

**THE NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION  
OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE**

**Meeting Minutes**

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**Wednesday, March 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2017 at 10:00 a.m.**

Office of the Attorney General  
Grant Sawyer State Office Building  
555 East Washington Street, Room 4500  
Las Vegas, Nevada 89101

Office of the Attorney General  
Mock Courtroom  
100 North Carson Street  
Carson City, Nevada 89701

Public Access Via Tele-Conference:  
1-877-411-9748  
Access Code: 9890482

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**1. Roll Call**

a) Present

- i. Attorney General Adam Paul Laxalt, Chairman
- ii. Patty Cafferata
- iii. Paul Bancroft – Phone attendance
- iv. Elynn Greene
- v. Dorie Guy
- vi. Mark Jackson
- vii. Magann Jordan
- viii. Judge Patricia Lynch
- ix. Sue Meuschke
- x. Suzanne Ramos
- xi. Dr. Emily Troshynski
- xii. Cory Hernandez
- xiii. Denise Yoxsimer
- xiv. Angela Prindle

b) Absent

- i. Christine Jones Brady
- ii. Clarice Charlie
- iii. Karl Hall
- iv. Leisa Moseley
- v. Robin Sweet
- vi. Sgt. Blake Smith

**Quorum established**

## 2. Introduction of members and staff

### a) Members

#### i. Carson

1. Patty Cafferata, Special Assistant Attorney General
2. Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney
3. Judge Patricia Lynch, Reno Justice Court
4. Dorie Guy, Retired
5. Angela Prindle, Newmont Representative
6. Suzanne Ramos, Reno City Attorney's Office Victim Advocate
7. Denise Yoxsimer, Committee to Aid Abused Women

#### ii. Las Vegas

1. Magann Jordan, Clark County District Attorney's Office
2. Elynn Green, Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department
3. Sue Meuschke, Nevada Coalition to END Domestic and Sexual Violence
4. Dr. Emily Troshynski, UNLV Professor

### b) Staff

#### i. Carson

1. Arlene Rivera, DV/SA/HT Ombudsman
2. Brett Kandt, Chief Deputy Attorney General
3. Dawn Buoncristiani, Deputy Attorney General

### c) Public

- i. Jake Wiskerchen, Marriage and Family Therapist for Zephyr Wellness
- ii. Hans Jessup, Lead Court Research Analyst of the Supreme Court of Nevada
- iii. John McCormick, Assistant Court Administrator
- iv. Julie Butler, Records Bureau Chief for Nevada Department of Public Safety

## 3. Public Comment

### a) No comment in Las Vegas

### b) Comment in Carson

- i. Jake Wiskerchen (Wiskerchen), Marriage and Family Therapist, in Reno. Given new legislation to reorganize the batterer's programs in Nevada, Wiskerchen holds interest in re-evaluating their effectiveness to lowering the reoffender rate.
- ii. Wiskerchen proposed Yield Theory, which may be a better rehabilitation effort to treating batterers.

*Attorney General Adam Laxalt, Chairman (Chairman Laxalt) moves to Item #6.*

## 4. For Discussion and Possible Action: Review, amend and approve the

minutes from the December 12, 2016 meeting. **Attachment 1**

- a) Chairman Laxalt calls for motion to approve minutes. Members identified a few spelling errors within the text of the minutes. Furthermore, a statement was corrected to indicate Sue Meuschke (Meuschke) did not receive five - \$1,000 grants rather the Council did. Motion to accept minutes. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

**5. For Discussion: NRS 228.490 (2)(b).** Updates by Ombudsman Arlene Rivera in regards to VINE's new enhancements launch date, website improvements to the domestic violence and human trafficking sections, the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NCPDV) Biennial Report and the previously approved resources brochure. **Attachment 2**

- a) Arlene Rivera (Rivera) proudly announces that Nevada is the first State in the nation to roll out the new version of VINE (mobile application enhancement).
  - i. This application will now incorporate a service provider directory, offender watch list for users, and other mobile features.
- b) Rivera presented new brochure (Attachment 2) providing contact information for a variety of victim services in Nevada.
  - i. Chairman Laxalt and the rest of the council members were pleased with this handout.
- c) Rivera also mentions the filing of the Biennial Report which was submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau on February 1<sup>st</sup>.
  - i. Rivera thanks Sue Meuschke (Meuschke) for her contributions to the report.
- d) Rivera demonstrates the changes made to the domestic violence and human trafficking sections on the Attorney General's website.
  - i. Some notable changes include the reorganization of content and implementation of an "escape" button for victims who are on the site.
  - ii. The AG office will be partnering with Thorn and Polaris to address human trafficking in Nevada.
- e) Dorie Guy (Guy) expressed her satisfaction with the updates.

**6. For Discussion and Possible Action:** Update on proposed SB 25 by Senior Representative from the Attorney General's office on resolution supporting legislation consolidating the VINE Governance Committee (NRS 228.205); the Committee on Domestic Violence (NRS 228.470); the Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NRS 228.480); and the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Teams (NRS 228.495) into a single entity retaining all existing power and duties of the four separate entities. **Attachment 3**

- a) Brett Kandt (Kandt) introduces himself to the meeting attendees.

- b) Kandt states the proposal of SB 25 strives to consolidate the various entities in the Attorney General's office (AGO) focused on addressing domestic violence in Nevada.
- c) In addition, the proposal would transfer specific functions of the AGO such as the Confidentiality Address Program (CAP) to the Division of Child and Family Services at the Department of Health and Human Services and certification of batterer's treatment programs (BIPs) to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health at the Department of Health and Human Services.
  - i. The Department of Health and Human Services has the resources and capabilities to better serve these functions.
- d) SB 25 was heard by Senate Government Affairs in February.
  - i. An amendment was proposed during the hearing: transfer certification of BIPs to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health rather than the Board of Marriage and Family Therapist.
- e) The bill is in the process of being put on work session to move forward with some of these amendments.
- f) The Senate Government committee requested a resolution from each affected entity, supporting consolidation of functions into a single body.
- g) Members voiced their concerns about the transition of functions to the Division of Public and Behavioral Health.
- h) Chairman Laxalt stated that all members of the entities being consolidated under SB 25 are invited to join the proposed super committee. He also states the four amendments proposed for SB 25:
  - i. The minimum number of members is total of members in committees and councils currently with no maximum.
  - ii. VINE Governance subcommittee falls within view of super committee.
  - iii. Transfer CAP to Division of Child and Family Services
  - iv. Transfer BIPs certification to Division of Public and Behavioral Health
- i) Patty Cafferata (Cafferata) motions for the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to support legislation SB 25 with the concerns of the committee addressed. Seconded by Dorie Guy. No discussion. Suzanne Ramos (Ramos) and Judge Lynch opposed. Motion passed.

*Attorney General Adam Laxalt, Chairman (Chairman Laxalt) moves to Item #4.*

**7. For Discussion:** PowerPoint presentation by Ombudsman Arlene Rivera on the Latest NCPDV Financial Report of court and marriage license fees collected from August 2016 to February 2017.

- a) Rivera presented her findings in regards to the receipt of court and marriage license fees collected by the Ombudsman. There is lots of information to be recovered and it is a work in progress to gather all the necessary data from the courts in the State.

- b) Rivera highlights the discrepancy with the court fees for domestic violence. Some courts are reporting the collection of fees while others are not sending reports of the fees they collected from August 2016 to February 2017.
  - i. Her mission is to make sure there are no loose ends when it comes to domestic violence funds being allocated to the Attorney General's office and she is happy to report her results.
  - ii. Furthermore, regardless of who receives other funds located by Rivera, the goal is to make sure the money allocated towards domestic violence resources is actually being directed toward DV services.

*Attorney General Adam Laxalt, Chairman (Chairman Laxalt) moves to Item #8.*

**8. For Discussion and Possible Action:** NRS 228.490(2)(a). Presentation by Julie Butler (Butler) from the Department of Public Service. Butler will be answering questions from the NCPDV about how agencies report information to them, and how they determine what information they will use for their annual report as it relates to domestic violence and protection orders.

- a) Butler presented information in regards to the data accumulation of domestic violence protection orders.
- b) The system is fragile and should be changed in FY 18 and it does interface to the FBI database.
  - i. Unfortunately, most Nevada ports that send information to the national database do not submit this information.
- c) Butler indicates the Department of Public Service does not track the trends of DV as other agencies monitor this data.
- d) Multiple questions were addressed by Butler in regards to data input of TPOs, budgeting, and the analysis of information.
- e) Sue Meuschke (Meuschke) encouraged possible discussion in the future on data collection possibilities for domestic violence trends.
- f) Chairman Laxalt recommended evaluating legislation to see what possibilities are available for collection of this data.

**9. For Discussion and Possible Action:** NRS 228.490(2)(a). Presentation by Hans Jessup Lead Court Research Analyst of the Supreme Court of Nevada. He will be discussing the Nevada Judiciary Report Fiscal Year 2016 as it relates to felonies, misdemeanor domestic violence cases and protection orders. **Attachment 4**

- a) Hans Jessup (Jessup) gathers information about what is handled by the court and what the trends are with the cases received by the Supreme Court of Nevada.
- b) Jessup refers to models in the handout so attendees can have a better understanding in regards to the collection of data.

- c) Some of this information is made public on the website collected by the courts.
- 10. For Discussion: NRS 228.490(1)(c). Presentation by Ombudsman Arlene Rivera to introduce Thorn's Spotlight program, discuss activities for Sexual Assault Awareness Month, and the latest on the Survivor Scholarship Fund.**
- Attachment 5**
- a) Rivera is working with the Rape Crisis Center for Sexual Assault Awareness Month.
    - i. She is looking to see if the Attorney General's office can partner with any members familiar with events.
    - ii. She requested members to email a list of events they are familiar with to her.
- 11. Council Member Comments.**
- a) Mark Jackson (Jackson) encourages everyone to follow up with AB 286, which amends the veteran's court in the State of Nevada.
    - i. The problem with this court is that the judge was dismissing and deferring domestic violence cases.
  - b) Elynne Greene (Greene) announces a two-day training April 12-13<sup>th</sup> on human trafficking (correlation between domestic violence, human trafficking, and sexual assault).
    - i. In addition, from June 19-21<sup>st</sup> LVMPD will be hosting trainings on advance investigations for human trafficking cases.
  - c) Dorie Guy (Guy) states Ombudsman Rivera is doing an exceptional job with her department.
  - d) Angela Prindle (Prindle) is looking for pamphlets detailing the role of NCPDV.
    - i. Rivera had this information available for Prindle.
  - e) Elynne Greene (Greene) stated we are the second in the nation for the utilization of the National Domestic Violence hotline.
- 12. For discussion on possible topics for next agenda and meeting dates.**
- a) Rivera recorded all the items during the meeting.
- 13. Public Comment.**
- a) No public comment in Carson.
  - b) No public comment in Las Vegas.
- 14. Adjournment.**
- a) Chairman Laxalt calls for motion to adjourn. Seconded by Mark Jackson. No discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Minutes respectfully submitted by: **Jason Mouannes**  
Office of the Attorney General

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