



Accountability Workgroup
Thursday, January 19th, 2023
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), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Derwin Overton (OAR), Adam Allston (Health Department), Katrina Smith (JDRDC), Donna Audritsh (ADAPT Volunteer), Kimberly Parr (JDRDC), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Brenda McBorrow (FCIA).

Observers Present: Natalia, Makya Little, Mary.

I. Approve Remote Attenders

- a. John Cook is attending remotely due to a lack of transportation this week, this is his first remote attendance in this calendar year.
- b. Gretchen Soto is attending remotely due to a work commitment. This is her first remote attendance in this calendar year.
- c. Courtenay Schwartz is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- d. Jamie Milloy is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment. This is her first remote attendance in this calendar year.
- e. Kimberly Parr is attending remotely, due to work commitment. This is her first remote attendance in this calendar year.
- f. Natalia is attending remotely due to lack of transportation. She is attending this meeting as an observer.
- g. Makya Little is attending remotely due to work commitment. She is attending this meeting as an observer.
- h. Mary is attending remotely as she is currently more than 60 miles away. She is attending this meeting as an observer.
- i. Katrina Smith is attending the meeting remotely due to work. This is her first remote attendance in this calendar year. Katrina was present for the first thirty minutes of the meeting.

- j. John Cook asked for a motion to approve remote attendees, Darwin Overton moves the motion to be approved. Adam Allston seconded. Motion passes.
- k. John Cook welcomed the members of the community who are attending as observers.

II. Review/Approval of December 15th, 2022 minutes

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

III. Approve goals with objectives and deliverables

- a. Workgroup members made updates to the objective of goal number 1 to include “Build transparency to increase trust”; Increasing trust was suggested to be added as an objective in goal number 1.
 - Workgroup members made updates to goal number 2: “Restore hope and dignity for those affected by domestic violence.” This goal has been changed to “Foster hope and dignity for those affected by domestic violence.”
 - The change was made as the workgroup recognize that the group roles is to make recommendations versus making the changes in the system.
 - Grammatical and formatting changes were made as necessary.
- b. John Cook asked for a motion to approve the goals with objectives and deliverables. Dawn Butorac moves the motion to be approved. Darwin Overton seconded. Motion passes.

IV. Subgroup presents survivor focus group proposed plan and questions, draft of facilitator’s recruitment and draft of participant recruitment for review

- a. Jamie Milloy presented the subgroup document that describe the Survey Questions.
 - Suggestion to have consistency in the language throughout the document as some is written in third person and some in first person.
 - Suggestion to include benefits and risk into the survey.
 - Suggestion that people complete the survey or participate in focus group to avoid data duplication.

- Suggestion to include demographic questions, this will be determined by the subgroup and shared with the workgroup in the next meeting.
 - The workgroup shared concerns about the number of questions and the amount of time that might require to complete the survey
 - Jamie Miloy shared that it's important to give survivors the opportunity and telling them that they can answer as many questions as they want would be best than not ask the questions.
 - The workgroup advice that too many questions can be overwhelming and discourage people from finishing the survey.
 - Suggested targeted time for the survey should be between 15 and 20 minutes
 - Dawn shared that there is a Distinction between Commonwealth Attorney (CA) and legal representative, it should be clarified that we are asking about the survivor and interaction with CA, prosecutor, they are not a victim's legal representative. The use of the word prosecutor will be more accurate.
 - Suggestion to add a question about the interaction between survivors and Victims services office (victim's services at Fairfax County Police Department).
 - Suggestion to focus on community accountability, the purpose of the survey is to focus where survivor is being served well or what is an alternative to the accountability system.
- b. Jamie Milloy presented the Focus Group Questions
- The subgroup recommended 90 minutes for the focus groups.
 - Suggestion to use the community accountability questions as an opportunity to evoke creativity: Are there ways to involve families to find solutions? Are there way that churches and other communities to be involved in the solution?
- c. Chris shared the Consent for the Focus Group that has been reviewed by County Attorney.
- John Cook asked for a motion to approve the Consent for Focus Group document. Dawn Butorac moves the motion to be approved. Brenda McBorrough seconded. Motion passes.
- d. Jamie Milloy presented the Facilitator Document
- Donna Audritsh suggested that the document lead with clear statement of what is needed should be included such as : "We are inviting you to participate in any of the following ways (bulleted list):"

- Facilitators for virtual or in-person groups in English, Spanish, or other languages
- People to conduct interviews with survivors
- Spaces for focus groups
- Forums for focus groups
- Invitations for survivor participants
- Suggested to have more clear expectations of facilitators
- Suggested that might need more than one version as if you are going to someone in the shelter would be different than a private provider or a church.
- John Cook recommended to keep all in one document if possible.
- Suggested to word as an invitation... “I am writing you to invite you...” or “We are looking for the following”
- Suggested to send the updated subgroup documents to the workgroup member for review before the next meeting, preferably in the next two weeks to give people time to review. John Cook suggested to ask workgroup for feedback and establish a timeline to provide feedback such as “Please provide feedback within 5 days...”

V. Gretchen provided a presentation about Accountability

- Chris and Andréa will share the PowerPoint.
- John Cook shared that those concepts are in the diversion programs such mental health docket, veterans docket, this concept is supported by research and it can be helpful.
- Workgroup members shared that this was helpful and they wish that we could have a video to share the concept with community members, providers, survivors, community of faith, etc.
- Chris and Andréa are coordinating other opportunities to share topics from experts that might help deepen workgroup members understand of accountability and learn about what other communities are implementing to promote accountability for their specific community needs.

VI. Adjourn

- a. Chris announced that next meetings will take place at conference room 2/3 at the Government Center.
- b. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.