

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

**Meeting Minutes**

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*Friday, September 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019 at 9:00 a.m.*

**Meeting Location:**

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

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1. Call to order and roll call of members.
  - a. The Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) Training Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 9:00 am.
  - b. Present
    - Chairman Wheable, Michael (Chairman Wheable)
    - Armstrong, Ross (Armstrong)
    - Cisneros, Jessica (Cisneros)
    - Morris, Marla (Morris)
    - Spratley, Eric (Spratley)
    - Troshynski, Emily (Troshynski)
  - a. Absent
    - Buoncristiani, Dawn (Buoncristiani)
    - Hernandez, Cory (Hernandez)
    - Greene, Elynn (Greene)
  - b. Staff
    - O'Banion, Nicole (O'Banion)
    - Bradley, Sarah (Bradley)
    - Mouannes, Jason (Mouannes)
  - c. **Quorum established**
2. Public Comment.
  - a. No public comment.
3. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** The Training Subcommittee Chair District Attorney Michael Chairman Wheable will invite subcommittee members to discuss, prioritize, and develop an action plan for the topic that is chosen as the first training to fulfill.

- a. Education sessions for legislators on the impact of laws and wording.
  - Chairman Wheable proposed the development of a one-page informational sheet to educate lawmakers on Nevada laws relating to domestic violence and gauge their understanding. As a result, this could lead to more comprehensive trainings for our state legislatures.
  - Armstrong suggested looking at domestic violence as a health issue.
  - O'Banion encouraged separate documents addressing domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking. She asked Armstrong to determine which legislative committees may be able to invite us to their meetings to present our findings, such as the Interim Committee on Health. Finally, she mentioned Sue Meuschke from the Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence may have some information created and available for use.
  - Troshynski offered using existing research she may have available related to training on these legislative issues.
  - Chairman Wheable concluded the subcommittee should seek use of any current documents to provide to legislative members and address domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking.
  - Armstrong stated he will get a list of applicable committees and seek an invitation with the Interim Committee on Health.
  - Troshynski suggested including information to address domestic homicide.
- b. Education for law enforcement on trauma and how it impacts their investigations.
  - Chairman Wheable stated that education for law enforcement on trauma and how it impacts investigations is already available. He advised the goal should be to increase access to these trainings.
  - O'Banion suggested Spratley may have input on expanding access to these trainings.
  - Spratley proposed we develop our own or purchase online trainings that can be made available to all officers. This solution would make the training more accessible, allow officers to complete a test to evaluate their understanding, and provide credit towards their annual training requirements.
  - Spratley indicated PoliceOne or Lexipol may be possible vendors to purchase new trainings that meet the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) certification requirements.
  - Morris asked if law enforcement would receive an incentive to complete this training.
  - Spratley responded it would count toward their annual requirements as law enforcement officers in Nevada.

- Chairman Wheable supported the effectiveness of the crisis intervention training designed for law enforcement. The training is a week-long course involving practitioners, therapist, law enforcement officers, and many other individuals who take part in role play, which is an effective training solution.
- c. Firearms removal issue.
- O'Banion stated the removal of firearms is an on-going issue throughout Nevada. Firearms are not being properly removed from the possession of convicted domestic violence offenders, especially those with temporary protection orders or extended protection orders against them.
  - Victim advocates have expressed their frustrations with the lack of removing firearms.
  - Troshynski stated there is a absence of research related to the process to remove firearms from an offender.
  - O'Banion explained some of the challenges included storage of firearms, especially if they are released to a family member of the offender. Not all the courts are having a convicted offender sign an affidavit that acknowledges the loss of their gun rights.
  - Spratley explained that statutes provide instructions of the process to remove firearms. However, an offender can claim to have sent the firearms to family or sold the firearms. The officer cannot prove these statements without a search warrant. In the event a warrant is issued to search possession of firearms, it would need to be served by SWAT and often times with the lack of resources law enforcement cannot complete the seizure.
  - Chairman Wheable advised the subcommittee to continue exploring options and hold topic regarding firearms until the next Committee on Domestic Violence meeting.
- d. Implementation of the new immigration law.
- Chairman Wheable asked Spratley to explain the details of the new law (AB 336) related to U-Visa requests.
  - Spratley stated that the law requires certifying agencies to fill out the federal form if a victim of crime who is a non-US citizen is willing to participate and be helpful to the investigation. Only 10,000 U-Visas are granted yearly. Some members of the Committee on Domestic Violence claimed U-Visa forms have not been signed outside of Clark County.
  - Chairman Wheable stated there are an estimated 400,000 U-Visa requests in the pipeline pending nationwide.
  - Armstrong suggested increasing the general knowledge about the federal form.

- Members suggested training victim advocates about their options to obtain necessary signatures for victims who are willing to complete the federal form.
  - O'Banion encouraged the subcommittee focus on a few key groups that assist victim of domestic violence.
    1. The District Attorneys' Association can help train prosecutors.
    2. The Nevada Coalition to End Domestic and Sexual Violence can train victim advocates.
    3. The Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association can train law enforcement.
  - Spratley expressed the language of the law is broad relating to reporting the data to the Legislative Council Bureau by certifying agencies who signed the forms. He also disagreed with previous claims in the record by other members from the Committee on Domestic Violence regarding the signing of federal forms only in Clark County. All jurisdictions are up-to-date with the requirements to sign the federal form both in urban and rural areas.
  - Spratley offered to create a one-page information sheet relating to the process of Assembly Bill 336 and the obligations of certifying agencies.
- e. Impacts of strangulation.
- O'Banion indicated Sue Meuschke introduced the idea of more training about strangulation. The goal would be to bring awareness to the signs and the long-term impact of strangulation.
  - Members agreed the topic of strangulation needs to be taken more seriously as it can impact successful prosecutions of domestic violence offenders. If officers became more cautious of the terminology these used in their reports, it can help prosecutors when in court, such as indicating strangulation versus choking by asking better questions.
  - Spratley stated we should inquire to see if there are training modules on strangulation available online since cops access their training website quite often. He also noted that back in the '90s all law enforcement across Nevada was on the same page due to regular regional trainings when there was adequate funding.
  - Spratley suggested bodycam footage can be used as evidence if it can help identify strangulation signs. A follow-up interview can help confirm these findings.
  - After this discussion, Chairman Wheable stated the members of the subcommittee identified one-page information sheets as their short-term goal while the long-term goal is regional trainings throughout Nevada.

- Spratley advised strangulation having its own one-page document.
  - Chairman Wheable suggested input from Tracy Harig to gain the perspective of a medical professional at the Committee on Domestic Violence meeting.
- f. Standardized and ongoing curriculum for all the law enforcement academies.
- Spratley stated the Peace Officer Standards and Training (POST) commission meeting is taking place on November 4<sup>th</sup> in Las Vegas. We can inquiry about the standards currently active.
  - Troshynski suggested the best option is to assess the standards in place.
  - Spratley stated he would seek more details about lesson plans certified by POST on some of the topics discussed throughout the meeting.
4. **For Possible Action:** The Training Subcommittee Chair District Attorney Michael Chairman Wheable will request a volunteer to draft the first action plan to present at the November 13, 2019 Committee on Domestic Violence meeting.
- a. Chairman Wheable stated the next step is to develop an action plan to disseminate the information in Item 3 to the Committee on Domestic Violence members in November.
  - a. Chairman Wheable requested a motion for a volunteer to draft the first action plan to present at the November 13, 2019 Committee on Domestic Violence meeting. Motion for Emily to prepare a one-page action plan based on rough draft of the minutes by Spratley. Seconded by Armstrong. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
5. **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
6. Public Comment.
- a. No public comment.
7. **For Possible Action:** Adjournment.
- a. Chairman Wheable called for a motion to adjourn. Spratley motioned to adjourn. Seconded by Morris. 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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