



Accountability Workgroup
Thursday, December 15th, 2022
3:00 PM- 4:30 PM
Government Center, Room 232 and Zoom

Members Present: John Cook (Chair), Chris Davies (Staff), Andréa Nunes Gardner (Staff), Courtenay Schwartz (VSDVAA), Derwin Overton (OAR), Adam Allston (Health Department), KaTrina Smith (JDRDC), Donna Audritsh (ADAPT Volunteer), Joe Meyer (Shelter House), Dawn Butorac (Public Defender), Pia Miller (Deputy Commonwealth Attorney), Brenda McBorrough (FCIA)

Members Observing: Jamie Milloy

I. Approve Remote Attenders

- a. KaTrina Smith is attending the meeting remotely due to work. This is her third remote attendance this calendar year.
- b. Jamie Milloy is attending the meeting remotely due to work commitment. This is her fourth remote attendance this calendar year and she is participating as observer only.
- c. Joe Meyer is attending the meeting remotely due to illness. This is his second remote attendance this calendar year.
- d. Pia Miller is attending the meeting remotely due to work. This is her second remote attendance this calendar year.
- e. Courtenay Schwartz is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- f. Brittany Davis is attending the meeting remotely as she lives more than 60 miles away.
- g. Jonathan Yglesias is attending the meeting remotely as he lives more than 60 miles away.
- h. Brenda McBorrough is attending the meeting remotely and joined the meeting after the approval of remote attendees. This is her third remote participation this calendar year.
- i. John Cook asked for a motion to approve remote attendees, Adam Allston moves the motion to be approved. Donna Audritsh seconded. Motion passes.

II. Review/Approval of November 15th, 2022 minutes

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

III. Review/Approval of virtual meeting policy, needed for subgroups

- a. Chris Davies provided an overview of the policy, which had been shared with membership ahead of the meeting. The policy does not replace the remote participation policy and applies only to virtual meetings with no in-person meeting location (which at this time only includes certain subgroup meetings). Dawn Butorac made a motion to approve it as written. Adam Allston seconded. Motion passed.

IV. Subgroup presents survivor focus group proposed plan for review

- a. KaTrina provided an overview about the plan for the survivor focus groups:
 - Recruitment will be a group effort. Each Workgroup member will work with their organization and contacts to recruit facilitators and participants.
 - Focus groups will be conducted in-person and virtually, using surveys, focus groups, and one-on-one interviews if requested.
 - The focus groups will be conducted at Shelter House, support groups in the community and other existing survivors' groups to be identified.
 - KaTrina shared the questions from Center for Court Innovations, which the subgroup had edited and to which they had added. There were observations that the last few questions (those added by the subgroup) seem to be helpful. However, the first questions are more directed to professionals.
 - It was suggested to write a description of the focus group, the language must be simple to reach out to multiple people.
 - Chris Davies shared that DSVS can support with developing a flyer once the subgroup has the description for the flyer. Chris Davies

shared that the timeline for developing flyer and translation might take up to a month or more.

- It was suggested that the flyer starts as soon as possible.
- Jamie Milloy suggested that the first few questions might be administered to people that have had experience with a Domestic Violence Intervention Program (DVIP). If they have a partner that are in a DVIP, and if they answer yes, then there are a set of questions related to a DVIP. This gives an opportunity for people to offer feedback to DVIPs.
- It was suggested to ask the following questions:
 - Are you interested in a process that does not involve the court system?
 - Do you have family members that could be helpful? Or community members?
 - What do you need from the community?
 - What is working in the system; what is not working?
- There was an observation to make sure that people know what is accountability and that language is simple and clear, being mindful about those who English is a second language and those who have low literacy .
- There was an observation that the subgroup did a great work on the initial plan.
- It was suggested to focus on the flyer considering the time for printing, translating.
- Timeline: January recruiting facilitators, February/March explore facilitators who can host define format, location, and who is facilitating focus groups. Recruiting participants in February. Starting focus group in March. For existing forums, the surveys/focus groups would start in February.
- It might be too optimistic to have the flyer in January and starting survey/focus groups in February.
- It was suggested to get a written timeline
- It was suggested that the first draft for the recruitment being completed by our next meeting by the subgroup, and then in January the workgroup can ratify language. Chris and Andréa will circulate the draft recruitment to the workgroup a week before the meeting.
- Suggestion that we have draft language even to have a consistent communication on the recruitment of facilitators.
- It was suggested that if the workgroup is planning to do surveys and focus groups, the surveys can be completed first, analyzed, and then

adjusted for focus groups. The surveys can start in February as it might be easier to start with the surveys.

- How are the members of the Workgroup involved in the process that the subgroup is working?
 - Everyone is involved on recruitment, if they have facilitators, everyone will participate helping with recruitment and identifying facilitators.
- How do we do more targeted recruitment?
 - Besides only having a flyer. It was suggested to have one-on-one conversation while you share the flyer.
- It was suggested that recruitment is done with leaders that do speak the language of the participants.
- There was an observation to not losing momentum. It was suggested to have a schedule to help to keep the momentum.
- It was suggested to leverage groups that are already meeting to complete surveys, recruitment, or conduct focus groups in those spaces that people are already meeting.
- There was a question about what personally identifying information could be disclosed.
- Are there issues to use names? Do we need signed agreements/waivers?
 - Participants are anonymous, it is important to have an informed consent mentioning how collected information will be used and shared.
 - It was suggested to have a waiver approved by the county attorney. Adam shared that she has some examples if needed.
 - DSVS has completed a few focus groups that we can inquire some information and use the language from the waivers on those focus groups. (Andréa and Chris will research this.)
- Chris and Andréa will explore what kind of incentives can DSVS provider and share with the workgroup.
- It was suggested that DV Network is a good place to do recruitment for potential facilitators, and they meet the second Tuesday of every month.
- Andréa and Chris will assist with coordinating another meeting for the subgroup to develop a draft of the recruitment flyer.
- It was suggested to be mindful about people recording Zoom meeting, video records or transcripts considering that the information shared on focus groups are sensitive. Andréa has

researched whether it is possible for participants to make a recording through Zoom, and she will confirm that this is not possible.

V. Identify deliverables and objectives for Goals 4 – 8

Goal #4: Promote stronger links between accountability and healing.

a. Deliverables:

- i. Present data on how participation in BIP (or other accountability interventions) relates to how the victim experienced healing (per focus group participants' definition of "healing" and "accountability")

b. Objectives:

- i. Focus group, survey, and interview questions to include this question
- ii. Longer-term follow-up data from partners of BIP participants

Discussion:

- What things can be done to heal? How do you define healing in your life? What do you need in order to heal? How would you define accountability? How do we get there?
- Suggested to compare answer from partners, those who finished group successfully, and BIP facilitators.
- How do you know that works?
- Do you feel that you are healing?
- What are the accountability measures that need to be included in programs.
- Can we get permission to follow up in a year?

Goal #5: Create multiple pathways to accountability, including alternatives to the criminal justice and other traditional systems and responses, to reduce recidivism.

a. Deliverables:

- i. To identify or create one or more additional pathways to accountability in the community not related to CJS
- ii. To measure how well these work over time to reduce recidivism (using metrics of behavior changes beyond recidivism)

b. Objectives:

- iii. Learn from communities who have developed such alternatives
- iv. Identify alternative measures of success

Goal #6: Use evidence- and practice-based methods to promote effective means of accountability.

a. Deliverables:

- i. Gather information about evidence- and practice-based models used in various locations (including approaches that are relevant

for a variety of cultures)

b. **Objectives:**

- ii. CCI can provide some of these examples to explore

Goal #7: Engage the community in its role in domestic violence prevention and accountability.

a. **Deliverables:**

- i. Implement community-centered structures for accountability

b. **Objectives:**

- ii. Identify a process for engaging community entities
 - iii. Carry out this process
 - iv. Provide education to community entities to become part of this process (e.g., clergy, family members, Safe Havens “Between Compassion and Accountability”, Futures Without Violence prevention)
 - v. Conduct focus groups with family members, etc.
 - vi. Include the role of children
- There were questions about how do you talk to family members?
 - Education is a starting point. Brittany shared that Safe Havens, developed between compassion and accountability, a guide for faith leaders [Untitled \(courttinnovation.org\)](#)
 - Futures Without Violence, created a bystander approach.
 - It was suggested to extend focus groups with community members and ask what information they would need to feel supported.
 - School children – exploring Involving teachers and school counselors.

Goal #8: Promote the awareness, coordination, and implementation of strategies to address policy, systemic, social, and cultural biases that contribute to disparities in both the occurrence of domestic violence and opportunities for restorative healing.

a. **Deliverables:**

- i. All recommendations and initiatives of the Workgroup acknowledge and respond to biases and will address disparities

b. **Objectives:**

- ii. Measure baseline knowledge about biases and disparities
- iii. Assure Workgroup is informed about biases that contribute to disparities

VI. Schedule next six meetings

- a. Workgroup agreed to continue meeting on the third Thursdays for the next seven months, taking August off. Chris and Andréa will coordinate reservation of the room for the meetings and send an updated invite to

the workgroup members.

VII. Adjourn

- a. Meeting adjourned at 4:28 pm.