



Accountability Workgroup  
Subgroup on Promising Programs  
Thursday, July 20<sup>th</sup>, 2023  
4:00 PM- 4:30 PM  
Government Center, Room 2/3  
And by Zoom

Members Present: Stacy Ziebell, Dr Brenda McBorrough, Adam Allston, Iman Omer-Bahar, Shaneen Dewendre.

**I. Called to order 4:00 PM**

**II. Remote attenders:**

- a. Shaneen Dewendre due to a work commitment.

**III. Subgroup Brainstorm**

- a. Promising new programs

**I. Identify a subgroup “coordinator” (a person who will lead and coordinate with subgroup members).**

Adam Allston agreed to take on the role of coordinator or chair of this subgroup.

**II. Brainstorm ideas for voluntary alternative systems**

For those who cause harm:

- Bolstering nonprofits that work with those who cause harm.
- CYF Fatherhood Engagement Program

- There is a Health Department Program called Stable Families, Thriving Futures. This is a parenting program, and while it previously included men, it now focuses on recruiting women and targets the entire family unit. There is a component of it that looks at experiences around DV and case management support on controlling how to express emotions, (behavioural component), financial awareness/ fiscal responsibility, goals on co-parenting component.
- Some months ago, during a Workgroup meeting, a woman from NY presented and spoke of a model there that was not tied to the court system. **We need to revisit some of the programs we explored previously as a workgroup; perhaps we can look closer and pull ideas from those presentations.** Once we identify the projects, the subgroup can speak more deeply on this and reach out to specific projects with questions.
- Ask those who have been through an intervention program what other places they would seek help and what would benefit them?
- The subgroup identified a need for an education campaign to provide initial info and then point people in the direction to more info. This could help us reach a wider audience, bringing in the prevention piece. We discussed cycles of harm and how to work on a campaign that addresses that as part of the prevention part.

For survivors:

The Subgroup did not get this far.

Shaneen asked for clarification on what the goal of this work group is? The subgroup is working to clarify that. Our job and next steps is to reach out to the places we identify and hear more about what they do. Adam suggested that before the next meeting, we all spend some time doing online research on programs that represent alternatives to the current systems and be ready to come prepared to discuss.

The subgroup discussed the need to make resources available and Brenda gave example of the DV cards as part of a campaign. She mentioned that she places them in the church bathroom and replaces them when the number starts to go down – this means folks are taking them. Normalising the accountability portion – you have a stake in this. Adam raised that since the pandemic, there are a lot of issues on social cohesion – isolation as public health issue. Programs focusing on building community are important, since if folks don't feel a sense of being connected, it doesn't work. We must be challenged 'not to mind our own business' or if I close my eyes long enough it will go away". HIV was given as an example in Black communities and others. The HIV model is a good model to share how HD was able to get wider community to address it and accept that this is an issue we have to address, it is not someone else's problem. Not only what others are doing

to address DV but what other similar models being used exist?

**III. Adjourned at 4:40 PM**