



CEDV Meeting Notes

Meeting: Council to End Domestic Violence (CEDV) Meeting
Date and time: November 09, 2023, 7:30a.m.
Location: 4110 Chain Bridge Road, Fairfax Virginia 22030 Room 404 4th floor Jury Assembly Room

Council Members/ Designees Present: Supervisor James Walkinshaw, Alycia Blackwell, Amanda Katz, Ambreen Ahmed, Andrew Goldberg, Dr. Brenda McBorrough, Christopher Leonard, Corie O'Rourke, Dawn Butorac, Dalia Palchik, Daryl Washington, Dominic Bonaiuto, Elizabeth Edwards, Elizabeth Teare, Geneviève Fine, James Ferguson, John Cook, Judge Maha Abejuela, Judge Stephen Shannon, Judge Susan Stoney, Kader Gumus, Leigh Taylor, Matt Thompson, Dr. Michael Becketts, Nora Mahoney, Nyle Berkley, Phylicia Woods, Ramona Carroll, Razan Fayez, Thomas Arnold, Thomas Barnett, Dr Terry Edmunds-Heard, Judge Frieden, Matt Thompson.

Council Members Absent: Adarsh Trehan, Cecilia Ortega-Shew, Colonel Maggie A. DeBoard, Colonel James Morris, Derwin Overton, Erin Schaible, Gloria Addo-Ayensu, Jhumka Gupta, Joe Meyer, John S. Butler, Kevin Davis, Lisa Sales, Mattie Palmore, Michelle Reid, Paula Fitzgerald, Rachna Krishnan, Stephen Descano, Toni Zollicoffer.

Guests and Staff: Abigail Picard, Brittany Vera, Derrick Ledford, Jaime Milloy, Jessica Werder, John Crownover, Kacey Kirkland, Keesha Coke, Kimberly Jaramillo, Stacy Ziebell.

Note Taker: Rae Nguyen

AGENDA

- I. Approval of July Meeting Minutes
- II. Equity Spotlight, Jim Ferguson, LSNV & Dr Brenda McBorrough, FCIA Representative
 - a. Nominations Committee - Approve Leadership Slate (*nominations are closed*)
- III. Youth Survey Data – Neighborhood and Community Services
- IV. Updates from the Coordinated Community Response
- V. Presenting Meeting the Moment & Beyond (Countywide Report), Abigail Picard & Brittany Vera, DSVS
- VI. Open Forum
- VII. Remarks from the Chair
- VIII. Adjourn

Quorum reached.

Supervisor Walkinshaw welcomed participants and welcomed a new member of the council, Elizabeth Edwards. Edwards is taking over in the interim for Alyssa Emery who left her job as Chief Magistrate. Walkinshaw asked the council to join in a moment of silence to acknowledge those affected by the conflict in the Middle East.

Amanda Katz could be heard and seen from a remote location. As per the bylaws, the council allows remote participation. Approval for remote participation was motioned first by Supervisor Walkinshaw and seconded by Corie O'Rourke.

I. Approval of July Meeting Minutes

The previous meeting's minutes were distributed shortly after the July meeting. No changes or additions were made to the July meeting minutes. Chris Leonard made the first motion for the approval of the July meeting minutes and Dr. Michael Becketts seconded. Motion carried and all council members were in favor. Supervisor Walkinshaw declared the July 2023 Meeting Minutes approved.

II. Equity Spotlight – Jim Ferguson, LSNV & Dr. Brenda McBorrough, FCIA Representative

a. Nominations Committee – Approve Leadership Slate (*nominations are closed*)

Jim Ferguson gave an introduction to the equity work that the Domestic Violence Network does and gave an overview of the goals of the equity committee. He spoke about the bylaws and how, to bring equity into focus in all aspects of our work, there was a need for a revision in leadership. Since CEDV's inception in, there has been a chairperson with sole leadership over the council. This past January, the council adopted a new leadership structure with a Chair, Vice Chair, and Community Leader positions. The main focus of the equity spotlight for the November meeting was for the council to approve the slate of candidates that the Nominations Committee has recommended. Ferguson then introduced Dr. Brenda McBorrough, the FCIA Representative.

Dr. McBorrough introduced the Nominations Committee that was approved by the leadership group. This diverse committee represents a balance between Fairfax County staff and the community. With five active participants, they were able to move forward with their primary responsibility in filling the leadership vacancies and playing a key role in governance. Dr. McBorrough then gave insight on the process that the Nominations Committee went through to produce their recommendations for the Chair, Vice Chair, and Community Leader positions. The duties of all three roles were reviewed as well.

Supervisor Walkinshaw then opened the floor for questions for the Nominations Committee about the process and leadership slate. He then entertained a motion which was moved by Tom Barnett. This was seconded by Dr. Michael Becketts. All were in favor of the leadership recommendations (Supervisor Palchik as Chair, Meredith McKeen as Vice chair and Phylcia Woods as Community Organizer/Leader and there were no oppositions or abstentions.

III. Youth Survey Data – Neighborhood and Community Services

Dr. Jaelyn Yap joined the meeting virtually to give a presentation on the youth's experience with domestic violence during 2022 to 2023. The data came from an electronic, comprehensive survey that is given to students in the sixth, eighth, tenth, and twelfth grade. This anonymous, voluntary survey was made available in eight different languages and represented approximately 70% of students. Nonbinary and transgender

students were included in the results of this survey. Comparisons between the responses in students who identify as heterosexual and those who identify as homosexual were also included in the results.

The main areas of focus were on the students' experiences with emotional abuse, physical abuse, sexual harassment, and dating violence. Across the areas of focus, it is clear that experiencing abuse in the home can correlate to risky behaviors such as substance abuse as well as putting the youth at risk for mental health concerns and dating violence.

After the key statistics were highlighted in the presentation, Supervisor Walkinshaw opened the floor for questions. Geneviève Fine asked where the survey was located and if it was limited to County employees only. Dr. Yap informed that this survey is available to the public.

Supervisor Walkinshaw asked what the trends looked like year to year. He pointed out that the trend of mental health concerns seems to be "heading in the right direction". Dr. Yap informed that there is no clear indication in long-term trends because of fluctuations in data. However, she did point out that compared to last year, there is an improvement with students experiencing abuse in the home, sexual harassment, and dating violence.

Kader Gumus asked if the survey explored the help seeking behavior of the youth and/or explores the resources that are being used for the youth. Dr. Yap informed that the limitations on the number of questions that can be asked on the youth survey potentially poses a challenge in collecting this data.

Chris Leonard commented that these kinds of surveys provide a "goldmine of information". Looking at the trends, there is a divide between "pre" and "post" COVID-19 pandemic. He encouraged those present to explore the data and surveys that are available. Supervisor Dalia Palchik went on to commend Leonard's team and gave her perspective on what stood out in the data. She points out that this is the first time that this is the first time that the transsexual community is explicitly mentioned and included in the findings. She then brings up a point about intersectionality: what about the intersectionality between sexuality, food insecurity, and violence? Palchik affirms that we are trending in the right direction, but that there are still areas for improvement.

IV. Updates from the Coordinated Community Response

Stacy Ziebell gave a presentation that highlighted the challenging and emerging issues in the Coordinated Community Response as well as the updates that are currently happening. She opened by briefly talking about the DSVS Annual Meeting that took place on October 6, 2023. The theme for the meeting was "Every Person, Every Voice". She highlighted the annual award winners and gave a brief summary of why each person received the award given.

Some of the ongoing and emerging challenges in the Coordinated Community Response includes: needing language assistance, further understanding of communities and their methods of receiving communication/information, financial and affordable housing issues, an uptick in women's participation in partner abuse programs, lack of mental health (especially for non-English speakers), and concern that there is a lack of capacity for trauma-informed lawyering and domestic violence cases. Ziebell notes that these trends were similar when looking at human trafficking and sexual violence as well. The longer list of findings can be found in the quarterly report on page four.

Among the updates given, Ziebell covered the LAP program extension, the first Sexual Violence Tier 1 training, the GDC PO packet approval by judges, the launch of Community Conversations in Culmore, upcoming map for JDRDC, and the DV Network Training Committee expanding to include prevention.

V. Presenting Meeting the Moment & Beyond (Countywide Report), Abigail Picard & Brittany Vera, DSVS

Brittany Vera and Abigail Picard gave an overview of the first comprehensive assessment since 2016 that has been done as a community working to end domestic violence. The focus of this report was to use the information in a meaningful way. The presentation highlighted broad findings and notable statistics with data from fiscal year 2022 as well as continuing trends that have been seen (see attached). The report highlighted concerns that existed before the COVID-19 pandemic but were enhanced during (“twin pandemics”). When the presentation finished, Supervisor Walkinshaw opened the floor for questions.

Dawn Butorac asked for clarification about the increase in strangulations and arrests: did these arrests result in convictions? Britany Vera clarified that the data Butorac is looking for would be pulled from the state system and Abigail Picard affirmed that the data in the report is preliminary.

Judge Stephen Shannon asked a related question about strangulation charges: is there a statute that allows for a felony strangulation case to get stretched out (with the idea of keeping a family together) or does the charge need to be amended? The members discussed amongst themselves to come up with scenarios and Judge Abejuela answered Judge Shannon’s question.

John Cook brought up that mental health concerns continue to be cited as an issue, but often tend to get pushed to the side. Cook goes on to say that addressing the source of the issue is what needs to be done in order to bring about comprehensive change. Cook also mentions that no amount of money will bring change if there are not enough providers. He asks, “Why do we not train more providers?” Kader Gumus builds off of this, bringing up that mental health professionals need to also be culturally aware in order to not have ineffective sessions where the client gives context for their counselor. Similar situations render the sessions ineffective and often end up draining the client’s money.

VI. Open Forum

Supervisor Walkinshaw opened the floor for members and community members to share things in an Open Forum.

Dawn Butorac, echoed by Kacey Kirkland, pointed out some concerns for cases regarding homicides that were not guilty by reason of insanity (NGRI). She spoke about the lack of availability for the court to deal with these kinds of cases for legal reasons. Some examples given were about younger adults with mental health issues who have surviving parents of stabbings. These parents want help for their child but do not want a record. Butorac goes on to stress the importance of a coordinated response that includes mental health issues as an area of need and not simply a criminal offense. This context not only extends to young adults, but also to veterans. She poses the question, “What can we do in the future to fix it so that the families can still feel like they got what they needed?”

Judge Steve Shannon mentions that the Board of Supervisors has done a significant amount of work in terms of court’s point of view, on veterans. The committee spoke about the interplay between mental health, being impoverished, and other stressors.

The conversation then transitioned into making connections between the courts and jails. Supervisor Palchik talked about needing not only local but also statewide resources for mental health providers. She also asked what the causes of the issues are frequently seen and what are the potential cultural barriers to addressing the root causes of those issues. Chris Leonard built off of Supervisor Palchik's point and mentions the regional and separate statewide workforce that is looking at building the pipeline of training mental health professionals. He goes on to tie those mental health professionals to the co-responder models that are being rolled out. Leonard shares that the process to create and utilize a co-responder model took time.

Supervisor Walkinshaw ties the discussion together by asking questions regarding co-responder units and strangulation. When looking at co responder units, are they engaged in responding to domestic calls involving strangulation? What about domestic violence and mental health? Is there something in the procedures so that Community Services Board and police can work on more of these situations together?

VII. Remarks from the Chair

Supervisor Walkinshaw shared his thoughts for his last meeting as Chair. He thanked everyone for the work that has been done since he became chair three years ago. He is passionate about men being involved in these issues, but not always needing to be the ones in charge. Reflecting on his attendance at the DSVS Annual Meeting, Supervisor Walkinshaw noted that most of those in attendance were women. Because of this, he felt that women should be the ones that are leading. Not only this, but also that broadening and diversifying the leadership team will set up the committee for better transitions in the leadership roles as well as community reflections and engagement.

VIII. Adjourn

Meeting adjourned at 9:02 am.

2024 meetings to be scheduled.