



START BY BELIEVING WORKGROUP MINUTES

August 10, 2016
10:00 AM
1700 West Washington Street,
Suite 230
Phoenix, Arizona 85007

A meeting of the Start By Believing Workgroup was convened on August 10, 2016 at 10:02 AM at 1700 West Washington, Phoenix, Suite 230 Arizona 85007. Notice having been duly given. Present and absent were the following members of the Workgroup:

Members Present

Debbie Moak	Cindi Nannetti
Nicole Bidwill	Elizabeth Ortiz
Kathryn Blades	Sheila Polk
Tasha Menaker (Sub for Allie Bones)	Jill Rable
Colleen Clase	Karyn Rasile (Via Phone)
Christina Corieri	John Raeder
Jon Eliason	Mary Roberts
Peter Gentala	Jon Smith (Via Phone)
Mikel Liburdi	Jon Terpay
Myriah Mhoon	Diane Umphress
Rachel Mitchel	Tracey Westerhausen

Members Absent

Jerald Monahan
James Markey

Members of the Public

Jessye Johnson
Steve Twist

1. CALL TO ORDER

Ms. Debbie Moak called the meeting to order at 9:02 AM.

2. INTRODUCTIONS

Ms. Moak welcomed those in attendance and asked the Workgroup members and guest to briefly introduce themselves.

3. WORKGROUP PURPOSE AND OBJECTIVES

Mr. John Raeder, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, provided the Workgroup an overview of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family and the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women. Mr. Raeder explained that the Governor's Commission to Prevent Violence Against Women adopted the Start By Believing campaign in 2012. Mr. Raeder described how recently the campaign has been a cause from concern in the community in regards to the campaign creating confirmation bias. Mr. Raeder explained that the purpose of the workgroup was to create consensus in the understanding and beliefs of Start By Believing.

4. START BY BELIEVING DISCUSSION

Ms. Debbie Moak, Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, lead the discussion and confirmed Mr. Raeder statement on creating consensus throughout the group.

Cindi Nannetti commented that law enforcements job is to be a neutral fact finder during a investigation. Ms. Nannetti was not aware of the campaign until recently and because very concerned after looking through the National Start By Believing website. She continued on to state the she believed the Start By Believing campaign could jeopardize a sexual assault case brought before court.

Christina Corieri agreed with everything Ms. Nannetti stated. She stressed the concern of the campaign making any sexual assault case harder for prosecution.

Diane Umphress questioned if it was appropriate for victim advocates to support the Start By Believing campaign.

Tracey Westerhausen stated that as a defense attorney she would exploit in court any victims advocate and/or family advocacy center that was part of the Start By Believing Campaign.

Mikel Liburdi stated that prosecutors already have a hard job and that Start By Believing my present an opportunity for the defense to question the intent of law enforcement who are involved.

Rachel Mitchel gave an example of a sexual assault trial she worked on. Ms. Mitchel stated that she focused on DNA and evidence and any info the victim was willing to tell her.

Tracey Westerhausen brought up a case that she worked on as an example of how law enforcement can strongly impact a case when they're asked to testify in court.

Mary Roberts stated that she opposed the Start By Believing campaign. Ms. Roberts voiced how much victims and law enforcement is attacked on the stand in court.

Jill Rable stated that Honor Health Forensic Nurse Examiners do not participate in the Start By Believing campaign. Ms. Rable's personally believes every patients victimization but her exam is strictly a medical examination.

Tasha Menaker suggested a question to the group of rather the issue and or concerns of Start By Believing had to do with semantics.

Debbie Moak tabled the question for future conversations.

Elizabeth Ortiz proposed the discussion of the need for a campaign such as Start By Believing. Ms. Ortiz suggested there was a reason of why Start By Believing can to be.

Jon Terpay expressed concern that smaller law enforcement agencies my not fully understand the intent of the campaigns message and do harm to an investigation.

Jon Eliason Updated the group that the Maricopa County Attorney's Office is in the middle of writing a sexual assault response protocol. Mr. Ellison suggested that the victim centered approach of a campaign like Start By Believing is already in place within response systems.

Sheila Polk commented that she's reviewed the history of the Start By Believing campaign. Ms. Polk explained the historical bias law enforcement has had towards victims who report being sexual assaulted. Ms. Polk read allowed the main principles behind Start By Believing and suggested that the group agreed on almost all principle statements.

Diane Umphress commented on Family Advocacy Centers and their role with the Start By Believing campaign.

Nicole Bidwill expressed concern of the Start By Believing campaign. Ms. Bidwill believes that the campaign is unfair to victims and the falsely accused.

Debbie Moak recommended that we examine the Start By Believing principles that we agree on as a state and highlight them through a Arizona campaign.

5. Sexual Assault Training Needs & Availability

Mr. John Raeder reviewed trainings that the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family provided by the Childrens' Justice Grant. Mr. Raeder expressed Ms. Cindi Nannetti request for training specific to Sexual Assault response.

6. Requests for Future Agenda Items

Ms. Debbie Moak took request for future meeting agenda items.

7. Call to the Public

No public comment.

8. Adjournment

The meeting adjourned at 11:17 AM.