



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: February 10, 2026

Time: 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Central Time

Location: Webex Meeting Link

Subject: Meeting of the Illinois Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee

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 meeting. Brianna Martin, Officer of the Open Meetings Act, conducted roll call and declared a quorum.

B. Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. Vote to adopt minutes from November 4, 2025
 - i. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Fawn Pettet and seconded by Jennifer Welsh. Minutes were approved.

- b. Vote to adopt minutes from the Chicago/ Cook County Team Meeting
 - i. A motion to adopt the minutes was made by Megan Alderden and seconded. Minutes from the November 19, 2025. Meeting minutes were approved.

C. New Business

1. Mission Moments

- a. Megan Alderden provided information on a recent domestic violence related death to center the committee in its mission.
- b. Mission Moment: [Illinois surgeon charged in Ohio couple's killing due in court on Friday](#)

2. Administrative Updates

- a. Amanda Vasquez introduced herself as representing ICJIA on the DVFR Committee and manage ICJIA's Center for Victims. She provided the following updates:
 - i. Staffing
 - The hiring process for the new Project Director has begun. The Project Director position was posted in December and the review process will begin soon.
 - ii. Report Updates and Due Dates
 - ICJIA staff have begun preparing the Statewide Committee annual and biennial reports. The annual report is due to the Governor's Office and General Assembly on March 1st and the biennial report is due on April 1st. Regional Review Teams' annual reports are also due March 1, 2027.
 - iii. November meeting presentation updates

- Responses to questions raised during the November meeting's presentation by Kathleen Conlon Wasik regarding documentation and data on stalking within the Illinois Violence Death Reporting System were discussed.

iv. Appointments

- Members were notified that they would be receiving an email from Vincent Sarna with a copy of their appointment letters to ensure everyone has them for their records.

v. Training

- It was also shared that the DVFR guidebook training modules are now available on Docebo, ICJIA's learning management system.

D. Regional Review Team Updates

1. Co-Chair Sara Block invited the regional review teams to provide a brief update about their work. Updates about each team's activities and upcoming reviews were shared.
 - a. 3rd Judicial Circuit (Madison/Bond counties) - Fawn Pettet shared that they have just begun working on a new (their third) case review. Collaboration is going well and the team's confidence is growing with each review.
 - b. 10th Judicial Circuit (Peoria, Marshall, Putnam, Stark, & Tazewell counties) - Aimee Shinall reported that they have begun the process of uploading and review case documents for their first review.
 - c. 12th Judicial Circuit (Will County) - Amirrah Abou-Youssef reported that their team just completed their second review. She noted that the second review was a smoother process. They have selected their third case and hope to begin that review in March.
 - d. 17th Judicial Circuit (Winnebago/Boone counties) - Sara Block shared that they are making good progress on their third review.

- e. 19th Judicial Circuit (Lake County) - Tom Golebiewski said they meet tomorrow and will review findings from their last case and will select their third case for review in the Spring.
- f. 21st Judicial Circuit (Kankakee/Iroquois counties) - Brittany Norgaard noted that she was reporting on behalf of Jayden, and will be transitioning into Jayden's position soon. Their team met last week and are working to finalize case selection for their next review.
- g. Chicago/Cook County - Megan Alderden reported that the Chicago/Cook County team had their first meeting. Megan, along with Meg Hefty, will be co-chairing the committee. They will alternate reviews between Chicago and Cook County cases, and hope to conduct their first review in June.

E. Recruitment of the Next Cohort of Review Teams

- a. Co-Chair Sara Block shared that recruitment meetings have been held with folks from Kane, DuPage, and DeKalb. Contact will continue as they work through next steps of team recruitment and formation.
- b. Efforts in the 7th and 8th judicial districts have stalled. Members with contacts in those areas should contact the co-chairs or ICJIA staff.

F. Regional Review Team Spotlight - 10th Circuit, Aimee Shinall

- 1. Co-Chair Megan Alderden led a question and answer discussion with Aimee Shinall regarding her team's experience with team formation. Key takeaways included the importance of leveraging relationships, as well as sensitivity to the needs and capacity of different areas of the circuit/different members.

G. RRT Update Format Discussion

- 1. Co-chair Megan Alderden invited members to share what types of information they'd like to hear from regional review teams during their updates.
- 2. Members noted that they appreciate hearing from the teams and are interested in more training and deeper dives into topics related to DVFR, including IPV and pregnancy and maternal mortality, and legislative updates.

H. Public Comment

1. Are there any members of the public here wishing to make a comment?
 - a. There were no members of the public who wished to make a comment.

I. Adjournment

1. The next meeting is scheduled for Tuesday, May 12, 2026 at 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Central Time.
2. Co-chair Sara Block entertained a motion to adjourn.
3. The motion to adjourn was made and seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:10 pm Central Time.

Table 1: Task Force Member Attendance (Voting Members)

Voting Member	Attendance
Sen. Celina Villanueva	Absent
Sen. Sally Turner	Absent
Rep. Maurice West	Absent
Rep. Patrick Windhorst	Absent
Emily Miller	Absent
Jennifer Cacciapaglia (Megan Brechon in her absence)	Absent
Jayden Anderson-Baker, Secretary	Absent
Amirrah Abou-Youssef	Present
Fawn Pettet	Present
Willette Benford, Live Free Illinois	Absent
VACANT (survivor/family member)	n/a
VACANT (social services serving DV survivor)	n/a
Jennifer Vancil	Absent
Fatimeh Hussien	Present
Shelby Hoffman Binder	Present
Sheikera Balentine	Present
Jennifer Welch	Present
Amanda Pyron	Absent
Meg Hefty	Absent
Dr. Tom Golebiewski	Present
Dr. Anastasia Khoubaeva	Absent
Chief Tom Weitzel	Absent
Sheriff Andrew Hires	Absent
Dr. Megan Alderdan	Present
Sara Block	Present
Alisa Velonis	Present

Table 2: Task Force Member Attendance (Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Members)

Ex-Officio, Non-Voting Member	Attendance
Ariana Correa, Policy Manager Office of IL Lt. Gov.	Present
Erica Koegler, Secretary of Human Services	Present
Wendy Cohen, Attorney General Office	Absent
Major Kevin Garcia, Director of IL State Police	Present
Heather Blanke, Director of Children and Family Services	Absent
Amanda L. Vasquez, Director of IL Criminal Justice Information Authority	Present
Pat Delfino, Director of Office of State's Attorney Appellate Prosecutor	Present
Carolyn Klarquist, Director of Office of the State Appellate Defender	Present
Judge Robert Anderson (Ret), Director of Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	Present
Naomi Taylor, Director of Illinois Department of Public Health	Present

Additional attendees included Brandon Kooi, Brittany Norgaard, Jim Scaliatine, Sophia, and ICJIA staff Brianna Martin, Karen Galbraith, Jacob Derrick Vincent Sarna, Diana Diaz, and RRT members Aimee Shinall, Chanel Vanden Berk.