



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY
REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: May 16, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm – 4:00 pm

Via Zoom

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	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 Late		
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
Emily Harwell			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 March 21, 2023 meeting.

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

2. Confidentiality Agreement

Please review and sign the document.

C. New Business

1. Mission Moment

Alderden reviewed a case involving the murder of Tamera Washington and Norman Redden.

Articles for discussion:

[South Chicago shooting: Convicted murderer Steven Hawthorne accused killing of Tamera Washington, Norman Redden as children hid - ABC7 Chicago](#)

[Chicago felon released early and hailed as prison reform example charged with murder | Washington Examiner](#)

Facts

- Steven Hawthorne entered Washington's home with a key and went upstairs, where he shot and killed her boyfriend, Norman Redden, while he was in bed.
- Hawthorne chased Washington outside of the home where he pistol-whipped and bludgeoned her with a large rock fatally beating her to death.
- Washington's three children and other family members were hiding in the home during the murders.

Charges

- Steven Hawthorne has been charged with murder, attempted murder and resisting or obstructing a police officer.

Prior History

- Hawthorne was convicted of murder as a teenager and was sentenced to life in prison but was released from prison after 33 years in 2017.
- Hawthorne was arrested for gun possession in February 2020 and was currently out on bond on a “Unlawful Use of Weapon” charge stemming from a January 2023 traffic stop where law enforcement discovered five firearms including a AR-15 rifle.
- Hawthorne was wearing an ankle monitor during the time of these murders.

Alderden led the committee in a brief moment of silence.

2. Vicarious Trauma with Cathy Cave

Cathy Cave from National Center on Domestic Violence, Trauma, and Mental Health discussed vicarious trauma.

Cave challenged individuals to consider their own trauma and how it will influence them in their work on this Committee. In considering trauma, secondary trauma or vicarious trauma may be an impact of this work.

She encouraged members to have group conversations about what they are holding and reflect on the rituals of the group to connect and build hopefulness. The practice of mindfulness and other self-care rituals may be life-sustaining activities to avoid trauma from sitting in one’s body. She asked members to reflect on what brings them joy and consider what is available to folks if there were something triggering or bothering them.

Alderden gave members the space to reflect on how this information could be used to support regional teams. Cacciapaglia thanked Cave and encouraged the committee to name the delayed trauma/vicarious trauma that may come about from this work and to know what resources are available to support them. Smith shared the idea of rituals being proactive to help regional teams implement those quickly and why they’re important.

3. Director’s Report

Administrative updates

- Website/Logo

Chris Schweda at ICJIA has completed the DVFR website. Samantha Gaddy

attached the link to the webpage with the meeting materials and encouraged members to review the website, which shows our logo. Staff will populate it as more information is gathered and developed. If members have any ideas, please reach out to Gaddy or Stacey Smith.

- FAQs sheet

Staff developed a FAQs sheet after working with Fawn Pettet and seeing that this type of document may be useful when recruiting new members. Staff is also preparing an outreach document for the liaisons and leads to use when recruiting members with information about DVFR. If anyone has other ideas on outreach documents, please share the ideas with Gaddy.

4. Discussion and Vote: 2022 Annual Report

Vote to approve annual report

Members received a copy of the Annual Report. The report has been through the review process both at ICADV and ICJIA and is ready to be submitted to the General Assembly and Governor's Office pending the Committee's feedback. Cacciapaglia praised the document and those who worked on it.

Jennifer Vancil made a motion to approve the annual report. Cacciapaglia second. Annual report was approved.

5. Regional Review Team Updates

Gaddy provided an update on the regional review teams. As of now, there are five sites that have committed to being "pioneer sites." Each team has been different in the way its forms and we are on different commitment and onboarding stages with each team.

- Lake County

Lake County has developed a team and is on hold waiting for the onboarding process to begin. As mentioned at the last meeting, Sara Block gave a presentation at the Lake County Domestic Violence Council & Lake County Sexual Assault Coordinating Council Meeting. Lauren Callinan, an Assistant State's Attorney in Lake County has worked to gather and establish the team. They will be keeping Lake County updated on any new and available onboarding materials to not lose momentum as we wait for the formation of the other pioneer teams. Fifteen members have expressed commitment to involvement.

- Winnebago County (Jennifer)

Staff met with Jennifer Cacciapaglia and Andrea Carlson, the director for the Mayor's Office of Domestic and Community Violence Prevention in early April. They had previously established a team and went through the mock review with Dr. Websdale before being halted due to legislation. Jennifer was planning to gather the previous members of the team for a presentation but wants to meet with the new coroner and personally invite her before they proceed in establishing the group in Winnebago County.

Cacciapaglia updated the Committee that the coroner is on board and they are reaching out to those who need to be involved per the statute and hope to have commitments by the next meeting.

- Kankakee County (Jenny)

Gaddy shared Kankakee County will be a pioneer site, however after talking with Jenny, she is going to wait to gather her team until we have more of the onboarding documents and training available.

Jenny Schoenwetter updated that now that more documents are put together, she'll start collecting commitments like Cacciapaglia.

- Madison County (Fawn)

Madison County will join as a pioneer site and be our only downstate team. Stacey and I have been working with Fawn while she has been gathering potential members and doing outreach. At this time, Fawn has spoken to the judges and police chief that are on their local FVCC and they have agreed to be a pioneer site. We are going to have a more in-depth meeting with the judges and undersheriff this month before they begin to invite their full team.

Pettet said the community will be ready now that some of the onboarding documents are drafted that they'll be able to start getting partners gathered. Although they have questions, they are voicing support for getting something started.

- Will County (Sam)

Last month, staff met with Amirryah Abou-Youssef, the coordinator of the FVCC for the 12th district. She has a big interest in fatality review and took the position she has in hopes to bring fatality review to the 12th district. She is now in the process of gathering potential members for us to present too. She is connected with the Law Enforcement Subcommittee and Legal Action Committee and we have given her materials to reach out to other members not on the committees she

works with. Staff are hoping to hear back from her by the end of the month.

The current timeline is to have all five sites gather their membership by the end of summer and start the on-boarding and training process over the fall. It is our hope that these five sites will begin their review process at the beginning of the new year.

Co-Chair Alderden praised staff for tracking the lessons learned throughout this process.

D. Public Comment

There were no comments.

E. Adjournment

The next meeting is July 18 at 1 p.m. where there will be pieces of the manual and documents for the regional review teams to be reviewed at that time.

In light of Cave's training, Co-Chair Alderden challenged members to consider what concluding ritual the Committee would like to implement. She shared her experience with students where they close with something funny to help people laugh.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vancil.

Golebiewski seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.