



## **CEDV Leadership Facilitation Group**

**December 19, 2024**

**Members present:** Michael Becketts, Keesha Coke, Kader Gumus, Meredith McKeen, Ramona Carrol, Chris Leonard, Jim Ferguson, Kim Jaramillo, Joanna Fitzpatrick,

### **I. Welcome**

Meredith McKeen opened the meeting and verified the participation of Keesha Coke virtually. Meredith McKeen moved to allow Keesha to participate virtually. Jim Ferguson seconded the motion. Meredith welcomed Keesha to the CEDV Leadership Group in her new role as the Division Director of DSVS. Members of the leadership council introduced themselves.

### **II. Adoption of September Meeting Minutes**

Meredith asked for a motion to approve the September meeting minutes. Kader asked to clarify which court would hold the DV docket. Stacy clarified that it is a compliance docket that would be held within the Juvenile and Domestic Relations Court. Motions made for approval, seconded by Corie O'Rourke.

### **III. Membership Updates**

Meredith shared that John Cook would be stepping back from the Council to take another role. Stacy shared there was a discussion to be had for the Nominating Committee and the Equity Committee about finding new members since there are other members who have never attended a meeting while holding their seat.

Ramona noted that it would be important to ensure adequate community representation so that one person doesn't represent an entire community. Corie shared the equity subcommittee will be holding a retreat in February to determine their next set of goals, and this could be considered as a focus of the subcommittee's work.

### **IV. CCR Updates**

Stacy shared an update of the general CCR. She reminded the group of the purpose of Tier 1 trainings, which serve to provide basic foundational training across the community but also keep DSVS up to date on their state accreditation with DCJS. Waitlists run up to a month before they are even announced. Stacy asked for help with identifying spaces for Tier 1, where they can host 60+ participants with tables. She shared that Tier 1 is running six times a year and DSVS is at its capacity in terms of what it is able to do with staffing. There is need for resources to provide coverage for crisis response, assistance with set up and break down, providing actual sessions. Michael suggested asking the CSB or other agencies who might be able to help with the crisis response aspect.

Stacy reminded the group of the Annual Meeting and the award winners at the meeting, which will also be announced at the January meeting. She also shared the results of the most recent trends and challenges survey administered at the DV Network meeting. Trends include that those seeking services are more likely to be older adult, experiencing homelessness, requesting counseling services for children, immigrants, requests for low-bono or pro bono legal representation. Other trends include cuts from VOCA, with a significant impact on the community, increase in strangulation, increase in female offenders, financial abuse. Resources and supports needed: more flexible financial resources for victims, multilingual services beyond English and Spanish, including LGBTQ+ survivors, finding ways to make services accessible. Stacy will provide a presentation and overview of these trends at the full Council meeting. Chris Leonard shared that the County recently purchased an area that will be converted into a family shelter. Phase 1 will begin soon and Phase 2 will include domestic violence housing. Phase 2 will take place further down the road.

Kader asked if a staff member from the Department of Child Support Enforcement a member of the CEDV was to help address the recent trend in financial abuse.

Brittany Vera shared that DSVS recently had the opportunity to partner with FCPD's Victim Services Division to provide training on the basics of domestic violence to approximately 10 new prosecutors with the Office of the Commonwealth's Attorney. The prosecutors were engaged and receptive throughout the training.

Brittany also shared the Victim Access Workgroup is in the process of making edits to the Protective Order Website as well as ordering new materials.

Corie shared that since Toni has left her position, she has stepped down as co-chair for the Equity Subcommittee and Eduardo Leiva is her new co-chair.

## **V. Accountability Report Recommendations Updates**

First Recommendation: Michael shared that DSVS partnered with two other agencies already engaged in the restorative justice work. The Human Services council awarded \$250,000 to undertake a two-year planning process to focus on a specific area of the county in partnership with a nonprofit. The goal is to partner with other agencies to move from planning to implementation phase. Michael and

Chris suggested asking Pallas Washington to come to the Council to give the similar presentation she gave to the Human Services Council.

Second Recommendation: Kim Jaramillo shared that she and Supervisor Palchik met with Judge Sotelo and Judge Sprano about the possible implementation of a compliance docket. The next step is to identify the individuals from each of the different disciplinary areas to a kick-off meeting where the judges will present the proposed structure. Stacy is hoping Judge Sotelo will be able to attend the January Council meeting to share an update with the full Council.

Third recommendation is around existing incarceration programs and post-incarceration programs. There used to be expansive programming within the Adult Detention Center, but that changed in favor of tablet-based learning for inmates. Stacy has set up meetings with Sheriff's office, John Cook, the Public Defender's Office, CJI, and probation to determine the lay of the land and best next steps. Three meetings have already taken place.

**VI. Agenda Setting - Next CEDV Meeting** (Jan awareness month, presentation on compliance docket, CCR updates, Equity Focus, 2025 calendar)

Meredith mentioned January is Stalking Awareness Month and Human Trafficking Awareness Month. Human Trafficking often gets a lot of publicity and suggested having more of a focus on Stalking. Kader echoed support for that.

Jim shared that a major concern from the non-profit community about the changes that might be coming in the next weeks and months around the possible cuts coming at the federal level. Another concern for the communities they serve, between immigrants, LGBTQ+ communities, are changes to Medicaid and Medicare. DV intersects with all these different groups. Meredith echoed Jim's concerns as well as the impact on staff as they navigate these challenges. How do agencies communicate these changes?

Chris shared that the Board and County set up a rapid response team that will coordinate policy analysis that will go from taking two to three weeks for policy analysis to two to three days; Jill Clark will coordinate the effort. The intention will be to ensure everyone will have the same information and can respond accordingly. The County's director of immigration, Karol Escalante, will also be involved to address the likely chilling effect on the immigrant community.

Michael shared that DFS has a senior policy team that addresses these concerns so that partners are consulted. Jim wondered if there is a way to ensure that partners have a seat at the table in advance of being consulted. Meredith echoed that the workforce themselves might have needs for legal consults when changes are made to DACA or TPS. Corie suggested that employees who might fall into a protected category should get a consult now.

Ramona suggested having Karol Escalante come and present to the Council on the Trust Policy, what it is and how it works since it has been getting a lot of attention recently at the state level.

Chris noted that CASA, from Prince William County, just purchased a building out of which to operate in Annandale. Kader noted that even the immigrant community who is documented and nearing retirement age are considering leaving the country. Corie shared that the “Know Your Rights” information will not change and may be helpful to many communities since the information is based on constitutional rights.

Meredith asked the group how to share this information and have the discussion with the larger Council. Kader noted the potential escalation of violence in the community when there are increasing feelings of isolation, tension, and fear. Chris expressed the importance of communicating the presence of the rapid response team. The group agreed to have Karol Escalante present on the Trust Policy. Judge Sotelo will be on the agenda to present on the compliance docket.

The group agreed to hold the Council’s regular October meeting the first week in November.

## **VII. Public Comment**

There were no members of the public present.

## **VIII. Adjourn**

Meredith adjourned the meeting.