What’s In a Name?
This summer, our Communications subcommittee sponsored a contest to find a name that clearly and concisely describes our work. After narrowing down and voting on over 100 submissions, a winner emerged: Shared Safety: Philadelphia’s Response to Relational Violence.

Shared Safety reflects our goal for a safer and healthier Philadelphia and the collaborative process we are creating to reach that goal. By referring to relational violence, the tagline encompasses the many forms of domestic violence we seek to address, including sexual violence, reproductive coercion, and trafficking.

City Leadership:
As a result of the momentum of our citywide plan, and after working diligently with Mayor Kenney’s administration, the Mayor announced an unprecedented city position: Director of Domestic Violence Strategies. This new role will create leadership within city government that will enhance the city’s capacity to accomplish our shared mission.

City Council Briefing:
In March, hosted by Councilmen Green and Greenlee, members of all four subcommittees gathered to update City Councilpersons on the citywide coordinated response, our progress to date, and ways for Council to be involved. Representatives from at least eight City Councilpersons’ Offices attended the briefing.

Open Meeting & Resource Fair:
In November, the Coordinating Council hosted its first annual Open Meeting for all member agency staff and stakeholders. In addition to sharing our progress and priorities for the future, we unveiled Shared Safety as the new name of the initiative. Fourteen of our member agencies also shared information about their programs and services during the subsequent Resource Fair.

Strength in Numbers
- Partners offered over 20 domestic violence related trainings.
- The amount of Continuum of Care funding dedicated to transitional housing for DV survivors quadrupled and the number of beds increased by five fold.
- Funding allowed member organizations to expand DV services to Latina immigrant women, seniors, and those who speak English as a Second Language.
Subcommittee Work

Entry & Access:
With the support of a Women’s Way Action Partner grant, we developed a new universal screening tool called the Philadelphia Screen for Experience of Relational Violence (P-SERV). Providers across Philadelphia’s city systems can use the tool to identify people experiencing domestic violence, sexual violence, human trafficking, and reproductive coercion, as well as people acting harmfully. The tool uses inclusive language and is accompanied by a decision tree and implementation protocol.

Safety:
In our effort to expand the system’s capacity to provide immediate and safe emergency housing and to give survivors choices that allow for self-reliance and well-being, the Safety committee has been evaluating five different housing and host-home models. The group also offered feedback regarding the Office of Homeless Services’ new Coordinated Assessment plan, taking survivor safety into account. The committee is mapping the workforce development system with the goal of making it more accessible to survivors.

Data Collection:
We convened various city agencies to discuss data collection and alignment within the Health and Human Services system. Through this collaboration, we are working towards integrated data reporting so that Philadelphia will be able to quantify the impact that domestic violence is having on our community and tailor appropriate responses.