



Donna Gilchrist

Interim Board Chair

FRAZIER NAMED NEW EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

The Board of the Topeka Center for Peace & Justice (TCPJ) is pleased to announce that in 2023 Reverend Carl Frazier was unanimously named as the new TCPJ Executive Director. Reverend Frazier was chosen for many reasons including his strong passion for peace and justice issues. Other contributing factors include his work as Interim Executive Director as well as his background in management and finances.

In his roles as TCPJ Board Chair and as Interim Executive Director through sheer determination, sound leadership, and positive guidance, Reverend Frazier strengthened the TCPJ Board. In addition, he excelled at generating energy for TCPJ as well as creating positive relationships with other organizations in the Topeka community. He wrote, "My mission is to continue moving towards positive change...We cannot stop necessary progress. I specialize in creating effective, yet collaborative solutions by fostering strategic and authentic partnerships."

Under Reverend Frazier's skilled leadership, TCPJ is already moving into the future. Recent accomplishments include multiple grants which will undergird the Center's mediation and restorative justice work. Frazier has added staff members, such as Regina Platt, the new Restorative Justice and Mediation Coordinator, who is currently advancing restorative justice practices in local middle schools. A select, multi-ethnic group of community leaders have completed initial mediation training and have entered into a mentoring training conducted by Nancy Kelley of TCPJ. The ultimate goal of this training is to certify mediators to assist with TCPJ juvenile cases. In addition, new partnerships in the community will expand TCPJ's ability to effectively serve clients and their families.

The TCPJ Board hopes you will take some time to get to know Reverend Frazier. Contact information can be found on the Center's website at <https://www.topekacpj.org/staff-and-executive-committee.html>.

Topeka Center for Peace & Justice Board Members

Rev. Donna Gilchrist, West Side Christian Church, *Interim Chair*

Carol Christensen, Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints, *Secretary*

Dr. Lou Saadi, Islamic Center of Topeka, *Treasurer*

Virginia Barnes

Constancio Garay

Reshon Moore

Rev. Clarence Newton, New Life Baptist Church

Lori Brown, Baha'i Faith of Topeka

Major Jana Harden, Topeka Police Department

Dr. Beryl New, Faith Temple Church

Jonathon Noble, Esquire

Topeka Center FOR Peace & Justice



Carl Frazier
Executive Director

Topeka Center for Peace & Justice (TCPJ) Mission: *To promote justice and peace through education and action for social change by working with individuals and organizations in Topeka.*

LIVING YOUR DREAM

I am excited about being at the Topeka Center for Peace & Justice (TCPJ) because it allows me to live my dream. There are not many people who are able to live out their dream. It is like a child who plays basketball from elementary school, to college, and then is drafted into the National Basketball Association (NBA). Since I have been selected the new Executive Director, I have been drafted to the pros of fighting for peace and justice.

TCPJ realizes that we cannot fight this alone. As parents, we cannot have peace while our children are fighting the courts and being bullied in school. Maybe restorative justice and restorative practice will be the answer. This is the reason we are partnering with many organizations to help with our programs.

Our first mediation training, tailored for people of color, was held in April. It was so excellent! The trainer and coaches were amazed at the talent and the excitement. They said it was their best training class ever. However, what really impacted me was the last day when we talked about culture. Participants realized and understood the importance of incorporating more cultural diversity in mediators. Last, but not least, this class would not have been possible without our partnership with the Sunflower Foundation. The Foundation provided funding and the use of their beautiful facility.



TPCJ was honored to host Juston White, Community Impact Officer, from the Kansas Health Foundation. We had a very meaningful and productive meeting to see how we can partner with the Foundation. Thank you, Juston. It is always nice connecting with another Fellow from the Sunflower Foundation.

Top: Billie Hall, Sunflower Foundation CEO giving us the history of the foundation.

Bottom: Training Participants Hakim Saadi, Regina Platt, Corey Fox, Carl Frazier, Zinnia Armstead, Glenda Washington, Elle Brown, and Donna Gilchrist. Trainer: Roxanne Emmert-Davis. Coaches: Nancy Kelley, January Scott, David Mathis, and Art Thomas



Topeka Center FOR Peace & Justice



Left: A mediation role play with Amanda Saylor (teenager with an attitude), mediator Roxanne Emmert-Davis, and Nancy Kelley (the frustrated mom)



Right: Topeka High School basketball team recognition

The community wanted to know how the Topeka High School basketball team could be recognized for their outstanding sportsmanship at Valley Center, where students faced racially motivated unsportsman-like behavior. Pastor Clarence Newton led the charge with the right people at the table, including Mayor Padilla, Dr. Reuben West, and various faith leaders. This was challenging, but we pulled off an excellent community effort recognizing our youth. The mayor offered the Topeka Performing Arts Center (TPAC) as a venue, awards, and refreshments. Dr. West provided awards too. A young lady who filmed the incident received an award. Her video provided sound proof of the incident. Also, we recognized Highland Park High School's basketball team.

With all of the court referrals and work in schools, we know it's going to take more funding than we have received in the past. Our referrals have significantly increased from last year. We are training new mediators, we contracted a new database built to analyze data for evidence based information to report, and we reviewed and recognized how we can improve our processes. As a result, we have been busy applying for grants and are happy to say for the next two years we were approved for about \$600,000 in grants and donations. This is significantly higher than our 2021 revenue of about \$165,000.

QTR	2023 FY Referrals
Jul—Sep 2022	6
Oct—Dec 2022	13
Jan—Mar 2023	46

TCPJ has been working hard because we know the work we do is very important to our community. We thank friends of TCPJ who believe in what we do and we need our friends to continue to invest in our efforts.

We are excited to add Edie Snethen on our Resource Development committee in the near future. She will help identify additional resources. Edie served on the TCPJ board previously in a variety of capacities, including Board Chair. If you see Edie in the community, please congratulate her.

We changed our approach for the Resource Development committee. We have changed the name of our donors to "friends of TCPJ". This includes our corporate and individual donors. We are so happy to call you a friend.



Edie Snethen

Our corporate friends will have four levels of giving:

Platinum	\$30,000+
Gold	\$20,000 to under \$30,000
Silver	\$10,000 to under \$20,000
Bronze	\$ 1,000 to under \$10,000

We already have several platinum friends and we are excited about our individual friends giving. Please continue to give what your heart desires. The individual friends are one of reasons we have been able to stay open through the years.

Again, we continue to need your support for the youth trying to circumvent involvement in the legal and prison systems. Instead, we want to propel them towards their true dreams.



Nancy Kelley

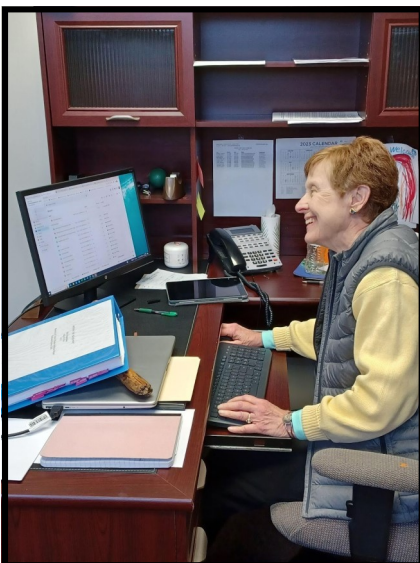
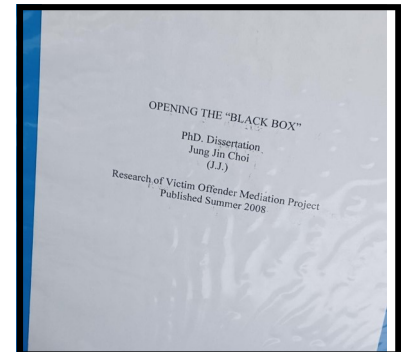
Interim Program Manager

Restorative Justice & Mediation Coordinator

March was Grant Season and grant opportunities seemed to be finding the Topeka Center for Peace & Justice (TCPJ). We applied for funding from Sisters of Charity from Leavenworth County, submitted a grant proposal to Kansas Department of Corrections for a wraparound program in partnership with Family Peace Initiative, received a foundation grant from the Sunflower Foundation, The United Way of Kaw Valley, and finally we submitted the Reinvestment Grant with the Kansas Department of Corrections and the E-C Impact Grant for the City of Topeka. The Reinvestment Grant, that we did receive again for two years, provides the funding for the victim/offender and parent/adolescent mediation program, a powerful and unique to Shawnee County program that serves to keep justice involved youth from recidivism and contributes to the well-being of the community. TCPJ has been involved with providing mediation for eighteen years. In 2005 when Bill Beachy was the Executive Director of the Center and Bob Williams was providing mediation services, a Washburn Graduate student wrote his dissertation on the program.

TCPJ has made a few changes to improve our mediation programs by adding Neighborhood Accountability Boards (NABS). NABS are trained community volunteers who provide a community voice to the harms done by the wrong-doer in a victim/offender mediation.

Currently 98% of the Victim Offender Mediations use NABs. In April, we trained 10 individuals in Core and Parent/Adolescent mediation. Roxanne Emmert Davis, an experienced mediator and trainer, provided training in Core on April 10 and 11 and Parent/Adolescent on April 24 and 25. A generous grant from The Sunflower Foundation provided the funding for this important training that is intended to increase diversity in mediation. I will be providing the practicum experience for each of those trained. The practicum is the experiential component required by the state to gain state approval for mediation. Practicums consist of no fewer than three mediations with a mentor-mediator.



Regina Platt is now the Circle Keeper for TCPJ. She has already begun to provide restorative practices in some area schools. I have had the privilege to provide circle dialogue to Elders at West Side Christian Church (WSCC) as they explored Gospel readings leading up to and including Easter. We met every other week at the Church where the participants learned to become their own Circle Keepers and will use the structure for future conversations. Donna Gilchrist is the Pastor of the WSCC and invited me to participate in this activity. It shows that Restorative Practices has a place in all of our communities.

Please go to our website and register for the Restorative Kansas Conference being held at Haskell University on June 8-9. TCPJ is a major funder and participant in this conference that will bring restorative justice practitioners from all over the region. More information about this event can be found on the TCPJ website.

SAVE THE DATE!



Statewide Conference on Restorative Justice

June 8 and 9, 2023

At Haskell Indian Nations University, Lawrence, KS

We return to the Indigenous roots of the Restorative Justice movement in this statewide conference on the campus of Haskell Indian Nations University. Come broaden your understanding and grow your skills as a practitioner through plenary presentations and breakout sessions. Hear from Chief Justice Emeritus Robert Yazzie of the Navajo Nation as the keynote speaker, as well as other indigenous peacemakers in a panel discussion and breakout session. Additional sessions will be featured around restorative practices in:

- Schools
- Youth-led efforts
- Community
- Law enforcement/Judicial
- Circle process

The conference begins on the afternoon of June 8. Registration will go live in March, 2023. More details to come!