



Accountability Workgroup
Thursday, August 25th, 2022
3:30 PM- 5:00 PM
Government Center, Room 232 and Zoom

Members Present: John Cook (Chair), Chris Davies (Staff), Andréa Nunes Gardner (Staff), Gretchen Soto (DSVS), Kim Parr (Community Corrections), Joe Meyer (Shelter House), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Brittany Davis (CCI), Pia Miller (Deputy Commonwealth Attorney), Dr. Brenda McBorrough (FCIA), Jamie Milloy (OAR), Iman A. Omer-Bahar (Health Department), Adam Allston (Health Department), Derwin Overton (OAR).

I. Approve remote attenders and adopt a Remote Participation Policy

- a. John Cook is attending the meeting remotely due to medical reason.
- b. Joe Meyer is attending the meeting remotely due to caring for his sick children.
- c. Mercedes is attending the meeting remotely due to illness.
- d. Brittany Davis is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away from where the meeting is held.
- e. Gretchen Soto is attending the meeting remotely due to being unwell.
- f. Courtenay Schwartz is attending the meeting remotely as she is caring for her child.
- g. Jamie Milloy is attending the meeting remotely due to client crisis.
- h. Dr. Brenda McBorrough is attending the meeting remotely due to personal travel.
- i. John Cook motion to approve remote attendees, Pia Miller moves the motion to be approved. Dawn Butorac seconded, motion passes.

II. Review/Approval of June 30th, 2022 minutes

- a. No changes. Minutes are approved as written.

III. Introduction of newly added members and first-time attendees

- a. Iman A. Omer-Bahar (Health Department)
- b. Adam Allston (Health Department)
- c. Jamie Milloy (OAR)
- d. Kim Parr (Community Corrections)
- e. Derwin Overton (OAR)

IV. Review mission statement

- a. “To support existing measures to reduce domestic violence by enhancing accountability mechanisms for those who cause harm and provide community opportunities for violence prevention and intervention to restore safety, hope and dignity to all impacted by domestic violence.”
 - i. One group member suggested that the use of the word “accountability” outside of this group might not be understood by the general public. It was suggested to use more explicit terminology.
 - ii. A group member suggested to change to “Accountability mechanisms for those who cause harm by providing community opportunities for violence prevention and intervention to restore safety, hope and dignity to all impacted by domestic violence.”
 - iii. A group member suggested to use “enhancing mechanisms” instead of “accountability mechanism.”
 - iv. A group member suggested “creating opportunities for accountability to include communities, not only for individuals.”
- b. John Cook suggested to approve the mission statement as it is. Pia motioned to approve the mission statement. Dawn Butorac seconded the motion. Mission statement approved.

V. Workgroup goals

- a. Make it understandable for the general population, making sure that is in an 8th grade level.
- b. There was a suggestion to distinguish between goals versus foundational principals.
- c. Suggested goals:
 1. Center and listen to the experiences of survivors as a guide to inform the services, processes, and changes that are most urgent.
 2. Base accountability systems in equity, and respect for culture, and in survivors’ values and recovery goals.
 3. Support survivors and their families with options and resources for [safely] separating/disconnecting/disengaging or reconstructing family relationships.
 4. Promote stronger links between healing and accountability in our

currents systems while also working to create new systems in which accountability practices are always focused on healing and safety.

5. Employ use of actuarial tools that assess change in attitudes, understanding, and behaviors of those who cause harm.
6. Partner with community and agencies to create systems and approaches to accountability that reduce recidivism and promote healing for those most vulnerable to violence.
7. Create systems of accountability that compliment but are different from existing institutional systems, such as the criminal justice system.
8. [Use evidence-based/research-based/data-informed methods] that are measured and analyzed to broaden public support for alternative means of accountability.
9. Prioritize hope and dignity in our policies and procedures, health, wellness, and resilience of all people and communities.
10. Train the next generation of interventionists. [Engage the community in what domestic violence looks like and their role in prevention.]
11. Strengthen our commitment and understanding of intersections between violence and systemic issues, addressing disparities, disproportionality, and culturally-relevant options. [racial justice, economic justice, reproductive justice, and gender justice.]
12. Self-determination.
 - i. Suggested that a group member work on creating a goal about self-determination to be reviewed in the next meeting.
 - d. Chris and Andréa will distribute the document with the goals created today along with the minutes. Goals will be reviewed by group members and provide feedback before the next group meeting.
 - e. There were some phrases that were removed from the goals during editing for which there were no consensus. These phrases were saved in a separate document for future discussion.

VI. Scheduling of future meetings frequency and timing and location

- a. Group members explored a reoccurring meeting for the next six months. A reoccurring meeting is scheduled for the third Thursday of each month from 3pm- 4:30 pm.
- b. Next meeting is scheduled for September 15th, 2022 at 3pm. Chris and Andréa will confirm the location via email.

VII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:59pm.