



CEDV Leadership Facilitation Group

June 27, 2023

Members Present: Supervisor Dalia Palchik, Dr. Michael Becketts, Tom Arnold, Chris Leonard, Meredith McKeen, Kader Gumus, Ramona Carroll, Dr. Terri Edmunds-Heard, Jim Ferguson, Toni Zollicoffer

Staff: Stacy Ziebell, Brittany Vera, Kim Jaramillo, Joanna Fitzpatrick

Members Absent: Phylicia Woods

I. Welcome

Supervisor Palchik opened the meeting and welcomed group members.

II. Adopt New Policies – Virtual Meetings & Remote Participation

Stacy provided a summary of the changes to FOIA, including new rules that the group can meet virtually twice a year or up to 50% of the time, whichever is greater. Members who lose access to video or audio feeds would not count towards quorum. Regarding remote participation, Council members who participate virtually due to being a caregiver or having a medical illness can now count towards the quorum for the meeting. Stacy provided updates on the definitions of caregivers and individuals with disabilities. If the BAC member does not meet the legal definitions of a caregiver or person with a disability, they can participate remotely, but cannot count towards quorum, but they can still participate remotely.

Supervisor Palchik asked for a motion to approve the All Virtual policy, which Jim Ferguson made and was seconded by Michael Becketts. The motion was approved unanimously.

Supervisor Palchik asked for a motion on the Remote Participation policy- moved by Ramona Carroll, seconded by Michael Becketts. The motion passed unanimously.

III. Adoption of March Meeting Minutes

Supervisor Palchik asked for discussion on the minutes from the March meeting. Hearing

none, Tom Arnold moved to adopt the March meeting minutes, and Jim Ferguson seconded the motion. Toni Zollicoffer abstained from the motion as she was absent from the March meeting. The remaining members approved the motion unanimously.

IV. Accountability Workgroup Report Follow Up

Stacy reminded the group that the Leadership Group previously received a summary of the Accountability Workgroup's findings and work. There was a lot of work from the workgroup between conducting surveys, focus groups, research, looking at best practices and models across the country. The Workgroup produced three recommendations in their final report for the Council. The Workgroup presented their recommendations at the last Council meeting.

Stacy reminded the Leadership group of the recommendations including:

1. The establishment of a completely voluntary accountability program separate from the criminal/civil justice system. The program would be led by a community nonprofit.
2. Improving current criminal/civil justice response that currently exists, including the creation of an accountability docket and other measures to enhance services.
3. Enhance existing post-incarceration programs through partnership with nonprofits, sheriff's office, criminal justice system.

There is some investigative work happening behind the scenes on the recommendations. Staff are reviewing models across the country and scheduling a field trip to visit a model program. Several members of the group, including Kader Gumus, Dr Brenda McBorrough and Michael Becketts have been invited to join the trip to examine best practices and how the community lifted this effort.

Kader asked about previous references to the role of the church that was alluded to during the Council meeting. She wanted to ensure that all members of the community felt welcome and felt they could access services. Stacy shared that the purpose of mentioning the church was to provide an example of a place where people might interface and go for help. There have been churches in the past that were very willing to engage in the work, however various places that folks interface could be utilized. Toni Zollicoffer shared that she took Mr. Cook's mention of the church was an example, but not necessarily where this work might land, it wasn't meant to be prescriptive. Toni also shared there has been some traction around an Accountability Docket, but things are moving slowly as there are many moving pieces.

Supervisor Palchik mentioned there is precedence for alternative docket models that have been very successful.

Ramona Carroll reminded the group that the county has a strong relationship with many houses of worship through Faith Communities in Action (FCIA). She encouraged the group to use existing networks, such as FCIA to conduct this work and reach out to various houses of worship.

Chris Leonard pointed out that it's important to share progress on each of these areas of focus and ensure we are being consistent. The recommendations didn't seem to have any sort of sequence to them and are not dependent on each other. These recommendations are not things that happen overnight, and we need to ensure the model works within our current constructs for Fairfax.

V. CCR Updates

Brittany Vera shared updates on the Victim Access Workgroup, which is a subgroup of the Court Process Workgroup. The workgroup completed work on the Juvenile and Domestic Relations District Court protective order process. The goal is to have the information online and available to the public by the Annual Meeting in October.

The group has begun work on the General District Court process, which is a bit different and more challenging for survivors because the General District Court does not have staff as there are in JDRDC who can help survivors fill out the paperwork. The process for GDC should move quickly because we are adapting what we have already created for JDRDC. The goal is to also have the GDC process online by October for the Annual Meeting.

Regarding the Step Up 4 Kids Coalition, Brittany shared recent updates from the Coalition, including the development of mental health awareness presentations that will take place in hyperlocal settings in the community. The presentations will weave together different topics that impact children and youth mental health, including exposure to domestic violence and other traumas. The presentations will provide information about resources in the local community that residents can access for support. A multidisciplinary group from the Coalition representing immigrant communities, youth voice and other agencies also addressing mental health, like Healthy Minds Fairfax and Trauma Informed Community Network, are developing the culturally informed presentation that will be rolled out in the late fall.

Stacy provided an update on the Criminal Civil Process Workgroup, which is the other Court Process Workgroup, is still paused because there is not enough engagement from some of the agencies needed to conduct the work. Leadership recently met to reassess the readiness of the group, but there has not been the needed change in participation for the group to move forward. The group is looking at previous work that has been completed to see if it could support the work of the Victim Access Workgroup.

Stacy shared that Tier 1 training continues to go smoothly. Sexual Violence Tier 1 is occurring today, there has been high demand for the training. This is the second time the training has been provided. This is a community wide endeavor, and the community has been requesting this training for a long time. Stacy encouraged members of the group to send the training to their staff and to attend themselves.

The Equity Workgroup will meet next month and is underway with the GIS mapping project. They are analyzing the results of the survey conducted at the last council meeting.

Stacy also reminded the group that the LAP protocol was expanded to include cases involving current or former dating and/or sexual partners and cases of high lethality regardless of whether arrests are not made. It was a county wide effort to expand the program. There is a 17% increase in the number of calls during this reporting period through May when compared to last year. There are not comparative numbers yet, but approximately 30% of LAP calls were for Spanish speaking survivors in the last quarter. The average number of calls a month is 20% higher in this fiscal year.

VI. Agenda Setting - Next CEDV Meeting

For the upcoming meeting, the group needs to adopt the new policies. There will also be a continued discussion about the accountability work. Michelle Gregory will provide an Equity Spotlight. Stacy asked for suggestions on creative ways to report out CCR updates. There also needs to be room on the agenda for public comment from members of the Council and members of the public. Supervisor Palchik asked for any other recommendations from the group. Chris felt it was important to focus on conversations related to accountability.

Kader asked Brittany if there were graduate programs that focused on domestic and sexual violence. She found a need for that in the research she did and volunteered to partner on this topic. Brittany shared that based on her experience in graduate school, many graduate programs do not exclusively focus on this unless they have a professor who specializes on the topic. GMU has a professor with this expertise, but previously did not and there was not a huge emphasis on it in the program. Brittany shared that DSVS partners with GMU in different ways to provide trainings to students on domestic violence, its impact on children, and how to support families experiencing DV.

VII. Adjourn

The next Council meeting is July 11th in person at 7:30 am at the Courthouse. Supervisor Palchik adjourned the meeting without further discussion.