**Education Workshop 1/20/22**

Alex Koenig and Uma Blanchard (Student Presentations)

Whole School Safety: CPS Responds to calls for Equity, Mental Health Supports, and Police Reform through Local Control

Abstract:

This research project follows Chicago Public Schools’ Whole School Safety reform through observations of Local School Council Meetings. Sitting at the intersection of America’s reckoning with racist policing and growing concern for the emotional wellbeing of teenagers, Whole School Safety addresses both issues by asking CPS high schools to “reimagine school safety” with equal attention to physical safety, emotional safety and relational trust. Whole School Safety plans were created by each individual school and then discussed and voted on by their Local School Councils in June and July 2021. Through observations of 27 of the 72 participating Local School Councils, we track how school actors made sense of competing demands and managed a charged political climate to plan for their local needs. In this session, we will present our findings, preliminary outcomes of Whole School Safety, and paths forward for our engagement with this process.

Uma Blanchard and Alex Koenig are second year PhD students in Comparative Human Development and Fellows with the Committee on Education. Both Alex and Uma worked in K-12 public schools before joining CHD and this research was funded by the W. Allison Davis Research Award.