

DC Coalition to End Sexual Violence (DCCESV)
Meeting Minutes
04/27/2022

I. Organizations Present

- Safe Shores
- Office of Victim Services and Justice Grants (OVSJG)
- My Sister's Place (MSP)
- Restoration 199
- Men Can Stop Rape (MCSR)

II. Restoration 199

- Started in 2003 to serve survivors of sex trafficking and since then they support complex trauma survivors dealing with issues ranging from military experience to domestic violence and bullying, mainly with adolescents.

III. Introducing Spencer Cantrell, Senior Policy and Advocacy Consultant

- Federal Affairs Advisor at Johns Hopkins School of Public Health
- Director of Federal Affairs at the Coalition to Stop Gun Violence
- Former Legal Director of JCADA
- Bringing legal and policy expertise to enhance federal capacities and understanding

IV. Introducing Althea Hart, Senior Strategy and Planning Consultant

- Worked in nonprofit sector and academic institutions
 - OVW Dept of Justice Grants Program Officer within Campus Program Unit
 - Senior program manager of Mississippi Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Implemented capacity and training workshop for women of color
- Wealth of experience in working with college campuses, helping us continue to deepen our scope of campus work

V. History of DCCESV

- DCCESV as an alliance for service providers, prevention programs, and stakeholders
- Emphasis on coordinated community response work
- Partnership between MCSR and DC Rape Crisis Center (DCRCC) launched in 2016
- Worked closely together for four years until DCCESV became the federal designated coalition

VI. Legislative and local budget updates

- Reauthorization of Violence Against Women Act (VAWA)

- Includes a comprehensive approach to understanding sexual violence which is important for different avenues of support, such as restorative justice, housing protections, etc.
- Takes more steps for inclusivity, such as recognizing bruising across skin tones for medical and forensic examinations and attention towards the specific issues the LGBTQIA+ and Indigenous communities face within
- Ending Forced Arbitration of Sexual Assault and Sexual Harassment Act of 2021 invalidates arbitration agreements
 - Seen in employment contracts
- When looking at local legislation we want to be careful about:
 - Looking for unintended consequences through a lens of equity
 - Being aware of the disproportionate incarceration of people of color
 - How do we hold offenders accountable while recognizing the harm in perpetuating cycles of trauma?
- Public Safety Committee Budget Oversight Hearing
 - Additional \$1 million for sexual violence prevention providers
 - Recurring \$500,000 for viability for victim services
 - Asks OVSJG to release budget information for transparency purposed

VII. Funding

- Sexual Assault Services Program (SASP) Grant
 - Counseling for victims of sexual assault
 - \$417,000 narrowly restricted for specific programs
- [FY2023 OVSJG RFA](#)