



**Accountability Workgroup**  
**Thursday, February 16<sup>th</sup>, 2023**  
**3:00 PM- 4:30 PM**  
**Government Center, Room 2/3 and Zoom**

Members Present: John Cook (Chair), Chris Davies (Staff), Andréa Nunes Gardner (Staff), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Derwin Overton (OAR), Adam Allston (Health Department), Donna Audritsh (ADAPT Volunteer), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Brenda McBorrough (FCIA). Jenna Sands (Deputy Commonwealth Attorney), Iman A. Omer-Bahar (Health Department), Jamie Milloy (OAR), Joe Meyer (Shelter House).

**I. Approve Remote Attenders**

- a. Courtenay Schwartz is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- b. Jamie Milloy is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment. This is her second remote attendance in this calendar year.
- c. Joe Meyer is attending the meeting remotely due to health issues.
- d. Jenna Sands is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment. This is her first remote attendance in this calendar year.
- e. Jonathan Yglesias is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- f. Andréa Nunes-Gardner is attending remotely due to health issues.
- g. 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 January 19<sup>th</sup>, 2023 minutes**

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

**III. Review/Approval of updated virtual meeting policy and updated remote attendees policy**

- a) Chris Davies shared that emergency order has ended and there is a new policy for virtual public meeting and remote participation:
- If you are absent for health issues or a family caring for a family member who is ill, there is no limit for how many times you can attend remotely.
  - Workgroup is required to record the reason and how many time the workgroup member has attended the meeting remotely. Workgroup members are allowed to participate remotely three times per calendar year. If they attend more than three meetings remotely, they will participate as an observer, that means the workgroup member cannot vote or make motions during those meetings.
- b) John Cook asked for a motion to approve policy for the remote participation of members and policy for all-virtual public meetings, Adam Allston moves the motion to be approved. Iman Omer-Bahar seconded. Motion passes.

#### **IV. Review/ Approval of Focus Group documents**

- a. Facilitator Recruitment
- Added a footnote to instruct stakeholders to ensure that participants know that their participation is not required to receive services.
  - Clarified the purpose of the document is to recruit facilitators.
- b. Recruitment for Survivors
- Workgroup members review the document and there were no alterations.
  - This document will be put into a flyer graphic.
- c. Consent form
- There were no modifications.
- d. Focus Group Questions – English and Spanish
- Jamie shared the changes that were made to focus on questions on Accountability and having less questions.
  - A guide document for facilitators will be added.
- e. Survey Questions
- Jamie shared the changes that were made to focus on Accountability and having questions that are more suitable for the survey.
  - This will be added to a survey monkey and a guide on how to use it.
- f. Language considerations
- The survey will be translated to top five languages.
- g. The workgroup members are invited to consider their participation focus group. They will reach out to Andréa to coordinate their participation.

- h. John Cook asked for a motion to approve Focus Group Documents. Jamie Milloy moves the motion to be approved. Donna Audritsh seconded. Motion passes.

**V. Presentation from Courtney S Courtney Schwartz (VSDVAA) will provide a presentation (How people who cause harm manipulate the criminal justice system against survivors)**

- a) The importance of having a community behind the solution and addressing the root causes of domestic violence.
- b) State debates regarding the constitution rights of the person who is accused of harming to face their accuser. That becomes a tool for the defendant to control or intimidate the victim.
- c) There are opportunities for the criminal justice system to make the process more trauma informed, it's important to understand why a victim might choose to not go forward with a process.
- d) Jonathan Yglesias shared that in the political arena survivor stories might be used for good and bad, the system does not work for the people we serve.

**VI. Other topics of interest:**

- a) Other programs that have been successful using alternative programs to promote accountability.
- b) Having someone who have caused harm to share their experience.
- c) Mentoring and peer support groups.
- d) Substance use disorder and how impacts domestic violence.

**VII. Adjourn**

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:08 pm.