



King County

Community Services Division

Women's Advisory Board

Department of Community and Human Services

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TTY Relay: 711

WOMEN'S ADVISORY BOARD MINUTES FROM THE SEPTEMBER 11, 2019 MEETING

Meeting Type: Regular: <u> X </u> Special: <u> </u>	Location: Chinook Building 401 5 th Ave, Seattle, WA 98108	Called to Order: 4:03	By: Sarah Reynevled
Members Present:			
Rebecca Chan	Karol Brown (absent)	Joey Ketah	
<i>Po.2 Vacant</i>	Kathryn Hancock	Hamdi Abdulle (phone)	
Jessica Giner (phone)	<i>Po. 8 Vacant</i>	Heena Khatri	
Sarah Reynevled	Adrian Medved	Kathy Brasch (absent)	
Aimee Grant	Zeeba Khalili	Dionne Foster	
Excused/Absent:			
Speakers:			
Carlin Yoophum: Refugee Women's Alliance Farhiya Mohamed: Somali Family Safety Task Force			
Staff: Allison Jurkovich			
Guests: N/A			
Approval of Minutes: Aimee Grant & Adrian Medved			
Motion to Approve:	Zeeba Khalili & Heena Khatri	Vote: Y	

AGENDA ITEMS:

Agenda Item 1:	Introductions & Announcements		
	- Welcome to newest WAB member, Dionne Foster, Executive at-large appointment from District 8.		
Action Items:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date	
N/A	N/A	N/A	

Agenda Item 2:	<p>Refugee Women's Alliance (ReWA): www.rewa.org <i>(Note: items in italics are questions from WAB members)</i></p> <p>Carlin Yoophum, DV Program Director: carlin@rewa.org, 206-721-3846 ext. 23</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> o Carlin has been with ReWA for 25 years, starting as a bilingual advocate for the Laotian community and now as the Director of domestic violence programs. o In 1985, a group of successfully resettled refugee women [primarily from
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Laos, Vietnam and Cambodia] realized the unique needs of refugee and immigrant women and mothers were being overlooked in the social service settings that existed at the time. They founded the South East Asian Women's Alliance (SEAWA) to provide newly arrived women with services in their native languages that were not available from other agencies. From a small, informal alliance of concerned refugee women, ReWA has grown to become one of the largest non-profit refugee and immigrant service providers in the Puget Sound area.

- The first client of ReWA was a survivor of domestic violence.
- The first funding for their services for battered women was \$5,000 from the (formerly) King County Women's Programs
- **About ReWA:**
 - 160 staff speak 54 languages and dialects: This means clients are paired with professionals who speak their first language and are specifically attuned to their native cultures. Because of this, staff are able to address the unique barriers to success that each of our clients face.
 - 9 different sites and locations throughout Puget Sound
- **About ReWA's Domestic Violence Program:**
 - Survivors are referred directly to bilingual advocates – 15 advocates who speak 24 languages
 - Referrals and Cases:
 - Roughly 850 clients/year
 - Mostly low-income
 - Newly arrived refugees
 - Cultural and language barriers
 - Limited English proficiency
 - Fleeing from war-torn countries and experiencing PTSD and trauma as a result
 - Refugee camp: sexually assaulted in camp
 - In the U.S.: going through domestic violence
 - Complex network of traumas
- **Community Outreach and Education:** misunderstanding about domestic violence and seeing it only as physical violence
 - For example, originally hosted a “Domestic Violence in Communities” program and then no one showed up so it was renamed to “Maintaining Healthy Families” in order to reduce cultural stigma. Topics include:
 - Emotional abuse
 - Manipulation
 - Male privilege
 - Financial abuse
 - With context and education women started coming forward to talk about their own experiences and to refer other members of their community to the program.
 - Big take away from this work: It takes time. Prioritize working with one community at a time especially with so many different refugee and immigrant communities coming into the U.S.
- **Legal Services:** 80% of services sought out are legal
 - In-house family law attorney: domestic violence protection orders (DVPO), parenting plans, child support, dissolutions
 - *Can you talk us through what kind of legal services you support?*
 - DVPOs: advocates assist clients in getting a temporary PO – could be

experiencing co-occurring issues like dissolution, family law cases/parenting plans

- Child support concerns because in many cases the abuser doesn't remain in U.S. but returns to country of origin
- Immigration status issues and considerations in family law – work closely with Northwest Immigrant's Rights Project
- Support individuals and families applying for public assistance
- Immigration support (for ex. Married to U.S. citizen without legal paperwork or status – abuser using immigration status as a control tactic)
- Support with understanding the laws, particularly around domestic violence
 - Regularly see victim defendant cases where the survivor might be the one arrested and put in jail. There is the added cultural influence that in many instances women don't make eye contact and are therefore misunderstood by law enforcement. Juxtapose this with men in their communities who have had the opportunity to learn the culture and know how to interact with the police.
 - Victim defendants are unable to explain their cases when English is not the primary language or have limited English speaking skills
 - Requires education about seriousness of DV in the U.S. as a criminal legal issue rather than a family dispute/conflict
- **Need for more legal supports:** ReWA has long waiting lists (at least 2 months) and only one attorney with 150 cases
- **Housing:** 30% identified housing as a priority need
 - Hotel/motel voucher program as a stop gap before being able to access emergency shelter supports
 - *Is there enough space available at shelters? Do you find it difficult to place folks? Especially with the housing crisis?*
 - Not enough shelter spaces and it is difficult to house families
 - 1 in 30 calls we place accepts a family
 - Language barriers make it particularly difficult for individuals and families to access resources
 - Housing is a priority need for the community – particularly with the language barriers and other limitations to access.
- **Other:**
 - Interpreters: requiring certified interpreters who also understand the dynamics of domestic violence
 - Often use children as translators – end up being inaccurate
 - Language for domestic violence doesn't exist in some languages
 - Sexual assault – regularly not spoken about until 4th or 5th session because it is seen as a private matter and not as domestic violence
 - Community partners that ReWA works with/refers to/takes referrals from (particularly around legal issues):
 - City Attorney's Office
 - Harborview Center for Sexual Assault & Traumatic Stress (HCSATS): <https://depts.washington.edu/hcsats/>
 - King County Prosecuting Attorney's Office (KCPAO)
 - King County Sexual Assault Resource Center (KCSARC): <https://www.kcsarc.org/>
 - Northwest Immigrants' Rights Project (NWIRP): <https://www.nwirp.org/>
 - Northwest Justice Project (NJP): <https://nwjustice.org>

- Somali Family Safety Task Force (see below)
 - API Chaya: www.apichaya.org
- Support group services: Russian, Somali and Spanish speaking group
- Peace in the Home Helpline: (888) 847-7205 – is a unique and cost-effective call transfer system that uses existing technology to route LEP callers to community-based programs that can meet their language and service needs.
 - <https://www.bwjp.org/resource-center/resource-results/helpline-provides-culturally-specific-responses.html>
 - <https://www.seattle.gov/humanservices/services-and-programs/access-to-advocacy>
- **Additional questions from WAB members:**
 - ***Do folks walk in or are they mostly referred?***
 - Most people are coming in as a referral from other programs
 - Referrals from community or word of mouth – community trust from one woman who might have heard received services leads to other referrals.
 - Longevity of agency has built respect and trust – people know ReWA and what they do.
 - ReWA is in a confidential location so you need referrals and to schedule appointments
 - There is a main ReWA agency outside their gender-based violence programming, so people hear about the DV program through ESL classes, vocational training, employment training, behavioral health services, youth programming, etc.
 - ***Do you ever have to turn people away?***
 - Unlikely ReWA would turn away a client because they don't have anywhere else to go and they will likely be turned away from other agencies because of language barriers
 - *Staff note:* Something we regularly hear from culturally specific providers is that they “make it work” if they don't have someone at the agency who speaks the language because they know there is nowhere else for survivors to go.
 - ReWA provides mobile advocacy services and serves people from all over, different counties, because people need services in their own language
 - ***What training and support with employment do you have available?***
 - “Family Empowerment Program” for child care training, vocational training, janitorial work
 - Women can be reliant on financial assistance or partner for financial support – goal at ReWA is to empower women to be self sufficient
 - Refer to in-house ESL program so they can do things as simple as take the bus, read children's report cards, etc.
 - Parenting education classes – For example, how to discipline your children in the U.S. and learn about laws
- **Additional Resources:**
 - National Resource Center on Domestic Violence: <https://vawnet.org/sc/domestic-violence-immigrant-communities>
 - Futures Without Violence: <https://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/intimate-partner-violence-in-immigrant-and-refugee-communities-challenges-promising-practices-and-recommendations/>

Action Items:	Person Responsible	Deadline/Due Date
N/A	N/A	N/A

Agenda Item 2:	Somali Family Safety Task Force:
	<p><i>(Note: Items in italics are questions from WAB members)</i></p> <p>Farhiya Mohamed, Executive Director: farhiya@sfstf.org, 206-495-9504</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - History: http://www.somalifamilysafetystf.org/history-2/ <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The ousting of Mohamed Siad Barre in 1991 sparked a decade-long civil war which led to a large resettlement in the United States around 1993 in Seattle. ○ Partnership with ReWA: Carlin (ReWA, see above) have worked together for many years and ReWA is where Farhiya built her program. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 3 years ago ReWA started getting a high volume of calls from the Tukwila Police Dept. about Somali families and domestic violence. ▪ At this time, children were also being taken away by Child Protective Services (CPS) at high rates ▪ The City of Tukwila applied for a grant and approached ReWA about providing services ▪ Farhiya started as a volunteer, became the only full-time DV advocate for Somali community ○ Working with men: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Unfortunately Farhiya found that they couldn't find any men or leaders to work with them which meant that many women were not allowed to leave the home and participate on their own ▪ Decided to form a committee on how to respond to domestic violence ▪ Went to mosques to solicit support and were turned away ▪ After many years of work and trial and error, Farhiya and ReWA received a grant for "Engaging Men" – Carlin (ReWA) and Farhiya worked on this project ▪ Found an Imam and a Mosque who were willing to write a letter of support for the program ▪ Goal is to engage men in the movement to end domestic violence – community leaders, religious leaders, community members with men as the leading role in supporting men to help one another with abusive behavior ▪ Cultural pushback continues around feeling that these programs and domestic violence services are breaking apart families. ▪ This work founded Somali Family Safety Task Force - Programming: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Serve Somali and East African families in NewHolly and across South Seattle (roughly 60% of clients live in the NewHolly area) ○ Currently 18 programs ○ Domestic violence, work with mosque, education for community because of the need for male support and community leadership support—"Break Into Silence" workshop in partnership with Imam (led to more Imam's agreeing) – 6 men, 10 women on Task Force <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ 10 weeks training, 1 week of education ▪ Taught Imam's about safety plans, how to support women directly rather than just speak with man/abuser ○ Monthly "tea talk time" – so women can come to speak with experts and

resources in a domestic violence support group without naming it that

- Weaving Group twice a month for 2 hours where women can come and have ethnic food, child care, speak about mental health and trauma:
<https://kuow.org/stories/king-county-pioneers-new-practice-refugee-mental-health/>
- Healing and support for survivors takes a lot of time
- 60% of clients in New Holly
- **Primary Issues Seen at SFSTF:**
 - Losing children to CPS and juvenile detention
 - Not understanding the culture means that sometimes parents don't go through the child welfare system and end up pleading to things they didn't do and/or don't have the support to understand the consequences. Along the same line they don't always know how to seal records
 - Youth on youth violence
 - When family separates because of domestic violence the husband leaves family and child support isn't always enforced
 - Mental health issues are stigmatized and not addressed
 - Women have started child care services in home
- **Research on Somali Women and Domestic Violence:**
 - Research largely didn't exist on violence specifically against Somali women so looked into research on Muslim women more broadly.
 - City of Seattle Office of Immigrant and Refugee Affairs:
https://www.seattle.gov/Documents/Departments/OIRA/2016_OIRA_09_EastAfricanReport_FINAL.pdf
- **Community needs:**
 - Women need skill building – especially if they have left their husbands
 - Computer class, home care, child care, sewing class
 - One of SFSTF innovative programs was a sewing circle started with \$3,000 in donations
 - A big need is for more communities to be aware of services. People don't know about programming so if you encounter someone, please encourage them to reach out.
 - Housing:
 - Need for facilities, specifically for refugee and immigrant communities.
 - Hotel/motel vouchers for mom and children
 - Awareness and support around the harassment of immigrant and refugee, particularly Muslim, community
 - Especially when wearing culturally specific clothing like a hijab.
 - Women don't leave the home b/c they don't feel safe taking public transportation due to harassment
 - Awareness about the issue
 - Support for women to learn how to drive so they can travel safely
- **Additional Questions from WAB Members:**
 - *You mentioned serving 4% men in 2018 – what programming support this work?*
 - Breaking The Silence:
<http://www.somalifamilysafetytaskforce.org/breaking-the-silence-on-gender-based-violence/>
 - Father's Night
 - Partnership with mosques – so that men receive education about the

	<p>system, about services so they don't discourage women from accessing support</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Training on healthy relationships – for both boys and girls <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ <i>What about sexual assault that is not between intimate partners?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Very few cases, maybe less than 5%, sometimes at workplace but mostly between intimate partners ▪ Some youth sexual assault reported by acquaintances, and referrals are made to KCSARC. ▪ Issues with cultural and language barriers – sometimes don't want interpreters to know what is going on in their family, especially for small communities, so it isn't reported. ○ <i>What about mental health supports for families?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ The primary need is for education and intervention programs, but there are local resources: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • ReWA has a mental health program (see above) • Asian Counseling and Referral Services (ACRS): https://acrs.org/ • Lutheran Community Services (Somali-specific services in SeaTac and Kent): https://lcsnw.org/ ▪ KC BHRD funding at ReWA for DVSA MH counseling ○ <i>What about subsidized housing? Are people able to move their vouchers (ie. Section 8)?</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ <i>Staff note:</i> Yes, but it can be complicated. For more information on Section 8 vouchers and domestic violence: https://www.masslegalhelp.org/housing/dv/vawa-section8-vouchers
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Action Items:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date
N/A	N/A	N/A

Agenda Item 3:	Next Steps for 2019 Topic
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Prioritize by/for communities and communities of color: November (TBD): Transgender community violence: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ The Northwest Network of Bi, Trans, Lesbian and Gay Survivors of Abuse: https://www.nwnetwork.org/ ○ Gender Justice League: https://www.genderjusticeleague.org/ ○ Ingersoll Gender Center: https://ingersollgendercenter.org/ - Upcoming Topics/Invites: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Invite members of the Native and Indigenous community to speak about Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women & Girls (MMIWG) and the impacts of gender-based violence on Native and Indigenous women in King County. <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Native American and Alaskan Native programs – such as Mother Nation (https://www.mothernation.org/) and Cowlitz Pathways to Healing (https://www.cowlitz.org/index.php/resources/health-and-human-services/29-pathways-to-healing-program) ○ Site visits to agencies or providers doing harm-reduction and low-barrier services in North King County, potentially Aurora Commons: https://www.auroracommons.org/ ○ Prevention: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Prevention Connection (PrevCo): all of the preventionists from the County that come together and meet regularly.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ DeAnn Alcantara at CEGV works on restorative justice & prevention issues and could give a broad picture of King County (www.endgv.org) ▪ Seattle Against Slavery – school based trafficking prevention (https://www.seattleagainstsavery.org/trafficking-prevention-for-schools/) and men’s accountability work (https://www.seattleagainstsavery.org/mens-accountability/) ▪ Coaching Boys Into Men <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ward Urion, Social Change Manager at LifeWire, runs a CBIM program (www.lifewire.org) • King 5: https://www.king5.com/article/sports/high-school/garfield-odea-coach-boys-into-men-who-respect-women/484972650 ○ King County staff: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Someone who can speak to funding around housing options from King County – potentially Housing, Homelessness, and Community Development Division of DCHS ▪ Invite someone to come in and delve into the King County budget ▪ Housing Solutions for gender-based violence survivors 	
Action Items:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date
-	Staff	

Agenda Item 4:	Committee Report Outs: Bylaws Committee	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Moving to monthly meetings with every other month in person and then 1-hour conference call check in on off months. - Keep bylaws broad rather than too specific - Expectations of members and responsibilities - Flesh out committees and role of WAB leadership 	
Action Items:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date
- Follow up with committees to schedule meetings	Staff	November 2019

Agenda Item 4:	Child Care Recommendations Implementation	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Infants at work pilot program implemented - Working with KC Council and Executive on second recommendation around investments of the PSTAA funds - Children and Families Strategy Task Force is being appointed. Members of WAB will participate and names of interested members have been provided to the Executive’s Office. 	
Action Items:	Person(s) Responsible:	Deadline/Due Date
N/A	N/A	N/A

- **Next Steps:** Schedule upcoming annual celebration dinner for second half of November meeting.

AJOURNMENT

Time: 6:02 pm

NEXT MEETING

Date: November 13, 2019 Time: 4 – 6 p.m. Location: Chinook Building & TBD Dinner