

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

Meeting Minutes

Thursday October 26, 2023, at 10:30 a.m.

Location:

Southern Nye County Extension Educator
University of Nevada, Reno - Extension
1651 E. Calvada Blvd.
Pahrump, NV 89048

Virtual

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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 10:30 a.m.
 - b. Present
 - Aaron D. Ford, Attorney General (Chairman Ford)
 - Harig, Dr. Tracy (Dr. Harig)
 - Larson, Zach (Larson)
 - Abdur-Raheem, Elizabeth (Abdur-Raheem)
 - Ramos, Suzanne (Ramos)
 - Lynch, Patricia (Judge Lynch)
 - Hall, Karl (Hall)
 - Dr. Pamela Payne (Dr. Payne)
 - Green, April (Green)
 - Liz Ortenburger (Ortenburger)
 - Metherel, Leticia (Metherel)
 - Ingram, Tyler (Ingram)
 - Greene, Elyne (Greene)
 - c. Absent
 - Gradick, Jamie (Gradick)
 - Morris, Marla (Morris)
 - Judge Spoo (Judge Spoo)
 - Duncan, Wes (Duncan)
 - d. Staff
 - Benitez-Thompson, Teresa (Benitez-Thompson)
 - Nicole Reilly (Reilly)
 - Hinds, Gina (Hinds)
 - Rasul, Henna (Rasul)
 - e. Public
 - None
 - f. **Quorum established.**
2. Welcome and introductions of community partners. Kathie McKenna (McKenna) Executive Director for Nevada Outreach and Executive Director for Advocates for Children of Rural Nevada, also present were the advocates from No to Abuse; chairman for group advocate; members of Soroptomist; and an officer with Pahrump's Juvenile and Probation services.

3. Members reviewed and discussed the *July 25, 2023, Meeting Minutes*. Lynch stated the third paragraph regarding Bills SB32 does not make sense. Lynch stated she was uncertain of what the term inadmissible implies. Abdur-Raheem went on to say what happens in the court TPO is not admissible since the parties do not have representation. Reilly stated she will refer to Serena's legislative summary. Reilly also noted to correct Ortenburger's last name. AG Ford moved for a motion, Ramos motioned, Payne seconded. Minutes approved as amended.
4. Reilly provided an update on the Fatality Review Team (FRT). List of two potential cases- one in Henderson which is a murder suicide, and one in Elko with a female perpetrator and both cases have been adjudicated. Reilly stated she will schedule the FRT case review at the end of November or first part of December. Ortenburger requested to meet in person. AG Ford asked if the jurisdictions have been invited to attend and Reilly stated they rarely show. AG Ford suggested that the members contemplate having the FRT review in each jurisdiction and invite community partners. Haley (CDV's host at UNR Extension) offered the use of the UNR Extension offices in Elko.
5. McKenna discussed No to Abuse and Nevada Outreach which are both essentially synonymous and are in both Tonopah and Pahrump. Nevada Outreach has 24 centers in Nevada, but funding is dwindling quickly. The Pahrump Family Resource Center assists with rent, mortgage, utilities, gas vouchers, and a large donation center. There are three case workers serving 2400 victims throughout the year. The agencies work closely with the Division of Child and Family Services when neglect and abuse and/or substance abuse is discovered. Christy Mills is the Advocate Supervisor of Children's Advocacy Center and is the Supervising Advocate for the Child and Family advocate. No to Abuse and Nevada Outreach titles are essentially synonymous. Emergency housing, transitional housing, employment. McKenna disclosed the strikingly alarming numbers of assisting victims has significantly increased from one year ago. McKenna mentioned barriers- there is currently no domestic violence shelter and there is no homeless shelter, and this is the biggest problem they face. It is difficult to obtain a motel/hotel room, due to the egregious behavior of victims, such as stealing motel/hotel items, etc. McKenna stated there is a need for resources such as affordable housing, mental health evaluations, and lack of assistance from the sheriff's department. Crossroads, and Westcare is a hit or miss whether these agencies take in their victims for assistance. SANE exams are done in Las Vegas. McKenna stated they receive VOCA grant money, but stated it is not enough funding. McKenna is hoping for state assistance, because Pahrump's community leaders are not assisting with these issues, for example, the community leaders built a multimillion-dollar animal

shelter. McKenna voiced her many frustrations with finding means to assist her victims that walk through her door. Ortenburger asked if the temporary restraining orders have a high denial rate. Christy Mills with Nevada outreach stated they have been going to the courts for hearings more often for TPOs because are all in person. Payne asked if they had been surveyed. Mckenna responded that Pahrump's court system has only paper files, no electronic filing system. Ortenburger asked if McKenna is seeing victims being reimbursed for SANE exams. She stated Clark County is not billing the state to effectively bill the state for these exams. Christy Mills stated only one victim has been properly billed for their SANE exam in Las Vegas, at UMC. Reilly asked how law enforcement and the district attorney's office respond to domestic violence instances. Mckenna stated there is a lot of turnover, and the biggest gap is lack of software training on dv instances. Ortenburger asked if Mckenna can pilot the SANE exams, the space is not a problem but finding the SANE exam nurses is difficult because there is a huge nursing shortage in Las Vegas. Ortenburger recommended utilizing the Telehealth service in the interim.

6. Reilly discussed SB412 and the creation of subcommittees to implement the new bill. Ortenburger stated the new language is problematic, but the subcommittee will be worthwhile and advantageous. Reilly went on to discuss the next possible subcommittee. Lack of SANE exams and perpetrators not being held accountable. Dr. Harig stated that the lack of oversight over SANE exams is an issue. The nursing board isn't involved, and neither is the Department of Health and Human Services. Reilly stated there should be an officer to oversee the SANE exams and nurses. She also stated we can begin those conversations. Ortenburger stated working on SANE exams the committee will find solutions. Abdur-Raheem stated that Telehealth is a possible solution in the rural areas, but that there are different issues in Washoe and Clark County, and that the work is important and to look at the whole picture. Dr. Harig asked about intervention in the schools. Abdur-Raheem stated her agency is working on these matters, stating education is the most important piece. Dr. Payne stated the need to discuss batterer's treatment, such as accountability, training, and education. Ortenburger asked if this committee is the best space to discuss. She suggested there should be a sweeping batterer's treatment bill proposed in legislative session 2025. Abdur-Raheem stated there is much to discuss about batterer's treatment, that the goal is behavior change through intervention. Reilly stated we will continue

having discussions about batterer's treatment. Larson stated the assessments of the batterers are important. Dr. Payne agreed that this needs to be a statewide solution but cannot be a one size fits all solution. Members further discussed the batterer's treatment processes. Reilly stated four items 1. Strangulation language for next session. 2. SANE oversight and other models. 3. Data Collection (ACR6) 4. Batterer's Treatment. Reilly suggested two subcommittees should be sufficient. The first subcommittee will be data collection and batterer's treatment and intervention and will be named Data Collection Subcommittee. The second subcommittee will be called Forensic Nursing subcommittee and will include SANE discussions and strangulation. Volunteers is Nursing Subcommittee will be: Ortenburger, Dr. Harig, Dr. Payne, Abdur-Raheem. The Data Collection Subcommittee volunteers will be Ortenburger, Larson, Abdur-Raheem, Dr. Payne, Greene, Judge Lynch, Dr. Payne. Chairman Ford recommended Wes Duncan to volunteer on the Forensic Nursing Subcommittee.

7. **For Information Only:** the CDV's future meeting dates:
 - Committee on Domestic Violence: TBD | Location Virtual
 - Data Collection Subcommittee: TBD | Location Virtual
 - Forensic Nursing Subcommittee: TBD | Location Virtual
8. Public Comment. Ortenburger stated there is a free strangulation training January 25-26, 2024, includes four-hour sessions, same training each day, located at Las Vegas Metro Police Department- Martin Luther King, Jr. Blvd. Las Vegas.
9. Adjournment.

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