



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Crime Survivors at the Center of Policy and Healing

A flagship project of Alliance for Safety and Justice



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE



Terra Tucker
ASJ Texas State Director
Austin, Texas



Jonathan Lewis
CSSJ Managing Director
Houston, Texas

Introduce yourself here is the question:

Session Goals

- **Overview of Alliance for Safety and Justice and Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice**
- **Overview of the 2024 survivor survey on safety and justice**
- **Discuss the treatment of survivors in our current system**
- **Discuss Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice policy impact in Texas**
- **Group Discussion on how we can continue to increasing public safety**





ALLIANCE FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Jonathon

**Reflecting on the stories in the
video & your personal experiences,
what makes you feel safe &
healed?**

Jonathon

Who We Are

Terra

Brief History



Alliance for Safety and Justice (ASJ) is a multi-state organization that aims to replace over-incarceration with more effective public safety solutions rooted in crime prevention, community health, rehabilitation and support for crime victims.

Focused on the largest states in the country, we partner with state leaders and advocates to achieve safety and justice reforms through advocacy, organizing, coalition building, research and communications.



- Crime Survivors for Safety and Justice (CSSJ) is a flagship project of Alliance for Safety and Justice launched in 2013.
- Crime victims were excluded from criminal justice reform, policy making, and faced a lack of access to services and victims compensation.
- Crime Survivors built a new organized political force to win new safety priorities.
- CSSJ Organizing model emphasizes trauma informed approaches that support survivors in their healing journey.
- CSSJ expanded nationally in 2018.



Terra and Jonathon

The video explained the problem and the mission. Now we will tell you a little more about who we are and the work we do.



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

“The Hierarchy of Harm”

Victims Seen and Unseen Discussion

In Their Names by Lenore Anderson

Jonathon

What thoughts or feelings did this story bring up for you?

Terra -Why do we say victims are unseen and not listened to?

What are other ways victims have been harmed by the system

-being re traumatized by police- trials- outcomes-(symptom of relying on the criminal justice system for healing. We have a lack of alternative healing and supports and an over reliance on simply incarcerating the person. The hierarchy of our system is based on punishment vs. healing.



Terra- Tie it to a better use of resources that doesn't victimize survivors



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Two out of three victims did not receive help following the incident, and those who did were far more likely to receive it from family and friends than the criminal justice system.

"CRIME SURVIVORS SPEAK: THE FIRST-EVER NATIONAL SURVEY OF VICTIMS' VIEWS ON SAFETY AND JUSTICE 2017"



2024 Survey Findings

- **Victims of violent crime reject long sentences as the primary solution to crime.**
 - By a three-to-one margin, victims believe that the most effective way to reduce crime is to create more jobs and housing instead of long sentences.
- **Victims of violent crime prefer investments in communities over more spending on arrests and punishments.**
 - By a nearly two-to-one margin, victims of violence prefer investment in prevention, crisis assistance, and communities over more spending on arrests and punishment.
- **Victims of violent crime prefer laws that enable judges and officials to exercise discretion instead of mandatory minimum sentences and “truth in sentencing” laws.**
 - Seven out of ten victims of violence (71%) prefer sentencing policies that allow judges to consider the individual circumstances of the crime, the victim, and the defendant over sentences that require uniform sentence lengths for specific crimes.



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Group Discussion Problems and Solutions

13

Jonathon

How can we **work together** to shift the system from being focused on punishment **to** a system focused on breaking cycles of crime?

Jonathon

Terra- Pretrial services can be one solution. Especially when it is used as an opportunity to start services and divert people.

Work with people to gain a full picture of needs and find appropriate interventions and support

Wraparound services for people regardless of justice involvement.



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE



What We Won in Texas

- **SB 957 Cooperation Bill** - This bill eliminates the requirement to cooperate with law enforcement immediately after a victimization in order to apply for victims compensation.
- **HB 385 Probation Bill** - The policy improves early termination procedures. The bill changes how conditions are set, so they are not duplicative or unrelated to the needs of the person on probation. The bill adds an ability to pay provision so people aren't kept on probation or revoked because they're unable to pay probation-related fines and fees.

Terra- What has ASJ and CSSJ done to move us forward?



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE



What We Won in Texas

- **SB49 Housing Relocation** - Ensure that all survivors are eligible for compensation for relocation costs
 - Allow increases in the caps on the amount of funds survivors may receive to cover bereavement, loss of earnings and relocation
 - Expand eligibility to support all household members of the the direct victim and all family members, even if the household member is not blood or marriage related to the direct victim.
- **Trauma Recovery Center** - \$2 million received from Travis County & Austin City Council, to open the first Trauma Recovery Center in Austin, TX

Our Impact

100



successful legislative campaigns and hundreds of thousands of directly impacted people organized



500,000



crime victims newly eligible for victim compensation and assistance



in public funding moved from prisons and punishment to safety solutions like victim services, violence prevention, mental health treatment, reentry, and diversion

\$3 Billion

new Trauma Recovery Centers opened across the country to provide crisis assistance and mental health care to victims of violence



52



Jonathon

Survivor Centered: Policy Ideas and Recommendations

- Promote healing in our communities by
 - Growing our network of Trauma Recovery Centers across Texas
 - Increasing access to public safety funding for community organizations that provide services for victims as well as prevention programs
 - Expanding access to victim compensation and ending discriminatory exclusions
- Promote a criminal justice system that prioritizes rehabilitation over incarceration and punishment by
 - Utilizing peer to peer supports
 - Increasing access to community based treatment
 - Creating better pathways to housing and employment to decrease recidivism



Jonathan and TT



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Questions and Answers



CRIME SURVIVORS FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE

Contact Us:

Terra Tucker,

ASJ Texas State Director Terra@safeandjust.org

Jonathon Lewis,

CSSJ Managing Director Jonathon@safeandjust.org

Contact Us



**ALLIANCE FOR
SAFETY AND JUSTICE**



www.cssj.org



Twitter: @CSSJustice



facebook.com/CSSJustice



Instagram: @CSSJustice



Crime Survivors for
Safety and Justice