



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW COMMITTEE

Date: May 12, 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. Chair Megan Alderden called the meeting to order at 1:03 pm. Open Meetings Act Officer, Brianna Martin, called the roll and announced that quorum had been met.

B. Old Business

1. Approval of Minutes
 - a. The approval of the February 10, 2026 minutes was postponed until the August meeting. Due to technical difficulties, the meeting minutes were not able to be distributed with enough time for members to review in advance of the meeting.

C. New Business

1. Mission Moment: Son of the late Cook County commissioner fatally shot mother at West Side home, then killed himself

2. Administrative Updates

a. Amanda Vasquez provided the following administrative updates:

i. Staffing Updates

- Tessa Kuipers is starting as the new Domestic Violence Fatality Review project director on Monday, May 18th, 2026. She has over a decade of victim services experience, including in direct service, management, and policy work.

ii. Report updates

- This Committee's annual and biennial reports were submitted by Vincent Sarna to the Governor's Office and General Assembly in February. Both reports are available on the Domestic Violence Fatality Review website at: [DVFR Resources](#)

iii. Media Notifications Protocol

- Karen Galbraith provided an overview of the new DVFR Media Notification Protocol. Members and regional review teams will receive a copy of the protocol and a one-pager in the next few weeks.

D. Presentation: Pregnancy and Intimate Partner Violence: Implications for DVFR Committees; Alisa Velonis, MPH, PhD, UIC

1. Member Dr. Alisa Velonis presented on the intersections of intimate partner violence and pregnancy and identified key considerations for DVFR Regional Review Teams. Dr. Velonis provided an overview of data and research, highlighting important risk factors for increased violence, impacts of IPV on the pregnant person, opportunities for prevention and touchpoints for intervention. In addition, we are welcoming Rebecca Laudati, the Executive Director in HOPE of Ogle County who has 20 years in victim services.

E. Regional Review Team Updates

1. Co-Chair Megan Alderden invited each regional review team to share updates.
 - a. 3rd Judicial Circuit (Madison/Bond counties) - Fawn Pettet shared that they are working through their current case and will conduct the review in about a month. They recently conducted a 2-hour interview with the victim's parents, reinforcing the value and importance of including survivor voices. They have their next case queued up.
 - b. 10th Judicial Circuit (Peoria, Marshall, Putnam, Stark, & Tazewell counties) - Aimee Shinall reported that they just completed their first review. She also noted the value of interviewing as part of their review process. The review went well and generated good discussion and collaboration. They have selected their second case and will be taking a break until August.
 - c. 12th Judicial Circuit (Will County) - Amirrah Abou-Youssef reported that they are working on their third case. They are learning about the process of conducting interviews with parties who are incarcerated. They hope to review a near-fatality during their fourth review.
 - d. 17th Judicial Circuit (Winnebago/Boone counties) - Jennifer Cacciapaglia shared that they welcomed Judge Jenny Clifford to their team and that they will be completing their first review of 2026 this month. Their focus has been on court intervention. They attempted multiple interviews but were ultimately not able to connect with anyone. They have applied for grant funding to help support costs associated with records requests and interviewee costs, such as transportation. They have completed a rough draft of their regional manual. Their RRT participated in a vigil and participated in a Hidden Homicides and strangulation trainings.
 - e. 19th Judicial Circuit (Lake County) - Pat Davenport shared that they selected their third and fourth cases. Their third review will be completed in June. They have had multiple new members join the team, including the Lake County School Superintendent and an immigration organization.

- f. 21st Judicial Circuit (Kankakee/Iroquois counties) - Brittany Norgaard noted that they are completing their review in June. They have also engaged in outreach and conducted interviews and are learning new ways to be trauma-informed in their efforts. They are also working to recruit and retain team members.
- g. Chicago/Cook County - Meg Hefty reported that they have just begun their first case. They will be reviewing one case from Chicago and one case from suburban Cook County this year. They have assigned interview teams and have gathered documents in preparation for a June review.

F. Presentation: DV Offense and IPV Homicide/ Suicide Maps

- 1. Lily Farhenwald, Research Scientist, ICJIA, presented maps that display recent DV offense prevalence and intimate partner violence (IPV) related homicides and suicides in Illinois. Maps depicted DV rates and IPV related homicide and suicide counts by county and highlighted intersections with current DVFR team locations. This information will be helpful for developing strategies for future engagement and outreach. Data suggests that outreach to Sangamon, Champaign, and Vermillion counties should be considered.

G. Recruitment of the Next Cohort of Review Teams

- 1. Co-Chair Sara Block shared more about how this information will inform future DVFR expansion and provided updates on outreach efforts in the following areas:
 - a. 7th Judicial Circuit (Sangamon, Greene, Jersey, Macoupin, Morgan, & Scott counties)
 - b. 8th Judicial Circuit (Adams, Brown, Calhoun, Cass, Mason, Menard, Pike & Schuyler counties)
 - c. 16th Judicial Circuit (Kane)
 - d. 23rd Judicial Circuit (DeKalb & Kendall)

2. Since our last meeting, we have continued conversations with a few potential sites
 - a. Unfortunately, the folks from DeKalb are not in a position to launch a new team at this time but hope to revisit the option in the future.
 - b. Since our last meeting, we have connected with Kane County, and they have been working on pulling together interested team members.
 - c. If anyone has contacts within our other circuits, including 7th, 8th, and 18th, please let us know.

H. Next meeting: Tuesday, August 11, 2026 from 1:00 pm to 2:30 pm Central Time

I. Public Comment

1. No public comments were made.

J. Adjournment

1. Co-chair Megan Alderden entertained a motion to adjourn. Amirrah Abou-Youssef made the motion. Fawn Pettet seconded. The meeting was adjourned at 1:33 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	Present
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	Present
Fatimeh Hussien	Present
Shelby Hoffman Binder	Absent
Sheikera Balentine	Absent
Jennifer Welch	Present
Amanda Pyron	Absent
Meg Hefty	Present
Dr. Tom Golebiewski	Present
Dr. Anastasia Khoubaeva	Present
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	Absent
Carolyn Klarquist, Director of Office of the State Appellate Defender	Absent
Judge Robert Anderson (Ret), Director of Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts	Absent
Naomi Taylor, Director of Illinois Department of Public Health	Present

Additional attendees included Aimee Shinall, Pat Davenport, Juliet Milton, Nichole Pasteris, Brittany Norgaard, and ICJIA staff: Brianna Martin, Karen Galbraith, Lily Fahrenwald, Diana Diaz.