

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

MEETINGS MINUTES

Monday, March 31, 2025, at 1:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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Thank you for planning to attend this Teams meeting.

1. Call to order and roll call of members.
 - a. The CDV meeting was called to order at 1:45 p.m.
 - b. Present: Attorney General Aaron Ford (Chair); Ramos, Suzanne (Vice Chair); Payne, Dr. Pamela; Abdur-Raheem, Elizabeth; Greene, Elynne; Lynch, Judge Patricia; Ortenburger, Liz; Duncan, Wes; Harig, Tracy; Ingram, Tyler; Larson, Zach.
 - c. Absent: Gradick, Jamie; Metherell, Leticia; Morris, Marla; Spoo, Judge James; Hall, Karl; Scott, Annette; Green, April.
 - d. Staff: Benitez-Thompson, Teresa; Rasul, Henna; Hinds, Gina
 - e. Public:
 - Guest Speaker Nathan Branscome, Representative of Sylogist
 - Kari Gonzalez
 - Summer Thomas-Harris
 - Jason Farnham
 - Janie Rodgers
 - Kristy Mills

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- John Chaisson
- Brie Bertges
- Melissa Brown
- Debra Sisco
- Alma Carey
- Candace Lewis Vaughn
- Julie Wise
- Jhenna Strasser
- Alicia Mills
- Monika Hawk
- Kathleen Henrie
- Dani Achury
- Roxana Gomez
- Christopher DeRicco
- Sara
- Laura
- Gwen
- Malena

f. Quorum established.

2. Public Comment.

- a. None.
3. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Review, discussion and possible approval of the *January 23, 2025, Meeting Minutes*.
- a. Approved unanimously.
4. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Benitez-Thompson introduced Nathan Branscome, Sylogists' Representative. Benitez-Thompson shared that VINE (Victim Information Notification Everyday) is the contracted provider until June 30, 2025, and on July 1, 2025, the new system, Sylogist, will go live. There is a limited timeframe for a system switch to the new vendor. Nevada will have a customized public facing portal. Victims and Advocates can register for any method of notifications they want, for example, SMS, email, telephone, etc. Also, they may choose blackout dates on days they do not wish to receive notifications and select timeframes to receive notifications. VSS has a full suite of services to offer should the state decide to expand the service scope. For example, a case management system that can provide support services and wrap-around services; connection to a service provider directory; Sylogist offers a secure high-quality system. Data remains under the control of state agencies.

Questions asked of Nathan following the presentation:

- **Taraneh Bakhtavar** asked how far in advance will a victim be notified?

Nathan Branscome: Notifications will go out immediately unless there is a hold on the notification at the administrative level; Once the record is updated, it gets pushed out immediately and goes out directly. If for some reason, there is a delay it would be on the jail or correctional department's end where the information may have been incorrectly input or delayed. But Sylogists' transmission methods are very effective and have not had significant delays or issues in other states.

- **Kari Gonzalez** asked who will be responsible for entering the information into this database?

Nathan Branscome: All entries are created by the jail, sheriff, and correctional departments.

- **Liz Ortenburger** asked: 1. Are there any synergies with other states? 2. Will there be a procedure for emergency protection orders issued if an abuser is in jail? Ortenburger stated their Hotline processes them within 12 hours. Will this be available because they have had to pay extra to VINE Plus to get this service. 3. Will we be able to pull macro reports to better understand the epidemic of domestic violence?

Nathan Branscome: No, there are not currently any integrations between states, but Sylogist would be happy to investigate and work with partners who are willing to integrate with and that they are willing to pursue this. Branscome also stated that Sylogist can provide notification for Temporary Protection Orders, but it is not in scope with this new project at this time. Lastly, Branscome said you will be able to generate a report. However, the State will have to be the ultimate decision maker in this matter. Branscome stated he can set up the database to provide the desired information.

- **Brie Bertges** asked about transfer service stating that it has not been a good communication experience, for example, notifying victims when an abuser is on an ICE hold, being transferred, and deportation dates.

Nathan Branscome: If the transfer is within scope the transfers will be held seamlessly. If data is not in scope or if data has not been configured, but if it is noted in the jail's system, then we have the potential to report on it. If in a federal system, then we cannot pull data and we cannot pull data out of federal systems unless there is an agreement in place. Branscome stated the ICE transfers are a bit more complicated and he needs to work with his developers to obtain more information and added he will include this concern in Sylogists' discovery process.

- **Jhenna Strasser** asked how does Sylogist communicate between systems? For example, the jails and the courts are mostly done by paper.

Nathan Branscome: Nevada county jails and correctional departments are the current systems, but Sylogist does not have the Nevada court systems in scope. Branscome went on to say that this issue can be solved but this would not be something that can be done today.

- **Summer Thomas-Harris** asked what type of notifications are going to come through? For example, court updates, transfers, escapes, etc.

Nathan Branscome: During Phase One, it will be anything coming out of VINE.

- **Christopher DeRicco-** Will the Parole Board be included as everyone now is registering via paper?

Nathan Branscome: The Parole Board is not included in the RFP. Branscome stated it is done in other states and is something can he look into.

Note: Chair Attorney General Aaron Ford had to leave and asked Vice Chair Suzanne Ramos to take over the meeting.

5. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Committee members discussed the creation of a new name, logo, and colors for the new victim notification system. Benitez-Thompson stated the Committee can give this new system a new name. Ortenburger suggested names such as Hopeline, Peace Path, Notify Me, or Feel Safe, something trauma informed. Taraneh Bakhtavar

suggested a type of name that shows value and respect to survivors. Does not want anything generic or disconnected. Greene suggested not utilizing the word victim in the title. Thomas-Harris suggested Aware, Notification Alert Hub (NOAH), SAFE, and will send the rest to Benitez-Thompson. Benitez-Thompson suggested working up ideas that reflect value and support. Judge Lunch suggested the name should not be too catchy because people may not know what it is. Benitez-Thompson stated the logo should also have a verbatim description than just the name, should focus on functionality. Ramos stated to submit suggestions for names, colors, and logos to Benitez-Thompson within the next 7-10 days.

6. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Committee members discussed the manner in which they want to interface with the new vendor, i.e. create a new subcommittee or have Sylogist provide updates at each committee meeting. Benitez-Thompson stated that having a standing agenda item will provide an opportunity for each meeting to operate as a sounding board, discuss any issues, and discuss data. Otherwise, we can create a subcommittee. Dr. Payne stated that a standing agenda item is a good idea. In the interim, it is a good idea to have both the standing agenda item and the creation of a subcommittee. The committee will need to look at what is going on across the state. Ingram stated that this is so important and that we should continually talk about this and having a subcommittee looking at this will lessen any diversity. Ortenburger stated that this may need to be carved into legislation, and will need to create a blanket report, or a specialty report where the committee can come up with the needed funding with some sort of approval process so the committee can pay for additional functionality. Benitez-Thompson stated that there is language in the Committee's chapter that allows the committee to receive gifts and donations. Ingram motioned to have this item as a standing committee agenda item, Dr. Payne seconded it. Motion carries.

7. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** Abdur-Raheem discussed the District Attorney's Best Practices Advocate Chapter. She stated the differences between system-based advocates and community-based advocates and highlighted the three fundamental differences between these types of advocates: who they are employed by, the focus of their advocacy, and their confidentiality. Ortenburger would love for advocates to know whether or not their information is confidential and the information provided by a systems advocate needs to be much clearer for our population. Ingram stated NRS 49.2545 is referenced twice, and it says that it provides confidentiality, but it defines what a victim advocate is, so it will be better to say that NRS 49.2541 et. sec. provides for confidentiality. Judge Lynch stated it should be

Prosecutor's Best Practices Advocate Chapter, rather than District Attorney's Best Practices Advocate Chapter. Kari Gonzalez shared that the best communication for system-based advocates comes out of Elko County. Abdur-Raheem will have Ortenburger review and finalize. Ortenburger moved for motion to approve amendments. Larson seconded. Motion to amend. Motion carries as amended.

8. **For Information Only:** the CDV's tentative future meeting dates:

- Committee on Domestic Violence: TBD | Location: Teams
- Fatality Review Team: TBD

9. **Public Comment.**

- a. Jhenna Strasser stated that as a system-based advocate her agency refers survivors to community-based advocates because she does not have the same confidentiality that the community-based advocates have. She would also like to know about a written policy on the system-based side for the victim notification system and hopes to get all systems on the same page.

10. **For Action:** Ortenburger motioned to adjourn, Dr. Payne seconded. Meeting adjourned at 2:57p.m.

Minutes respectfully drafted by **Gina Hinds**
Edited by **Teresa Benitez-Thompson**
Office of the Attorney General