

Request to the Children's Mental Health Collaborative – June 2020

Towards the end of 2018, Juvenile Probation began working in collaboration with Northpoint to implement and grow the culturally specific, trauma-based Nia Program for black male youth in the North Minneapolis and nearby communities. Trauma support for our community is needed now more than ever as the City of Minneapolis and Hennepin County work to make real systemic impacts to address disparities.

With the success of Nia, Juvenile Probation started looking into options for similar trauma-based programming in the South Minneapolis area. It was learned that Urban Ventures was running a trauma group for adult men, so conversations about adapting the programming for youth began and a decision was made to fund a pilot of this program. It should be recalled that parts of the hopes in developing the programs was to expand capacity and services within Juvenile Probation as needed.

The new Urban Ventures - Nehemiah Program will consist of two 90-minute classes per week to be conducted utilizing curriculums designed to enhance learning and development of cognitive and behavioral skills on the topics of Managing Strong Emotions and Healing from the Pain of Trauma. Programming will support male/male identified youth, ages 15-19, in learning to manage and regulate emotions which will help to foster healthy relationships. The program is designed for a 12-week/36 hours of programming. Program participants will also have a minimum of monthly one on one support through an assigned case manager with Nehemiah.

With all the transitions due to the impacts of COVID-19, implementation of this new program has been delayed and the hope is that programming will begin in September 2020. In the meantime, Juvenile Probation is continuing to work with Urban Ventures to establish well-being outcome measures to evaluate the impacts of the program on those being served. As the CMHC is aware, we have been partnering with Wilder Research to help establish impacts of the Northpoint-Nia program as well as the other trauma-based services targeted at prevention and early intervention services in the North Minneapolis area. With the new Nehemiah program having similar goals as the Nia program, Juvenile Probation would like to include Nehemiah in the Wilder evaluation to have a more complete look at how trauma services are impacting youth and families in both north and south Minneapolis. This is like the evaluation model which was funded by the CMHC for girls programming in previous years. Although the Link's POWER program was not funded by the CMHC, it was included in the Wilder evaluation for a more complete look at the array of services for this population.

Wilder has indicated that the addition of another program to the current evaluation model would require up to \$7,000 of increased funding. The CMHC had previously approved 2020 funds of \$20,000 for Wilder Research to support the evaluation of the three trauma-based programs currently funded by the Collaborative. **Hennepin County Juvenile Probation is now requesting that funding be increased to a total of \$27,000 for 2020 to accommodate the evaluation of the Nehemiah program for a more complete picture of the array of trauma services.**

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