

CHARLOTTE- MECKLENBURG, NC

COHORT 1

WHO WE ARE

The Charlotte-Mecklenburg Equity in Practice Learning Community team is made up of dedicated partners from the Charlotte Regional Data Trust, the City of Charlotte, and Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services. Our focus is centering equity in the use of criminal justice data, locally. We were all initially connected through the Violence Prevention Data Collaborative, which was set up to support the [Mecklenburg County's Violence Prevention Plan](#).

WHAT WE ARE ABOUT

VISION:

Establish shared space for criminal justice and violence prevention professionals, researchers, and people with direct experience, as well as criminal justice working groups (VPDC, CJAG, etc) can connect around racial equity to reduce harm.

MISSION:

Provide tools, information and shared power structures so that the use of criminal justice data in our community is transparent, ethical, restorative/non-punitive, and centers racial equity.

GOALS

- **Goal #1:** Create a new governance infrastructure that is led by community representatives to strengthen oversight of Data Trust data
- **Goal #2:** Document the proper historical and social contexts of criminal justice data to aid in the equitable and ethical use of criminal justice data.
- **Goal #3:** Serve as a model and share learnings for other efforts and partners throughout Mecklenburg using and engaging with criminal justice data.

WHAT WE ARE WORKING ON

Team building & trust

We took time to get to know each other and to collectively set our mission, vision, and goals. We needed clarity within our team before we could get going on the hard work in front of us. We held a team retreat and developed a workplan with buy-in from all of us. We are intentional about seeing each other in person and building our friendships.

Community Data Advisory Community

A primary focus of is the development of the Charlotte Regional Data Trust's Community Data Advisory Committee. This committee will have people who represent identities and experiences represented and over-represented in the data at the Data Trust. This committee will be part of the governance structure at the Data Trust and help guide research priorities, ethnical research, and sharing findings. We learned a lot from the experience of the Criminal Justice Services Community Engagement Task Group. Funds are used to pay for time and expertise of a facilitator, two co-chairs, and members, as well as items like food and transportation.

Use of Criminal Justice Data Resources & Safeguards

Our team is focused on the use of criminal justice data and we are thinking a lot about resources we can provide to our community around using criminal justice data in a way that centers equity. We are working on developing a flowchart that documents criminal justice process (re-arrest, arrest, processing, release, jail, etc.) and what data is collected and used at each state and why the data is collected. We are also identifying the "high value" data assets that are frequently requested and hone safeguards to these data assets.

Equity + Data Connection Events

We are all in lots of spaces throughout Charlotte-Mecklenburg and we want to serve as a model and share resources with our partners. We are planning a series of regular "mixers" that seek to bring together data users, data creators (those who enter data) and community members who are interested in using data to connect around data equity topics. We will talk about the history of place and systems and how these connect to the data we use. We will also crowd source topics and expertise from our partners.

JOIN US AND GET IN TOUCH

We need all of us in this work. Don't hesitate to reach out to any of our members:

Sydney Idzikowski, Charlotte Regional Data Trust
sidzikow@charlotte.edu

Chandra Tyler, Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services
Chandra.Tyler@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Ayana Whitman, Mecklenburg County Criminal Justice Services
Ayana.Whitman@mecklenburgcountync.gov

Jackie Tynan, City of Charlotte
Jackie.Tynan@charlottenc.gov