



## **CEDV Accountability Workgroup**

**August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2023**

**3:00 p.m. – 4:30 p.m.**

**Government Center, Room 2/3 and Zoom Teleconference**

Members Present: Derwin Overton (OAR), Adam Allston (Health Department), Melody Vielbig (DSVS), Donna Audritsh (ADAPT), Andréa Nunes-Gardner (DSVS), Christopher Davies (DSVS), Courtney Schwartz (VSDVAA), Jonathan Yglesias (VSDVAA), Kim Parr (JDRDC), Dawn Butorac (Public Defenders Office), Brittany Davis (CJI)

Observers: None.

Presenter: None.

### **I. Approve Remote Attenders:**

- A. Jonathan Yglesias is attending remotely as he lives more than 60 miles away.
- B. Courtney Schwartz is attending remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- C. Donna Audritsh, DSVS Volunteer is attending remotely due to other work commitments that prevent her to come to this meeting in person. This is Donna's second remote attendance in this calendar year.
- D. Kim Parr is attending remotely due to an early commitment with her child's school. This is her third remote attendance in this calendar year.
- E. Brittany Davis is attending remotely, due to living in New York.

John Cook asked for a motion to approve remote attendees, Derwin Overton moves the motion to be approved. Adam Allston seconded. Motion passed.

F.

## **II. Decide whether to combine subgroups on pre-trial and post-incarceration programs**

- a. John provided a review about FOIA rules regarding subgroups, and the requirements regarding what constitute a workgroup meeting. If a subgroup with three people has a meeting with two people, that constitutes a workgroup meeting and requires public announcement, creating agenda, and minutes.
- b. John shared that there are a few options to continue addressing the different community accountability subgroups. One option is to combine the two subgroups or address one issue at a time as a workgroup.
- c. The subgroup for post-incarceration has two members and one staff member.
- d. The pre-trial subgroup has three members and one staff member.
- e. John suggested that pre-trial subgroup could coordinate with other CEDV groups who are working in similar issues and provide recommendations. The post-incarceration could be worked by the workgroup in the future.
- f. Dawn suggested disbanding the subgroups and work on the community accountability promising new practices as a group. Dawn suggested that working on this issue together might be more helpful as there is more knowledge in the group as whole. The workgroup agreed to disband the subgroups.
- g. Brittany shared that there is another workgroup working on the pre-trial options for accountability.
- h. John suggested discussing current court services during the Accountability Workgroup October meeting. During the September and November meeting, the workgroup could focus on discussing about promising practices.
- i. The workgroup discussed what the workgroup named “promising practices”, and the workgroup agreed to call this piece of the community accountability “Community Based Programs.” This should

- be a system completely outside of the criminal justice system, completely voluntary. Voluntary mediation discussion where the participants (person who caused harm and victims) would ask outside entities to help them address domestic violence. Ideally before the incident happening people would engage in those services, but this could be a recommendation given after the incident happen. Before someone gets arrested or involved with the criminal justice system.
- j. Chris shared about how some of the survivors in the focus group and those who responded the survey shared their desire to education about different responses to domestic violence in the community.
  - k. Kim asked if we are talking about diversion through the court. John clarified that this should not be a diversion program. This should be a community-based program, before there is a criminal justice system intervention. It should be independent from the court. This would be rooted in the community before criminal justice involvement.
  - l. Adam shared that he did some research about community programs that are available and confirmed that they were separated from the criminal justice system.
  - m. Brittany shared the information about the RISE project and Respect and Responsibility program, both programs are designed to be community based and not take referral from systems. Both programs start as a pilot project, Brittany will provide more information about the Respect and Responsibility program. Brittany also shared about the Call for Change warm line for those who cause harm as a resource. Respect and Responsibility is being pilot by the agency that already works with those who cause harm. They also provide education and relationship building in the community before standing the project.
  - n. Jonathan will check for any other community-based accountability programs across Virginia.
  - o. Brittany shared that RISE is part of a holistic approach to address domestic violence. RISE was funded as a pilot to address a particular issue, the relationship with domestic violence and gun violence. RISE started applying for a grant. It started with community building and education, working with credible messengers.
  - p. Jonathan shared about Action Alliance work to improve the reach of funding programs for those who cause harm. They are working on expanding funding to provide a more wrap around services that serves

the whole family. The model of how victim services are provided has been fitted to meet funders model of how services should be provided. Funds are mostly focused on primary prevention. Stacy shared that HYPE program that is embedded in the school and focus on providing education and relationship building with the community. This program works with adolescents and promotes healthy relationships skills. DSVS is hiring a Spanish speaking staff to deliver this service to teens to meet the need of the community.

- q. John suggested that it might be a possibility that someone in the community is providing similar services that we are suggesting or have the interest to provide those services and might not have the funds to provide those services. John asked if we can put an RFI and see the responses received. Who do we know that is already doing similar work?
- r. There are organization that are working on addressing domestic violence and attitudes in the community that contributes to domestic violence.
- s. John suggested that staff find out more information about RFI and how it works, how would we get started. Melody will check for the possibility of having someone to provide more information on this subject.
- t. Adam will create a list of elements that should be included in this “community-based program”.
- u. What other information we need to know? What are the organizations that provide services to those who cause harm and domestic violence? Are there people out there who are doing bits and pieces of this work? Staff will bring a list of organization in the county that provide services to address domestic violence.
- v. We need a template for RFI.
- w. Brittany will send the assessment for the principles of accountability and the template used by a program like RISE.
- x. Jonathan will check the resources VSDVAA can share. What this group is doing is very unique and there are not many places in VA that have programs focusing on community accountability work. Jonathan suggested to check Creative Intervention Toolkit book as they have many templates that can be used to develop new programs.
- y. Next month’s meeting:
  - i. Staff and Melody will explore the possibility of bringing someone to talk about RFI.

- ii. Adam will have an outline with the elements that should be included in a community-based program to support accountability for those who cause harm.
- iii. Review the Creative Tool Kit.
- iv. Staff will share a list of providers (what which organization does)
- v. Melody will follow up with judge Frieden about what the accountability work the protective order workgroup is developing.
- z. During the December Meeting, we will discuss about post-incarceration. Anyone interested in those subjects, please reach out to Chris and Andréa.
- aa. John asked that Chris and Andréa put in the calendar what we will focus during each meeting.
- bb. Chris and Andréa will share the accountability workgroup member list again.

### **III. Open comment from the public**

- a. No comments from the public was made as there were no participants from the public.

### **IV. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting Adjourned at 4:27 p.m.