

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

Meeting Minutes

Monday, August 19th, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.

Meeting Location:

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

Via Videoconference:

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

1. Call to order and roll call of members.
 - a. The Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.
 - b. Present
 - Aaron Ford, Attorney General (Chairman Ford)
 - Armstrong, Ross (Armstrong)
 - Buoncristiani, Dawn (Buoncristiani)
 - Cisneros, Jessica (Cisneros)
 - Green, April (Green)
 - Greene, Elynne (Greene)
 - Hernandez, Cory (Hernandez)
 - Jones, Cassandra (Judge Jones)
 - Klem, Loretta (Klem)
 - Lynch, Patricia (Lynch)
 - Meuschke, Sue (Meuschke)
 - Morris, Marla (Morris)
 - Ramos, Suzanne (Ramos)
 - Riley, John (Riley)
 - Scott, Annette (Scott)
 - Spratley, Eric (Spratley)
 - Troshynski, Emily (Troshynski)

- Wheable, Michael (Wheable)
 - Yoxsimer, Denise (Yoxsimer)
 - c. Absent
 - Hall, Karl (Hall)
 - Harig, Tracy (Harig)
 - Moseley, Leisa (Moseley)
 - a. Staff
 - Adair, Jessica (Adair)
 - O'Banion, Nicole (O'Banion)
 - Bradley, Sarah (Bradley)
 - Mouannes, Jason (Mouannes)
 - Las Vegas and Carson City Interns
 - d. **Quorum established**
2. Public Comment.
- a. No public comment.
3. **For Possible Action:** Review, discussion, and possible approval of July 7, 2019 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. Motion to accept the minutes by Meuschke. Seconded by Spratley. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed with Judge Lynch, Yoxsimer, Judge Jones, Cisneros, Troshynski, Greene, and Wheable abstaining due to absence at previous meeting.

Chairman Ford took a moment to swear-in Hernandez.

4. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Attorney General Ford will invite Committee Members to present on systemic challenges regarding domestic violence for discussion. The members will possibly choose one or more initiatives for the committee to focus on for the next year.
- a. Chairman Ford encouraged members to begin the discussion regarding important issues in the State of Nevada related to domestic violence.
 - b. Green introduced the idea for implementing a High Risk Team Model throughout the State of Nevada. She stated any effort to reduce domestic violence, sexual assault, and domestic homicide in Nevada must be impactful by design and address the degree of the problem within our State. Nevada averaged the highest number of intimate partner homicides in the nation the past 15 years.
 - Green favored GPS monitoring of perpetrators to address victim safety.

- Greene supported the High Risk Team Model's approach and mentioned in Southern Nevada we have infrastructure to support this initiative, such as the Family Justice Center.
- Judge Lynch discussed her experience regarding High Risk Team Models. She noticed homicides dropped significantly, but individuals who did not have contact with the system were mostly likely homicide victims.
- O'Banion stated that considering High Risk Team Models were derived as a recommendation by the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team last year.
- Judge Jones shared that her jurisdiction has a system similar to these models funded through a grant for the past 8-10 years by the local district attorney's office. Generally, a GPS monitor is assigned to anyone arrested for domestic battery. The project does not increase costs, but it does require extra time by officials to review all the cases and make the appropriate referrals.
- Green proposed another suggestion for the committee members to consider: Coordinated Community Response Teams. These teams would involve community and system service providers, law enforcement officers, prosecutors, local community leaders, school district personnel, religious organizations, and other groups focused on reducing domestic violence in our communities. These teams would serve as a referral network and help foster more productive conversations around community-specific policy initiatives. This effort could yield more convictions of domestic violence perpetrators and help the courts properly assess each situation from facts provided by all reporting agencies such as Child Protective Services.

Sergeant John Riley arrived at 9:23 AM.

- Green expressed her gratitude to the Attorney General for allowing committee members to voice their ideas.
- Scott stated that through her assessments, individuals are not getting properly charged with the offense provided by law. Many cases get plead down, which eliminates the opportunity to have a first tier of a criminal offense. This creates a challenge in determining how dangerous a perpetrator can be since it may not be the first offense.
- Troshynski supports the High Risk Team Models and Coordinated Community Response Teams in the prevention of domestic homicide. She noted the State lacks research and data to help evaluate challenges in addressing domestic violence. In

conclusion, public policy relating to domestic violence would be enhanced by more research and data.

- Chairman Ford inquired about the vision for the Coordinated Community Response Teams.
 - Green envisioned day long meetings in the early formation of the teams. Once the teams became more established, the meetings may be as long as two hours allowing for members to network and announce any updates on programs and events.
 - Scott mentioned Praxis International from Saint Paul, MN as a helpful resource to start these teams.
 - Adair asked if there was any data in Judge Jones jurisdiction that demonstrated the cost effectiveness and improvement in public safety by using the GPS monitoring on offenders. Judge Jones stated the community has seen improvement, although there is no data collected.
 - Meuschke stated that many communities have attempted to form these teams and an evaluation of the best models should be made before moving forward.
 - Troshynski noted that some individuals are invisible victims who do not feel comfortable going through the criminal justice system, such as the LGBTQ community, but still need support.
 - Riley stated that the model was very successful in the beginning. It was so successful, people stopped calling the police, because they were afraid of accidentally sending a loved one to jail. He suggested the implementation of a degree system for offenders.
- c. Klem stated that often times the first call for help is not the first experience of a domestic violence situation. She encouraged the formation of a Domestic Violence Specialty Court.
- Armstrong stated that Clark County currently runs a specialty docket.
 - Lynch noted many rural judges will not convict someone of domestic violence in an effort to protect their gun rights.
 - Members agreed batterers need to be held much more accountable through programs such as domestic violence compliance courts.
 - Scott stated that offenders do not always appear to receive the same batterers' intervention program training that focuses on the actual violence. This inconsistency across programs should be explored in the future.
 - Members were reminded of the ability to file a complaint with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health regarding batterers treatment programs.
 - Judge Lynch recalled that the Office of the Attorney General hired an individual to review batterers' treatment programs in

the past when funds had become available. This individual was highly qualified and de-certified approximately three programs.

- Mouannes voiced his concern with transferring the responsibility of certifying and managing batterers' treatment programs back to the Nevada Attorney General's Office. He explained to committee members that such a proposal would require personnel solely focused on this time-consuming responsibility current staff cannot support.
- d. Greene stated that education sessions for legislatures on topics such as domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking would help them understand the laws in place and the result of their implementation.
- e. Judge Lynch proposed trainings for law enforcement on the impact of trauma.
- f. Meuschke mentioned the importance of sharing the long-term effects of strangulation of a victim with law enforcement officers, reviewing the standard for trainings available in police academies statewide, and assessing the issue of firearms being possessed by convicted perpetrators of domestic violence.
- g. Ramos stated that Hall is requesting the Office of the Attorney General develop Public Service Announcements related to domestic violence if funds are available. Chairman Ford supported this idea noting it should be made available in multiple languages.
- h. Hernandez suggested more resources to constituents in Spanish.
- i. Judge Lynch commented that language interpreters are required in both civil and criminal cases if requested.
- j. Finally, members expressed concerns about pre-trial risk assessments for domestic violence offenders. The focus should be the risk to the victim, not risk of the perpetrator. Greene noted although a lethality assessment is completed during booking, the influx of paperwork can sometimes delay availability of an assessment before an individual posts bail.

Chairman Ford suggested members take a five-minute recess.

5. **For Possible Action:** Attorney General Ford will request volunteers from the committee to participate on working groups to address the chosen initiatives from item #4.
 - a. Chairman Ford reviewed the initiatives members proposed in item #4:
 - Reviewing applicable High Risk Team Models
 - Creating various Coordinated Community Response Teams
 - Creation of Domestic Violence Specialty/Compliance Courts
 - Intersection between child welfare and domestic violence cases
 - Education sessions for legislatures

- Education sessions for law enforcement regarding trauma and long-term effects of strangulation
 - Public service announcements about domestic violence
- b. Wheable motioned to implement education sessions for legislatures and law enforcement on domestic violence, human trafficking, and trauma, form High Risk Teams, explore domestic violence courts, and review risk assessment release forms through the Committee on Domestic Violence.
 - c. Members stated judges would issue bail before obtaining all necessary information in a case.
 - d. Meuschke suggested the formation of a training subcommittee.
 - e. Chairman Ford asked for a motion to develop a training subcommittee. Motion by Wheable. Seconded by Judge Lynch. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - f. Chairman Ford asked for a motion to develop a Legislative Subcommittee to review High Risk Team Models and explore related legislative issues. Motion by Wheable. Seconded by Green. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - g. O'Banion reminded members about quorum requirements for all subcommittee meetings.
 - h. Chairman Ford asked for a motion to develop a Courts Subcommittee. Motion by Judge Jones. Seconded by Armstrong. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - i. Chairman Ford requested volunteers for each subcommittee created:
 - Training Subcommittee
 1. Cory Hernandez
 2. Dawn Buoncristiani
 3. Elynn Greene
 4. Emily Troshynski
 5. Eric Spratley
 6. Jessica Cisneros
 7. Marla Morris
 8. Michael Wheable
 9. Ross Armstrong
 - Motion to nominate Wheable as Chair of the Training Subcommittee by Spratley. Seconded by Morris. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Legislative Subcommittee
 1. Annette Scott
 2. April Green
 3. Sue Meuschke
 - Motion to nominate Green as Chair of the Legislative Subcommittee by Meuschke. Seconded by Scott. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
 - Courts Subcommittee

1. Annette Scott
 2. Emily Troshynski
 3. Jessica Cisneros
 4. Judge Cassandra Jones
 5. Judge Patricia Lynch
 6. Loretta Klem
 7. Suzanne Ramos
- Motion to nominate Judge Jones as Chair of the Courts Subcommittee by Ramos. Seconded by Cisneros. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
6. **For Information Only:** the CDV's tentative future meeting dates:
 - AG Statewide Fatality Review Team (FRT) Meeting: October 21 – 22, 2019 | Location: Tonopah
 - Rural Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) Meeting: November 13, 2019 | Location: Hawthorne
 7. Public Comment.
 - a. Judge Lynch expressed her interest in participating on the batterers' treatment subcommittee.
 - b. Adair inquired about any participation requirements for members at the subcommittee meetings under the Committee on Domestic Violence.
 8. **For Possible Action:** Adjournment.
 - a. Chairman Ford called for a motion to adjourn. Meuschke motioned to adjourn. 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

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