



**Accountability Workgroup**  
**Thursday, September 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022**  
**3:00 PM- 4:30 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), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Brittany Davis (CCI), Pia Miller (Deputy Commonwealth Attorney), Jamie Milloy (OAR), Iman A. Omer-Bahar (Health Department), Adam Allston (Health Department), Jonathan Yglesias (VSDVAA), Katrina Smith (JDRDC), Derwin Overton (OAR), Donna Audritsh (ADAPT Volunteer).

**I. Approve Remote Attenders**

- a. Brittany Davis is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away from where the meeting is held.
- b. Courtenay Schwartz is attending the meeting remotely as she is caring for her child and she lives more than 60 miles away.
- c. Jamie Milloy is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment.
- d. Jonathan Yglesias is attending the meeting remotely due to work related commitment and he lives more than 60 miles away.
- e. Katrina Smith is attending remotely due to work commitment.
- f. Kimberly Par is attending remotely due to work commitment.
- g. Pia Miller is attending remotely due to work commitment.
- h. John Cook motion to approve remote attendees, Darwin moves the motion to be approved. Gretchen seconded, motion passes.

**II. Review/Approval of August 25<sup>th</sup>, 2022 minutes**

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

**III. Introduce new members and update on prospective seats**

- a. Donna Audritsh has joined the group as a survivor voice. Donna is also a volunteer for the Anger and Domestic Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) program for the past eight years.

- b. Andréa provided an update about the continued recruitment for the person who is working through their accountability. Andréa will ask the NOVA BIP group if they have any leads.

#### **IV. Finalize workgroup goals and begin to develop objectives, measures, and timeframes**

- a. John acknowledged that during last meeting he was not able to see everyone in the room as he was participating remotely and missed addressing some group members suggestions and comments. John also acknowledged that there are some items that had no consensus during last meeting that will be discussed during today's meeting.
- b. Before starting to review the goals, there were suggestions to be mindful about goals being specific, relatable, and measurable.
- c. **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. Restore hope and dignity for those affected by domestic violence.
    - This goal was modified to include language about hope and dignity, eliminating the former goal number 9..
  3. Support self-determination for survivors and their families with options and resources for safely separating or restructuring family relationships.
    - Groups members noted that grammatical work is needed to finalize this goal.
  4. Promote stronger links between accountability and healing.
    - The group considered include "for most vulnerable people" at the end of the sentence.
  5. Create multiple pathways to accountability, including alternatives to the criminal justice and other traditional systems and responses, to reduce recidivism.
  6. Use evidence- and practice-based methods to promote effective means of accountability.
    - Deleted what was previously goal number 5 because of redundancy with another goal.
  7. Engage the community in its role in domestic violence prevention and accountability.
  8. Promote the awareness, coordination, and implementation of strategies to address policy, systemic, social, and cultural biases that contribute to disparities in both the occurrence of domestic violence and opportunities for restorative healing.

- There was non-consensus in this item in the previous meeting. Previous iterations were not specific enough to address disparities or worded in a way that could distract from the purpose of the document. Adam drafted the present wording which was agreed by consensus.
  - The formed goal number 2 was deleted as equity is included in this goal.
- d. Chris and Andréa will distribute the document with the goals created today along with the minutes.

**V. Discuss implementation procedures – how to prioritize goals – develop initial work plan**

- a. Andréa provided explanation about the Goal Setting Template tool. Andréa and Chris will send this tool via email to all group members to review and consider the use of this tool or similar tool to plan next steps.
- b. John proposed acceptance of this goal be deferred until next meeting to include feedback from all members, including the ones who were not present today.

**VI. Next Meetings**

- a. Next meetings schedule:
  - October 20<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - November 16<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
  - December 15<sup>th</sup>, 2022.
- b. We will revisit the schedule for 2023. We might switch rooms as the room we are currently using might not be available.

**VII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 5:00pm.