Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: January 17, 2023
Time: 1:00 pm – 2:30 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		
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		
Sheryl Freidrich, IDPH	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 1:02 p.m. and welcomed Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members to the sixth meeting. Peter Yu of ICJIA conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

B. **Old Business**

1. Vote to adopt minutes from November 15, 2022 meeting

   Fawn Pettet request dates on page 7 reflect a change to 2023.

   Jennifer Cacciapaglia made a motion to adopt the minutes with the requested changes. Motion to Second made by Robert Anderson.

C. **New Business**

1. Mission Moment

   Alderden reviewed two cases that occurred since our last meeting.

   The first case occurred in Buffalo Grove, Illinois at the end of November. According to news accounts, Andrei Kisliak killed his two daughters, Vivian who was 6 years old and Amilia who was 4, along with his wife Vera and his mother Lilia, and then himself. An animal was also found dead at the home. The preliminary investigation indicates that the offender grew more volatile and erratic in the weeks leading up to the murder-suicide, and court documents indicate that Vera had obtained an emergency order of protection, the offender was arrested for violating that order, that police were repeatedly called to the home, and at one point the offender was held in criminal contempt of court for repeated outbursts during the couple's on-going divorce hearings.

   In a follow-up OpEd to the Sun Times, former Chief Tom Weitzel, which we have provided you in the meeting materials, outlined numerous aspects of the case that were opportunities for intervention, including prior calls to the home for domestic violence and contentious civil litigation related to the divorce proceedings.

   - Case 1 Articles:
     - Buffalo Grove murder-suicide: Evidence shows dad killed family, officials say (chicagotribune.com)
     - Buffalo Grove police detail repeated calls to Kisliak home before murders - Chicago Sun-Times (suntimes.com)

   The second case occurred in Alton, Illinois. On June 9, 2022, it is alleged that Deundrea Holloway murdered Liese Dodd, who was 8 months pregnant with her first child. She had been in an "on and off again dating relationship with the alleged offender for 2 years. Her decapitated body was found in an apartment by her mother doing a welfare check. Her head was later found by police in a nearby dumpster. Mr. Holloway was

apprehended in a stolen vehicle and faced multiple charges including murder, intentional homicide of unborn child, and concealment of a homicide.

The defendant was later found unfit to stand trial and was remanded to the Department of Human Services for treatment. The Alton Chief of Police, in response to this incident, stated, Every murder is absolutely horrible. I will never take that away, but what happened to Liese Dodd is beyond reprehensible. It's abominable. It's completely terrible what happened to her. And to keep all domestic violence victim in one's thoughts and prayers.

Despite the horrific nature of this case, it received very little media attention when it occurred.

- Case 2 Articles:
  - Pregnant Alton woman decapitated by ex-boyfriend, police chief says
  - Man Faces Multiple Charges After Gruesome Murder Of Pregnant Woman In Alton | RiverBender.com
  - Man accused of decapitating pregnant Alton woman found unfit | ksdk.com

One thing to note, and one pattern the Committee will be examining is how these types of cases are presented in the media. For instance, although the articles link dv services at the end, the many articles never use the term domestic violence in their reporting.

Co-Chair Block pointed out the lack of media's coverage of domestic violence instead referring it as "on and off again relationship."

Vickie Smith echoed Block in the need to strengthen media coverage of domestic violence said there's more report of the increased violence in domestic violence.

Pettet shared her experience as an attorney working with domestic violence survivors and shared her surprise in the lack of engagement of the victim with her services, which is a reminder that we have a lot of work to do to reach everyone in our own communities.

Anderson shared that the Illinois Judicial College is starting a 10-session course on domestic violence with one class every month. More than 400 people have signed up ranging from judges, to court personnel, to guardian ad litems, and others. This could help to close some gaps.

Jennifer Greene shared that in her community, due to the larger population, they have a higher number of DV fatalities where the victim had no contact with agencies and supports. Many agencies are using increased budget funds for outreach.

Block said they're encouraging regional teams to select a broad range of cases to review (types of murders, systems engagement, etc.).

2. Director's Report

Director Samantha Gaddy introduced the new staff member Stacey Smith, Fatality Review Coordinator.

- Open Meetings Act and working groups
    - ICADV has received and compiled a list of people's preferences on working groups. After talking with ICJIA, it was now stated that these working groups will still be subject to OMA. This puts a barrier to launching the working groups. The working groups were Data, Policy and Procedure, Implementation and Technical Assistance, and Reporting and Recommendations. The hope was to do a lot of work via email.
    - Block asked for clarification on quorum size and OMA requirements.
    - Peter Yuh of ICJIA shared that the issue is the definition of subsidiary and that no matter what size the working group, it is a subsidiary and must follow OMA.
    - Michelle Meyer stated there does not seem to be any way around it, so we may need to just work within it.
    - Amanda Vasquez asked what the quorum would be for a working group and if a certain number of people can still work separately. Gaddy stated that even one person would be considered a subsidiary.
    - Gaddy said we'll continue to push forward.
- Training reminders
    - Last minute training that was requested from ICJIA. ICADV have sent off a list of those that have completed it and those who have not. The list gets sent to the governor's office and is kept on file. Only about half got this done in a short amount of time.
    - Meyer asked for clarification of who was expected to complete the training as members were required to complete trainings at the beginning. She inquired if there was a consequence for not completing it.
    - Yuh encouraged members to prioritize this training.
    - Smith shared these are trainings required annually.
    - Cacciapaglia shared the system wouldn't allow her to log in and had significant barriers with the system. It shows she has completed some 2022 and some 2023 trainings.
    - Yuh and Gaddy will work together to update the Commission on next steps. Gaddy will reach out to each individually.
- Website and logo
    - The website is still underway with a target date of March 1, 2023, in time for the annual report. The Committee has discussed the importance of having its own identity apart from ICJIA or ICADV (the vendor). The Committee's logo and letterhead are currently being designed with hopes to have drafts of potential logos to bring in front of the Committee for a vote.

- Annual report 2023
    - Alderden shared that the draft is started for the Annual Report due March 1, 2023. Although the desire would be to bring it in front of Committee for a vote before it is published, the Committee will not meet again in time.

Cacciapaglia shared that because Gaddy was having technical issues, the recording ended. V. Smith picked up the Zoom hosting responsibilities and started recording the meeting again.

3. Discussion: Process for reviewing policies

Over the next few months, the Committee will need to identify sites for potential regional teams and develop a handbook of model policies and procedures necessary for the regional teams to get up and running.

As a reminder of our intended timeline:

- First quarter 2023: continue developing the policies and procedures (with the help of the committee); identify the pioneer regional review teams and the leads for each team
- March 1, 2023 – The first report of the Statewide DVFR Committee is due. It is intended to notify the Governor, General Assembly, and the public of the work that the Committee has done in the first year.
- Second quarter: finalize the policies and procedures; help the leads for each team begin identifying the members of their team
- Third quarter: distribute the policies and procedures; support the pioneer review teams in getting ready to begin reviews
- Fourth quarter: reviews begin through the pioneer review teams

As it relates to the handbook of model policies and procedures, the leadership would like to discuss a process for reviewing policies and procedures related to the work of the Committee and the regional review teams.

Developing the handbook of model policies and procedures will be our next big lift. Because this will account for a significant amount of work over next few months, we want to establish the most efficient process available, particularly as it relates to obtaining Committee member input and approval, and the leadership would like the Committee's thoughts on how that process might work. Here is the suggested three-step strategy.

- First, Gaddy and S. Smith will draft policies based on similar policies used by other domestic violence fatality review teams across the nation. During this drafting period, they may reach out to individual Committee members for input.
- Once the policy is drafted, they will provide a copy of the policy to Committee members for their review. The policy will then be reviewed during the next full Committee meeting, at which point members will have

an opportunity to ask questions and provide feedback.
- Gaddy and S. Smith will then address the questions and any feedback and draft the final policy for approval at the next full Committee meeting.

Alderden sought feedback from the Committee. Pettet said no concerns and it sounds like a good strategy. Cacciapaglia and Anderson echoed support.

4. Discussion: Regional review team start-up

Over the next few months, the Committee will also need to identify sites for potential regional teams and develop a handbook of model policies and procedures necessary for the regional teams to get up and running. As a reminder, the review teams will be organized geographically according to judicial circuits. Some review teams may decide that sub-teams are necessary given the geographic location and size of the circuit.

Pioneer Sites:

There have already had a few locations express interest in creating a regional team, including Cook County Circuit, 17th Judicial Circuit (Winnebago County), and 21st Judicial Circuit (Kankakee County).

Tom Golebiewski shared that Lake County Family Violence Coordinating Council is interested in moving forward and they were invited to present the DVFR to the State's Attorney's Office, which is on board. Golebiewski hesitated that with the concerns previously mentioned, should we slow down advancing the regional teams.

Block shared that we could proceed with identifying regional teams and identify barriers to getting partners up and running.

Meyer shared that the 16th and 23rd FVCC are also on board.

Greene said we want to consider where the ICJIA disciplinary sites exist. SARTs and DVRTs should be involved. She shared the need to find strong relationship builders, especially involving the families, so there is a caution around the criminal justice system being the lead. She also mentioned the need for additional funding to get the regions going.

The Committee discussed the process we will use to determine which locations are the first pioneer sites, how it should be determined who is the liaison to the regional team, and what entity would be selected as the team lead for each review team.

Vasquez asked what number of pioneer sites are desired. Block shared five to six teams is desired and that there is a desire for geographic diversity.

Alderden proposed that interested groups complete some kind of form to identify who is on the review team, etc. Meyer agreed that is a good starting point.

Pyron asked who is eligible to apply such as only those with representatives on the Commission. Alderden responded that is something for the Committee to determine like what does the application process look like and who is invited and how. Pyron agreed with Greene in that the lead agency should be a neutral space and not hosted by a criminal justice agency. Block shared lead agencies could also be public health.

Block brought up the funding barrier possibility and if pioneer team can't be identified, there would need to be more legislative advocacy for funding specifically for this. However, agencies would fundraise themselves for it.

Pyron asked if pilot sites would be selected by rates of DV homicide per capita. Alderden shared interest and connection may be helpful as they're already on board. Then, the Committee could learn from the pioneer sites could identify the gaps. Inclusion on rural communities would be helpful to understand all statewide barriers.

Anderson shared several groups appear to be interested and it appears discussion is deviating from the groups and that there'd be benefit to proceeding with them. The criminal justice system will definitely play a critical role even though it may not be the host site. The group may need to reach out through Family Violence Coordinating Councils to get representation from more rural communities.

Meyer considered that a member of the FVCC would be a good lead entity.

Pyron clarified that criminal justice caution may be more region specific.

Alderden asked if it would be appropriate for Gaddy and S. Smith develop a proposed application outlining who will be a part of the review team, who is the lead, and a process to vet the lead.

Block shared that the statewide Committee would be there to support logistics of the regional team such as trainings.

D. **Public Comment**

No comments.

E. **Adjournment**

The next meeting is March 21 at 1 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Golebiewski.

Vancil seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:24 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.