



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

**Date:** November 15, 2022

**Time:** 1:00 pm – 2:30 pm

Via Zoom

<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
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 Sara Block called the meeting to order at 1:02 p.m. and welcomed Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members. Peter Yu of ICJIA conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

### B. Old Business

1. Vote to adopt minutes from September 22, 2022 meeting

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

### C. New Business

1. Mission Moment

The context for our mission moment today has to do with the cases that are eligible for review in IL: homicides, suicides, near-fatalities, and survivors who cause the death of their abusers. Co-Chair Block provided an overview of April Turner's case.

Articles relevant to the case:

- <https://chicago.suntimes.com/crime/2020/3/19/21186620/april-turner-nicarro-drake-murder-charge-steeple-run-shooting-naperville-lisle-dupage-lakewood>
- <https://www.dailyherald.com/news/20221027/murder-charges-dropped-for-naperville-woman-who-killed-boyfriend-after-chronic-domestic-abuse>
- <https://www.wbez.org/stories/whats-legal-self-defense-in-cases-of-abuse/c7f8d7cd-1c77-49db-a092-f05284ef73d3>

Amanda Pyron expressed frustration with the State's Attorney's initial response to the situation.

2. Director's Report

Samantha Gaddy welcomed new members Emily Harwell of the Lieutenant Governor's Office, Amanda Vasquez from ICJIA, and Rep. Villanueva.

She reminded the Committee that it is an Ad-Hoc Committee of the ICJIA Board of Directors and the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence is contracted to provide the services for this Committee. Gaddy updated that they have hired an additional staff person to support this initiative.

Gaddy stated that meetings going forward would be shortened to 1 to 2:30 p.m. every other month instead of 1 to 4 p.m. The meetings may be sent with a Teams invite, but the Committee will meet via Zoom.

Gaddy is working with ICJIA about creating a website, which is mandated by statute so the public can access information. This will also be a resource for the regional Fatality Review Teams. More information to come.

3. Mock Review Reflection

Co-Chair Block conducted a discussion of the mock review, focusing on knowledge gained and questions the Committee still has.

Fawn Pettet shared it was helpful to walk through the process so members can understand what it entails to better advocate for bringing the initiative to different areas. A question she had was how far past are these cases because if the case is still pending then some parties (law firms, prosecution, etc.) may not be able to participate. Co-Chair Block said the statute requires that the court proceedings must be over. The regional review teams will have to track the cases throughout the years and the review may not be conducted until three to four years after the incident.

Co-Chair Block shared the importance of ensuring that all information must be brought to the team beforehand. The review team members will be contacting parties to conduct the interviews then bring the information to the whole team. The review is also not as linear as anticipated. This will require a lot of legwork by team members before the review occurs.

Vickie Smith shared these thoughts would be helpful to Gaddy. Smith continued that learning labs to dissect these pieces that will be critical to supporting the regional teams, so thoughts and questions about the process are integral.

Co-Chair Block encouraged the groups to continue to reflect on the activity and how much training should each review team receive, what does the best support look like, how do teams inform the families, and more.

Is there additional training this Committee needs in order to fulfill the responsibilities, Co-Chair Block challenged. She shared that committee work will be essential in developing the guides and practices.

Co-Chair Alderden said additional training or a peer network with a review team that is already established would be helpful. Learning from a group ahead of this one would assist in facing challenges that arise.

Cassandra Tanner-Miller shared as a survivor the importance of connecting survivors to each other and others who have been through the process would be helpful. Some survivors may want to bury it, and she shared she could be a tool in helping them and walking alongside them as they consider unburying what they've wanted to move past. She shared barriers they may face as they don't want to re-live the trauma.

Judge Anderson said additional training on how to support those who have survived this would be beneficial. He continued that regional teams will need a lot of staff support on collecting reports and other details.

Co-Chair Block said the Committee meetings could have training be a part of the agenda and the heavy lifting done by the sub-committees. Dr. Websdale or others could continue to be a resource.

Teresa Tudor discussed her experience with another fatality review committee and that the weight of being a part of it was more significant than she expected, so there would be a need for self-care and trauma education. Co-Chair Block that training needs of the

statewide group and regional teams will mirror each other.

Thomas Golebiewski shared the strong sense of heaviness he felt after the review and the need to discuss the trauma aspect on members.

Smith shared that ICJIA may have contracts that work with family survivors of murder victims, which may be a good support to this group. Thinking through a solid invite and what it will entail will be important.

In the comments, Co-Chair Alderden stated her connection with Dr. Vincent at DePaul. He was instrumental in designing some programs specific to supporting survivors of homicide, and she said she would reach out to him about this work.

If members had specific thoughts on training or trainers, please pass them along to Gaddy at [gaddy@ilcadv.org](mailto:gaddy@ilcadv.org).

#### 4. Reminder and Discussion: Institutional Analysis

Co-Chair Block discussed how the institutional analysis is intended to serve as a starting point for the Committee in understanding the response to domestic violence in IL and the gaps. The hope that in completing the analysis that Committee members would be able to better understand not only what services are available amongst the members but also to become more knowledgeable about some of the services offered by our own agencies and programs. The IA will provide the Committee with the picture in IL upon which we will layer the ideas for reform that come from regional review teams through their domestic violence fatality reviews.

So far, the leadership has received 14 institutional analyses. Thank you to those who have completed the analysis. The desire is to gather a few more so that the Committee can begin to document the response to DV in our state and to discuss where the service gaps exist in IL.

For those of you who have not completed an analysis or do not believe that your program or agency plays a role in serving domestic violence programming, we would ask that you think about this is the broadest way possible. Do you have any programs, grants, technical assistance, etc, that serve domestic violence victims, survivors, perpetrators, their children, direct service providers, research, or violence generally, etc. We would really like for ex-officio members to complete this too.

Please share any thoughts or questions you may have with Gaddy at [gaddy@ilcadv.org](mailto:gaddy@ilcadv.org), who will re-send the IA.

#### 5. Reminder: Working Group Sign-Up and Next Steps

During the last meeting we discussed the creation of working groups to support the work of the Committee. Members should have received a link to complete a survey indicating in which groups members are most interested in serving; data, policy & procedure, implementation & technical assistance, or reporting & recommendations. Each working group will address all aspects of the responsibility of this Committee.

If you have not done so, and would like to serve, please let Gaddy know which group you'd like to serve with. She will email members in the next week to begin convening groups. Please also let her know if you are willing to chair the working group that you are on.

Please anticipate that the committees will be quite active over the next year and that much of the heavy and important lifting of the committee will happen at the committee level. Gaddy will help schedule the committee meeting, identify places where support is needed, and participate in the meetings. Working groups will get up and running after the new year.

- Regional Review Team Planning

As discussed in prior meetings, our job as this committee is to provide support for the actual reviews that will be occurring regionally. The regions will be organized by the circuit court boundaries, although the review teams themselves will not necessarily be led by the circuit court. In addition, the regional teams may elect to divide into sub-teams; for instance, a sub-team could be county specific, jurisdiction specific, or include multiple counties.

Over the next few months, the Committee will need to identify sites for potential regional teams and develop model policies and procedures necessary for the regional teams to get up and running. A few locations have already expressed interest in creating a regional team and could be pioneer teams, including Cook County Circuit, 17<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit (Winnebago County), and 21<sup>st</sup> Judicial Circuit (Kankakee County). They have representatives on this statewide committee and others interested in getting this moving.

For those interested in being a pioneer region, contact Gaddy at.

If you think there are additional circuits/counties that would like to be pioneer regional review teams, please share now or reach out to Gaddy [gaddy@ilcadv.org](mailto:gaddy@ilcadv.org).

Pyron asked if there is funding for regional team leadership, which Co-Chair Block said out of the statute, no, there is not. She continued that if funding is a barrier to launching the Teams, then that is something that should be concerned at the legislative level.

Tom Golebiewski shared that Lake County Family Violence Coordinating Council is interested in moving forward.

Co-Chair Block shared the intended timeline outlined below:

- 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 – just a little over 15 weeks away. 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

Anticipate that the next three quarters will involve heavy committee work.

Gaddy clarified that although there is no compensation for their work, there may be compensation for actual expenses like travel, printing, and other statute-approved expenses. Co-Chair Alderden asked what the Committee or Pyron feels funding would be most critical for so the Committee can be planning accordingly. Pyron shared what her organization would need to operate this in Cook County. Other collaborative projects such as around firearms or other similar design of work, they have needed a portion of a staff (half-time FTE project manager) to help coordinate partners, collect documents, gain buy-in, etc. The model they have used for similar ones have found that works best for them in Cook. Co-Chair Block said that is an important consideration, possibly for state funding to support the pioneer sites.

Wendy Cohen asked clarification about Gaddy's funding. Co-Chair Block shared that Rep. West advocated for appropriations for ICJIA, a portion of which is subcontracted with ICADV. Gaddy asked if it would be necessary to do FOIA since there are provisions in the law and how the Child Death Review Teams and Aging's similar team are structured and funded. Anderson said he believes the Child Death Review Teams are funded through DCFS. He said additional funding could be a focus on additional staff for ICJIA or ICADV to support regional teams.

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

No comments.

#### **E. Adjournment**

The next meeting is January 17 at 1 p.m.

A motion to adjourn was made by Vancil.

Jennifer Greene seconded the motion.

Motion Carried.

Meeting adjourned at 2:07 p.m.

Minutes respectfully submitted by Secretary Jenny Schoenwetter.