

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

Meeting Minutes

Monday, December 16, 2019 at 2:30 p.m.

Meeting Location:

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

1. Call to order and roll call of members.
 - a. The Committee on Domestic Violence (CDV) Court Subcommittee meeting was called to order at 2:32 pm.
 - b. Present
 - Chairwoman Judge Jones, Cassandra (Chairwoman Judge Jones)
 - Judge Lynch, Patricia (Judge Lynch)
 - Ortenburger, Liz (Ortenburger)
 - Ramos, Suzanne (Ramos)
 - Scott, Annette (Scott)
 - Dr. Troshynski, Emily (Dr. Troshynski)
 - b. Absent
 - Cisneros, Jessica (Cisneros)
 - c. Staff
 - O'Banion, Nicole (O'Banion)
 - Mouannes, Jason (Mouannes)
 - Bhalla, Asheesh (Bhalla)
 - d. Public
 - None
 - c. **Quorum established**
2. Public Comment.
 - a. No public comment.
3. **For Possible Action:** Review, discussion, and possible approval of October 29, 2019 Meeting Minutes.

Attachment 1

- a. Chairwoman Judge Jones suggested members take a moment to review the minutes from the previous Committee on Domestic Violence Court Subcommittee meeting.
 - b. Judge Lynch indicated a typo under Item 4a where it says “VALA” should say “VAWA” instead. Chairwoman Judge Jones asked for a motion to approve the meeting minutes. Motion to accept the minutes by Judge Lynch. Seconded by Ramos. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
4. **For Discussion:** CDV Member Emily Troshynski, Undergraduate Coordinator, UNLV Department of Criminal Justice will present the Praxis International *“New Guides to The Domestic Violence Best Practice Assessment: Victim-Witness Services, Bail Setting and Pre-Trial Release”* PowerPoint.

Attachment 2

- a. Dr. Troshynski explained that she prepared last week for her presentation by reviewing the PowerPoint included in Attachment 2 and participating in a webinar by Praxis International. She was impressed by the information and resources provided by the organization while acknowledging great professionalism demonstrated by the facilitators of the webinar in the way they responded to questions by different representatives from other states.
- b. O’Banion informed Dr. Troshynski she allotted time for her presentation to take up most of the meeting.
- c. Dr. Troshynski added that the organization is based in St. Paul, Minnesota. She completed her undergraduate work at the local university and reached out to local friends involved in politics and victim advocacy. They informed her that Praxis International is the most thorough training that they have experienced. They are funded by VAWA grants.
- d. During Dr. Troshynski presentation she made a few important points:
 - Praxis International considers effective best practices based on specific location(s). Instead, a best practice assessment is administered to create nest implementation guidelines.
 - There are three different approaches available:
 1. Blueprint for Safety
 2. Praxis Safety and Accountability Audit
 3. Best Practice Assessment
 - Each assessment has specific steps laid out for implementation.
- e. O’Banion thanked Troshynski for reviewing the presentation to provide more information to the subcommittee. She expressed interest in comparing the different approaches for coordinated community response teams. This model allows states to complete this initiative with little technical assistance as everything is available for free online on their website.

- f. Scott expressed a positive experience working with Praxis International in the past on other initiatives.
 - g. Judge Lynch stated she is familiar with the good work of Praxis International as well and foresees the need to get the buy-in of law enforcement agencies to successfully participate in the implementation of this initiatives if and when the committee decided to move forward with it.
 - h. O'Banion asked subcommittee members if anyone had any other questions or comments. She emphasized the reason the committee is looking at these various models is to prevent domestic homicide in the first place.
5. **For Discussion:** Nicole O'Banion, Ombudsman for Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault and Human Trafficking, Nevada Office of the Attorney General will present the *Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) Description and the Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement (DA-LE) Tool* which is the recommended Danger Assessment by the Jeanne Geiger Crisis Center as part of their High Risk Team Model approach.

Attachment 3

- a. O'Banion stated that CDV members expressed interest in potentially implementing the high risk team model approach. The first two pages of Attachment 3 provided a description of the danger assessment tool for law enforcement. Generally, an officer completes this assessment while on-scene. These 11 questions have been used on two previous cases and everyone had a positive experience working those cases in Washoe County. In addition, it appears there might be a funding opportunity to help facilitate implementation.
- b. Chairwoman Judge Jones mentioned that organizations like the Nevada Sheriffs and Chiefs Association can help facilitate implementation of such a program if this is something we decide to utilize.
- c. Ortenburger inquired about the possibility of a victim advocate completing the assessment versus a law enforcement officer. The advocates she works with at Safe Nest are responding to all domestic calls for Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD).
- d. Ramos stated it would probably be best to be done by the officer since they are the first one on scene but sometimes there is a lack of engagement between officers and victims.
- e. O'Banion encourages an assessment for implementation to measure the effectiveness of officers doing report. If the report is not completed, then it can become mandated process.
- f. Judge Lynch noted the requirement for officers to give out information to victims was tough when it began.

- g. Members agreed the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC) has not had the opportunity to review pre-trial risk assessment tools yet.
 - h. Chairwoman Judge Jones offered to contact Justice Hardesty and utilize any other pre-existing relationships to address the issue. However, no action should be taken yet as this conversation is still premature until we participate in the upcoming webinar with the Jeannie Geiger Center (JGC) on high risk team models.
 - i. The appropriate committee to communicate with is the Committee to Study Evidence-Based Pretrial Release to make recommendations regarding possible strategies for reforming and improving Nevada's pretrial release system.
 - j. This item is for discussion only and an action on this item would need to take place as early as the next meeting.
 - k. Members noted when this is implemented by law enforcement, sometimes victims are untruthful about the weapons to not further anger the perpetrator if they are released.
 - l. O'Banion suggested communicating with CDV member Eric Spratley to assist in brainstorming potential implementation strategies.
 - m. Judge Lynch asked if the next full CDV meeting is on the 28th and O'Banion confirmed that to be true.
6. **For Discussion and Possible Action:** CDV Member, Court Subcommittee Chair Judge Cassandra Jones, Justice of the Peace, Douglas County will present the *Court Subcommittee Action Plan*. The Subcommittee members will discuss the *Action Plan* for any changes or approval as presented.

Attachment 4

- a. Chairwoman Judge Jones presented the action plan. She inquired if any subcommittee members has any new goals to add to the action plan. She stated the subcommittee needs to create and review an implementation model before the next subcommittee meeting on February 6th, 2020 at 12 PM.
- b. Judge Lynch asked if committee members can share information directly with each other. O'Banion reminded that all communications relating to committee business must go through her in order to stay compliant with open meeting law.
- c. For the Nevada Attorney General's Office, bill draft requests must be completed by May 30th, 2020.
- d. Members discussed specialty courts in Las Vegas and the potential challenges with implementation.
- e. Chairwoman Judge Jones stated she did not hear any changes to the action plan and members should begin to collect literature and resources as stated on the action plan. All items to be put on the next agenda should be sent to Nicole by January 27th, 2020.

- f. Chairwoman Judge Jones asked for a motion to approve the action plan. Motion to accept the action plan by Judge Lynch. Seconded by Ramos. No further discussion. All in favor. Motion passed.
- 7. **For Information Only:** the CDV's tentative future meeting dates:
 - a. Committee on Domestic Violence: January 28, 2020 @ 10:00 a.m. | Location: Mock Courtroom, Carson City Office of the Attorney General via video Conference Room 4500, Las Vegas Office of the Attorney General.
- 8. Public Comment.
 - a. No public comment.
- 9. **For Possible Action:** Adjournment.
 - a. Chairwoman Judge Jones called for a motion to adjourn. 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
