

**Surviving Abuse, Neglect and Exploitation Committee**  
**October 14, 2020 12:00PM Notes**

Town Hall tonight. Topic: Protective Orders.

- Spanish at 4 PM
- English at 6 PM

Denise McKoy: News about the health occupation boards dissemination of the surveys

- The Board is taking time to look at the survey. Surveys will be sent out to service providers.

Survey is still open for two weeks but we may extend it.

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Survey Update (provided by survey facilitator Kate):

. Service recipients report:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-W227MKDP7/>

- 97 survey takers, average time 3:32, completion rate: 49%
- 69 respondents were service seekers; 0 respondents lived in facilities/staff residences; thus, there are no responses for questions 16-40.
- **Changes in status**
  - **Housing status:** 55% had fallen behind on rent, and 39% were facing or likely to face eviction. 24% had no changes. (N=49)
  - **Job status:** 43% (was 48%) had lost a job, and 33% had hours reduced or other drop in income. 27% had no changes. (N=49)
  - **Substance use:** 92% no changes/not applicable (N=48)
  - **Immigration status:** 100% reported no changes/not applicable for (N=47)
  - **Health or independence:** 47% reported no changes/not applicable, 29% had difficulty accessing enough food to eat, 24% had difficulty accessing emergency cash assistance, 24% (was 27%) had difficulty accessing medical care for self or children, 20% had avoided seeking care to avoid contracting COVID-19, 16% had a pre-existing medical vulnerability to COVID-19, 14% had difficulty accessing services or difficulty accessing medical benefits. (N=49)
  - **Personal safety:** 74% (was 71%) experienced no changes, 17% reported experiencing emotional abuse, 9% experienced financial exploitation, and 7% experienced exploitation by an employer, and 7% were the victim of a crime. (N=46)
- 97% (was 100%) spoke English as a first language, most were ages 21-59, 83% (was 80%) were female, 46% identified as white and 39% Black.

Service providers report:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/results/SM-XPYCDCMP7/>

- There were 37 (was 18) total respondents, with a completion rate of 76% (was 89%) and average time spent was 4:51 (was 5:37).
- Of 37 total respondents, 10 (was 3) said their organizations provided legal services.
  - Referrals from court, law enforcement, and religious orgs are down, while referrals from radio and tv were up. (N=5)
  - Undocumented, mistreated minors, and sex trafficking victims served increased; LGBTQ decreased. (N=4)

- Services for child custody, immigration, and immigration detention are up, while divorce/separation cases are down. (N=4)
- 60% have done virtual hearings. Most said the quality was diminished by being remote. (N=5)
- Greatest challenges were inability to access technology, inadequate technology, and court closures.
- Of those providing services other than legal, 96% (was 93%) **served adults** (N=26, was 14).
  - 92% knew where to report, and 96% knew about APS. Only 79% knew APS was continuing reports and investigations in the pandemic.
  - Many fewer people had made reports to APS since the pandemic, dropping from 46% to 4%. APS contacts for other needs also dropped, as did contacts to other support resources.
- 88% **served children** (N=24).
  - All of them knew about CPS, and knew where to report. 95% knew CPS was continuing through the pandemic.
  - The number of folks reporting to CPS in the pandemic decreased by 45% from 11 to 6. CPS contacts for other needs also dropped, as did contacts to other support resources.
- **Difficulty of accessing services for clients:** 52% (was 46%) said it decreased, and 43% (was 54%) said it stayed about the same. (N=23)
- **Difficulty of clients accessing services:** 83% (was 77%) said it decreased, 13% said it stayed about the same, and 4% said it increased. (N=23)

Still need responses from people living in facilities.

Need more responses for spanish language survey.

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Met with the Steering Committee last week and they had some thought about our long term goals.

- Enjoyed our recommendation on the Adult Registry.
  - Will stay a recommendation. Will need to develop a broad work group that can give adequate care ensuring the registry is made well. Do not want to further marginalize. Work needs to be transparent and inclusive of all parties.
- Expungements.
  - Steering Committee struggled more with this one and connected it to the SANE committee.
  - We decided to focus more on increasing access to already existing access to expungements.
    - Jessica: There are already so many groups on expungements. Need to clarify what has already been done and what needs to be done. Will send emails.

- Funding recommendations: encouraging more funding for expungement fairs. Need a list of organizations who are doing expungement work so we can work with them to get more funding.
  - School stadiums, large churches, other large outdoor venues.
- Problem/Idea From our meeting with the steering committee- it is clear we need to expand the understanding of who is a 'victim' and who is a survivor of abuse, neglect and exploitation. Many people have a very stereotypical/one-sided idea of who a victim is.
  - Who needs the education?
    - Public, service providers, legislators. The police.
- Dissemination of information and communication between stakeholders:
  - Ideas: an app that can provide the central time + location for different jurisdictions to reach all communities. A safe place for people to come and receive aid.

Reminder: To focus on issues that are created or exacerbated by the pandemic.

- Dorothy lennig: because of the pandemic, DV survivors cannot just remove themselves and their kids from the home and away from abusers. Also, police will not remove abusers from homes due to the pandemic if they are working from home. There are just not enough resources.

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