



Accountability Workgroup
Thursday, June 2, 2022
9:30 AM- 11:00 AM
Government Center, Room 232 and Zoom

Members Present: John Cook (Chair), Chris Davies (Staff), Andréa Nunes Gardner (Staff), Mercedes Alonzo (CYF Father Engagement Unit), Joe Meyer (Shelter House), Katrina Smith (JDRDC), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Jonathan Yglesias (VSDVAA), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Brittany Davis (CCI), Dr. Brenda McBorrough (FCIA), Pia Miller (Deputy Commonwealth Attorney)

I. Approve remote attenders and adopt a Remote Participation Policy

- a. Joe Meyer motion to approve, Katrina Smith seconded, motion passes.
- b. Jonathan Yglesias remote from Richmond Virginia for recent exposure to COVID.
- c. Courtenay Schwartz remote from Richmond Virginia due to caring for a sick child.
- d. Brittany Jones remote from New York City due to personal reason.
- e. Gretchen Soto remote from Fairfax Virginia due to medical reason.
- f. Joe Meyer motion to approve that remote member's voice were adequately heard and that their remote participation comports with our Policy for Participation in Meetings by Electronic Communication. Dawn Butorac seconded, motion passes.

II. Welcome and introduction of members

- a. Chairman John Cook welcomed participants. Members introduced themselves sharing the organization that they represent.
- b. Chairman John Cook requested a membership list including member's name, organization, phone number, and email address. Members will send their phone numbers to Christopher Davies.
- c. Chairman John Cook reviewed FOIA requirements:
 - More than two people cannot communicate outside of the group meeting. Group members can email the group. Group members cannot have a subset of the group in a separate meeting.

- d. In regard to the question what is a “personal reason to participate remotely” it is defined broadly.
- e. Concerns and suggestion regarding remote participation policy should be sent to Christopher Davies.

III. Development of a mission statement

- a. Chairman John Cook stated that the purpose of this group is to explore how do we deal with those who have caused harm. Chairman John Cook acknowledged that everyone wants to help victims and the goal of the CEDV is to end domestic violence. However, we must recognize that we cannot end violence if we only focus on the criminal justice system. Some families want to stay together, recognizing that some families want to maintain connection. Chairman John Cook asked presented the need for a mission statement:
 - i. How do you want to address the issue with those who have engaged in domestic violence?
 - ii. A description of what we do will help us stay focused on what we want to accomplish.
- b. Chairman John Cook shared that a report from this workgroup must be submitted to CEDV by July 1st and he would like to have a mission statement to be submitted with the report.
- c. Joe Meyer volunteered to put together the first draft of the mission statement and send it to Christopher Davies.
- d. Chairman John Cook stated that we have to be able to describe our work to a broad audience and focus on the need to address recidivism. “We are preventing future criminal activity.”
- e. The following concepts are recommended by the Workgroup to be reflected on the mission statement:
 - 1. Accountability
 - 2. Trauma Informed or Trauma Responsive
 - 3. Commitment to expand services for those who harm and have been harmed
 - 4. Community based solutions that do not rely on criminal justice system, other options, restorative, trauma informed
 - 5. Investment in public health model, we are invested in primary, secondary, tertiary prevention
 - 6. Brittany Davis shared [definition of accountability](#)
 - 7. Inclusive of the voice and choice of those who have been harmed, including families that plan to stay together without putting responsibilities on those who have been harmed

8. Community must be part of the accountability, involved in the process, the court alone cannot support accountability
 9. Help the community to rethink about the importance of accountability with compassion
 10. Specificity about our purpose as workgroup: What accountability is? What is our mission? What is our role? Not just generating idea but also generating policy
 11. Creating policy to increase public safety, the current one-page overview has information about desistance as an indicator of outcome. If not using desistance, how should we measure outcome?
 12. Mention of “Oppressive System/Racial Justice” in the one pager overview or mission statement could detract from public support of the workgroup. However, there is disproportional criminal justice outcomes to underserved population. CCI has found it to be a necessary element to include among the communities that they have studied. Beyond racial justice, there needs to be attention to cultural relevance, cultural barriers, and access to systems based on identity. The language of One Fairfax can serve as an example.
 13. Be aware of the audience.
 14. Instead of mentioning “oppressive systems”, possible alternative wording: Centering the voices of those who have been harmed, by individuals and systems.
- f. Chairman John Cook will work with staffers to review and edit the one-page overview. Jonathan volunteered to be another set of eyes. After we have our mission statement, we will have actions items to take steps to end domestic violence.

IV. Identification of any members to add to the Workgroup

- a. Who should be in the room with us?
 - A survivor voice to be identified, someone who is on board with the concept. Joe Meyer will contact staffers with recommendations.
 - Somebody who has done harm and has worked through accountability
 - CSB/Health Department
 - Law enforcement/Public Safety/Police Department
 - Culturally Specific providers
 - Child welfare agency. Mercedes Alonzo said her work in the Father Engagement unit within the division of Children Youth and Families

does not put her in the role of child welfare work but that she will inquire whether someone from her division who does that work might be a candidate for this Workgroup.

b. Staffers will reach out to the entities above

V. Scheduling of future meetings frequency and timing and location

a. Chairman John Cook suggested to meet once a month. The next meeting should be scheduled for June 29, 30th or July 1st at Government Center.

b. The group discussed about the best time, suggesting 4pm or 5pm, late afternoon.

c. The group decided that next meeting will be in person with remote participation options. Christopher Davies will consult Stacy Ziebell an acceptable option per FOIA after the next meeting.

VI. Adjourn