NEVADA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CDV) FORENSIC NURSING SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, February 20, 2024, at 4:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Microsoft Teams meeting
Join on your computer, mobile app or room device

Click here to join the meeting
Meeting ID: 295 309 942 884
Passcode: 2zHTzg
Download Teams | Join on the web
Or call in (audio only)
+1 775-321-6111,,565058555#   United States, Reno
Phone Conference ID: 565 058 555#
Find a local number | Reset PIN
Thank you for planning to attend this Teams meeting.
Learn More | Meeting options

_____

1. Call to order and roll call of members.
   a. The CDV Forensic Nursing Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 4:00 p.m.
   b. Present
      - Ortenburger, Liz
      - Harig, Dr. Tracy
      - Abdur-Raheem, Elizabeth
      - Payne, Dr. Pamela
   c. Absent
      - None
   a. Staff
      - Reilly, Nicole
      - Henna Rasul
   b. Public
      - Jennifer Noble, NV DAA Legislative Liaison

c. Quorum established.

2. **Public Comment.**
   a. None.

3. **For Discussion:** Liz Ortenberger, CEO, SafeNest, will present on challenges survivors face with the strangulation definition in NRS 200.481 (1)(i).

   a. Members discussed what the change to the strangulation definition in the 2023 legislative session. The discussion covered the complexity of the new definition which is confusing along with a recommendation to simplify the language. The recommended language is from the CA Code which has the cleanest definition which is "strangulation and suffocation include impeding the normal breezing, breathing or circulation of blood of a person by applying pressure on the throat or neck." Jennifer Noble will try to pull together some stats on strangulation cases post 10/01/24 which is when this new definition went into effect.
   b. The members decided to hold off on trying to make any changes to the definition until we have time to do statewide judicial and prosecutorial training and have several years to pull data from. This will be referred to the Data Collection Subcommittee for court and prosecutorial monitoring.
   c. Prosecution has had some briefing on the new definition so for the most part should be in the know but they do need more training and resources to be able to successfully perform victimless prosecutions.

4. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Identify gaps, barriers, and challenges the members would like to address, develop an action plan for the identified tasks, and identify volunteers to implement the Action Plan.

   a. Members discussed the difficulties with survivors getting exams and participating in the prosecution because the financial cliff they are looking at if the prosecution is successful. 93% of victims asked by SafeNest why they recant, and the answer was due to financial reasons.
   b. Nashville put a Family Justice Center inside their court and they saw victims willing to participate in the process because they felt supported. Nevada has to find a way to make survivors feel supported in this experience. We need to create an experience where victims are not harassed upon interaction.
   c. We need more forensic nurses in the state because they know how to collect evidence and if necessary can testify.
   d. More training for emergency room staff on how to interact with these

victims so as not to retraumatize them. And, to at least know what to look for if a forensic nurse is not available. Goal would be to get ER nurses trained to be forensic nurses across the state.

    e. Page 31

5. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** CDV and Subcommittee's future meeting dates:
   - <u>Committee on Domestic Violence</u>: TBD | Location: Virtual
   - <u>Data Collection Subcommittee</u>: March 27, 2024 @ 1:00 P.M. | Location: Virtual.
   - <u>Forensic Nursing Subcommittee</u>: TBD | Location: Virtual

6. **Public Comment.**
   a. None

7. **For Possible Action**
   Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully drafted by **Nicole Reilly**
Office of the Attorney General