

Responses to Request for Information

RFI # 4400 EAD 6002

Reported Sexual Assault Comprehensive Evaluation

| | Entity | Primary Contact | Location | Feedback on resolution: |
|---|---|-----------------|-----------------|---|
| 1 | Finding the Right, LLC | Julie German | | Having assisted the Austin City Council members by providing expert information during the drafting phase of this resolution, I am in a unique position to know the terms of the resolution passed and the expressed intent behind the terms. With this understanding, I could expedite the evaluation by participating in the review and assessment of the proposed audit designs during the RFQ phase, and insuring that the evaluation is conducted within the guardrails laid out in the City Resolution. |
| 2 | Police Executive Research Forum and the Women's Law Project | Kevin Morison | Washington D.C. | <p>1. Adults only: Austin does not appear to have a Child Advocacy Center. Issues related to disposition/clearance of cases are as relevant in child/teenage cases as in adult cases. Should this evaluation also include investigations of sexual abuse of children/teenagers that are done in the Child Abuse Unit?</p> <p>2. Page 3, first "Whereas" defining exceptional clearances: last sentence regarding the recovery of property should be deleted as it does not apply to sex offenses; should include "Prosecution declined (for other than the lack of probable cause)" as described on page 116 of Summary Reporting System User Manual Version 1.0, 06/20/2013 (https://ucr.fbi.gov/nibrs/summary-reporting-system-srs-user-manual).</p> <p>3. Page 4: "Be It Resolved...." First Paragraph directs city manager to undertake comprehensive evaluation...including why cases do not proceed to prosecution. Question: will the evaluation include an evaluation of the prosecutor's decision-making process and standards? That is, will their files be examined?</p> <p>4. Page 6, No. 8 on Resolution: data should include founded/unfounded and any non-criminal coding, if any, connected with all sex offenses, along with clearance data.</p> |

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| 3 | The Integrity Group | Eric W. Miller | Tallahassee, FL | The Resolution does not specifically address or impose a mandate on the Austin Police Department (APD) to cooperate with the contracted evaluator. While no opposition to mission achievement is expected from the City's well-respected police chief or his personnel, the Austin City Council or City Manager Cronk may choose to formally impose certain expectations on the APD to cooperate with the contracted evaluator for records reviews, policy reviews, access to documents/reports and data systems, and for access to APD personnel for structured interviews. The former inspectors general on our team are familiar with overcoming access barriers but believe that the elimination of such barriers from the onset of a planned engagement constitutes a valuable preparatory measure. |
| 4 | Ujima, Inc. The National Center for Violence against Women in the Black Community | Greta Gardner | Washington D.C. | We do not have any concerns or alternative suggestions to address the issues outlined in the resolution. The methods, as stated in the resolution, are achievable. |
| 5 | Institute on Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, University of Texas, Steve Hicks School of Social Work | Noel Busch-Armendariz | Austin, TX | None |
| 6 | Wellesley Centers for Women | Jean M. Murphy | Wellesley, MA | None |
| 7 | YWCA Greater Austin | Angela-Jo Touza-Medina | Austin, TX | <p>1. Consultant/consultant staff have experience working with diverse populations in a culturally appropriate way</p> <p>2. In regards to "Interviews with sexual assault survivors who made reports to the APD about their experiences":</p> <p>That individuals conducting interviews and/or interviews themselves are conducted in a manner that does not retrigger/retraumatize survivors.</p> |

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| | | | | <p>That survivors interviewed are referred to additional resources as needed</p> <p>That a trauma-informed culturally competent and linguistically appropriate clinician/mental health expert is a part of interview teams.</p> <p>3. Getting sexual assault survivors to participate in this process may be an issue, particularly because they may not want to have "relive" the experience and/or in the case of immigrant populations specifically, the current political environment and fear and distrust it has exacerbated, may put them off from further participation.</p> <p>4. In terms of service providers as stakeholders, I would recommend consultants going beyond the largest NPO and include other victims of crime service providers who may be serving survivors whose experience is not immediate.</p> <p>5. Stakeholders should also include cultural and faith specific organizations.</p> <p>6. RFP for consultant should require proposal include translation and interpretation dollars.</p> |
| 8 | Praxis International | Maren Woods | St. Paul, WI | None |
| 9 | End Violence Against Women International | Joanne Archambault | Colville, WA | None |
| 10 | National Police Foundation | Robert C. Davis | Washington D.C. | None |
| 11 | SAFE | Julia Spann | Austin, TX | The only comment from SAFE is the suggestion to add the Institute for Sexual and Domestic Violence (IDVSA) at the University of Texas School of Social Work to the list of known subject matter experts who may meet resolution criteria. |