**DCCESV Minutes 11/17/21**

1. Organizations Present
   * Amara Legal Center
   * DC Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE)
   * DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC)
   * Deaf Abused Women’s Network (DAWN)
   * Jewish Coalition Against Domestic Abuse (JCADA)
   * Mary’s Center
   * Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR)
   * Network for Victim Recovery of DC (NVRDC)
   * Safe Shores
   * SAVRAA Independent Consultant
2. What obstacles are you facing while working in schools?
   * MCSR has faced challenges with direct service work, especially within DCPS (lack of consistent access to schools, constantly juggling new COVID requirements)
   * DCRCC says they’re responding to a lot of crisis in youth work, particularly in public schools - students are assaulting other students, faculty are touching students inappropriately (especially BIPOC youth)
3. Has the school’s process challenged you all in providing your best care?
   * DCRCC says they’re having really hard conversations with principals/administrators regarding how they’re showing up - had to conduct focus groups with all the students to hear directly from them
   * Some schools don’t require COVID vaccination, making it difficult to figure out which team members feel comfortable going into schools and being around unvaccinated people
   * Safe Shores has been working to build stronger relationships with Title IX coordinators; schools have been wanting to conduct their own investigations
   * Trying to engage schools in understanding what an empathic response is (for students with PTSD) has been a recent challenge, whether the assault occurred on campus or not - schools are not being flexible to meet the learning needs of survivors who may not feel comfortable showing up at school
   * Pandemic has made it difficult for Amara to reach youth - they are no longer providing on-site services
   * Youth have gone underground/on the internet - youth are not inclined to speak out about being trafficked, so they were already not reaching enough youth, but now it’s even harder to target youth who may need services
   * Suggestion: reach out to youth through after school programs not necessarily tied to the school - some former JCADA interns are doing after school programs in Ward 8 where students come for wellness check-ins, homework support, visit parks, community centers, religious institutions, etc. - a lot of students still want to engage with friends outside of school in a controlled environment, could be a good way to access young people aside from social media
4. Should we increase capacity and training for Title IX officials at schools?
   * It is a training issue with faculty and staff not knowing the basics of SA 101, but another issue is how the schools keep the students safe - what does it mean when a student reports another student?
   * This is a systemic issue that has been going on for years but things recently blew up
   * There is a disconnect between DCPS staff and our organizations - what would it look like to bridge that gap?
5. SAVRAA trainings are another priority
   * OVSJG is not planning to provide the SAVRAA trainings again so it is up to individual organizations - it is a lot for any one organization to conduct the trainings
   * The trainings were a good way to ensure that everyone was receiving the same training and getting to know their colleagues
   * A central training would be beneficial to allow for a sustainable, interactive, and frequent-enough training process. - Is that possible? Are we able to do that?
6. Should the coalition work toward being able to offer this training by contracting with member orgs for various parts?
   * Anyone who provides a training has to go through OVSJG and the application process is pretty heavy/lots of nuances - orgs have to be able to prove that the training fits into a certain framework
   * OVSJG developed a bare bones list of what you have to have/an outline/not fleshed out tremendously - orgs have to develop trainings that match the outline
   * NVRDC and DCRCC already have their trainings approved by OVSJG
   * Safe Shores is relying heavily on recorded material from OVSJG training and will be facilitating those recordings live, but this is not the best way to train people
   * Developing an 80 hour training is difficult to do the “right” way in the short term
   * The Coalition should work together to offer the training more regularly to member organizations - as a provider community, we need to offer the training more
   * MCSR extends their support - they have a lot of experience organizing and convening high-level trainings in-person and virtually
   * Safe Shores would like to know whether someone else plans to take this on before they submit our grant proposals for FY23
   * We should all benefit in moments where our expertise is being required
   * The curriculum should be more accessible (e.g., for the deaf community)
7. Takeaways
   * We don’t want to compete against one another
   * More coordination with DCPS to ensure that young people are in safe, healthy learning environments
   * Learning how Coalition can offer SAVRAA advocate training on a regular basis and getting more SAVRAA advocates out in the community