

RJOB Community Engagement Framework (proposed)

For Discussion & Refinement by the Community Engagement Committee

Purpose

The RJOB Community Engagement Framework provides a sustainable, community-centered approach for how RJOB communicates, engages, listens, and remains accountable to the communities it serves. It establishes a shared framework to guide engagement efforts, strengthen transparency, build meaningful relationships, and ensure community voice informs RJOB's priorities and recommendations.

Guiding Principles

Community-Centered

Center the voices, experiences, and priorities of those most impacted by the justice system.

Transparent

Communicate openly about RJOB's work, decision-making, progress, and limitations.

Collaborative

Build authentic, two-way relationships with community through ongoing dialogue, partnerships, and shared learning.

Accountable

Demonstrate how community input informs RJOB's work and regularly report back on progress and outcomes.

Sustainable

Prioritize engagement strategies that are realistic, consistent, and maintainable over time to ensure long-term impact.

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Framework Pillar 1 - Communications Strategy

Proposed Definition

A Communications Infrastructure is the collection of communication tools and channels RJOB uses to consistently inform community members about its work, opportunities for engagement, recommendations, and progress.

Rather than relying solely on public meetings, RJOB should maintain multiple pathways for sharing information in accessible and consistent ways.

Recommended Primary Strategy

Develop a Consistent Digital Communications Strategy

Establish a coordinated communications approach that keeps the community informed through regular, accessible, and easy-to-understand content.

Examples:

- Social media
- Meeting highlights and key decisions
- Recommendation updates
- Educational content about RJOB and the criminal legal system
- Calls to action and engagement opportunities

Recommended Supporting Strategies

1. Public Dashboard / Website Landing Page - Maintain a Central Information Hub (is this something the County's communication team can support with?)

Create a dedicated website landing page that serves as the primary source for RJOB information.

Examples:

- Meeting materials (currently exists)
- Reports and recommendations
- Upcoming engagement opportunities
- Frequently Asked Questions
- Resources and contact information

Provide Public Education & Civic Learning Opportunities (digital and print)

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Increase public understanding of RJOB's role, the criminal legal system, and opportunities for community participation through accessible educational content and learning opportunities.

Examples:

- "RJOB 101" materials
- Educational videos or infographics
- Plain-language summaries of recommendations
- Explainers on County decision-making and policy processes
- Workshops or webinars on topics related to RJOB's work
- County decision-making
- Policy development
- RJOB's role
- Implementation timelines
- Opportunities for advocacy

2. Provide Regular Community Updates

Develop a consistent cadence for sharing RJOB news through email and other digital communication channels.

Examples:

- Quarterly e-newsletters
- Progress updates
- Community announcements
- Highlights of recent work and upcoming priorities

Framework Pillar 2 - Community Feedback Infrastructure

Proposed Definition

The Community Feedback Infrastructure creates accessible, ongoing opportunities for people with lived experience, residents, and community organizations to share perspectives, identify emerging issues, and help inform RJOB's work. Feedback should be continuous, actionable, and integrated into decision-making—not limited to formal meetings or one-time engagement events.

Recommended Primary Strategy

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Establish and Maintain an Ongoing Community Feedback Portal

Create a centralized online tool where community members can submit feedback, recommendations, questions, and emerging issues at any time.

Examples:

- Recommendation submissions
- Community concerns
- Questions for RJOB
- Ideas for future priorities

Recommended Supporting Strategies

1. Conduct Regular Community Surveys and Feedback Campaigns

Use targeted surveys and digital outreach to gather feedback on specific initiatives, recommendations, and emerging community priorities.

Examples:

- Issue-specific surveys
- Polls
- Feedback requests following engagement activities
- Community needs assessments

2. Integrate Feedback Across RJOB Activities

Ensure community feedback is consistently reviewed, shared with RJOB members, and reflected in recommendations and public reporting.

Examples:

- Summarize themes from community feedback
- Include feedback updates in RJOB meetings
- Report back on how input informed decisions
- Identify emerging issues for future work
- Calls for input

Framework Pillar 3 - Community Engagement Strategies CEF should determine what this cadence actually looks like and make a recommendation to the full body

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Proposed Definition

Community engagement is the intentional process of building and sustaining relationships with community members through ongoing dialogue, partnerships, and shared learning. RJOB's engagement model should move beyond one-time events to create consistent opportunities for participation, trust-building, and collaboration throughout the year.

Recommended Primary Strategy

Establish a Year Round Community Engagement Cycle

Implement a year-round engagement model that creates regular opportunities to inform, listen, collaborate, and report back.

Example Annual Cycle

- **Quarter 1:** Community Listening & Relationship Building
- **Quarter 2:** Share Emerging Priorities & Gather Feedback
- **Quarter 3:** Community Validation & Refinement
- **Quarter 4:** Report Back & Accountability

Implementation Note: The Community Engagement Cycle is intended to provide a consistent rhythm for engagement—not a series of large-scale events. Engagement activities should be scaled based on RJOB's capacity and may include partner meetings, tabling at existing community events, virtual conversations, targeted listening sessions, surveys, or other low-resource opportunities. The goal is to create sustained, ongoing engagement rather than relying solely on periodic, resource-intensive town halls.

Recommended Supporting Strategies CEF should determine what this cadence actually looks like and make a recommendation to the full body

1. Host In-Person Community Gatherings

Create opportunities for face-to-face dialogue outside of publicly noticed RJOB meetings.

Examples:

- Community conversations
- Listening sessions
- Strategy sessions

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- Neighborhood gatherings
- Youth-focused discussions

Purpose: Build trust, deepen relationships, and create space for meaningful dialogue.

Public Education Series (this should be at least one of the in-person sessions)

Provide Public Education & Civic Learning Opportunities

Increase public understanding of RJOB's role, the criminal legal system, and opportunities for community participation through accessible educational content and learning opportunities.

Examples:

- "RJOB 101" in person
- Workshops or webinars on topics related to RJOB's work
- County decision-making
- Policy development
- RJOB's role
- Implementation timelines
- Opportunities for advocacy

2. Leverage Community Partnerships & Hybrid Engagement

Meet community where they already are through trusted partners and provide multiple ways to participate.

Examples:

- Attend CBO meetings
- Table at community events
- Partner with community organizations to co-host conversations
- Offer consistent virtual engagement opportunities for those unable to attend in person

Purpose: Expand RJOB's reach while reducing barriers to participation.

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Framework Pillar 4 - Accountability Infrastructure

Proposed Definition

The Accountability Infrastructure establishes how RJOB communicates the impact of its work and demonstrates how community input informs its priorities, recommendations, and actions. Accountability is achieved by consistently reporting back to the community on progress, challenges, outcomes, and opportunities for continued involvement.

Recommended Primary Strategy

Host Community Recommendation & Progress Updates (1–2 times annually)

Provide dedicated opportunities to report back to the community on RJOB's work, share progress on recommendations, discuss implementation efforts, and identify emerging priorities.

Examples:

- Annual or semi-annual community update sessions
- Progress presentations
- Recommendation implementation updates
- Community Q&A and discussion

Recommended Supporting Strategies

1. Public Dashboard / Website Landing Page

Provide a centralized location where community members can easily access RJOB information and track progress over time.

Examples:

- Status of recommendations
- Annual reports
- Meeting materials
- Progress updates
- Community engagement opportunities
- Frequently Asked Questions

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2. Demonstrate How Community Input Informed RJOB's Work

Regularly communicate how community feedback influenced RJOB priorities, recommendations, and future work.

Examples:

- "What We Heard" summaries
- "How Your Feedback Was Used" reports
- Feedback themes included in RJOB meetings
- Annual engagement and impact summary