

Attachment Four (4)

Committee on Domestic Violence Agenda
February 28, 2019

Contents: Washoe County – DVFRT
Recommendations

WASHOE COUNTY-DVFRT RECOMMENDATIONS

RECOMMENDATION #1:	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>Identify a pathway to allow TPO's that involve school-aged children to be directly transmitted to the school district for dissemination to the appropriate personnel.</i></p>	<p><i>There have been several meetings over the past year with the Washoe County School District Police Department who have identified a victim advocate within the School Police as a point of contact for delivery of TPO's and a procedure to disseminate the TPO's to the appropriate personnel. A meeting with the Court Administration occurred and upon implementation of the new computer software system clerks will push a copy of any TPO involving children to a group e-mail wherein the School District will designate individuals to distribute the TPO to the appropriate personnel. This system should be implemented no later than March of 2019.</i></p>
<p>RATIONALE: : There were several cases where the TPO's were not provided to the children's school, but one in particular, the children were removed from school by father (after TPO was granted, but not provided to the school by the victim) and the children were forced to show perpetrator where the safe house was, which made it no longer safe for them to reside there. Mother was murdered a few days later after returning home.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION #2	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>Removal of the language found in the eviction statutes that require the WCSO to serve eviction notices within 48 hours which interferes with the priority of service of TPO's.</i></p>	<p><i>Withdrawing with explanation.</i></p>
<p>RATIONALE: Currently, there is a backlog of TPO's up at the Sheriff's Office. Some of those are due to a lack of contact information in the actual TPO. But many others are due to the fact that the Civil section only has so many deputies, and according to the NRS they must serve evictions within 48 hours, therefore they often come before the service of a TPO which has no time requirement.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION #3	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>Ensuring there is a process and procedure in place for each LE agency to forward reports to the Human Services Agency when a DV case involves children either involved in the call or their presence in a home where the call took place.</i></p>	<p><i>Each LE Advocate went back to their perspective agencies to see how that processed worked. We are looking into ways to ensure that this is happening on every case.</i></p>
<p>RATIONALE: During one of the reviews, it was noted on the timeline that there were several reports of DV and even one where the father was arrested that did not end up making it over to Human Services Agency. HSA had only received reports on the incidences of the mother (victim) when there were allegations of child endangerment.</p>	

RECOMMENDATION #4	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>Creation of a Timeline for historical data collection in DV homicide. The timeline would be similar to those prepared for fatality review cases.</i></p>	<p><i>We are looking into a mechanism for this to take place and will try to initiate it on the next DV fatality.</i></p>
<p><u>RATIONALE:</u> During our reviews, we often have the prosecutor and detective present during the meetings to help present and provide additional information. During several of those meetings both the prosecutor and detective have stated that there was a great deal of information that was discovered that they were not aware of, and how if a timeline was created on all DV fatalities, it would be extremely helpful to the investigation and prosecution of cases.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION #5	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>It would be very helpful to be able to gather information from the local DV Shelters after there is a fatality</i></p>	<p><i>We are currently looking into what barriers, including limitations on grant funding, are present in regards to this rule prohibiting shelters from sharing information even post fatality.</i></p>
<p><u>RATIONALE:</u> Currently, we are unable to gather any information from the DV shelters in regards to access, services provided, etc., after a DV fatality occurs. It would be helpful for the investigation as well as the prosecution of an offender if LE could collect information as to a Victim's past preventative measures/or prior conduct in reaching out to DV services to be able to better understand the past history of a victim of DV.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION # 6	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>Rights of the defendant after a DV homicide in regards to shared children or marital rights.</i></p>	<p><i>We would like to look at changing or creating some sort of legislation that provides more protections for the victim and allows the family or Child Protective Services to determine what is in the best interest of the victim and/or their children upon the arrest and prosecution of a DV offender.</i></p>
<p><u>RATIONALE:</u> We have had several cases where the defendant still has rights to make decisions about custody of the children, burial, etc. for the victim even after they are in custody and charged with the murder.</p>	
RECOMMENDATION #7	ACTION TO DATE
<p><i>Mandate report writing for every domestic related call regardless of whether the matter was "Solved on Scene" (SAS)</i></p>	<p><i>LE personnel present at the meeting indicated that such a rule, writing paper on each call out for a domestic, was already mandated by department policy but that such policy was not being reinforced to patrol deputies. The committee suggested a letter to each LE administration explaining the necessity of reinforcing this policy and to request that this information be</i></p>
<p><u>RATIONALE:</u> In the last review for 2018 a pattern emerged of officers called to a scene for a domestic disturbance but upon contacting parties no person would cooperate or participate in the investigation therefore case was designated "SAS" which was only recorded in dispatch logs, there was no paper written by any of the responding</p>	

officers. Therefore there was no documentation as to who was present; basic facts of call out and why the matter was not pursued. Such information could have been helpful in a later case where the Defendant was prosecuted for domestic and eventually for the murder of his parents.	<i>communicated to all patrol deputies/officers. No action has yet been taken on the preparing of the letter.</i>