

**DC Coalition to End Sexual Violence (DCCESV)**  
**Meeting Minutes**  
**03/02/2023**

**Organizations Present:**

- A/PI Domestic Violence Resource Project
- Children's National Medical Center
- DC Metropolitan Police Department
- DC Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG)
- DC Rape Crisis Center
- Howard University
- Mary's Center
- Mayor's Office of Women's Policy and Initiatives
- MCSR
- My Sister's Place
- Office of CM Janeese Lewis George
- Restoration 199
- Safe Shores
- Tahirih Justice Center
- The National Center for Victims of Crime (DC Victim Hotline)
- The Person Center
- The Wendt Center for Loss and Healing
- US Department of Justice (UASO)
- Washington Area Women's Fund
- Whitman Walker

**I. Welcome**

- Welcome to the first in person DCCESV meeting in 3 years
- Celebration of all members
- Thank you to Chief and Hotel Zena
- Celebrating Women's History Month and Social Worker Appreciation Month
- Introducing Christina M. Jones, Esq., DCCESV's new Senior Policy and Legislation Consultant

**II. Ice Breaker**

- How would survivors' lives improve if we had unlimited resources? Let us think not from a scarcity mindset; what would you do; what are gaps that you would fill; consider OVSJG budget hearing on 4/13 and the talking points we will develop
- Response Themes (full responses at end of notes):
  - o Have relocating opportunities with coaching and mental health services
  - o 30 year-long wish list is an all-paid trip to survivor island
  - o Receive pay based on life experiences, service animals, tuition and paid education, second stage stations where you could stay as long as needed
  - o Weekend survivor conference with healing and survivor- led, run, and executed
  - o All resources are voluntary – theme is cultural humility, healing
  - o Acceptance and more understanding around the uniqueness of being a survivor, helping others find their tailored path to healing
  - o "Will take a lot of collaborative thinking to figure out"

- Allowing people to thrive and feel safe, mental and physical health, and the wholistic approach to safety per person
- More access, no wait times during process, less hurdles to leap through when accessing resources
- Feeling like a priority

### **III. Special Guest**

- New director of OVSJG Jennifer Porter
- Admires the work where we can change the public perception of communities and those that come from those communities
- Looking forward to learning more about the work in our community and advocating on behalf of our neighbors and community

### **IV. Coalition Updates**

- New Member and Stakeholder Opportunities
  - Open enrollment for new participants or members
  - Sexual violence must be part of your work to be a voting member.
  - DCCESV is a network for traditional provider and nontraditional organizations and agencies
  - Voting members are organizations that provide sexual assault services (even if SA is not in name or mission)
  - Key stakeholder agencies are valued partners who provide leadership and expertise but do not vote due to the structure of their agencies (e.g., MPD, university partners, DC agencies, and Federal agencies)
  - Interest forms will be online
  - If you are not a member, our meetings are still open to the public
- Budget Hearing
  - More trainings to develop skills
  - “Master Your Testimony: Part II” will be virtual on Friday, March 31<sup>st</sup> from 1-3 PM
  - After completing the training members will develop expertise in presenting testimony relating to the Mayor’s budget; will familiarize ourselves with
    - The purpose of the budget hearings
    - The Process of the hearing
    - How to address questions from the Council
  - Complete budget hearing survey in advance of training, which will be used as talking points during the hearing
  - We want to have as many tools as possible to continue to advocate for those in the field
- Sexual Assault Awareness Month (SAAM)
  - Action Guide will include facts, calendar, graphics, suggested posts, and a social media guide
  - Do not forget to send us your events and other information
  - Hybrid ceremonial resolution for SAAM Proclamation with DC Council
  - Each year we honor member organizations and the work that they do
- Survivor Council

- DCCESV is launch its own survival council
- Working with Leise Gergely, well-known and highly accomplished SA and DV advocate, to develop the council
- She will be researching local and national models
- Survivor council will be based on an empowerment model and membership will include member program nominees; high priority on a council that represents the diversity of DC and the diversity of experiences
- Survivor Council members will be compensated

## V. Open Discussion

- MOWPI: 9am-1pm free event on 3/18 at George Washington DC MOWPI will host the women's policy bootcamp
- MPD Major Crimes Unit: 30 years plus in the work, worked with dc corrections, trauma clinician, able to pour into a wonderful staff, recognize that position limits reach: Consider reaching out through email to extend the partnership with MPD; they would love to be involved in the work, while developing a new energy amongst their ranks
- Value of in-person: We can get what we need through virtual engagement, and in person is a different type of experience, face to face energy is amazing, as well as the ability foster unique connections and opportunities
- The Person Center serves the African immigrant community and recently launched a responder program for those that serve this population on how
- Washington Area Women's Foundation: how can foundations support work other than fiscally
  - Collaborate with other coalitions
  - Provide leadership for other funders
  - Send resource lists with other funding opportunities
  - Capacity-building grants, unrestricted/general operating grants, funding for materials and trainings
  - The power of convening to cultivate new connections within community and bridge gaps
  - Increased need for therapy, waiting lists continue to be an issue, need updated resources, trauma services need to be more available
  - Attend trainings, foster relationships with organizations, and understanding of the work to develop a better ability to advocate for them within other rooms with potential supporters in a way that they cannot
  - How can technology play a role in bridging the gaps
  - Provide services for returning citizens continue healing and improvement
- Tahirih: Online seminar on 03/03 on issue of forced marriage
- DCCESV: Working on building relationships with neighboring coalitions in MD and VA
- Howard University: How does campus footprint and expanded housing change, alter, or expand the services that we offer; What are the responsibilities as a university to the student body and how can we increase capacity to support students
- MCSR: Sexual Citizens and how book can be a resource

## VI. Adjourn

## Ice Breaker Responses

During the March 2, 2023, in-person meeting for the DCCESV, we had participants answer the question, “How would survivors’ lives improve if we had unlimited resources?” Below are the participants’ answers. We will use these as a part of “Master Your Testimony: Part II” training and in the development of budget hearing talking points

### Housing

- Housing for survivors
- Safe housing
- “Housing. Housing. Housing” Improve total 360 jobs, vocational, professionals Empowered, confident self-efficacy
- If we had unlimited resources, the lives of the survivors would improve enormously. Everyone could count on safe housing and immediate psychological attention without signing up on a long waiting list to receive emotional support therapies to overcome the trauma. And our job would be so much easier. With a single call we would solve all the needs of our clients
- Housing Housing Housing!
- Survivors would have access to long term housing and shelter legal services and other supports without worrying about timelines

### Culturally Appropriate Services/Change

- Until DC deals with racism and anti-Blackness in the VS provider section, money will not solve the problem
- Cultural humble trauma responsive medical professionals available 24/7

### Training

- We would be able to train with the most trauma informed processes
- Required training on issues of violence for all licensed professionals that provides continuing education credits

### Mental Health Support

- Access to mental health
- Afford therapists specialized training and certifications in victimology/ sexual violence trauma
- Developmentally and culturally astute trauma therapists for people ages 0-100 years
- Survivor led and created healing centers
- Mental health services for long term relocations
- Coaching
- Providing greater access to mental health care and services
- Access to free therapy
- Survivors would have access to mental health supports and healing supports

### Financial Support

- Debt forgiveness programs
- Adequate funds for basic (+ advanced) needs
- More basic needs funds for undocumented survivors
- Survivor technology resources and training (i.e., laptops, Wi-Fi, tech)
- All expenses paid escape to survivor island. Job Training

- Home buying and wealth building programs for survivors
- Free in-state tuition for residents and low out of state costs
- Affordable childcare and livable wages for childcare workers
- More direct cash assistance funds
- Reparations for Black folks to prevent/address poverty
- Credit building and tax services
- Financial compensation for taking time off work to heal and attend court proceedings
- Unlimited scholarships and grants for survivors

#### Freedom for Survivors

- They could live the life they deserve to live
- They would have healthy choices
- More time and capacity to focus on the long-term needs
- They could focus on their strengths
- Fear of leaving sexual violence situations would decrease
- More trust in the system and therefore more people feeling safe to come forward
- Thrive and heal

#### Programmatic Staffing/ Work

- More emergency service/ case management/ recovery workers available due to better pay/benefits
- Unlimited resources = no constraints on time, energy and care that survivors could receive from communities
- Survivors would receive competent care and emergency responses no matter what/when
- Gives us the opportunity to advertise the resources we offer
- Would give us the opportunity to hire easily and have shorter wait times for surviving
- We can focus on the work and not the money

#### Policy Support

- Judiciary and legislative council input arms (strong arms)
- Finding justice and safety beyond the police and courts
- Divest from state systems (like reporting requirements)

#### Prevention

- More resources would lead to more funds for education and prevention and long-term change in attitudes and behaviors
- Robust prevention campaign would significantly decrease the number of survivors in the first place (because would not be victims of violence)

### Access for Survivors

- Access to medical care
- Access to safety
- Childcare support
- Transportation
- A weekend conference for survivors
- Survivors would have access to all forms of healing and to all the resources needed for healing
- More extensive access to language services
- No wait times
- More global majority language/dialect interpreters

### Other

- All resources are not monetary, but they all come with a cost
- Collaboration without competition for the benefit of survivors and the community