



## **Nevada Office of the Attorney General Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) Fatality Review Team Report**

**December 20, 2023**

### **Summary of Review:**

On December 20, 2023, the Nevada Office of the Attorney General Committee on Domestic Violence Statewide Fatality Review Team (AG-DVSFRT) conducted a review of domestic violence fatalities in Clark County and the rural counties as well as the Gun Violence Archives Murder/Suicide Report 2023 ([Murder/Suicides in 2023 | Gun Violence Archive](#)). The purpose of the review was to gather information about fatalities related to domestic violence in Nevada and to identify any opportunities for intervention. In addition to this review, the subcommittee also worked to generate discussion about the state response to domestic violence, prevention, and intervention efforts. The multidisciplinary review process works to identify opportunities for improvement and make recommendations for prevention of future deaths related to domestic violence.

Below is a list of identified opportunities for improvement as well as resources and suggested strategies for implementation.

### **Opportunities Identified by the Review Team:**

**Issue #1:** *Training was the first issue identified. This review led the team beyond gaps, barriers, and challenges in the criminal justice system, which includes legislators, the judiciary, prosecution, and law enforcement, out into the community. The team took a great deal of time walking through as many sectors in life a victim/survivor may encounter as a female, as a male, and then again as a member of the LGBTQ+ community. While doing this the team identified key components of understanding and responding appropriately to incidences of domestic violence*

*that are being missed across the state. These components are cultural and gender biases, updated evidence-based information on the complexity of domestic violence and how to identify patterns of abuse in the midst of chaos, complex trauma, the trauma bond impact on children, impacts of judicial orders and decisions (e.g., reunification, parental alienation), strangulation, and the importance of coordinated communication between law enforcement and the judiciary.*

**Proposed Response:**

Identify experts in the areas recognized above to provide video trainings the state of Nevada can utilize for training those that serve within the system and for our community service providers to utilize when providing public awareness events and advocate continuing education. To reiterate for clarity, the trainings will include cultural and gender biases, updated evidence-based information on the complexity of domestic violence and how to identify patterns of abuse in the midst of chaos, complex trauma, the trauma bond impact on children, impacts of judicial orders and decisions (e.g., reunification, parental alienation), strangulation, the importance of coordinated communication between law enforcement and the judiciary (e.g. law enforcement does an assessment on scene which is then transmitted to the appropriate court as soon as possible), and any other areas identified as the project takes form. The video trainings will be made available to the Legislature, National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Nevada Administrative Office of the Courts Education Division, Nevada District Attorney's Association, Nevada Prosecutors Council, University of Nevada, Reno and Las Vegas, Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Department of Child and Family Services, POST, CASA, statewide victim community service providers, medical providers, and any partners identified as possibly intersecting with victims of domestic violence and could have an opportunity to provide lifesaving information.

**Issue #2:** *There is no Statewide Domestic Violence Call Number to operate like 911 and route incoming 24/7 calls to the appropriate service provider or law enforcement agency. After much discussion, the scope of the issue was identified as being larger than this team could sufficiently address.*

**Proposed Response:**

Recommend to the Nevada Attorney General's Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) to create a taskforce to perform a comprehensive review of what would be required to provide a 24/7 Statewide Call Number and report the findings back to the CDV for possible further action. The taskforce would be responsible for identifying possible funding sources, any legislative changes that may need to be

made, develop a coordinated plan that matches the funding and needs of the survivors, establish standardized language for congruency, and any other items not identified here but discovered in the research process taking efficiency into consideration at all times.

**Issue #3:** *There is a lack of healthy relationship education in the K-12 schools. Youth who are unable to identify the characteristics of healthy and unhealthy relationships are at far greater risk of experiencing domestic violence. While important for all youth, education in the schools is especially important for those who may be experiencing violence in their home. These classes can provide more than information for these students, they provide a trusted adult to talk with and resources for support outside of the classroom. Currently the state mandated sex education curriculum does not require information about healthy relationships.*

**Proposed Response:**

The Statewide Committee on Responses to Power-Based Violence in Schools (SCRPBVS) began meeting in 2023 and is working on creating guidelines for Nevada school districts to address power-based violence. This includes building strong relationships between school districts and community-based organizations. The Executive Director of Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) currently chairs the SCRPBVS and is a voting member of the CDV. NCEDSV will bring the recommendations of this report to the committee to ensure that plans to implement statewide evidence-based prevention strategies including healthy relationship education are addressed in the work of the SCRPBVS.

**Issue #4:** *There is a lack of awareness about the severity and pervasiveness of domestic violence, and the local services available in a community by its local businesses and establishments. domestic violence Partnership, outreach, education, community involvement*

**Proposed Response:**

Create ways to bring together all community resources and partners (such as religious leaders, chambers of commerce, realtors, outside of the box partners etc.) to coordinate all avenues of services in a streamlined referral process to provide a robust of wrap around services as possible. The easier and user friendly the process is, the more likely it will be used in all cases not just the most severe. The earlier we intervene in a case the less likely a fatality will occur.

Identify ways to boost community outreach to not only bring more awareness to domestic violence but so more people know of all available resource options. Designate resources for larger outreach impact. A great example would be putting Information about the pervasiveness of domestic violence and its impacts on families, how many in their service area alone on billboards. This will assist in making domestic violence less of a taboo topic and more on the forefront of everyone's minds.

***Issue #5:** The public continues to see domestic violence as a CIS gender woman being abused by a CIS gender man. We know that this leaves out many victims across the gender spectrum including CIS gender men. Gender-based violence language perpetuates this stereotype. Despite clear VAWA regulations, programs in Nevada continue to serve men differently by universal hotel placements rather than shelter when available. Hotel placements are not as safe and do not offer the same level of services as shelters. Public education along with program guidelines and technical support are needed to ensure that all victims feel safe to come forward and receive the same quality of services.*

**Proposed Response:**

It is recommended that the Attorney General's office ensure that public awareness campaigns and all outreach materials include gender-representation when portraying victims. Gender neutral pronouns should be used when discussing both victims and perpetrators of violence. The term **power-based violence** should be used in place of **gender-based violence** to ensure that all victims are included, and the foundation of the problem is clearly identified.

The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence (NCEDSV) is currently updating the promising practices manual for direct services providers along with an agency self-assessment tool. Both will include a comprehensive section on serving male victims. NCEDSV will guide programs through self-assessment and support in the creation of improvement plans including serving all genders equitably.

**Proposed Action Plan:**

The Attorney General's Fatality Review Team developed each of the recommendations listed above and the local community where the review was completed has already started to discuss ways that some of these recommendations can be implemented. The report of recommendations is provided to the Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) for discussion to

identify ways the CDV and/or its members and their networks can take action in implementation. In addition, the Committee on Domestic Violence and the Ombudsman for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Human Trafficking can also help to support training initiatives, the dissemination of best practices, and implementation of the recommendations statewide.

**Attachment A: Domestic Violence Training and Resource List**



**Domestic Violence Resource List for Judges,  
Prosecutors, Law Enforcement, Service Providers, and  
anyone interested in preventing Domestic Violence  
Homicides**

Monday, October 21, 2024

To our fellow champions:

The following list of trainings and organizations are focused on domestic violence response for judges, Prosecutors, and first responders, homicide prevention and strangulation. We are hopeful this list will serve you well in assisting you in safety for yourselves, and successfully providing safety for the victims, and any children involved. The Attorney General's Committee on Domestic Violence and the Attorney General's Statewide Fatality Review Team say we appreciate you for all you do protect and save lives.

Wishing safety and success,

*The Teams*

**Resource List**

1. [The Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention \(strangulationtraininginstitute.com\)](http://strangulationtraininginstitute.com)
2. [Upcoming Trainings - National Center on Domestic and Sexual Violence \(ncdsv.org\)](http://ncdsv.org)
3. [Domestic Violence - Association of Prosecuting Attorneys \(apainc.org\)](http://apainc.org)
4. [Domestic Violence for First Responders - Government Training Agency \(govtraining.com\)](http://govtraining.com)
5. [Judicial Education Development Initiative on Domestic Violence: From Concepts to Improved Court Responses - NCJFCJ](#)
6. [Utilizing a Domestic Violence High Risk Team Model \(familyjusticecenter.org\)](http://familyjusticecenter.org)
7. [DVHRT Factsheet-June 2024. Accessible colors \(dvrisc.org\)](http://dvrisc.org)
8. [Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention | The Geiger Institute](#)

9. [Identifying and Preventing Gender and Intersectional Bias in Law Enforcement Responses to Domestic and Sexual Violence](#)
10. [Responding to the Needs of Immigrant Survivors of Domestic Violence](#)
11. [Improving our Response to Sexual Assaults](#)