

**NEVADA OFFICE OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
COMMITTEE ON DOMESTIC VIOLENCE (CDV)**

Meeting Minutes

Thursday, November 12, 2020 at 1:00 p.m.

Meeting Location:

Join the meeting: <https://call.lifesizecloud.com/5408935>
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1. Call to order and roll call of members.
 - a. The Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) meeting was called to order at 1:00 pm.
 - b. Present
 - Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General (Chairman Ford)
 - Armstrong, Ross (Armstrong)
 - Green, April (Green)
 - Greene, Elynne (Greene)
 - Harig, Tracy (Harig)
 - Jones, Cassandra (Judge Jones)
 - Lynch, Patricia (Judge Lynch)
 - Meuschke, Sue (Meuschke)
 - Morris, Marla (Morris)
 - Moseley, Leisa (Moseley)
 - Ortenburger, Liz (Ortenburger)
 - Ramos, Suzanne (Ramos)
 - Scott, Annette (Scott)
 - Spratley, Eric (Spratley)
 - Yoxsimer, Denise (Yoxsimer)

- c. Absent
 - Cisneros, Jessica (Cisneros)
 - Hall, Karl (Hall)
 - Hernandez, Cory (Hernandez)
 - Wheable, Michael (Wheable)
 - a. Staff
 - Reilly, Nicole (Reilly)
 - Mouannes, Jason (Mouannes)
 - Rasul, Henna (Rasul)
 - b. Public
 - Listed in Item 2
 - d. **Quorum established**
2. Welcome, introduction and updates from our local partners.
- a. Chairman Ford requested Reilly facilitate introductions. Reilly began to read a list of local partners who informed her they would be participating via phone and/or videoconference. She let them know to speak up when called on, introduce themselves and give any available update from their office or agency.
 - b. Introductions began:
 - Elko District Attorney – Tyler Ingram
 - 1. Not present
 - Elko District Attorney Law Office Manager and Victim Advocate – Tanya Yell
 - 1. Not present
 - Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada (ITCN) Violence Prevention Advocate – Antonia Roman
 - 1. No longer with designated agency
 - Elko Police Department Domestic Violence Systems Advocate – Amber Huff
 - 1. Introduced herself and informed about Antonia Roman transition
 - White Pine County Victim Witness Services – Maxine Lantz
 - 1. Not present
 - Committee against Domestic Violence (CADV) Executive Director – Marianne McKown and Staff
 - 1. Sarah Dixon, Dawn Brown and Deana Utt
 - Justice for Stephania, Elko – President Lidia Cortes
 - Elko Extension Education, UNR – Jill Baker-Tingey
 - 1. Facilitates Heart and Hope (formerly known as Heart and Shield), a family violence prevention program working with adult survivors and their children. During pandemic, an additional program was created to help teens coping with COVID-19 isolation.

- Department of Health and Human Services, Division of Public and Behavioral Health, Batterers' Intervention Program Manager – Leticia Metherell

1. She certifies batterers' intervention treatment programs. Due to COVID-19 pandemic, many programs have requested and received permission to administer electronic counseling. Furthermore, the Division will be adjusting regulations as a result of the last legislative session to include that programs maintain module specific to victim safety with evidence-based best practices. Metherell would inform Reilly about public workshop related to new regulatory changes. Finally, Metherell is working on inter-local work order with UNR to properly collect and study data around efficacy of Nevada batterers' treatment intervention programs. She sent a draft and waiting for it to be returned for final approval.

3. Public Comment.

- a. No public comment.

4. **For Possible Action:** Review, discussion and possible approval of *January 28, 2020 Meeting Minutes*.

Attachment 1

- a. Chairman Ford suggested members take a moment to review the minutes from the previous Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) meeting. He asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Judge Lynch requested two corrections to the minutes: (1) sentence 4G on Page 4 not making sense due to a potential typo and (2) removing the last sentence from 4R on Page 5 "There are too...in pre-trial stage." Motion to accept the minutes as amended by Judge Jones. Seconded by Greene. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.

Elko District Attorney Law Office Manager and Victim Advocate Tanya Yell emailed Reilly informing the Committee on Domestic Violence she is participating in the meeting by phone.

5. **For Discussion:** Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) member Ross Armstrong, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services, will present the *CDV Training Subcommittee Action Plan* and the *Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking one sheets* for the CDV members feedback.

Attachment 2

- a. Armstrong greeted the CDV and noted the action plan was adopted prior to the pandemic before going through Attachment 2. He recommended

adopting a one sheet sharing the impact of COVID-19 pandemic on domestic violence, sexual assault and human trafficking victim services. Chairman Ford verified completion of update. Armstrong requested any additional feedback on one sheets before entering legislative session and expressed his interest in working with Meuschke to develop one sheet relating to COVID-19 impact on victims and services.

- b. Meuschke asked how the Training Subcommittee determined who was included and/or left off the victim/survivor resource list in terms of service providers for domestic violence and sexual assault.
 - c. Armstrong deferred to Reilly to explain. Reilly stated that Mouannes and staff from the Nevada Attorney General's Office assembled information on the one sheets. If any organizations are missing, let us know so we could make sure to include them as we do not want to leave agencies off the resource list (no reason other than a mistake).
 - d. Ortenburger inquired about shading map on domestic violence one sheet by the percentage of domestic violence occurrences in each county to illustrate the severity of domestic violence cases in both Clark and Washoe County.
 - e. Meuschke wanted to know if that would be done on a per capita basis to see that in terms of the population. The response was yes.
 - f. Chairman Ford asked if anyone had further questions or comments before moving on to the next agenda item.
6. **For Discussion:** Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) member April Green, Directing Attorney, Family Justice Project, Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada, will present the CDV *Legislative Subcommittee Action Plan*.
- Attachment 3**
- a. Green did not have an update as there would be a meeting November 24, 2020 so the Legislative Subcommittee brings its thoughts back up to date.
 - b. Chairman Ford reminded members that on November 18 language of bills submitted to the Legislative Counsel Bureau (LCB) should be released on that date and some bills submitted by agencies may represent domestic violence, sexual assault and/or human trafficking language. This may assist the conversation on November 24th.
 - c. Reilly added the meeting scheduled on November 24 was set to review and draft the Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) biennial legislative report. The report is due on March 1st to LCB. Another component that will be discussed is questions for judges about domestic violence in their jurisdiction. The Legislative Subcommittee will begin to draft questions that will be sent for distribution via survey through the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC).
 - d. Judge Lynch asked if the CDV will have the opportunity to review the report before it goes to the Legislature.

- Chairman Ford and Reilly confirmed that the report will go to the CDV for final approval before March 1st deadline.

7. **For Discussion:** Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) member Judge Cassandra Jones, Justice of the Peace, Douglas County, will present the CDV *Court Subcommittee Action Plan*.

Attachment 4

- a. Judge Jones discussed history of the subcommittee meetings.
 - b. Judge Lynch described having communication with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges and the review of the victim risk assessment in an effort to protect the confidentiality of victims and provide information to judges early in the process to take it into consideration when they are setting bail for the perpetrators. The consensus was that these are constitutional rights and if a document is given to judge, it can also be provided to the defendant. The best approach so far was to continue educating judges as the facts come before them so they can better address domestic violence lethality to victims.
 - c. Reilly indicated two court subcommittee meetings had taken place since mid-March and there is an effort to participate in a judges' training conference around January 2022.
8. **For Discussion:** Committee member Ross Armstrong, Administrator, Division of Child and Family Services (DCFS), will provide an update on *DCFS/DV Best Practice Protocol Development*.

Attachment 5

- a. Armstrong began his presentation describing listening sessions hosted in 2019 to discuss the intersection of child welfare and domestic violence. Three different work groups came out of those listening sessions: (1) related to changes to child welfare policies and procedures (2) reviewed domestic violence trainings offered to all agency staff and (3) what kind of training could be helpful to victim service providers about child welfare. The recommendations were finalized last month. Once the budget is dealt with the next steps include relaunching those three work groups to get work done on implementing recommendations on behalf of survivors and kids in those family units.
- b. Meuschke thanked Armstrong for reviewing the intersection between child welfare and domestic violence to improve system. Reilly seconded Meuschke's comments and expressed her gratitude.
- c. Marianne McKown mentioned that she participated in some of those work shops and thought it was very enlightening to see the State of Nevada take a proactive approach.
- d. Harig introduced herself as a nurse practitioner and indicated that her clinic has seen an increase in referrals regarding suspected child abuse.

She has had to help providers make referrals. She asked if there was any training for nurse practitioners that she can implement almost immediately with trainees around reporting child abuse and neglect.

- Armstrong responded that resource do exist. Individuals who make report can follow-up with child welfare agency without receiving many specifics (information related to if it was investigated or not may be shared).

9. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Nicole Reilly, Ombudsman for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking, Nevada Office of the Attorney General, will present the *Fatality Review Team Summary Draft Report*. The Committee members will discuss the *Report* for any changes or approval as written.

Attachment 6

- a. Reilly described the Fatality Review Team Summary Draft Report to the CDV from the 2019 Tonopah fatality review. The report was set to be reviewed by the CDV on March 24, 2020 (previously scheduled meeting that was cancelled) leading to delayed review on November 12, 2020. She requested members with feedback or suggestions email them if they have not had the opportunity to thoroughly review document before meeting. Those who have feedback can share information during this time. This report will be published on the Nevada Attorney General's Office website.
- b. Meuschke thanked Reilly for maintaining report until now. She mentioned it was a difficult review, but the team developed some good recommendations. She recommends pursuing more virtual trainings (online modules or live training webinars) to provide additional access and reach more people. Reilly agreed with Meuschke by sharing stories of individuals accessing online counseling and telehealth, especially in rural communities, through this digital transition due to COVID-19 pandemic.
- c. Greene added that the statewide victim assistance academy is planning on delivering a virtual training with live online and self-study classes around February 2021.
- d. Judge Lynch indicated it would be better to replace the words "district attorney's offices" with "prosecutor's offices" to be more inclusive as some city attorney's offices also handle prosecutions relating to domestic violence in certain jurisdictions.
- e. Ortenburger wanted to know if a data sheet can be attached to the report to illustrate domestic violence homicide trends.
 - Reilly responded that the purpose of the domestic violence fatality review team is to assess one case in a rural community versus serving as an ongoing domestic violence homicide team. The case needs to meet criteria prior to being reviewed: (1) case must be

fully adjudicated (either a homicide-suicide or pass the appeals timeline) and (2) the case must have sufficient system contact prior to review during lifetime of case to help identify gaps in system. There needs to be comprehensive discovery including the police report(s), body camera footage, photos of crime scene, interviews law enforcement completed with perpetrator and interviews with family members.

- f. Meuschke stated that the statewide fatality review was setup to only look at rural cases because there were individual reviews running in Washoe and Clark County.
- g. Reilly described that members of the Clark County fatality review team sought to adopt the high-risk team model since it intervenes prior to homicide. The goal would be to have individual teams in each jurisdiction throughout Clark County. UNR is hoping to seek funding to support numerous facilitators that would lead the Heart and Hope program while facilitating a high-risk team in their jurisdiction. Washoe County has done this on their own “partially” and received funding for a part-time facilitator. For Washoe County’s population size, they need 2.5 facilitators. The facilitator prioritizes cases and addresses the most extreme cases first.
- h. Chairman Ford asked Reilly if a vote needed to be taken on this item.
 - Reilly replied that if members are happy with all the suggested changes by adding the importance of virtual training to item #4 on the report, such as the Victim Assistance Academy of Nevada (VAAN) virtual training conference and changing “district attorney’s office” to “prosecutor’s offices” on item #2, members can make a motion to approve the report with amended changes.
- i. Chairman Ford requested a motion to approve report as amended. Motion by Judge Lynch. Seconded by Harig. All in favor. No further discussion. Motion passed unanimously.

10. **For Information Only:** the CDV’s future meeting dates:

- Legislative Subcommittee: November 24, 2020 @ 1:00 p.m. | Location: Virtual Meeting.
- Committee on Domestic Violence: TBD | Location: Virtual Meeting.
- Training Subcommittee: TBD | Location: Virtual Meeting.
- Court Subcommittee: TBD | Location: Virtual Meeting.

11. Public Comment.

- a. Marianne McKown indicated rural communities are struggling to get sexual assault rape kits completed in hospitals.
- b. Chairman Ford instructed Reilly to touch base with Marianna offline.

12. For Possible Action: Adjournment.

- a. Chairman Ford called for a motion to adjourn. Motion to adjourn by Lynch. Seconded by Spratley. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- b. Meeting adjourned.

Minutes respectfully submitted by **Jason Mouannes**
Edited by **Nicole O'Banion**
Office of the Attorney General
