

**DCCESV Minutes 1/27/21
FY21—Q2
1/27/21**

- I. Organizations Present
 - Amara Legal Center
 - Children’s Law Center
 - DC DOH
 - DCFNE
 - DCRCC
 - Deaf DAWN
 - JCADA
 - Men Can Stop Rape
 - MPD Victim Services
 - My Sister’s Place
 - NVRDC
 - Rights4Girls
 - Washington Area Women’s Foundation
 - Elisabeth Olds, SAVRAA Independent Consultant

- II. How can we get the most out of our Coalition meetings?
 - It can be difficult to have these meetings online/on Zoom; at this point, though, many of us are used to the difficulties of this, and we treat this as normal
 - Hard to step up and step back in these settings because it’s hard to know when people are going to talk
 - i. Possible to have breakout rooms and then report back as a way to lift up voices that may not be comfortable speaking out in greater settings
 - What do you hope to get out of the meetings?
 - i. Updates, events, things that are happening in the sexual assault field
 - ii. Updates on the search for the ED
 1. We are continuing with the ED search; we shared at the last meeting that we had gone through some first-round interviews
 2. Hiring committee comprised of key stakeholders and the stewards of the Coalition
 - a. Chandra Dawson
 - b. Elisabeth Olds
 - c. Indira Henard
 - d. Najma Johnson
 - e. Neil Irvin
 - f. Rachel Friedman

3. We need a larger candidate pool at this time; we have been pushing out the job posting
 - a. We want to ensure that we have “the right person” for this job, not just “a” person. If membership feelings about that have changed, feel free to reach out to hiring committee
 - iii. Matters around testifying for OAG and/or MPD to DC Council
 1. If you are planning on testifying and interested in sharing what priorities you hope to raise to Council’s attention, please email drobinette@childrenslawcenter.org
 2. Would also like to connect with folks if anyone has heard about whether or not the bill decriminalizing sex work in the District has been re-introduced
- III. SAAM
- Council is not doing ceremonial resolutions right now
 - We would like to plan our own SAAM event where we will read the SAAM Proclamation and have some speakers sign up
 - i. Are there any thoughts people have about people who they would like to have speak at the event?
 1. Chanel Miller—released her memoir a year or two ago, author of *Know My Name*
 2. Vice President Harris—to speak about the administration’s national plan in regards to gender-based violence
 - We would like the theme for this year’s Proclamation to be the Impact of Sexual Violence in Black, Indigenous, and People of Color Communities
 - i. Also would link to in the importance of continuation of services
 - DCCESV would like to invite DAWN to accept the Proclamation this year to highlight how sexual assault affects marginalized and vulnerable communities; and the ways in which challenges around sexual assault are compounded by intersecting identities
 - So much of our Coalition work has been focused on building community together, strengthening capacity and knowledge of resources; sometimes we forget the scale at which our organizations are working and at which DC is providing services
 - i. DC is an exceptional leader in the country around victims services, victim rights, and victim service coordination
- IV. Fiscal Impacts: Breakout Rooms
- At the last VAN Diversity Committee Meeting, there was a long conversation about some of the issues committee members brought to the space; a lot of concern and challenge around the fiscal impact that DC is experiencing and how that is affecting smaller organizations, specifically culturally-specific organizations

- i. Some of the organizations brought forth that some DC Government agencies asked them to cut their org budgets between 5-10%; folks are concerned around what this means
 - ii. One organization mentioned they went from having 5 or 6 grants to having only two
 - iii. Folks wondering what types of advocacy can be done around the impact all of this is having on organizations, what this means for budget, staffing, and continuing to operate in a global pandemic and understanding organizations are being asked to do more with less
 - Attendees will discuss how this is affecting their services
 - i. Budgetary cuts to other organizations affect the workload and referrals that other organizations get—we are all interconnected, and funding cuts to one member of the continuum of services affect all organizations, and all clients
 - ii. Clients are struggling to access the support they may need, and organizations being asked to step into roles outside of their expertise
 - iii. Because of other organizations losing funding, lack of access to peer support, counselors, and other resources, a lot of young people are stuck in unhealthy home situations
 - iv. Greater need for us to work collaboratively and what that means—language came up around the discontinuance of competing and vying for services or funding; if one of us is impacted, the whole system is impacted
 - 1. Must figure out strategically how to share resources, collaborate, and lift ourselves up for the greater good of survivors
 - 2. The need to be “in survival mode” in our line of work, feelings of mistrust, along with other dynamics, sometimes replicate the dynamics of harm, violence, or trauma that our clients experience
 - v. There are certain aspects of the pandemic that are draining the budget—for example, being virtual and having other agencies have funding cut has drained parts of budget for organizations that require interpretation and translation
 - vi. Greater demand for services; need doesn’t go away just because funding does
- V. Feedback on Breakout Rooms
 - Lots of thumbs up! Great suggestion
 - from prospective members, and the way in which we would like to hear this from prospective members
 - i. Values from previous conversations may need to shift a little bit to address the current reality
 - We are committed to transparency; we can honor the value of conversation and discussion without unintentionally creating a dynamic where members don’t get to participate as much perhaps because they don’t have the capacity

- Would it be helpful to have a separate members-only meeting to discuss this?
 - i. We can give everyone the opportunity to contribute and those who have thoughts/feelings about it can make a point to attend to share
 - ii. People can come prepared and with focus to discuss this particular issue

VI. Surveys