



Accountability Workgroup
Thursday, November 15th, 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), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Derwin Overton (OAR), Iman A. Omer-Bahar (Health Department), Adam Allston (Health Department), Katrina Smith (JDRDC), Donna Audritsh (ADAPT Volunteer), Gretchen Soto (DSVS), Joe Meyer (Shelter House), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Kim Parr (Community Corrections).

I. Approve Remote Attenders

- a. Jamie Milloy is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment. This is her third remote attendance this calendar year.
- b. Gretchen Soto is attending the meeting remotely due to a family member being diagnosed positive with COVID. This is her third remote attendance this calendar year.
- c. Courtney Schwartz is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- d. Kim Parr is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment. This is her second remote attendance as an observer this calendar year.
- e. John Cook asked for a motion to approve remote attendees, Dawn Butorac moves the motion to be approved. Adam Allston seconded. Motion passes.

II. Review/Approval of October 20th, 2022 minutes

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

III. Update plan for Goal #1, centering survivor voices

a. Recommendations from CCI on focus groups

- Brittany was not able to attend the meeting. Andréa shared with the workgroup, Brittany's recommendations and considerations.

- CCI has conducted focus groups in several jurisdictions, and they have some sample questions from which our Workgroup can build.
- They have done surveys with survivors and those who have caused harm, recruiting from local service providers and peer organizations.
- They usually hold separate focus groups comprised from all sectors of the community response, and it is good for our Workgroup to think about how we might plan to gather information from our respective sectors, as well as from survivors and those who cause harm.
- CCI has had success using the feedback from earlier focus groups to inform the questions of later focus groups, and initial focus groups with survivors and those who cause harm could potentially inform focus groups with professionals.
- They recommend a combination of surveys and focus groups.
- They recommend incentives (food and gift cards), and DSVS might be able to provide some of these incentives.
- They have some sample content for a recruitment flyer/letter that our Workgroup can adapt, and our PIO can design it graphically.
- Brittany is willing to be nominated to provide consultation regarding focus group questions and recruitment materials and to consult with focus group facilitators.
- Other Workgroup members would need to be nominated to organize and schedule the focus groups and/or surveys and to coordinate logistics.
- Identify CEDV members to co-facilitate work groups.
- Facilitators and participants could be drawn from respective staffs of organizations participating on the Workgroup, as well as others.
 - Workgroup member requested clarification about holding focus group from different sectors and having focus groups happening simultaneously.
 - The workgroup has decided in the last meeting to start with survivors focus groups and use those survivors focus group to inform the questions for focus groups from other sectors.
 - Andréa clarified that Brittany has shared that part of centering survivor's voice is to gather information from all involved in the accountability process such as prosecutors, probation judges, those who cause harm, etc.

b. Summarizing logistical support provided by DSVS

- DSVS staff will assist with coordinating meetings between Brittany (CCI) and workgroup members.
- DSVS Public Information Officer can help with flyer designer
- DSVS staff will make sure that meeting between Brittany and workgroup members are following FOIA requirements.

c. Decide what action to take on focus groups, and nominate group members for tasks

- It was suggested to inviting people to participate in focus groups, reach out as broadly as we can to figure it out how many groups and how many facilitators will be needed.
- The workgroup will identify volunteers from the workgroup to take the role of facilitator in the focus groups. This will be determined after the number of focus group participants.
- A workgroup asked if a survivor could bring an advocate with them to help communicate their needs. The workgroup cautioned to limit the number of advocates as it could lose sight of focusing on the survivor experience versus a professional voice.
- The workgroup agreed to create a draft focus group plan with an one-page recruitment document with the description of the focus group. This recruitment one-pager would be sent to people to recruiting participants.
 - Jamie, Joe, Katrina volunteered to work on the draft focus group plan and recruitment one-pager in consultation with Brittany.
 - Andréa and Chris will assist with coordinating a meeting between Jamie, Joe and Katrina.
- Jamie, Joe and Katrina will present the draft focus group plan and the recruitment one-pager during the December meeting.
- At the next meeting the workgroup will review those documents and determine next steps.

IV. Identify deliverables and objectives for remaining goals

Goal #1: Center and listen to the experiences of survivors as a guide to inform the services, processes, and changes that are most urgent.

a. Deliverables:

Present a report on recommendations from survivors about experience to guide accountability work to inform this workgroup's actions and for a perpetual feedback loop to the system

b. Objectives:

Gather survey data from survivors and those who cause harm
Focus groups with survivors and those who cause harm to answer what is needed and what is missing in accountability
Develop a SWOT from focus group findings (strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, threats)

Goal #2: Restore hope and dignity for those affected by domestic violence.

a. Deliverables:

Autonomy in decision-making and adequate supports

b. Objectives:

Analyze results of focus groups/surveys and incorporate ideas
Measurement tool, such as pre-post survey
Tailoring of offerings (not one-size-fits-all)

Goal #3: Support self-determination for survivors and their families with options and resources for safely separating or restructuring family relationships.

a. Deliverables:

Identify options and recommendations to expand and strengthen, such as:

1. Easy and affordable access to couple's mediation as a follow-up to a BIP
2. Financial stress management resources
3. Shelters, housing, advocates, etc. for survivors
4. Places for those who cause harm to go to increase safety
5. Nontraditional interventions for those who cause harm, including those who cannot afford a BIP
6. Peer support groups and the organizational support to perpetuate them (forums might exist that have strength and need to be identified)
7. Any dyadic resources require careful risk assessment and safeguards in the community system (which we might not yet have in Fairfax County)

Compile a menu of viable options and an education process for explaining options

b. Objectives:

Identify existing resources (BIPs)

Ensure system is equipped

V. Announcement: At the December meeting, the following six meetings will be scheduled

VI. Adjourn

a. Meeting adjourned at 4:20 pm.