Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: June 21, 2022
Time: 1:00 pm – 3:00 pm
Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

Task Force Member Attendance	Present	Telephone	Absent
Sen. Sally Turner	X (left at 2 p.m.)		
Rep. Maurice West	X (arrived at 1:22 p.m.)		
Sen. Tony McCombie			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
Caleb Schaffner, ICJIA	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
Robert Mannis, Lt. Gov's Office			X
Sheryl Freidrich, IDPH	X		
Ret. Chief Tom Weitzel	X		
Sheriff Andy Hires			

MEETING AGENDA

A. **Call to Order and Roll Call**

1. Co-Chair Sara Block called the meeting to order at 1:03 p.m. and welcomed Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members.

B. **Old Business**

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

   Jennifer Vancil made a motion to adopt the minutes with the requested changes. Motion to Second made by Fawn Pettet.

2. Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training

   Co-Chair Block asked members to complete this mandated requirement and submit the training certificate to Crystal Johnson.

3. The Tanner Miller Domestic Violence Initiatives

   Co-Chair Block discussed the two domestic violence statewide committees that were passed and we are looking for the best way to execute these. The umbrella will be The Tanner Miller Domestic Violence Initiatives and will consist of the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Committee and Colton's Task Force.

   Crystal has reached out to those who serve on both committees. Please reply to that email.

C. **Mission Moment**

There were 56 percent more domestic violence shootings in 2021 compared to 2020, and 142 percent more than in 2019, data shows. There were 79 percent more domestic violence-related homicides than in 2019, data shows. (https://blockclubchicago.org/2022/03/16/chicago-is-devoting-25-million-to-domestic-violence-prevention-organizers-say-city-state-need-to-do-more-to-support-workers/)

March 7, 2022: https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/naperville-sun/ct-nvs-naperville-man-wife-death-murder-charge-st-0621-20200620-mz32ux3ljvf3blcuxgjf7zkpoi-story.html

Alan Wang, aged 56, killed Hongyan Yang, aged 35
Kicked his wife the night before, causing her internal bleeding
Discovered the next day in her home dead

March 9, 2022: https://www.chicagotribune.com/suburbs/naperville-sun/ct-nvs-naperville-woman-custody-fatal-shooting-husband-st-0320-20200318-njhrifmvybhh5avmhkjlclsd2a-story.html

April Turner, 36 years old, charged with first degree murder in the shooting death of her boyfriend of 8 years after enduring years of abuse
2012: April obtained an OP against Drake, one of several by other woman
At 10 pm, Drake struck April in the face and threatened her with a towel bar while in a bathroom

April left the bathroom and retrieved a handgun from the bedroom closet

April 19, 2022: https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2022/4/19/23031998/johnny-may-cash-murder-deade-brianna-gibbs-young-chop-cheif-keef-drill-rap-self-defense?tpcc=email-breaking&utm_campaign=Chicago%20Sun-Times%20Breaking%20News&utm_content=20220420&utm_medium=email&utm_source=Revue%20newsletter

Brianna Gibbs shot and killed local rapper Tyronne Pittman/ Jonny May Cash
Brianna is a mother of two and works from home in advertising
Previously faced multiple domestic violence allegations in 2015 and 2016 against other women
In January, Pittman posted a vide on YouTube showing him punching Gibbs and slamming her into a wall so hard that the plaster crumbled
Two weeks before on April 4, Gibbs flagged down police officers to report that Pittman had struck her and she asked for help getting items out of her house
Brianna told detectives that Pittman had hit and her pulled a chunk of her hair
He pulled her inside
He went outside on the porch
Asked Brianna to bring him her cell phone
Brianna decided that she would shoot him if he came at her aggressively
She shot at him
Treated at the hospital for a split lip that required multiple stiches and had bruises on her chest and legs
Arguing self-defense
Brianna is in jail and is receiving threats

April 29, 2022: https://news.wttw.com/2022/04/29/woman-killed-brickyard-mall-had-protective-order-against-husband-accused-killing-her; https://www.audacy.com/wbbm780/news/local/man-charged-with-fatally-shooting-woman-in-mall-parking-lot

Jennifer Hamilton, aged 47,
Jennifer was sitting in her car on a video teleconference with her doctor in the parking lot of a Target at Brickyard mall.
Jennifer was a mental health specialist for Cermak Health Services at Cook County Jail and a steward of her union, SEIU Local 73, and had been described as a “staunch advocate” for her patients and colleagues
Married and in the process of separating
On April 16, Jennifer reported an incident of DV that occurred two weeks earlier on April 3, and received an EOP on April 18
Wednesday, she drove to the home she and her husband previously shared and was sitting in her vehicle on a teleconference with her doctor. At around 9:22 a.m., Alphonso Hamilton also arrived at the home, at which point Jennifer explained to her doctor that she had an active restraining order against her husband and would be driving across the street to the Brickyard Mall.
According to Murphy, the doctor asked Jennifer if she wanted them to call 911, but she declined, saying she was not worried about her husband hurting her. But after she drove to the mall, she told the doctor that Alphonso was following her in a separate car.
He pulled into the space next to Jennifer’s car
Surveillance footage showed both vehicles parking near the Target at the mall, and Jennifer Hamilton exited her vehicle, telling her doctor to stay on the call and that

she'd be back soon. But after speaking to her husband briefly, Jennifer quickly returned to her vehicle and told the doctor to call 911, according to Murphy.
Alphonso Hamilton then allegedly approached her, she attempted to move away, and shot her five times in the head and body, killing her, before getting back into his own car and fleeing the area.
Minutes later, Alphonso Hamilton arrived at a Schiller Park police station and turned himself in, allegedly admitting that he had shot his wife.
He added that he thought about turning the gun on himself after shooting his wife, but instead called his mother, who advised him to turn himself in. He said that he asked Jennifer if she was seeing someone else and she said she was.
Alphonso is charged with 1st degree murder and held without bail
Alphonso served in the US Navy for 3 years, was honorable discharged, and was a father to three children, none with Jennifer.
He had three convictions for domestic violence from 2001 and 2003

Moment of silence in memory of Hongyan and Jennifer and in recognition of the danger April and Brianne faced. May we learn from their experiences and countless others to identify gaps in the system to prevent deaths like this from continuing to occur

D. New Business

1. New committee member introductions

   Thomas Golbiewski and Retired Judge Robert Anderson introduced themselves sharing their applicable experiences.

2. Introduction Samantha Gaddy, Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence

   ICJIA has contract with ICADV to carry out many of the responsibilities of this Statewide Committee. ICADV has hired Samantha Gaddy to lead this effort.

3. Vote to hire additional DVFR staff

   Jennifer Vancil made a motion to hire a support staff member for Samantha Gaddy to fulfill the responsibility of this Statewide Committee. Representative West seconded.

   Sen. Turner inquired about the budget and number of people this vote was for. Co-Chair Block discussed the structure of the budget based on the legislation and current budget. This vote is for one position to round out the budget.

   Retired Judge Anderson abstained.

   Motion carried.

4. Discussion: 3-hour mock fatality review with Dr. Websdale

   Dr. Websdale led a mock review as a part of the planning process a few years ago to shed light to the procedural aspects of effective DVFR Teams. The mock review is virtual and will last 3 hours. Members will participate as though it is a real review.

   The proposed dates are September 13 or 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. Retired Judge Anderson shared a conflict with the September 13 date. Co-Chair Block will reach out about the

September 22 from 1 to 4 p.m. date.

5. Discussion: Data about DV-related fatalities and near-fatalities

Co-Chair Megan Alderden shared that this Statewide Committee is required to periodically issue reports on our work and findings on dv-related fatalities and near fatalities. These reports, of course, may include summaries of findings from existing data sources. Thus, part of our effort to understand DV-related fatalities and near-fatalities requires us to consider the larger data landscape and how existing data can inform the work of regional review teams as well as our knowledge more generally. Documenting this landscape will also help us determine whether and where data gaps exist.

She updated the group on recent conversations we had with Dr. Maryann Mason with the Northwestern Feinberg School of Medicine. She manages two large data collection efforts in partnership with the Illinois Department of Public Health to inform policy and practices related to violent deaths and unintentional drug overdoses in Illinois and nationally.

First is the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System (IVDRS). This data collection effort, the Illinois Violent Death Reporting System collects detailed information on violent deaths occurring across Illinois from multiple data sources, including death certificates, coroner or medical examiner reports, law enforcement reports, and crime laboratory reports. These data are coded and combined into a single data set to allow for examination of the "who, when, where, and how" of violent deaths to help practitioners and researchers better understanding of "why" these incidents occur. The hope is that these data can help inform policies that can prevent future incidents. The website is sites.northwestern.edu/ivdrs

Northwestern also manages the Statewide Unintentional Drug Overdose Reporting System (SUDORS). Similar to the IVDRS, this system complies data from multiple sources to document the who, when, where, and how of unintentional overdoses to gain a better understanding of why these incidents occur. Although this database collects information on unintentional deaths, it is relevant to our work as individuals who experience intimate partner or domestic violence may use substances to cope with their experiences. So we want to make sure we are considering all potential data sources and incident types. We believe these data sources will help us identify trends and patterns in dv-related fatalities in the state. We hope to establish a working relationship with Dr. Mason as well as some type of data sharing agreement that would allow us to benefit from the amazing work already underway. Our hope is that in the near future, we can present to this body some of the data findings from those systems.

The Co-Chairs would like to know if you are aware of any data, data collection efforts, or research studies about dv-related fatalities or near fatalities in Illinois that could inform our work. The effort does not need to be statewide. We are also interested in compiling information that may be locally specific as the lessons learned from those efforts could help us determine whether a larger statewide effort is worthwhile.

Amanda Pyron shared there is a dashboard for City of Chicago's VP dashboard and DV homicide information, which is available on the Network's website.

Chief Weitzel shared that every police agency is required to report similar data; DV – Supplemental Homicide with UCR data could be a source. Likens shared that there is data from the State Police called NIBRS. This may be a key data source for near fatalities. https://isp.illinois.gov/CrimeReporting and https://isp.illinois.gov/StaticFiles/docs/CrimeReporting/cii/cii20/Domestic%20Offenses.pdf

Christine Raffaele shared ICADV's homicide report. ICADV's homicide report is from media reports through the media search engine Meltwater so it may miss some things https://ilcadv.coalitionmanager.org/resourcemanager/resourcefile/details/1487

Co-Chair Block shared the kinds of cases this Statewide Committee is tasked to review.

Michelle Meyer asked if members can share potentially reviewable cases with the Commission, and Co-Chair Block said Samantha Gaddy would be a good contact for that.

Gaddy introduced herself stating she joined ICADV in May 2022 specifically to work as Director of Fatality Review as laid out in the legislation. They are planning to hired an additional staff support person. Her background is public safety policy for the past 17 years and is excited to join this work.

Co-Chair Block discussed the connection between the Commission and Gaddy's work. The Commission is meant to support Gaddy's work. Gaddy shared ICADV would host the meetings here on out via Zoom, not WebEx.

Cassandra Tanner Miller shared that she has a lot of victims reach out to her about sharing their stories and experiences. She stated she may be able to bring more voices and cases to the Commission.

Gaddy would keep a regional log of cases to help regional teams have cases on hand to study. There is importance in engaging survivors in the process. Without interventions, domestic violence situations would end up in fatality, whether that's the victim or the abuser dying. It is critical to capture the survivor's perspectives. The statewide committee is geographically diverse, so please collect data as you can.

Raffaelle shared that although a little older this report could be helpful demonstrating issues faced by our member programs in the field https://ilcadv.coalitionmanager.org/resourcemanager/resourcefile/details/226

6. Proposed Committees: Data, Policy & Procedure, Implementation & Technical Assistance, and Reporting & Recommendations

The Commission would start with the first 3 committees. Co-Chairs asked for members to serve on one committee with no committee having more than 14 members. A full description would come at a later time.

Data: Create a complete data picture that contemplates all the pieces relative to review under this legislation.

Interested members: Schaffner, Pyron, Friedrich, Alderden

Policies & Procedures:
Interested members: Pyron, Pettet, Lopez, Hefty, Anderson, Cacciapglia, Meyer, Weitzel

Implementation & Technical Assistance: There will be 23 regions based on the circuit courts map.
Interested members: Vancil, Hefty, Tanner Miller, Anderson, Cacciapglia, Meyer, Weitzel, Greene

Reporting & Recommendations: The statewide committee has two reporting obligations. Each region reports evert two years to the statewide committee and is delayed because it is dependent on setting the regional committees up.

7. Institutional analysis from members

Co-Chair Block stated we want to conduct a cursory institutional analysis of the DV response within Illinois. Co-Chair Block asked for each member to share a one-page document with a description of what your program or agency does and what they're involved with identifying the source of funding and any gaps you see and any policies or legislation, if applicable.

Gaddy will share a template and are asking all to return them by the September mock review, which will be complied by October. This should be completed by ex-officio members, too.

8. Proposed meeting schedule: third Tuesday from 1-3 p.m. every other month

Co-Chair Block shared the September mock review will be in addition to these every-other-month meetings.

E. **Public Comment**

There was no public comment

F. **Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Meyer.

Anderson seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:05 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.