

10.19.23 GBV Task Force Meeting

Attendance

- Chair took task force attendance (a quorum was met)
- MO Office Attendees: Umi Grigsby, Mara Heneghan, Noureen Hashim, Patricia Padilla, and Olivia Ortega
- DFSS Attendees: Yesenia Galvan, Deirdre Harrington
- Law Dept. Attendees: Lindsey Sonenthal

Meeting minutes from August 17, 2023, meeting approved

Review and discuss Task Force Rules

Appointment Structure

- Teresa Sullivan brought up the concern of overlap of appointments, i.e., the potential loss of institutional knowledge if this reappointment structure is put in place
 - She proposed half of original members be reappointed for an additional one-year term
- Karla did not want to pass this change without prior language written
- Group discussed what kind of language is needed to address this issue:
 - A number of task force members will be reappointed for an additional one-year term
 - Ex: "Half of task force members will be reappointed a second time"
- Ultimately the task force agreed that the number of reappointments should be less than what is needed to meet a quorum (to avoid voter blocks)
- Teresa Sullivan will draft language and then pass to Lindsey Sonenthal (Law Dept.)

Discussion on Mayor's budget release

- Umi reported that funding for GBV remained flat
 - ARPA funding does exist, but is time-limited and spending has been slow
 - MO Policy will prioritize assessment of all ARPA funding levels as basis for 2024 funding opportunities. Conducting assessment will take place after City budget hearings conclude.
- Deirdre Harrington reported that the Home share fund currently has about \$9M, which is being used to fund the DV Hotel program and rapid rehousing
 - DFSS will share a breakdown of DFSS funding for GBV (Deirdre will make sure it is up-to-date and will then share with task force)
- Karla Altmayer: When would ARPA funding actually be available to be allocated? Would this be delayed until the following year?
 - Umi: No, available ARPA funding can be spent immediately. Keep in mind that this funding is "universal" and available for many other uses.

Budget Proposal of the GBV Taskforce

- Brenda Myers-Powell: For this programming to work, peer support and community leaders are the key to making these programs successful
 - The peer model helps ensure programs are accessible and not stigmatized
 - Community members are critical to educating residents about available programming

- Deirdre Harrington/Yesenia Galvan (DFSS) reported that the City will be funding 4 youth roles for outreach
- Karla stated that the peer-to-peer model is proven and effective. This is why the task force's budget proposal requests \$5M for 40 peers. She reiterated that she appreciates the work happening around youth, but that peer outreach is not where it needs to be.
- Linda T. asked, "what is the process after the assessment of available ARPA funds?"
 - She would like task force to be an influential body when it comes to securing available funding
 - Umi recommended that the advocacy work previously done by task forces is the best avenue. Ultimately, the Mayor's cabinet will make recommendations that are informed by stakeholder groups like the task force. The Mayor will then make final determinations.
- Trisha T.O. stated that once the GBV deputy position is filled, they hope to have a better line of communication to the Administration regarding priorities. However, there is a concern that the task-force's priorities will not be heard in the meantime.
 - Umi: MO Policy team is showing up in strong force to staff and support this work, and that support will continue once a deputy is brought on
 - Deirdre: DFSS staff also elevated GBV priorities to their respective commissioner. There are multiple pathways for priorities to be communicated to Mayor.
- Karla anticipates this is something the task force will continue to discuss

Discussion on the governance structure for Task Force

Discuss recommendations for new task force appointees

- Karla requested a roster of recommended new members (request made to Umi/MO Policy)
- Umi explained that providing a list of recommendations will be difficult during vetting process (to ensure individual names are not compromised), but that the final list of recommendations will be made public when it is sent to City Council. Right now, they are very early in the vetting process.
- Umi emphasized that the task force should provide their recommendations for appointments before final list is presented to City Council
- Karla stated that the task force conducted a brainstorm session during its last retreat to begin forming its own list of recommendations
 - Her priority is to ensure that no individuals are left out of recommended list
- Karla asked about the timeline for appointments.
 - Umi clarified that appointments will not be made in 2023, but the task force should move forward to sharing its recommendations
- Linda T. discussed that she would like the opportunity to review the final list of recommendations prior to it going to City Council
 - Her worry is that there will be no accountability that recommendations are reflective of a diversity of necessary backgrounds
 - Umi stated that it would be helpful for the MO Policy to hear from the task force about which types of backgrounds should be represented in the list of recommended appointees.
- Karla asked that task force members bring their recommendations to the December meeting
 - She also asked that the City provide an overview of representations currently included on the task force

- To avoid making names public before finalization, Karla recommended that the task force host a closed session to avoid this issue
 - Lindsey confirmed it is possible to host a closed session (there is an exception to hold a closed meeting regarding appointments of individuals)
- Karla stated that part of the next meeting will be closed so task force can discuss appointments

Review the current state of Strategic Plan 2.0

- Karla asked about the current status of the strategic plan and who is leading this work.
 - Umi: Future deputy/director of GBV will be leading this work and its implementation. Filling this role is a priority for MO Policy, but in the interim, Noreen will be the lead from the MO Policy.
 - Noreen and Patricia will serve as the communications and operations leads. After DFSS completes budget hearings, they will staff the effort with three project managers, as well.
- Karla: Will the strategic plan be adopted by the Administration? Or will it serve as a recommendation?
 - Umi: MO Policy will have to make decisions about the sequencing of policy priorities based on capacity. We will ask, “what elements are being led by the MO Policy and which are being led by department staff?” And then design work plan accordingly.
 - The strategic plan will be a recommendation, so while they may not be able to adopt every goal as part of the MO Policy team’s priorities, critical priorities will be integrated and advanced by MO Policy team members and department staff.
- Linda Tortolero: As we enter 2024, does the task force need to do some level setting about how the existing strategic plan aligns with the Mayor’s policy priorities and to better understand what is possible given the MO Policy team’s capacity?
 - That way, the task force can prioritize its goals even further
- Karla: Will the strategic plan work need to wait until a deputy is hired?
 - Umi: No, the City is providing staffing support (across MO Policy and DFSS) to move tasks forward and ensure there is no pause in the work. When the new deputy comes on board, they will need to reassess the staffing support and plan moving forward.
 - DFSS continues to advance individual initiatives:
 - Needs assessment (listening sessions ongoing) is currently moving forward
 - \$1M grant opportunity is opening
- Karla stated that she'd like to understand which strategic plan priorities are in progress
 - There used to be a spreadsheet of priorities and their statuses, and she would like to see something like that created and maintained.

Defining our role as a task force

- Karla: Administration is prioritizing co-governance as part of its decision making. In 2021, it was less clear if this task force was an advisory group or a co-governance body. What do members think the role of the taskforce should be?
 - Lindsey: In City code, this task force is defined as an advisory group.
 - Umi: Co-governance work is being led by MO equity and racial justice team.

- Tisha Teófilo Olave and Linda Tortolero both stated they would like the task force to be included in some of these conversations. Educating task force members about co-governance is very important.

Additional questions re: co-governance model:

- How willing is the Administration to engage with this task force as a co-governance mechanism for GBV policy? How willing is City Council to support this change?
- Can the group still be effective without amending the original ordinance to shift from advisory to co-governance capacity?

Additional priorities:

- Karla emphasized the importance of the task force being survivor-led, which would require more members and greater staff support
- Importance of educating task force members on various governance models, including co-governance
- Task force would like to be involved/up-to-date on the committee to hire new deputy of GBV
 - Noureen shared Job description was sent to task force for review and will be published this week
 - Open invitation to task force members to join committee
 - Members are encouraged to recommend individuals for role
- Budgetary support for transportation costs requested

Next steps:

- Revise task force rules re: appointments
- Schedule closed session at next meeting to discuss appointments
- Continue discussion about defining the role of the task force

Next meeting: December 2023 [Date TBD]