

## **Community Compensation Fund Workgroup**

### **Meeting Summary**

**Thursday, January 11, 2024**

**3:00-4:30 PM | Via Teams**

#### **Welcome**

Workgroup Co-Leads jd Nielsen and Heidi Sadri welcomed the group and attendees shared introductions via chat.

Attendees: jd Nielsen, Heidi Sadri, Dr. Karl Jones, Dr. Amanda Gilman, Izzy Eads, Norrie Gregoire, Robert Hamill, Tiffany Attrill, Jenny Young, Liz Mustin, Prachi Dave, Katie Hurley, Roshelle Cleland, Evan Walker, Hannah Long, Aaro Faletogo, Giannina Ferrara, Kelly Olson, Julian Cooper, Stephanie Budrus, Gus Patel-Tupper, Chase Gawiran, Sen. Noel Frame, Julissa Sanchez, Mikah Semrow, Kelsey-anne Fung, Megan Allen, Judge Breean Beggs

#### November meeting recap:

- Established shared norms for engagement
- Reviewed project scope
- Presentation from Crime Victims Compensation program
- Discussed grounding principles and priorities
  - o Focus on inclusion
  - o Break out of offender/victim binary
  - o All those harmed are deserving of repair with limited burdens, barrier, delay
  - o One person's repair should not depend on another's punishment – ineffective and reinforces a false binary

#### **Technical Assistance**

Robert Hamill of [Council of State Governments \(CSG\) Justice Center](#) joined the group to discuss a possibility of contracting to provide technical assistance.

- CSG could offer a national perspective and best practices on putting our priorities into action, systematize, cost analysis
- Robert's background
  - o Victims compensation programs, stakeholder analysis, program evaluation, data analysis
  - o Strategies to reduce administrative barriers, burden
  - o Previously worked as Iowa Victim Compensation and Sexual Assault Exam Program Administrator: oversaw expansion of program eligibility, developed and implemented documentation requirements that provided alternatives to reporting to law enforcement, expanded array of eligible expenses, overhauled rules to reduce barriers and enhance inclusivity and ease of administration
  - o Contract and TA work with other states on making administrative code less restrictive

- Group discussion:
  - o Establishing alternatives to reporting a crime to police in order to establish eligibility for victims compensation and process for implementing that policy change

### **Juvenile Restitution Research**

Dr. Amanda Gilman and Dr. Karl Jones of the Washington State Center for Court Research (WSCCR) provided a presentation of their research on restitution in Washington ordered in juvenile courts between 2018-2021. This is part of broader research on legal financial obligations (LFOs) assigned to WSCCR by the legislature.

- See meeting attachments for presentation slides and WSCCR's full report on LFOs.

### **Restorative Community Pathways**

Chase Gawiran of CHOOSE 180 and Aaron Faletogo and Hannah Long of Restorative Community Pathways (RCP) provided an overview of RCP.

- See meeting attachments for RCP Info Sheet for an overview of their model.
- Summary:
  - o Youth charged with a crime is referred by King County Prosecutor
  - o Youth is paired with a Community Navigator to receive supports
  - o Another Community Navigator makes contact with the harmed party, explains RCP process and four areas of support available to the harmed party, including financial restitution.
  - o Handling restitution requests
    - Request must include description of the situation, what the harmed party is requesting, why they are requesting it, and what alternatives they considered; documentation that supports the dollar amount of the request.
    - Tiered approach to approving restitution payments based on requested amount, requests over \$1,000 are reviewed by a rotating committee; committee considers what restitution means to the individual, whether basic needs are being met, restoration to the extent that it is possible.
    - Turnaround for payments is typically 1-2 weeks.
- Group discussion:
  - o How does RCP handle scarcity and prioritizing restitution payments? They have a diverse set of voices on the committee that reviews larger restitution requests and a youth steering committee. Have those groups process how a request aligns with value and be consistent in how values are applied. They have identified four areas of support and have a shared understanding of what restorative justice and healing look like.
  - o What do you do if the harmed party just wants the financial restitution but doesn't want to engage in other restorative justice programming? It is up to the individual harmed party what restoration and healing means to them, and it is common that the harmed party just wants financial restoration.

- Does RCP provide counseling or referrals for counseling? They have an art therapist on staff and help people find therapy, counseling, physical therapy, etc. RCP will also pay for a number of therapy sessions.

### **Office of Crime Victims Advocacy**

jd Nielsen provided an overview of the Office of Crime Victims Advocacy (OCVA) within the Department of Commerce.

- See meeting attachments for OCVA slides.

### **Discussion**

- Heidi asked the group to consider a recommendation that a Community Compensation Program be situated within OCVA.
  - OCVA is connected to the network of victims advocacy services spread across the state including community-based and by-and-for organizations
  - Those organizations have established trust within their communities, already have referral networks from prosecutors/courts and community, and are already supporting people in applying for Crime Victims Compensation
  - OCVA could contract out the administration of the Community Compensation Program to a single organization charged with processing claims
- Mikah Semrow, Sexual Assault Services Section Manager with OCVA, highlighted that OCVA funds crime victim service centers, some of which are culturally specific and present in every region
- Group discussion:
  - Evan: We need to ensure that we are being mindful of justice by geography, this is an important consideration when thinking about which agency may administer the program
  - Gus: Open to exploring the option of placement within OCVA in alignment with identified values
  - Norrie: Avoid regionalization and justice by geography by having oversight, supportive of OCVA having that oversight; Walla Walla has received VOCA funds through OCVA and found it to be a trustworthy organization

**Next Meeting: March 14, 2024, at 3 PM**