

DC Coalition to End Sexual Violence (DCCESV)

Meeting Minutes

06/28/2023

Organizations Present

- CASA DC
- Children's National Medical Center
- DC Department of Health
- DC Forensic Nurse Examiners (DCFNE)
- DC Victim Hotline
- DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC)
- DVRP
- Mayor's Office on Women's Policy and Initiatives (MOWPI)
- MCSR
- Network for Victim Recover of DC (NVRDC)
- Restoration 1:99
- Safe Shores
- SAVRAA Independent Consultant
- Tahirih Justice Center

Policy Overview

- 17 policies reviewed
- Four orgs/agencies engaged
- 14 policies to potentially support
 - Expanding DC Rape Shield Law
 - Clarifying "significant relationship"
 - Allow victims access to HIV information
 - Ban child marriage
- Four policies that may not be a good fit for DCCESV
- Conversation About Enhanced Penalties
 - How do you see the intersection of anti-oppression principles and enhanced penalties within the criminal justice system when it comes to cases of sexual assault?
 - Ideas from the group:
 - What are alternatives to policing as a response? Recognizing if a survivor wants to go that route, we provide that support.
 - "Survivors for Divestment" can help us look at how policing and state violence/prisons are actually a form of gender violence:
<https://www.defendsurvivorsnow.org/make-connections.html>
 - Are there any inherent tensions or conflicts between the two?
 - Ideas from group:

- Direct conflict to anti-oppression principles because criminal justice system is created to punish Black and Brown bodies.
 - Many of those who perpetuate are survivors and need support to heal to not reoffend.
- What alternative approaches or solutions do you believe could better address sexual assault while also promoting anti-oppression principles?
 - Ideas from group:
 - Trauma-informed therapy practices within juvenile centers
 - Investment in restorative justice and community violence interruption programs
 - Upstream prevention before these young folks with problematic sexual behaviors become adults who are doing harm. More funding is needed for PSB therapy in DC.
- Listening Sessions
 - Two-three listening sessions with members over summer