

## **Gender Based Violence Taskforce**

*August 17, 2023*

### **Present**

Sarah Layden – Resilience  
Trisha Teofilo Olave – NIJC  
Shykira Richards – Youth Guidance  
Rachel Ostergaard – The Salvation Army  
Teresa Sullivan – Legal Aid Chicago  
Neha Gill – Apna Ghar  
Karla Altmayer – HTA  
Aster Gilbert – Center on Halsted  
Linda Tortolero – MLEA  
Joel Mitchell – Emmaus  
Amanda Pyron – The Network  
Olivia O’Farrell – Crown Chicago  
Scheherazade Tillet – A Long Walk Home  
Erin Baynes – Survivor Lead Working Group  
Aarushi Kataria – Mayoral Fellow  
Umi Grigsby – Mayor’s Office  
Darci Flynn – Mayor’s Office  
Patricia Padilla – Mayor’s Office  
Jennifer Johnson – Mayor’s Office  
Garien Gatewood – Mayor’s Office  
Laura Ng – DFSS  
Yesenia Galvan – DFSS  
Adriana Camarda – DFSS  
Deirdre Harrington – DFSS  
Erica B. Davis – CDPH

### **Agenda**

1. Call to order, Roll call, Agenda Review
2. Review and approve Meeting Minutes from June 2023
3. Conversation with Mayor’s Office Senior Leadership
  - a. Jennifer Johnson, Deputy Mayor, Education, Youth and Human Services
  - b. Garien Gatewood, Deputy Mayor, Community Safety
4. Review and approve Task Force Rules
5. Previewing Results of SWOT Analysis
6. Discussion: Community engagement plan for Strategic Planning 2.0
7. Next steps/Wrap Up

### **Conversation with Mayor’s Office Senior Leadership**

Q: How does your work intersect with that of GBV?

- Jen: direct intervention through CDPH and DFSS. But her focus is on the indirect interconnection in other departments, especially those for young people. This involves getting at root causes and solving
- Garien: previous work was often reactionary, and now there's a move towards strategic intervention. There are three population: survivors, youth, and high-risk. There are seven key areas of focus.

Q: Who all are included in survivors and their communities?

- Garien: It includes victims, survivors, those who lost family members.

Q: What does the group do?

- Garien: We are building a comprehensive community safety plan; it is split into two parts– rapid response and long-term. The latter focuses on root causes. This needs to be community driven. As of now a lot of this information is not publicly available, but once the container is defined, it will be.

Q: How will you identify priorities?

- Garien: where are we plugging the holes? Plugging in the gaps can be done through resources from business and philanthropy. The determination on what we can tackle is determined by what can be done given capacity and collaborative energies and synergy with other departments.
- Jen: Garien is gathering stakeholders for the comprehensive plan. But Jen is gathering large scale city departments to work on this topic and is able to narrow down prioritization.

Q: Historically, GBV survivors and organizations have been marginalized in strategic plans. How will you make sure the final product recognizes the unique opportunities and challenges of DV/GBV survivors?

- Garien: they are thinking of every piece of safety.
- Darci: thinking strategically on how to use the “table” as the language around the container is being set.

Q: How can the taskforce help shape the final outcome?

- Jen: expanding the team and finding intersections with the taskforce. The other piece is the City Budget – identifying the subjects that need to be lifted up. The Mayor's office brings the right people together and uses the influence to unstick things. Jen is a lever but not the implementor on the ground, aims to be a champion advocate. Conversations with stakeholders will help shape the priorities.

Q: On the issue of GBV, there has been no total proof on what solves the issue. What is the room for innovation?

- Jen: not wedded to any kind of policy due to first time in governance. Willing to see what is working and allowing innovation.
- Garien: no one size fits all. Hence the focus on comprehensive solutions that are context specific.

Q: Is there an idea for a permanent representative body composed of the youth?

- Jen: would be interested in exploring the youth being a part of the Taskforce. The mayor's youth commission has 40 young people. Open to creating new spaces but also working on giving the spaces that are present right now a seat at decision-making tables. For instance, a young person is an advisor to the Board of Education and is present in each board meeting. The youth commissioners are paid but the CPS youth leaders are not.
- Garien: young folks are meeting organizations and guide where the policy goes.
- Darci: come into existing spaces rather than create new spaces. There are 4 open seats coming up, the youth could fill some of these seats up.

Q: Are you looking at failures and learnings from other cities?

- Jen: still new, still focusing energies on understanding Chicago's landscape.

Q: What can the taskforce bring to continue the momentum?

- Jen & Garien: please bring us a compilation of ideas in our portfolios and help us partner with you in thinking of immediate next steps.

### **Review and approve Task Force Rules**

- Term Limits: there will be tiers. Some people might roll off before the two years. After two and an additional year, people will have to take a break but there are no strict parameters on how long one needs to be away. But there is discretion – it is the Mayor's call, nothing that says a person can't stay on.
  - The current language seems to be setting a three-year limit and could be edited.
  - Suggestions: Adding an 's' and adding language to ensure there's continuity at least through one mayoral term (total of 4 years).
- We will move City Council to get 4 additional seats.

### **Previewing Results of SWOT Analysis**

- SLWG: dichotomy with approaching law enforcement. How to engage with law enforcement while prioritizing needs of survivors.
- Strength:
  - City has committed more funds and people amongst all agencies.
- Community input is listed as both a strength and weakness. This shows differing opinions which needs to be explored.
- Opportunity: Creating more documentation and making it more public facing. This adds credibility to the work being done and adds to institutional knowledge.
- Weakness:
  - We need to be educated about the strategy moving forward. We need CPD to do better but also ensure that we have alternate responses.
  - More stakeholders being involved: but one of the barriers is CPD; especially because of their perception in communities. A one-time training of the CPD is not enough. Additionally, focusing on CPD tends to overpower any other conversations because it consumes all energies. CPD has no accountability mechanisms and the lack of these prevents organizations from working with them. There is also a lack of unified ask from the Taskforce when it comes to CPD.

- Lack of consensus building around root causes; not just using root causes as a buzzword.
- Lack of sexual education: how can schools be supported? Preparators can be young individuals as well, not just adults.
- Lack of youth focus, particularly in the prevention area.
- Opportunities:
  - A moment to engage with CPS and charter school system.
  - Clarity and appreciation that there is investment, but it isn't enough.

### **Next Steps**

- Members will review the rules and get back to Darci. Rules will be approved in the next meeting.
- Think about community engagement and bring ideas to the Retreat.