

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

**Meeting Minutes**

*Tuesday, July 25, 2023, at 3:00 p.m.*

**Location:**

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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 3:00 p.m.
  - b. Present
    - Ford, Attorney General Aaron D. (Chairman Ford)
    - Harig, Dr. Tracy (Harig)
    - Ramos, Suzanne (Ramos)
    - Scott, Annette (Scott)
    - Lynch, Patricia (Judge Lynch)
    - Payne, Dr. Pamela (Dr. Payne)
    - Ortenburger, Liz (Ortenburger)
    - Green, April (Green)
    - Abdur-Aheme, Elizabeth (Abdur-Ahem)
    - Metherel, Leticia (Metherel)
    - Hall, Karl (Hall)
    - Duncan, Wes (Duncan)

- c. Absent
    - Gradick, Jamie (Gradick)
    - Greene, Elynn (Geene)
    - Spoo, Judge James (Judge Spoo)
    - Ingram, Tyler (Ingram)
    - Larson, Zach (Larson)
  - d. Staff
    - Benitez-Thompson, Teresa (Benitez-Thompson)
    - Reilly, Nicole (Reilly)
    - Hinds, Gina (Hinds)
    - Rasul, Henna (Rasul)
  - e. Public
    - None
  - f. **Quorum established.**
2. Members reviewed and discussed the *February 17, 2023, Meeting Minutes*. Judge Lynch made one grammatical error and made a correction to her public comment wherein she discussed the American Law Institute (ALI) making changes to their code's definition of consent and rape. Judge Lynch stated that this new code is being accepted and passed by states but, Tennessee is one state that has not accepted the change. Ramos motioned to approve the amended meeting minutes. Hall motioned to second. Motion to carry approved unanimously.
3. Policy Director of the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence, Serena Evans, provided a 2023 legislative summary. Evans discussed AB51 and how the first half of this bill expands the timeframe for arrests in domestic violence. Previously, police officers only had 24 hours to make the arrest without an arrest warrant. AB51 changes this law to 7 days to make an arrest without an arrest warrant. The second half of the bill has become a two-step process that will include professionalizing victim advocacy and it cleans up the language for mandated topics for victim advocates, including the topic of privilege. Evans stated there will be much more discussion on this matter in future meetings. Senate Bill 125—the missing and murdered indigenous persons. A report of an adult 18 years or older who has gone missing on tribal lands will be required to be reported to all law enforcement, including state and federal. Assembly 257—forensic medical examination to include strangulation. Victim survivors were told at the time of the request for a strangulation exam that it will cost upwards of \$5,000.00. Victim survivors can now go obtain a strangulation from a forensic nurse and the county in which the incident occurred. The county is now required to pay for the examination.

Evans discussed AB276–Telehealth for victims who must travel upwards 6 hours for a forensic medical exam from a trained SANE nurse. Dr. Harig asked who will be responsible for the billing. Evans said she will do research and get the information and will bring it to the committee. Evans went over AB356 that says you cannot place a mobile tracking device on another person’s motor vehicle without their consent or acknowledgment. Next discussed was SB382–minors are automatically granted legal representation in both civil and criminal matters. Removes the provision that in cases of protection orders involving minors, the adverse party is granted automatic council during hearings ensuring an equal balance of power among applicants and adverse parties. Anything that is said during a protection order proceeding is not admissible in any criminal or delinquency proceeding. Reilly mentioned the term was inadmissible, but it reads admissible in Evans’ legislative summary. Evans confirmed she will make the change from admissible to inadmissible. Judge Lynch added a correction–counsel, rather than council. Evans stated she will make all the requested changes and will submit an official legislative summary to the committee. Evans added there are appropriations for the next two years to assist counties in paying these costs. Lastly, SB412 changed the definition of strangulation. Ortenburger stated this was not the recommendation given, however, she would like to see this committee address the bill’s new language at the next CDV meeting. Ortenburger stated this is more than just a language change; it is a serious problem in this state, and she would like this committee to make it a priority. Dr. Payne expressed strong agreement in making this a priority. AG Ford said he hears everyone’s concerns and directed the committee to begin workshopping it.

4. AG Ford welcomed presenter, Debbie Robison, BSN RN SANE-A SANE-P FNE, for the Washoe County Child Advocacy Center, Forensic Medical Team. Robison stated she is a sexual assault nurse, and her agency provides forensic examinations all throughout Northern Nevada and in nine borderline counties in California. Robison discussed that teaching accountability allows victims to be more proactive over their own health and wellbeing. Robison went on to say that her recent training has helped her in teaching perpetrators how to obtain fulfilling employment, how to lead a normal life, and treating the perpetrator with compassion because injured people injure people. Robison stated what is in place now is not working, and she is seeing success with her teaching strategy. Ortenburger mentioned Nevada is not holding perpetrators accountable due to lack of SANE nurses and forensic examinations within the state. Clients cannot get access to these exams; therefore, perpetrators are not being held accountable. Robison stated Telehealth is an effective option for clients but obtaining a better buy–in from local medical facilities is key to recruit SANE nurses in the state. Dr. Payne stated there are many challenges

when addressing batterer's treatment, but we should not put it on the survivor to be responsible for the perpetrator's abuse. Judge Lynch stated she used to work with a batterer's treatment program, and it is true that nationally these programs help the perpetrators be accountable. Green agrees that treating the perpetrator by helping them is a positive strategy. Dr. Harig added hospitals are allowed to decline services to people because there is no mandate in place. AG Ford stated mandates will need to go through the legislative process. Duncan agreed and Benetiz-Thompson added that we should investigate this more as it is not acceptable that these victims are not being treated with the care they need.

5. AG Ford welcomed presenter, Sparks City Attorney Wes Duncan. Duncan added to the topic of strangulation. He stated there is a 750% chance of someone dying at the hands of a perpetrator by strangulation. He went on to say his agency has launched 'End the Silence of Domestic Violence' in the City of Sparks. Nevada passed new laws to hold abusers accountable. Duncan's agency trains law enforcement officers how to be sensitive to survivors and how to work up a domestic violence case. The DART (Domestic Abuse Response Team) team are trained in domestic violence matters and are available each shift. Duncan has created strong partnerships with law enforcement and prosecutors when training on DV matters. Duncan stated his agency began screening cases and were able to get early intervention. Duncan's focus is to hold perpetrators accountable. Most importantly, Duncan's work has criminalized dissuading victims and made it a misdemeanor so they can charge each instance within his jurisdiction. Duncan also added child abuse and neglect as illegal in his ordinance. Lastly, Duncan successfully passed an ordinance that prohibits domestic violence in the presence of children. Duncan sees the impact and it is successful in preventing fatalities. Ortenburger asked Duncan if they are quantifying and measuring so we can show other counties and cities the success of Duncan's work. Duncan responded by saying that the work has only been ongoing for a year or so, and that the measuring and quantifying is something his office is still figuring out.
  
6. AG Ford welcomed presenter, Pamela Payne, PHD, CFLE, Associate Professor, University of Nevada. Dr. Payne stated that her agency is developing a 40-Hour Advocate training calling it Hope Advocate Training (H.A.T). She went over the outline provided in the agenda. Dr. Payne provided an overview of the High-Risk Teams in which she is working on getting victims the services they need. Her partnership with Ortenburger at Safenest and with other counties

has been effective in screening those high-risk fatality likely incidences that occur. Ortenburger added that the High-Risk Teams permits the interception of survivors in a different, but effective way.

7. Nicole Reilly gave an overview of the Justice Partners (JP) and Services and Training (S & T) Subcommittees. Reilly discussed how both subcommittees have accomplished their tasks and are now put on hold. Reilly mentioned the S & T's success in establishing BDR AB51. She went on to discuss the Mental Health Service Provider Map stating that we currently do not have the information for which providers are qualified to treat DV victims, so the project is on hold until we do more research. And Safenest is waiting for schools to start up so they can begin work with the various schools' curriculum. We have made major headway in getting in front of the youth in Carson City and Douglas County. The JP Subcommittee identified strengthening the Las Vegas Coordinated Community Response Team. The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence has already made significant progress in this so the JP Subcommittee has closed this project. Reilly added that she has strong contacts with local prosecutors to begin work on data collection so we can show how Nevada is addressing domestic violence matters. Reilly said we will soon be able to provide data to a central place and she said we will soon begin working with Special Assistant Attorney General, Michael Morton. Dr. Payne requested that we add Batterer's Treatment to the data requests. Nicole stated she will do that and stated she put something together for the committee's review.
8. Public Comment. Leticia Metherell noted regarding strangulations, NRS 449A.100 may already have policies and procedures in place. NRS 439B.410 and NRS 449.1185 also lay out procedures for strangulation. Metherell suggested they discuss this at future meetings. Metherell is happy to work with her colleagues to assist in this matter.
9. **For Information Only:** the CDV's future meeting dates:
  - Committee on Domestic Violence Rural Meeting: October 26, 2023, at 10:30 a.m. Location: Pahrump | Virtual: TEAMS
10. Adjournment.

Minutes respectfully submitted by **Gina Hinds**  
Edited by **Nicole Reilly**  
Office of the Attorney General

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