



Accountability Workgroup
Thursday, May 18th, 2023
2:30 PM- 4:00 PM
Government Center, Room 4/5 and Zoom

Members Present: John Cook (Chair), Melody Vielbig (DSVS), Brittany Davis (CJI), Donna Audrish (ADAPT), Jamie Milloy (OAR), Kim Parr (JDRDC), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Brenda McBorrow (FCIA), Andréa Nunes-Gardner (DSVS), Stacy Ziebell (DSVS), Christopher Davies (DSVS), Jonathan Yglesias (VSDVAA), Adam Allston (Health Department), Iman A. Omer-Bahar (Health Department), Katrina Smith (JDRDC), Lydia Guirguis (DSVS).

Observers: None.

Presenters: Dr. Nicole Westmarland from Project Mirabal – Professor of Criminology at Durham University

I. Approve Remote Attenders

- a. Adam Allston Yglesias is attending the meeting remotely as he lives more than 60 miles away.
- b. Lydia Guirguis is attending the meeting remotely due to a work commitment (not a Workgroup member).
- c. Iman A. Omer-Bahar is attending the meeting remotely due to a work commitment (second remote attendance this calendar year).
- d. Stacy Ziebell is attending the meeting remotely due to a work commitment (not a Workgroup member).
- e. Jonathan Yglesias is attending the meeting remotely as he lives more than 60 miles away.
- f. Brittany Davis is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- g. Katrina Smith joined virtually at 3:16 pm (second remote attendance this calendar year).
- h. John Cook asked for a motion to approve remote attendees, Melody Vielbig moves the motion to be approved. Kim Parr seconded. Motion passes.

II. Review/Approval of April 20th, 2023 minutes

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

III. Project Mirabel Presentation

- a. Dr. Nicole Westmarland provided a presentation about Project Mirabal.
- b. They interviewed children and partners; the project was focused on men's violence against women.
- c. Dr. Nicole Westmarland shared about how batter intervention programs measure for success have been focused on program completion. This project aimed to evaluate what survivors need in order to feel safe and have freedom. Some survivors expressed that they would like to have a voice in their relationship and being able to argue with a partner without violence.
- d. Dr. Nicole Westmarland shared that a coordinated community response is crucial to support survivor's safety and freedom.
- e. Survivors were contacted at six different times over the course of 12 months while the men were participating in the program during the research project.
- f. Survivors felt safer and felt that they have more freedom knowing that there were other people who knew about the violence and were working with their partners. Women might feel more empowered to set limits and boundaries when their partner were participating in the program and they knew they had somebody else watching.
- g. This project looked at the wide picture and how women and children felt during and after their partner completed the program. They also look at the success when people did not finish the program, there were some circumstances where not finishing the program meant the partner left the relationship and they felt safer.
- h. Some of the challenges were to gather information from survivors and in some cases, they underestimate the change as they were not in a relationship anymore.
- i. In the UK they have funding for DVIP as long as they are always connected to victim services and there is no stand-alone services.
- j. Their coordinated community response includes different organization as there are different interventions, different level of offenses, not one

- size fits all, and how the intervention is provided (one-on-one, Children services, group, criminal justice, social services).
- k. If you are interested in becoming a member of Centre for Research into Violence and Abuse (CRiVA) and receive updates on our work and invitations to events please email durham.criva@durham.ac.uk.
 - l. Website: [Mirabal \(projectmirabal.co.uk\)](http://projectmirabal.co.uk)

IV. DSVS update on status of focus group

- a. Initial Focus Group has been completed.
- b. Participants
 - i. We are still in need of participants to be identified by the end of May.
 - ii. Flyers are being sent out to a variety of locations/ongoing.
 - iii. Have begun to get participants signed up.
- c. Facilitators.
 - i. Training has been completed with facilitators.
 - ii. We have someone at Artemis House who will be trained and potentially facilitate a focus group at Artemis House.
 - iii. We had other locations in the community available.
 - iv. We will be scheduling focus groups in the next two weeks to take place in June.
 - v. The group discussed about education around accountability in the context of domestic violence.
 - vi. When diversion first was implemented, the biggest challenge was buy in from law enforcement, prosecutor, and buy in from the community.
 - vii. The workgroup might look at different models, such as Crisis Team for Mental Health.
 - viii. There was a suggestion to come up with a plan and maybe ask for input from the community.
 - ix. There was a suggestion to share the research and the data, we might be able to use survivor's voice from the research perspective.
 - x. There was a suggestion to do another focus group to evaluate information, ideas, and proposal.
- d. Surveys will be distributed in the beginning of June.
 - i. If we have a small amount of data, we might not be able to rely as much on this data.

- ii. Status of Survey and focus group next month, putting a time limit on the survey might help encourage people to complete sooner than later.
- e. John shared about other workgroups that we might be able to partner to coordinate similar work around accountability.
- f. Brittany shared about Respect and Responsibility Pilot program for voluntary clients.
- g. Jamie suggested that BIPs in the area can coordinate how they provide services to voluntary clients.
- h. Brittany suggested that doing focus group with stakeholders groups might help with education around accountability and buy in from the community.
- i. Brittany shared that when they did focus groups in NYC, there were more completed more surveys, Brittany will check their strategies to get survey's response and share with us.
- j. Subgroups:
 - i. Think about what group you would like to participate in:
 - Starting new systems from scratch. (Like RISE program).
 - Existing Pre-trial systems being expanded/perfected.
 - Existing Post-incarceration systems being expanded/perfected.
 - ii. What success looks like for each program. What does success mean?

V. Schedule education topics and presenters for upcoming meetings

- a. Existing alternative programs to promote accountability (another provider in future?)
- b. Someone who has caused harm to share their accountability process (can use an OAR graduate easily).
- c. Mentoring and peer support groups.
- d. Substance use disorder and how impacts domestic violence.
- e. Other topics.

VI. Open comment from the public

- a. There was no comment from the public, there were no participants from the public.

VII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 3:53 pm.