

**Break-Out Session II-B:
Community Responses
to the Pipeline**

Community Responses to the School to Prison Pipeline

10 min.

WELCOME - Damon

- 1) Shakyra, Damon, Ellen introduce ourselves-- 2 min
- 2) Framing the Discussion—5 min

In order to have any lasting change community needs to be at the front of movement. Litigation outside of real organizing is like running on a treadmill. -

Example from Lift Every Voice—back room dealing and legislation

We have to lift up community—think about all the litigation wins – Damon

Change happens when legislators are embarrassed, when the media is involved, when there is political pleasure, when there is a lawsuit, and when the community affected has a voice. How do we work together to effect change? We need to work to ensure that we not just using somebody's story without involving their insights or their expertise --Shakyra

Community engagement in all strategies

Community Engagement vs. Community Organizing

Multiple strategies all infused with community engagement

Anything about us without us is not for us

“Communities” have been responding to the “pipeline” for years.

Ex. Of last minute getting people to your press conference

This is not about us engaging communities, its about a responsibility to ground our work-Ellen

15 mins. (30 seconds each)

INTRODUCTIONS & CURRENT GOAL - Shakyra

Please say your name, organizational affiliation, and one of your current goals with respect to dismantling the STPP.

3 mins.

GOALS FOR THIS SESSION – Ellen

Each participant will:

- Identify community responses that are independent from our organizations
- Envision and define “true/meaningful community partnership” throughout all strategies
- Assess whether current strategies are in true partnership with communities
- Identify ways to lift barriers to partnership

3 mins.

COMMUNITY AGREEMENTS - Ellen

- Safe Space
- One Mic
- WAIT
- Default to Trust

- Mine for Understanding
- Step up, Step Back
- Oppression Exists—we fight it here

30 mins.

BREAKOUT SESSION - Shakyra

- present the questions

- break into groups

Questions for Small Group Discussion- Community Responses

1. What do communities have to offer that we and some of our organizations do not?
2. What types of community responses to the pipeline have you observed that are not driven by traditional non-profit advocacy organizations?
3. What would a true partnership with communities look like? Think in concrete terms about community partnerships within these strategies:
 - a. Legislative/Lobbying and Policy Reform
 - b. Impact Litigation
 - c. Research and Public Education
 - d. Media Advocacy
4. Think back to the goal you articulated when you introduced yourself. Has your work in support of that goal reflected a true partnership with communities?
 - a. If so, please provide examples of approaches that have proven most successful in engaging communities?
 - b. If not, what impediments exist to working in partnership with communities and how can you overcome those impediments?
 - c. Lessons Learned: What “mistakes” have you made with respect to engaging (or not engaging) communities?

25 mins.

SHARING & DIALOGUE - Damon

Groups report out question by question. About 4-7 minutes per question, including discussion.

5 minutes

CLOSING – All