



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: February 20, 2024

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Subject: Twelfth Meeting of the Illinois Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee

Task Force Member Attendance	Present	Telephone	Absent
Sen. Sally Turner			X
Rep. Maurice West			X
Sen. Tony McCombie			X
Rep. Celina Villanueva			X
Jennifer Cacciapaglia, City of Rockford (Megan Brechon in her absence)	X		
Jenny Schoenwetter, Harbor House	X		
Jennifer Greene, Life Span Chicago	X		
Judge Robert Anderson	X		
Sara Block	X		
Amanda Pyron			X
Vickie Smith	X		
Cassandra Tanner Miller, Colton's Legacy			X
Willette Benford, Live Free Illinois			X
Jennifer Vancil, Quanada	X		
Michelle Meyer			X
Jeannine Woods			X
Meg Hefty, Sarah's Inn Forest Park	X		
Jenna Lopez, YWCA			X
Megan Alderden, DePaul University, Program Director of Criminology	X		
Fawn Pettet, Land of Lincoln, Alton	X		
Carol Klarquist, Office of the Illinois State Public Defender			X
Stacy Short, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services			X
Amanda Vasquez	X		
Thomas Golebiewski	X		
Wendy Cohen, Attorney General Office			X
Emily Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Office of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker			X
Dan Likens, ISP Division of Criminal Investigations Zone 1 Commander	X		
Teresa Tudor, Illinois Department of Human Services	X		
Dr. Jacob Stelter, North Shore, Lake County	X		
Ariana Correa			X
Ret. Chief Tom Weitzel			X
Sheriff Andy Hires	X		

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Co-Chair Megan Alderden called the meeting to order at 1:04 p.m. and welcomed Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members to the eighth meeting. Peter Yu of ICJIA conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

B. Old Business

1. Vote to adopt minutes from September 19, 2023, meeting

Fawn Pettet stated she was present at the meeting, but the minutes marked her as absent.

Jennifer Cacciapaglia made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Motion to Second made by Vickie Smith. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

C. New Business

1. Mission Moment and Discussion

There was discussion on the case of Alexandria Estrada.

- <https://www.wcia.com/news/springfield-man-arrested-charged-with-first-degree-murder/>
- https://www.wandtv.com/news/coroner-releases-name-of-woman-killed-in-springfield-hit-and-run-murder/article_9da242d8-c378-11ee-8a44-5fdc84f562c9.html

Co-Chair Sara Block provided the following details about the case:

- February 3rd, 2024
- Victim Alexandria Estrada, 36, of Springfield
- Neighborhood resident found a person lying in the roadway
- Sangamon County Sheriff's Office arrived, and Alexandria was pronounced dead on scene in an apparent hit and run
- Following a trail of blood of the roadway, deputies were led to the suspects' residence.
- Suspect, 53 y/o. Steven Mehundrew was apprehended when deputies located his vehicle.
- It is said in articles that two were living together and failed to mention domestic violence or identify their relationship

- Steven is charged with first degree murder, reckless homicide, leaving the scene of an accident involving death or injury and failure to report an accident involving death or injury.
- No mention of domestic violence in articles, or relationship. Only that they live together.

D. Director's Report

1. Terms

Some members' terms expired in December. ICJIA recommended to wait until the annual and biennial report is finished. Upon completion, Gaddy or ICJIA staff will reach out to members to see if they want to renew membership.

2. Annual and Biennial Report

ICJIA has returned the report to the staff who will complete another round of edits. If anyone has a new title from last year, please give it to Gaddy and she'll include it in the report.

The biennial report is due April 1 and is due to ICJIA by the beginning of February. The intention of the report is to provide recommendations to the General Assembly from the regional teams. Because the regional teams are not active yet, it will state there are no recommendations yet.

3. Onboarding Timeline

There are five pioneer teams. Once they're successfully reviewing cases, Gaddy recommends only adding 3 at a time. All is going better than expected as it was easier to get groups together, but some teams have required a bit more support as they don't have an administrative lead to help guide it.

4. Discussion: DVFR Guidebook and Documents

Mark from Dr. Websdale's office has been a great support to the Committee. He led the State of the Art training in November. He tailored the training to Illinois' statute. Then, there were Mock Review Sessions in December and January. There was great feedback stating it was helpful in understanding the process and teams were eager to begin. The manual will be with ICJIA for at least a week. Once approved, it can go out to the teams. This is one of the final pieces of launching the teams. There will be accompanying pieces of videos that expand on parts of the manual. After talking with Dr. Websdale, he provided valuable feedback based on his 20+ years of experience, so revisions are being made to the manual. He advised being less prescriptive

and empowering teams to collaborate and determine how to run their reviews regionally.

There is discussion around how best to share confidential documents securely. ICJIA's legal counsel has been involved in the process and provided guidance. It will likely be through ICJIA's secure SharePoint site. This is still in progress and hasn't been tested.

5. Regional Review Team Updates

- Lake: Tom Golebiewski stated the group has met and Pat Davenport is offering administrative support, which was a barrier. They have a tentative meeting in March and are awaiting the manual.
- Rockford: Jennifer Cacciapaglia reported that they have 21 team members. They have other DV-focused teams and their staff have ensured all are connected and completing the appropriate trainings.
- Madison & Bond Co.: Fawn Pettet reported they are at a similar position as other regions. Many members attended Dr. Websdale's training and it led to good conversation and energy. They are awaiting the manual. They do not have dedicated staff paid to support this program. They have an MSW intern who has been assisting. They are researching funding options.
- Will County: Amirrah Abou-Youssef reported that they had their first meeting with lots of enthusiasms. They have elected chairs and a secretary, signed confidentiality agreements, and determined terms. The team seemed to feel comfortable with the process, but they are hesitant about the confidentiality and information gathering process. They have selected to meet monthly to keep things moving forward. They have selected their first case to review – a past murder-suicide because there is no court process. They are selecting four and will pick one. Since November, they have had 5 DV-incident homicides impacting 14 victims.
- Kankakee: Jenny Schoenwetter reported that the majority of members attended the training and mock review. They are awaiting the manual.

Block shared that the manual should be completed by the next team meetings, so using this time to elect chairs and a secretary is a good use of time. Vickie Smith stated that Gaddy and Stacey Garoutte are available to assist team meetings. Smith also reported that the number of DV-related murders are

alarmingly high for 2023.

Block shared the importance of regional teams learning from each other as we are growing together.

Gaddy asked Abou-Youssef who is collecting documents. Abou-Youssef said as an administrative support, she will be the primary person. Block state the statute does allow for information sharing, and it must remain confidential throughout the process.

E. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

F. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Vancil. Bob Anderson seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 1:51 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.