



**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority**  
**ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW**

**Minutes**

HB3161

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location

Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference Tuesday, March 15, 2022

| <b>Task Force Member Attendance</b>  | <b>Present</b> | <b>Telephone</b> | <b>Absent</b> |
|--|----------------|------------------|---------------|
| Sen. Sally Turner  | X              |                  |               |
| Rep. Maurice West  |                |                  | X             |
| 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              |                  |               |
| Cassandra Tanner Miller , Colton's Legacy  | X              |                  |               |
| Willette Benford, Live Free Illinois   | X              |                  |               |
| Jennifer Vancil, Quanada   | X              |                  |               |
| Michelle Meyer   | 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                                  | X |  |   |

## **A. Welcoming Remarks**

Co-Chair Megan Alderden called the meeting to order at 12:02 p.m. and welcomed Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members.

Co-Chair Alderden stated the meeting is being held virtually under the conditions listed in 5 ILCS 120/7(e) which, in part, allows quorum to be achieved by audio or video means when the Governor has issued a disaster declaration and the head of this public body determines that an in-person meeting is not prudent because of the disaster.

## **B. Old Business**

1. Vote to adopt minutes from January 13, 2022 meeting

Co-Chair Alderden stated the minutes were sent March 13 and requested if there were any amendments needed. Jenna Lopez requested that under attendance, her organization be changed from YMCA to YWCA.

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

Ayes have it, Nays – 0, Abstentions – 1 (Co-Chair Alderden).

2. Ethics and Sexual Harassment Training

ICIJIA staff are working to get that process started. Once your information is added, there will be a login and password emailed to you to complete the training. Contact Crystal Johnson if you have any issues with the login or training.

## **C. New Business**

1. Dr. Neil Websdale Domestic Violence Fatality Review training

Co-Chair Sara Block introduced the speaker. Dr. Neil Websdale is the Director of the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative for the Office on Violence Against Women. In that capacity, Dr. Websdale provided invaluable technical assistance to the statewide working group who drafted the legislation that created the DVFR initiative for IL. Dr. Websdale conducts research and writes about domestic violence and the social responses to it. Dr. Websdale will spend the remainder of our meeting providing an overview of DVFR so everyone on this committee gains a clear understanding.

Dr. Websdale conducted an extensive training on the topic. The website is [ndvfri.org](http://ndvfri.org)

Highlights:

- Risk assessments are helpful in preventing deaths. Dr. Websdale recommended Jackie Campbell's assessment.
- When setting up the initiative to consider items review initiative scope, review strategy for individual cases (number, scope, depth, timing, location, community relationships, special foci), linkages with other review initiatives (suicide, maternal and child death review, drug involved overdose deaths, COVID)
- Organizing a DVFR: develop a timeline (navigation points the victim and perpetrator went through; be sure to identify and document the source); identify the red flags and warning signals of lethality (of the cases that resulted in death, if we had conducted a risk assessment, had we caught this? 95% of the time, yes); prior agency involvement and the three Cs (coordination, communication, collaboration present?); make recommendations based on findings that seem reasonable and socially responsible; and keep questions (there will be questions you don't initially have an answer to, keep them to address later).
- Potential data sources should be guided by the statute with possible sources being as follows: police homicide logs, media reports, police investigative reports, interview transcripts and videos, Orders of Protection, civil court data, criminal histories, DCFS data, psychological evaluations. What is legal and ethical for us to review? The more informal sources are collateral interviews with family, friends, coworkers, and neighbors.
- For interviews: The first few minutes are critical to establish rapport (avoid fear, shock, etc. and be conscious of body language; reassure you're not there to judge). Goal is understanding, not fact finding. Be patient and allow for silence. Show empathy and acknowledge the pain/challenge of discussing the event.
- Confidentiality: Protect information in accordance with the law.
- Process for virtual DVFRs: timing; information organization; stimulating discussion; tapping talent; creating feedback loops within the process; incorporating collateral interview information with surviving family and other key informants
- Consequences of DVFRs: Changes in law and law-like systems; team expansion; public education; shifts in the collaboration, communication, coordination, cooperation, and integration between agencies; have IPV, IPH, and DV rates changed; shifts in resources/funding allocations; attitudinal shifts regarding DV; increased access to DVFRs; refine risk assessment; and more
- Dr. Websdale stated he would share the slides with the Committee.

- Contact information:
  - Neil Websdale, Family Violence Center at Arizona State University
  - [Neil.Websdale@asu.edu](mailto:Neil.Websdale@asu.edu)
  - 928-637-4510
- 2. Proposed Next Meeting: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 1 p.m.

The Next Meeting is: Tuesday, June 21, 2022 at 1 p.m. At that meeting, there will be discussion on The Tanner Miller Domestic Violence Initiatives. One of the DVFR members, Cassandra Tanner Miller, created Colton's Task Force in memory of her son. The memberships of this Committee and Colton's Task Force have significant overlap. Cassandra, the co-chairs of this Committee and ICJIA have decided to create an umbrella initiative at ICJIA to house these two initiatives and potential other DV related efforts to ensure coordination. The umbrella will be called The Tanner Miller Domestic Violence Initiatives of which the Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee and Colton's Task Force will each be a part. By the next meeting, ICJIA will determine the specific overlap in membership, will reach out to those members and additional members for Colton's Task Force, and we will share how the two initiatives will work together.

#### **D. Public Comment**

Co-Chair Alderden opened up the floor to public comment.

Vickie Smith of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence expressed gratitude for the Committee and Dr. Websdale's presentation.

#### **E. Adjournment**

A motion to adjourn was made by Michelle Meyer.

Jennifer Greene seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 1:39 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.