

EVA BC Communities of Practice – Q&A

Q. What is a Community of Practice (CoP)?

According to the anthropologists who coined the phrase, Jean Lave and Etienne Wenger, "Communities of practice are groups of people who share a concern or a passion for something they do and learn how to do it better as they interact regularly." A community of practice has three main characteristics:

- 1) The domain: An identity defined by a shared interest and/or expertise (in our case, anti-violence work).
- 2) The community: The relationships between participants. Participants engage in joint discussions, activities, information and resource seeking and sharing, problem solving, learning and networking.
- 3) The practice: Through regular interaction, they develop and improve upon a shared body of resources, tools, documents, policies, best practices, and joint strategies to address shared challenges.

Q. Why a Community of Practice model?

EVA BC's Communities of Practice are intended to build connections between frontline anti-violence workers and between community service providers and system partners to learn and share with one another and enhance everyone's knowledge and competency.

Communities of Practice aim to:

- 1) Develop and increase awareness of best practices, guidelines and current strategies for doing anti-violence and coordination work.
- 2) Act as a peer-driven and provincially supported "knowledge base" that anti-violence workers and community and system partners can draw upon as needed.
- 3) Provide a forum to network and connect with others doing similar work, thereby lessening isolation.
- 4) Provide a means to identify shared issues and concerns and guide strategies to address them, locally and provincially.

Q. What are EVA BC's Communities of Practice?

EVA BC has seven CoPs for the programs and coordination initiatives under our provincial umbrella:

- Coordination (CCSS) CoPs:
 - Community Coordination
 - Inter-agency Case Assessment Teams (LCATs)
 - Third Party Reporting (TPR)
- Program support CoPs:
 - Community-Based Victim Services programs (CBVS)
 - Sexual Assault Service (SAS) programs
 - Stopping the Violence Counselling programs (STVC)
 - Stopping the Violence and Multicultural Outreach programs (STV ORS and MORS) - collectively referred to as Outreach services (ORS)
- Leadership CoP:
 - Executive directors and program managers in EVA BC member programs

Q. What do EVA BC's Communities of Practice consist of?

- Coordination (CCSS) CoPs:
 - Tri-annual CoP Zoom meetings to identify and discuss shared concerns and issues, to celebrate successes, hear about related EVA BC work, and to provide opportunities to network.
- Program Support CoPs:
 - A dedicated Slack workspace for members to network, ask questions, brainstorm and share information and resources.
 - Quarterly CoP Zoom meetings to identify and discuss shared concerns and issues, and to provide opportunities to network.
 - Training and group discussions with subject matter experts.

Q. Who can join EVA BC's Communities of Practice?

- Coordination (CCSS) CoPs:
 - Community Coordination: Chairs of coordination initiatives such as Violence Against Women in Relationships/Violence in Relationship and Sexual Assault Coordination committees.
 - LCAT: LCAT co-chairs and LCAT coordinators.
 - TPR: Community-Based Victim Services (CBVS) and Sexual

Assault Services (SAS) Coordination workers that complete Third Party Reports.

- Program Support CoPs:
 - Frontline staff carrying a caseload in Stopping the Violence Counselling programs, Stopping the Violence and Multicultural Outreach programs, Community-Based Victim Services and Sexual Assault Services programs funded by the Ministry of Public Safety and Solicitor General (MPSSG) and holding a current EVA BC membership are welcome to join the CoP for their program.

Q. How do I join a Community of Practice?

If you are eligible to join one of EVA BC's CoPs, please complete the [EVA BC Community of Practice signup form](#), and one of our staff will review your request and follow-up with you.