



HAPPY BLACK HISTORY MONTH

"The Time Is Always Right To Do What Is Right!" - Martin Luther King Jr

Unlocking Our Potential: A Transformative Journey with the Enneagram!

In October 2024, Community Works staff and leadership, over the course of two days, facilitators **Nikki** and **Tommy** from [@hrunequivocally](#) guided us on both self- and team discovery, using the Enneagram to deepen their connections, reflect on our past work and envision the future.



Thank you, **Nikki and Tommy**, for iving us the tools to deepen our connections, reflect and nvision, learn and grow ogether, and engage in ommunal practice.



Together, we explored Holding Change as we:

- **Deepened Our Connections:** We engaged in activities designed to strengthen our

relationships and enhance our understanding of each other's strengths and diverse contributions.

- **Reflected and Visioned:** We dedicated time to reflecting on our progress and space to envision how we wanted to practice collaboration and communication together.
- **Learned and Grew Together:** We experienced creative exercises and dynamic discussions that helped us explore from a values-centered foundation and equipped us with additional tools and perspectives to shape culture and practice boundaries.
- **Engaged the power of Communal Practice:** We created a space filled with opportunities to relax, recharge, and enjoy each other's company in a beautiful setting.

Empowering Change: Highlights from the 2024 ABMoC Policy Summit



In December, **Project WHAT!** proudly participated in the 2024 Alliance for Boys and Men of Color Policy Summit held in San Diego. This inspiring event brought together community leaders from across the state, fostering collaboration and creating a powerful space to elevate important policy initiatives.

The Alliance for Boys and Men of Color organized the annual Policy Summit to empower leaders by providing opportunities to build meaningful relationships, share insights across various issue areas, reflect on past successes and lessons learned, and plan bold strategies for the upcoming legislative session. This gathering played a vital role in advancing impactful work that supports boys and men of color in the community.



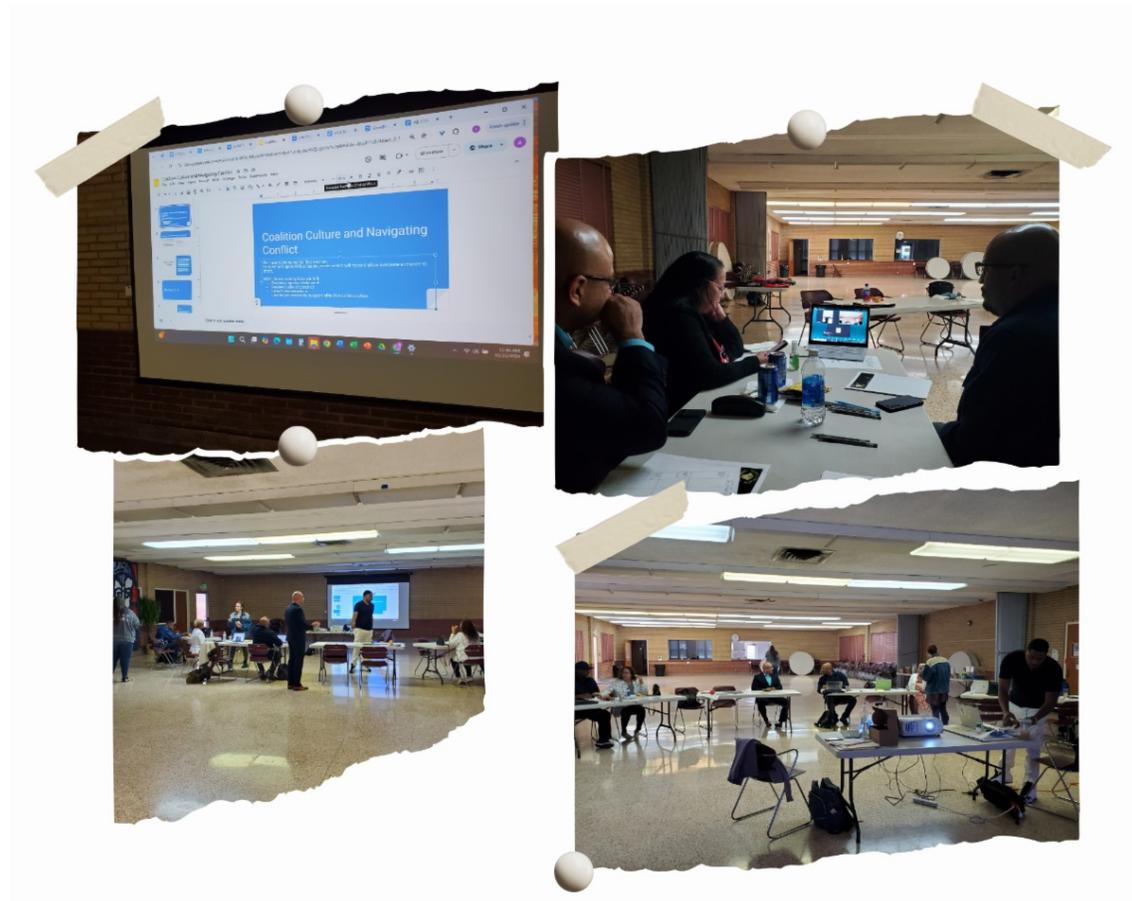
Advocacy Convening: Coalition for Family Unity

On November 16th, at the AOUON Center in Montebello, CA, Community Works (CW) and the Coalition for Family Unity (CFU) reaffirmed our commitment to enhancing family visitation protections in California prisons. We believe that visitation is a fundamental right that maintains crucial family connections.

In 2025, our focus will be on the mental health and well-being of children, emphasizing their needs in our advocacy efforts. It is vital for legislators to recognize that children are central to our mission. Our goal is to ensure stable lives for children during family transitions, regardless of their parents' circumstances.

While we support the **Incarcerated Person's Bill of Rights**, we believe in advocating for consistently accessible and child-friendly prison visits. Our experience with the One Family program at San Francisco County Jail shows the positive impact of quality services for children and incarcerated parents.

Let's envision a world where children can maintain connections with their parents. Together, we can make this vision a reality!



Inside The Circle: Staff Thoughts

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STAFF THOUGHTS
INSIDE THE CIRCLE

*"We need to acknowledge that **there has been a clear shift towards conservative and right-wing ideology** throughout the globe with a focus on more and harsher punishment for those who commit crimes. **The irony, of course, is the United States' historic election of a man whose felony convictions came not without consequence, but instead an inauguration that happens to fall on the important holiday honoring the late Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King Jr.**"*



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*"Our clients are feeling some type of way. **People don't want to go to court, they aren't even going to work.** And we can see the fear that has overcome our community; our staff feel it too. Personally, it's both difficult and exhausting to witness. I just hope people see past the media narratives, and understand that **those in power want us to be divided- they know how strong we are when we're united.**"*



Staff and Program Spotlight: Empowerment Chats

Laura Rubio

Mental Health Clinician, RCC: MIR



This month, we highlight Empowerment Chats, an integral part of CW's restorative justice diversion program. Led by **Laura Rubio**, Associate Clinical Social Worker, these chats provide essential support to participants at five key touchpoints:

1. After enrollment
2. Upon completion of the accountability letter
3. Before the conference
4. After the conference, with a warm hand-off to the agreements monitor
5. At program completion

During these sessions, participants reflect on their sense of self and relationships while engaging in socioemotional learning. The chats are youth-centered and flexible, ensuring each participant feels comfortable. Individual therapy is also available for deeper discussions.

Coordination involves Laura, the youth, and their families, with youth coordinators introducing the chats at enrollment. Should a participant disengage, support is provided to reconnect with them and their family.

Empowerment Chats are vital for supporting our youth and enriching their restorative justice experience. We're proud to offer this program and its positive impact on participants.

To learn more about Restorative Justice Diversion, [take a listen](#)

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