



CEDV Leadership Facilitation Group

March 30, 2023

8:00 a.m. – 9:00 a.m.

Conf. Room 2/3, Government Center

Members present: Supervisor Walkinshaw (Chair), Chris Leonard, Tom Arnold, Toni Zollicoffer, Joe Meyer, Jim Ferguson, Nyle Berkeley, Stacy Ziebell, and Brittany Vera

Members Absent without Designee: Michelle Boyd, Corie O'Rourke, and Kader Gumus

Staff Present: Laura Haggerty-Lacalle

Note Taker: Brittany Vera

I. Adoption of Remote Participation Policies

Supervisor Walkinshaw welcomed the group. He explained the need to adopt remote participation policies. He asked the group to notify Stacy if there is a need to participate remotely to ensure quorum. There can be two meetings of the full Council held virtually each year.

Sup. Walkinshaw suggested that at the next Council meeting, the Council vote on which meetings should be in person vs. virtual before setting which leadership meetings would be virtual.

Supervisor Walkinshaw asked for a motion to adopt the virtual meeting and remote participation policies. Chris Leonard made the motion, which was seconded by Tom Arnold. The group approved the policies without objection or discussion.

II. Adoption of January Meeting Minutes

Jim Ferguson moved to have the January meeting minutes approved by the group. With no discussion on the matter, the motion passed without objection.

III. Coordinated Community Response Updates

a. Firearms Data

Laura Haggerty-Lacalle, DSVS Data Manager, explained the desire to gather information about the prevalence of firearms involved in the experiences of clients. Advocates asked two questions of clients about their experiences with firearms and their use during an incidence of violence or the access of their partners to a firearm.

The questions were refined after an initial round of data gathering. About 33-35% (1 in 3) of advocacy clients reported their partner has access to a firearm. About 9% (1 in 10) reported a firearm was used to threaten or intimidate during an incident. Laura shared the trends in the data have been consistent.

The data was shared with the Firearms Surrender workgroup. The group is hoping to benchmark the data with other jurisdictions. This data is not often readily available. The group is working with a technical assistance provider to connect with other systems. The group is also trying to find other entry points into the system to gather this data.

Questions from the group about the data revealed that the “unknown” response option was confounding, and it was not known if this response truly represented survivors not knowing the answer to the question or if advocates were not answering the question and instead marking that choice. The unknown answer option was removed for the second question about the use of a firearm during an incident but kept for the question about having access. Laura also clarified that the presence of the firearm in the second question could be due to threat or brandishing the firearm.

The group agreed about the importance of comparing the data to that of other agencies, like law enforcement or hospitals. The technical assistance provider supporting this project reviewed the data and said that the numbers were high compared to other jurisdictions.

Supervisor Walkinshaw asked about the prevalence of gun ownership among county residents. Laura said they do not know, but one factor to consider in reviewing that data would be the number of law enforcement professionals who reside in Fairfax and how they would answer that question. Tom Arnold agreed to follow this up. (Update: VA does not require sales/transactions for firearms and therefore PD has no data on this. 11 states do require law enforcement reporting, here is the [link](#), but VA isn't one of them).

Chris Leonard asked about presenting the data at the Council meeting. The group suggested the data presented only reflects the second method so that it's less confusing to the larger Council.

Toni shared that the Virginia Domestic and Sexual Violence Action Alliance put out a toolkit on firearms surrender for use across the state. The bulk of the materials are from Fairfax County. She will share the toolkit with the group.

Stacy shared some additional updates from the coordinated community response. The DV Network is having a challenging time finding candidates to be the liaison to the Leadership Facilitation Group. In the meantime, Nora Mahoney from LSNV is working with Stacy to keep the feedback from the group on trends and challenges current. Other updates include that Ayuda is once again running a language bank with trauma informed interpreters.

Brittany Vera provided updates on the Victim Access Workgroup of the Council. Work continues developing content for the protective order process in a clear, accessible way so petitioners and respondents can access the information on the Council's website.

Stacy shared that the Civil/Criminal Protective Order has had to take a step back because a lot of things they are working on require the involvement of the Commonwealth Attorney's office. There has been a conversation with the Commonwealth Attorney's

office, but the group will need to pause if they will not participate. The Protective Order packet workgroup has a new packet that is being used in English in Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court, but translation on the packet into other languages has been stalled. The group has begun to update the General District Court's protective order packet.

Brittany shared updates about the Step Up 4 Kids Coalition. The Coalition continues to provide trainings to Guardians ad litem and to distribute educational and messaging materials across the county. The Resilient Kids, Thriving Families Grant continues to deliver an array of services to children and families experiencing domestic violence. The continuation grant will begin in the coming quarter.

Stacy shared the Accountability Workgroup, chaired by John Cook, is beginning to work with survivors to inform the work of the group. They will conduct focus groups with survivors to gauge their feedback on the work ahead and the goals they want to accomplish.

The Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team met for the first time in person and has started reviewing cases. There are a number of cases up for review since the case reviews were paused during the pandemic to focus on best practices.

IV. Equity Update

There is an interest meeting scheduled for tomorrow for potential candidates on the Nominations Committee to understand the duties of the members. Some names are familiar, such as Joe Meyer, Lisa Sales, and Mattie Palmore. There is a short list of people who have expressed interest in leadership positions.

There will be a half-day retreat for the Equity Committee on how to engage community meaningfully. This group will then report back to the full Council. Approximately five to seven people have expressed interest on serving on the new leadership team, including a high-level county official and non-profit executives.

V. Agenda Setting - Next CEDV Meeting

Supervisor Walkinshaw suggested talking through the remote participation and virtual policies and taking the time to establish the two meetings that will be virtual during the year. A survey can be sent to participants to gauge which meetings the group wants to be virtual.

Rylynn the service dog, and her handler Sam Carrico, from DFS will be joining the meeting. A member of the Council asked for a presentation on the different types of supports Rylynn can provide to children experiencing abuse or neglect. The presentation will take about 15-20 minutes.

Stacy noted that all the Council's workgroups are including time for public comment, so it would be important to include this as an agenda item going forward, likely as the last agenda item.

Other agenda items discussed included an equity spotlight and time for networking in the beginning since it has been so long since the Council was together.

The group agreed to have a slide or two with updates from workgroups, including the data on firearms. Supervisor Walkinshaw suggested that if we can obtain the number of gun owners in Fairfax, it would be a helpful data point for comparison. The final agenda as discussed is: networking with Rylynn, adoption of remote policies, the presentation from Rylynn, the equity spotlight, and the workgroup reports.

Supervisor Walkinshaw asked for comments from the group. Joe Meyer shared that Shelter House will be testifying for funds that go towards the Shelter House domestic violence hotline. There is a \$500k request from the Board to revamp the Shelter House DV Hotline to update it to better serve victims of domestic violence. Shelter House has been working with OPEH, Toni and others on this ask. This will streamline access to services within Shelter House. Supervisor Walkinshaw asked to connect offline to discuss further. Stacy shared the Council is also supporting Budget testimonies.

VI. Adjourn

The meeting was adjourned without further discussion.