

IN THE LOOP

with the Richmond Department of Children and Youth



Special Message from the Director, LaShonda White

It is my privilege to serve as the Director of the Richmond Department of Children and Youth (RDCY). As a Richmond-native, mother of two young children, and 14-year City of Richmond employee, I have had the wonderful opportunity to get to know many of Richmond's youth-serving organizations. I am grateful for your hard work and continued dedication to serve Richmond's children, youth and families.

Since the approval of the Kids First Initiative in 2018, RDCY staff continue to learn from Richmond's amazing community. In light of the current COVID-19 pandemic, we recognize that RDCY's grants will be more important than ever as our service providers, families, and youth continue to grapple with the immediate and long-term effects of this crisis. So that we are ready to provide needed support and funding in 2021 to our youth-serving organizations, we are moving forward with our community needs assessment and strategic planning process. We hope you can participate in our upcoming efforts to gather information on community needs and assets. We are thankful for the insight and input provided to help us as we plan, develop and implement this work.

Our team is small but mighty, and we are eager to share updates and priorities with you through our quarterly newsletters, social media, and website. Please stay in touch and thank you again for your interest in this work and service to the Richmond community!

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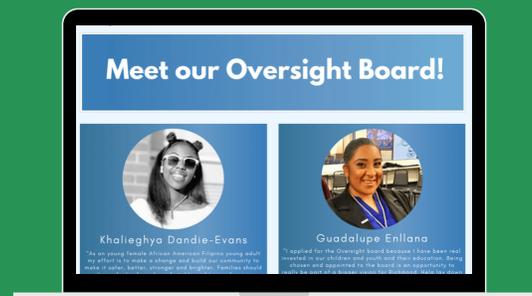
Zeonta Johnson

"Establishing systems for youth to elevate is connected to what motivates me. I'm excited about being a part and making a difference in my community."

Guadalupe Enllana

"I applied for the Oversight Board because I have been real invested in our children and youth and their education. Being chosen and appointed to the Board is an opportunity to really be part of a bigger vision for Richmond and help lay down the foundation to what I know will be something great. I'm exited about my term as Co-Chair because there are lots of great people on the Board, including youth, that are willing to work hard and make things happen."

Meet the rest of our
Oversight Board
members on our website:
www.richmondyouth.org.



Y-PLAN at Kennedy High School

This past fall, the Department of Children and Youth collaborated with students from Kennedy High School's Information Technology Academy (ITA) to answer the question: "How can the newly created Department of Children and Youth best serve all young people in Richmond?" The students were supported by Y-PLAN (Youth - Plan, Learn, Act, Now), an action research initiative that engages young people to tackle real-world problems in their communities through project-based civic learning experiences.

The students designed, disseminated, and collected 572 English surveys and 85 Spanish surveys from local youth to provide important insight to students' extracurricular involvement and perceptions of safety and availability of community resources. Students presented their findings on January 24, 2020,

We would like to recognize the ITA students, Kennedy High School staff, and Y-PLAN partners for their efforts to support and empower Richmond youth. To learn more about the students' recommendations, please visit the students' policy brief!



[Check out the students' policy brief!](#)



Full Steam Ahead on our Community Needs Assessment!

Following a Request For Proposals process that included the support of Oversight Board members and other Bay Area city governments, Berkeley-based consulting firm Hatchuel & Tabernik Associates (HTA Consulting) was selected to support the development of the Community Needs Assessment and Strategic Investment Plan.

Although COVID-19 poses barriers to community engagement efforts, Department staff and HTA Consulting have been creatively finding ways to advance the Community Needs Assessment and virtually connect with community members and service providers. We recognize that access to technology may pose a significant barrier to community engagement, but we are committed to identifying ways to stay connected!

On Wednesday, April 29th, a Service Provider Working Group meeting was held virtually to engage service providers in designing the community engagement process of our Community Needs Assessment. We are looking forward to hearing more from relevant agencies, service providers, and community members over the next several months!



Above: April 29th Service Provider Working Group held virtually through Zoom

COVID-19 RESOURCES

As part of a larger community effort, the Department of Children and Youth is committed to ensuring all community members have access to timely information and community resources. For health information and community resources, please click on the underlined sections below.

[City of Richmond, Health Information and Community Resources](#)

[Contra Costa Health Services, Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) Information](#)

[RYSE Center, Community Resources](#)

[West Contra Costa Unified School District, District Closure Updates](#)

The Department of Children and Youth will continue to stay engaged in community conversations to better understand the needs of our Richmond community during this time. As we prepare for our upcoming Community Needs Assessment process, we look forward to working collaboratively with our community partners to understand the short-term and long-term needs of our Richmond children, youth, and families.

Stay in the Loop!

Follow us on social media, visit us on our website,
and join our E-News mailing list at:

www.richmondcayouth.org



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The Richmond Department of Children and Youth would like to thank the Service Provider Working Group, Oakland Fund for Children and Youth, San Francisco Department of Children, Youth and Their Families, the Invest in Youth Coalition, and the Kids First Committee for their continued support.