



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: September 19, 2023

Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Location: Zoom

Subject: Tenth 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 Karia	X		
Ret. Chief Tom Weitzel	X		
Sheriff Andy Hires			X
Amirrah Abou-Youssef	X		

MEETING MINUTES

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Co-Chair Megan Alderden called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and welcomed Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members to the eighth meeting. Peter Yuh of ICJIA conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

B. Old Business

1. Vote to adopt minutes from July 18, 2023, meeting

Amirrah Abou-Youssef was not listed as present.

Amirrah Abou-Youssef made a motion to adopt the minutes as amended. Motion to Second made by Tom Golebiewski. Motion carried. Minutes were approved.

2. Confidentiality Agreement

All Committee members must sign a confidentiality agreement. If anyone has still not signed the Confidentiality Agreement, please get that signed and sent over to either Samantha or Stacey.

3. National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Conference Update

The National Domestic Violence Fatality Review conference has been postponed until 2024. More information will be communicated as it's made available.

C. New Business

1. Mission Moment and Discussion

There was discussion on the case of Jose De Jesus Gomez Munoz.

- [UPDATE: Victims identified in Sunday Kenney shooting | WCIA.com](#)
- [Suspect in Kenney shooting found dead in Macon County | WICS \(newschannel20.com\)](#)

On September 3rd, a tragic incident occurred in rural Kenney, IL, located in Dewitt County. In this unfortunate event, a 911 call reported an active shooter. Police arrived and found that Munoz shot and killed his 78-year-old father-in-law, John Anderson, and also opened fire on his son, 21-year-old Kigan Antonio Munoz, inflicting multiple gunshot wounds that left him

hospitalized. Thankfully, Kigan is reported to be in stable condition. There were also 4 others hiding for safety.

Munoz fled from the scene upon officers arrival and the public was advised to avoid the Kennedy area. It was also requested that everyone within a two-mile radius was to shelter in place or safely evacuate the area.

On Monday September 4th, Deputies from both DeWitt and Macon Counties responded to a wind tower after someone had noticed the car that Munoz fled in, officers found Munoz dead in his vehicle from a self-inflicted gun shot wound. As of this time, news articles have not provided any insights into the motives behind this devastating event.

It is essential to shed light on cases like this, as they demonstrate that fatal and near-fatal incidents are not limited to intimate partners and can have far-reaching consequences for families and communities. This case also highlights one of our topics for today: non-fatal injuries.

2. Discussion: Traumatic Brain Injury and Domestic Violence

Faculty from DePaul University provided training on traumatic brain injury and its intersection with violence.

Dr. Crabtree-Nelson, PhD, LCSW is an Associate Professor in the Department of Social Work at DePaul University in Chicago. She received her Doctorate of Philosophy in Social Work from Loyola University Chicago and her MSW from the University of Illinois at Chicago (UIC) Jane Addams College of Social Work. Dr. Crabtree-Nelson has over 18 years of direct practice experience working in the areas of child welfare and domestic violence. Her research focus relates to domestic violence, trauma, and resiliency as well as social justice in social work education. Dr. Crabtree-Nelson has presented at national and international conferences and published articles in peer-reviewed journals on these topics. Most recently, Dr. Crabtree-Nelson co-founded the Illinois Coalition to Address Intimate Partner Induced Brain Injury. She is working on several research projects related to this issue and partners with other like-minded researchers across the country as a member of global Neurological Epidemic in Abusive Trauma (gNEAT).

Dr. Dorothy Kozlowski is a Vincent DePaul Professor of Biological Sciences and Neuroscience at DePaul University. Her teaching and research focus is in neuroscience. Specifically, Dr. Kozlowski's lab uses animal models to study how the brain tries to repair itself following traumatic brain injury through neuroplasticity and why repeat concussions result in long-term neurological deficits. Her research has been published in a variety of journals and book chapters, and has been supported by the National Institutes of

Health and the United States Department of Defense. In addition to teaching and research Dr. Kozlowski is actively working on bringing attention to the role brain injury plays in survivors of intimate partner violence and co-directs the Illinois Coalition to Address Intimate Partner-Induced Brain Injury.

Brain injury can be traumatic brain injury and strangulation. Symptoms can range from cognitive/fatigue, vestibular, ocular, post-traumatic migraine, cervical issues, anxiety/mood, sleep, and more. Treatments can include medication (pain, antidepressants, anti-anxiety, sleep) or therapy (physical, occupational, speech, cognitive, or psychological).

Repeat concussions can lead to Chronic Traumatic Encephalopathy, ALS, and more long-term health issues.

Intimate partner violence intensifies the impact of brain injury as a healthcare epidemic. Up to 92% of survivors receive facial or head injuries during violent episodes, but the actual numbers are underreported and occur more than once. Twenty-seven million women show sign or symptoms of TBI. The prevalence of TBI in the context of DV is estimated at 11-12 times greater than the published incidence of TBI from occupational, recreational, and accident events. Majority of survivors who show neurological symptoms of TBI never seek medical care.

Sixty-eight percent of women in abusive relationships report strangulation as a component of the abuse. Oftentimes, there are no external signs of injuries. Strangulation results in hypoxic-ischemic brain injury. Most survivors do not seek medical care.

Survivor outcomes include poor physical and mental health outcomes; increased use of tobacco, alcohol, pain medication, drugs; abnormal relationship functioning; increased aggression and perpetration of abuse; long-term neurological consequences.

Diagnosis of brain injury is not easy, but the HELPS Tool or CHATS Tool could assist.

Barriers to treatment can include mistrust of health and legal providers based on past interaction and “advice” of the perpetrator; survivors fear seeking help for consequence of losing guardianship of children; survivors often choose resources that ensure safety over healthcare; healthcare disparities; and more.

What advocates or those who interact with survivors can do to help someone who’s experience brain injury: be mindful of symptoms; dim lights; work in a quiet, distraction free area; keep sessions short; repeat, review, and check in; give concrete instructions; and follow-up.

To learn more about the Illinois Coalition to Address Intimate Partner Violence-Induced Brain Injury, go to tbi-dv-il.org. Information can also be found through the Ohio Domestic Violence Network.

Dorothy: dkozlows@depaul.edu

Sonya: scrabtr3@depaul.edu

The presenters answered committee members' questions.

3. Discussion: Defining "Near Fatality"

Samantha Gaddy and Stacey Garoutte led a discussion in incidents that result in significant survivor injuries and near fatalities. Near fatalities were purposefully included in the legislation because it was recognized that these cases have significant and long-lasting outcomes for survivors, their families, and communities. These cases also present learning opportunities.

The Illinois Domestic Violence Fatality Review Act defines "near-fatality" as "a death that nearly occurred by means of suicide or homicide, or an injury that could have resulted in death" (Sec. 5).

The team conducted a quick scan of definitions used by other states and in other areas. That scan indicated that near fatalities are often defined as: "batteries that are committed by a party to the domestic violence where the victim suffered life threatening injuries."

Fawn Pettet stated that she likes the current definition and leaving it broad and open. She also stated that "seriously bodily injury" might be phrasing familiar to some of the parties involved in the fatality review teams. Since the purpose isn't to engage in a legal process, the wording may not be as critical.

Vickie Smith recommended leaving it as is for the regional teams to work with it and see if the definition is a barrier. They will be able to test this definition.

Abou-Youssef also advocated for leaving it broad as it gives a voice to the survivor to describe what they experienced.

Alderden agreed that letting it stand may be best and seeing how each regional review team approaches it and assisting those that need more guidance with cases eligible as near-fatalities.

Gaddy mentioned that there are also questions about what does it mean when a case is disposed so that the review doesn't affect the court process. What

timeframe is necessary post-case closure until it can be reviewed? Alderen proposed bringing that topic to a future meeting.

4. Regional Review Team Updates

- Lake: Tom Golebiewski shared that they're still on hold, but have a county family violence coordinating council meeting upcoming.
- Rockford: Megan Brechon shared that the Rockford team is securing funding. This funding will enable them to have someone dedicated to fatality review and the strangulation task force.
- Madison & Bond Co.: Fawn Pettet shared that the Madison County team has successfully established its membership and expanded it to include Bond County. Samantha and Stacey will be meeting with them this Thursday to provide an overview and discuss the onboarding timeline. She also has a student that will assist with the "legwork".
- Will County: Abou-Youssef shared that they hosted the informational session last month and there is a lot of good energy and they have lots of ideas. Sara and Stacey met with them in August to provide an overview, and they're making great progress.
- Kankakee: Jenny Schoenwetter shared that they are ready to proceed with the exception of scheduling a time for the public defender to meet with Dr. Websdale's team to address some of his concerns.

5. Onboarding timeline

Co-Chair Alderden shared that staff have started to work on the onboarding timeline. During a September 5 meeting with Dr. Websdale, Sara Block, Gaddy, Garoutte, Schoenwetter, and Alderden discussed our timeline and what we believe would work best for onboarding the regional review teams.

As of now, they have collectively agreed on a 3-step timeline.

First, Dr. Websdale, and his team will provide an overview for the regional review teams virtually. This is tentatively planned for October or November. Dr. Websdale and his team will send available times. These will be recorded sessions for the benefit of future teams and new members.

Second, the Sub-Committee will provide the teams with the manual and other training materials that Gaddy and Garoutte are currently working on. These

materials will include important snippets of information from the manual. If members would like to volunteer to record a training session for the regional review teams, please reach out to Gaddy today. She will compile a list and coordinate with everyone interested.

The third step in the plan is for Dr. Websdale and his team to rejoin the teams at the start of the new year. They will conduct a mock review with the teams, and he may host both virtual and in-person training sessions for those who prefer in-person interactions.

Regarding the manual, it's still a work in progress, and the Co-Chairs and staff decided to share it with all of you again once it's completed. We're excited to let you know that Dr. Websdale has generously offered to review the manual for us.

6. Statewide Committee

FY 2024 meeting schedule: Gaddy will send out a poll to gauge if the meeting times still work for the Sub-Committee.

7. Membership Terms

Gaddy shared that some membership terms are expiring, so if you are unable to continue, please recommend someone to replace you.

D. Public Comment

No Public Comment.

E. Adjournment

A motion to adjourn was made by Jennifer Vancil. Brechon seconded the motion. Motion Carried. Meeting adjourned at 2:42 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.