

## Racial Justice News Items – March 2021

Emily Kaufman is a member:

[The County Where Cops Call the Shots](#)

[The New York Times](#)

The activists mostly ignored him. He was a Republican who had predicted [in a radio interview](#) that police reform wouldn't amount to much. But his reasoning — the police union's political donations — caught the ear of an activist named Emily Kaufman. **Ms. Kaufman was a clinical social worker who joined a Black-led community coalition** called LI United to Transform Policing and Community Safety, which was helping to put together an alternative police reform called [The People's Plan](#).

Hye-Kyung Kang is a member:

[\[Video\] Seattle experts: Anti-Asian hate crimes in focus after high-profile incidents](#)

[King5.com](#)

"All this time, and finally, something like mass murder happens for people to take notice that, 'oh wow, anti-Asian racism is real,'" said **Hye-Kyung Kang, chair of the Department of Social Work at Seattle University**. The tragedy that took place at [three Atlanta-area spas on Tuesday](#) spotlighted ongoing fear among the Asian-American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. "We have unchecked racism, colonialism, misogyny that is overflowing," said Kang.

[Collaboration with police divides social workers across US](#)

[ABC News](#)

But advocates of collaboration between social workers and police point to how ingrained law enforcement is into American society as evidence of the need for acting within that framework. "I just think it's difficult in the current society we live in to say we can't work with police officers when they're so embedded in our communities right now," **NASW North Carolina executive director Valerie Arendt** said. "I think social workers can and do amazing work within these systems."

Juan Rios is a member:

[South Orange Teams with Seton Hall University and Essex County for New Community Care & Justice Program, Seeks Input](#)

[TapInto](#)

Initiated by Village President Sheena Collum, the Community Care & Justice (CC&J) initiative is a collaboration between the South Orange community, Seton Hall University and Essex County. The initiative seeks to reimagine traditional models of law enforcement by putting a greater emphasis on wellness and crisis prevention while embedding care and compassion service values into all facets of police operational strategies and enhancing training for de-escalation and implicit bias. The program will be led by Trustee Donna Coallier, chair of the Village's Health and Public Safety Committee, and **Dr. Juan Rios, Director of Seton Hall University's Master of Social Work program**.

## [Social Workers Instead of Police? Denver's 911 Experiment Is a Promising Start](#)

### Curbed

What social workers really need are more options — the term of art is “referral avenues” — that provide comprehensive alternatives to criminalization, says **Melvin Wilson**, **senior policy consultant for the National Association of Social Workers**, who co-authored an [October 2020 report](#) on pre-arrest diversion and 911 alternatives.

“Eventually it will shake out to be more of a community-based model, but we don’t want to be replacing police,” he says.

Juan Rios is a member:

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### TapInto

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