and audience Q&A reflecting on the film, *Newtown*. In Chicago, we are often challenged to serve families that have experienced (or are experiencing) multiple traumatic exposures or specific traumatic events that occur within the context of multigenerational trauma and a social-political context impacted by poverty, historical trauma and racism. *Newtown* explored the aftermath of a specific traumatic event that occurred in a very different social and economic context. Panelists and attendees were encouraged to take note of both the differences and the similarities in the experiences of survivors across context.

Panelists:

- JaShawn D. Hill, *Family Support Specialist*, Chicago Survivors
- Gabriela Lagos, *Crisis Manager*, CPS Crisis Management Unit, Chicago Public Schools
- Mark Walsh, *Campaign Director*, Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence (ICAHV)
- Marlita White, *Director of Violence Prevention and Behavioral Health*, Chicago Dept. of Public Health

Overall themes of the discussion and comments shared by the panelists and audience members following the film that demonstrate similarities between the victims and their families in the film, and those in our city:

- 1) The similarities to grief and the response that it elicits in both Chicago and Connecticut. At the same time, youth grieve differently than adults and it would be helpful to show their process through the film to help viewers understand how they grieve. – JaShawn D. Hill
- 2) Grief is a universal emotion, regardless of where you're from. It's important that first responders, help rebuild that sense of community among those impacted. – Gabriela Lagos.

Overall themes of the discussion and comments shared by the panelists and audience members following the film that demonstrate the differences between the victims and their families in the film, and those in our city:

- 1) The national response to the young victims in Connecticut, and how victims of violent crimes in Chicago are often dehumanized and reflected as a number as opposed to a person, child, etc. In the film, we know the children's names, but this is often not the same in Chicago.

- 2) The lack of community around extreme violence in Chicago. Too often we see it as “not our problem,” as opposed to working together and supporting one another through the grieving and recovery process. – Mark Walsh
- 3) There aren’t “isolated incidents,” in Chicago and too often, there is no time to process one’s grief before another tragedy/violent crime takes place. – Gabriela Lagos
- 4) In Newtown, the families knew their neighbors and would check-in on them. In Chicago, we often don’t know our neighbors well enough, if at all. – Audience member

What lessons from this film and the subsequent discussion can we apply to Chicago?

- 1) Working to create a world/space where all communities view acts of extreme violence and note that “this shouldn’t happen here.” Sensitize individuals to the human experience regardless of where someone is from, and elevate trauma awareness and prevention. - Marlita White
- 2) Create sister communities and sister cities to support one another in the event of a violent crime. – Audience member
- 3) Humanize the families/victims in the media, and how these crimes are reported. Bring back the emotional response to lives being lost in Chicago. – JaShawn D. Hill
- 4) Ensure every neighborhood in Chicago has access to crisis management in a timely manner and with parity. – Audience member
- 5) Get involved with education and policy. Pick an area that you feel passionate about, and get engaged to effect change. – Mark Walsh

Closing Remarks/Reminders

Members interested in joining the ICTC Sub-Committees should reach out to Angie Krausfeldt, *Communications Specialist*, for the ICTC at: ictc@luriechildrens.org.

Members were reminded that the next meeting is scheduled for **Thursday, May 4th, 2017 from 1:30-3:30 PM**. The time change for the next meeting is due to the availability of conference room space to meet the needs of the ICTC.

The meeting was adjourned.

Follow-Up

If you attended the ICTC Quarterly Meeting on February 2nd, 2017, please fill out this brief evaluation at: <https://goo.gl/forms/au1Zj57NEFYOXsE32>. We value your opinions and would like to provide feedback to the filmmakers for the PBS release of *Newtown* on April 3rd, 2017. We are also exploring how the ICTC can add content to the local and national discussion of *Newtown*, and this is an excellent opportunity to lend your voice to that dialogue.

Resources

[Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence](#)
<http://www.ichv.org>

[Chicago Survivors](#)
<http://www.chicagosurvivors.org>