# 2015

# Biennial Report from the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

A report to the Nevada Legislature, in compliance with Nevada Revised Statute 228.490



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# **NCPDV MEMBERSHIP**

| Catherine Cortez Masto<br>Council Chair | Attorney General   |
|---|--|
| Brett Kandt<br>Vice Chair               | Office of the Attorney General - NV<br>Council for Prosecuting Attorneys |
| Suzanne Ramos<br>Treasurer              | City of Reno Attorney's Office   |
| Elynne Greene<br>Secretary              | Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Dept.                                      |
| Maricar Andrade                         | Andrade Law Group  |
| Paul Bancroft                           | Tahoe Safe Alliance  |
| Christine Jones Brady                   | Washoe County Public Defender  |
| Clarice Charlie                         | Inter-Tribal Council of Nevada   |
| Doris Diaz                              |  |
| Michael R. Freda, Ph.D.                 | Ridgeview Counseling Group   |
| Nanci M. Glogauer                       | Point Foundation   |
| Sherrill Grotheer                       | Bailus Cook and Kelesis, Ltd.  |
| Dorie Guy                               |  |
| Christina Hernandez                     | UNLV Jean Nidetch Women's Center   |
| Mark Jackson                            | Douglas County District Attorney   |
| Magann Jordan                           | Clark County District Attorney's Office                                  |
| Honorable Patricia A. Lynch             | Reno Justice Court   |
| Richard B. Machado                      | Pershing County Sheriff  |
| Susan Meuschke                          | NV Network Against Domestic Violence                                     |
| Leisa Moseley                           | The Action Company   |
| Robin Sweet                             | Administrative Office of the Courts                                      |

Rev. Victoria Warren

St. John in the Wilderness Episcopal Church

**Denise Yoxsimer** 

Committee to Aid Abused Women

Office of the Attorney General staff to Council:

Colleen Platt, Deputy Attorney General to the Council

Kareen Prentice, Domestic Violence Ombudsman

Anjanette Bitsie, Assistant to NCPDV

# Biennial Report from the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

# **Executive Summary**

The Domestic Violence Prevention Council was established in 1995. The 2005 Nevada Legislature passed Assembly Bill (AB) 219 to formalize the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NCPDV) (See Appendix C) and outlined its membership and duties. It is located within the Office of the Attorney General and is chaired by the Attorney General.

The mission of the NCPDV is to encourage the elimination of domestic violence and sexual assault and to help break the cycle of violence in Nevada. The purpose of the NCPDV is to prevent and eliminate domestic violence through increased awareness of its existence and its unacceptability, to recommend legislation, and to provide financial support to agencies who deal with domestic violence issues.

The membership is limited to no more than 30 people from various geographic regions in the state representing a variety of disciplines, including law enforcement, the judiciary, prosecution, victim services, health care, social services, education, public defenders, and domestic violence survivors. They meet at least three times a year, one of which must be in the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, or Seventh Judicial Districts (which includes Elko, Esmeralda, Eureka, Humboldt, Lander, Lincoln, Mineral, Nye, Pershing, and White Pine Counties).

The work of the NCPDV is accomplished through the efforts of the Committees. The Committees include: Bylaws and Structure, Criminal Justice, Education, Judicial Training, Legislative, Membership, Public Information, Underserved Populations, and Victim Information Notification Every (VINE) Service. See Appendix A for the Committee 2013 and 2014 goals.

During the 2013 Legislative Session, under Senate Bill 26, NRS 228.205 Victim Information Notification Everyday System was established in the Attorney General's Office and added as a Committee per statute to the NCPDV. The Committee members were appointed and held their first meeting on July 30, 2014.

The NCPDV should not be confused with the Committee on Domestic Violence<sup>1</sup>, which certifies domestic violence batterer treatment programs.

<sup>&</sup>lt;sup>1</sup> The objective of the Committee on Domestic Violence, which is the state's regulatory commission appointed by the Attorney General, is to effectively evaluate, certify, and monitor

The NCPDV was requested to (a) study and review all appropriate issues related to the administration of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada with respect to offenses involving domestic violence, including the availability of counseling services; and (b) prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations from the study to the Legislature. In preparing the report, the NCPDV shall ask for comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges, and justices of the peace in rural Nevada.

# **Bylaws**

The NCPDV operates within Bylaws created by its members. They are attached to this report. See Appendix B.

# Rural Meetings–2013 and 2014

• The NCPDV per Nevada Revised Statutes meets yearly in a rural jurisdiction to discuss domestic violence issues relevant to that community. The NCPDV conducted their 2013 rural meeting in Alamo, Nevada and the 2014 rural meeting in Eureka, Nevada

• Both jurisdictions continue to struggle with providing certified batterers' treatment to convicted offenders. The Committee on Domestic Violence understands these issues and continues to have discussions regarding initiating pilot projects in rural jurisdictions to address the issue. Lincoln County started a pilot project in July 2014 with two offenders utilizing court office space and an IPad with video-conference capability to a certified treatment provider in Las Vegas. Follow up is ongoing regarding this project.

# **Judge Comments and Recommendations**

Per NRS 228.490(2) (b) the NCPDV shall ask for comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges, and justices of the peace in rural Nevada and include them in its report as a separate section.

The NCPDV Judicial Training Committee in collaboration with the Administrative Office of the Courts compiled a survey for Nevada Judiciary in September 2014. A Summary of this Survey is attached to this report. See Appendix F.

programs for the treatment of persons who commit domestic violence in Nevada. The Committee relies on funding from the Domestic Violence Court Assessment Account. The Committee is also responsible for reviewing and evaluating peace officer training relating to domestic violence.

The NCPDV and staff will continue to work with the Administrative Office of the Courts in an effort that domestic violence related issues continue to be a regular training on the agendas of the judges' associations.

# Gifts, Grants, or Donations

The NCPDV was awarded a grant from the Michael Bolton Charities in December 2013. A work program was developed for the \$10,000 per state guidelines and will be expended on a project to benefit women and children that have experienced violence by June 2015. See Appendix G for Award letter

# Community Dialogues Regarding Juveniles and Domestic Violence

The NCPDV in collaboration with the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ) and the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence held two community dialogues regarding juveniles & domestic violence in Las Vegas on March 10, 2014 and in Reno, Nevada on March 14, 2014. See Appendix H for Overview of Community Dialogues.

# **NCPDV Accomplishments**

# 2013

- Support and endorsement of the Attorney General's omnibus sex and human trafficking bill draft request AB 67.
- Addition of a new NCPDV Committee per passage of SB 26 Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Service Committee.

# 2014

- Victim Advocate Protocols.
- Domestic Violence in the Workplace Toolkit .
- Women of Color Network Training in Las Vegas on April 15 &16, 2014 Addressing Unique Challenges and Ending Domestic Violence for ALL WOMEN, Women of Color, their families and Communities - 30 victim advocates and professionals attended the 1.5 day training.

# **Attorney General – Domestic Violence Fatality Review**

# Attorney General Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team (AG-DVFRST)

Target Review Area: 15 Rural Counties in Nevada

Since the last fatality review report in April 2013, the statewide team has conducted two more case reviews in rural jurisdictions; a case was reviewed in Silver Springs (Lyon County) and a case in Minden (Douglas County). Each review was conducted over two days and outcomes of the reviews are outlined in section V 2014 Recommendations. The team also participated in a statewide meeting in June 2014 to discuss the review process, lessons learned, successes, and challenges in conducting reviews and making recommendations.

#### Clark County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (CC-DVFRT)

#### Target Review Area: Clark County, Nevada

The Clark County review team has conducted four case reviews since the last report in April 2013. In addition to case reviews the Clark team spent time reviewing internal processes for team membership and case selection, making changes to the protocols to create more specificity in membership requirements, as well as establishing a concrete procedure for case selection. The case selection process now allows the Clark County Coroner's Office to identify domestic violence related fatalities and bring them to the team for review and selection, allowing for a centralized case identification process rather than relying solely on individual law enforcement jurisdictions to identify cases.

#### Washoe County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (WC-DVFRT)

#### Target Review Area: Washoe County, Nevada

The Washoe County review team has conducted four case reviews since the last report. The team has focused on further developing their case review process by making some modifications. In the last year the Washoe County team has changed their process such that now when cases are selected the information is sent to team members two months in advance of the meeting, then one month prior to the meeting a core group of team members with case specific information meet to create the timeline for the review.

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# APPENDIX A

### NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COMMITTEE GOALS

#### **Bylaws and Structure**

2013 Goals: This committee did not meet in 2013.

2014 Goals: This committee did not meet in 2014.

#### Criminal Justice

#### 2013 Goals:

- To continue to review crime reports and identify any potential trends.
- To find additional training and technical assistance opportunities in the areas of human trafficking, sexual assault, and domestic violence.

#### 2014 Goals:

This committee did not meet in 2014.

#### **Education Committee**

#### 2013 Goals:

- Update Boy Scout "Peace Begins at Home" patch programs.
- To continue to work on Healthcare outreach.
- To work with businesses regarding outreach and domestic violence awareness.
- To develop the workplace toolkit.
- To look into teen outreach and education regarding domestic violence.

#### 2014 Goals:

- Continue Developing the Domestic Violence in the workplace Toolkit for Employers.
- Identify and develop resources to address the need to increase professionals' sensitivity to mental illness, substance abuse, disability and the impact these conditions have on victims of domestic violence trying to utilize services.
- To add and update the NCPDV History Document.

#### Judicial Training Committee

**2013 Goals:** This Committee did not meet in 2013.

#### 2014 Goals:

- To find and invite a representative from the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to discuss Domestic Violence Curriculum for new judges.
- To make recommendations to assist judges in identifying possible training opportunities for issues being identified by judges.
- To review and prepare questions for the judges survey in preparation for the next biennial report.

#### Legislative Committee

#### 2013 Goals:

• To continue to work with the Education Committee and the Public Information Committee to support outreach opportunities for the next legislative session.

#### 2014 Goals:

- Review upcoming legislation for the 2015 legislative session.
- To update and develop the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence Biennial Report

#### Membership/Nominating Committee

#### 2013 Goals:

- To work on the recruitment of new council members.
- To process the recommitment of members.
- To set the next Rural Council Meeting site.
- Review council membership and attendance.

#### 2014 Goals:

- To change the committee name to Membership Committee.
- To change the scope of job duties and present it to the Bylaws and Structure Committee for approval.
- To work on the recruitment of new council members.

• To process the recommitment of members.

#### Public Information Committee

#### 2013 Goals:

- To move forward with the Attorney General-Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team recommendations to include training.
- Updating the Attorney General's website to include an area for trainings.
- To review Teen Dating Violence Curriculum that is up for legislation.

#### 2014 Goals:

- To develop an awareness campaign.
- To increase media awareness and develop talking points.
- To promote the prevention aspect of domestic violence.
- To update and develop the Attorney General's website regarding domestic violence issues.

#### Underserved Populations Committee

#### 2013 Goals:

- To hold town hall meetings in 2014 to obtain additional recommendations from constituents.
- To work with Fatality Review Recommendations regarding initiatives towards underserved populations.
- To work with the Women of Color Network to provide a training opportunity in spring 2014.

#### 2014 Goals:

- To work with the Women of Color Network and provide training in Northern Nevada with an emphasis on the rural communities.
- To bring in guest speakers to the NCPDV Meetings.
- To develop a Nevada Provider Resource list that serves underserved populations.

#### Victim Information Notification Everyday (VINE) Service Committee

This Committee was established in 2014. They did not meet in 2013. **2014 Goals:** 

- Serve as Governance Committee for the VINE System.
- Adopt policies, protocols, and regulations for the operation and oversight of the System.

# **APPENDIX B**

#### NEVADA COUNCIL FOR THE PREVENTION OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE BYLAWS

#### PREAMBLE

The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is a state board established pursuant to NRS 228.480 and NRS 228.490, inclusive, and governed by the Nevada Revised Statutes, including, without limitation, the Open Meeting Law (NRS Chapter 241).

#### ARTICLE I

#### NAME

A. **"Council" defined.** The name of this organization shall be the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence.

B. Use of Name. Use of the name Nevada Council for the
Prevention of Domestic Violence shall be subject to approval by the
Council or its chair.

#### ARTICLE II

#### **GEOGRAPHIC COVERAGE**

This Council shall cover the State of Nevada.

#### ARTICLE III

#### PURPOSE AND DUTIES

- A. The purpose of the Council is to work toward preventing and eliminating domestic violence in Nevada through:
  - 1. Awareness through education;
  - 2. Training;
  - 3. Legislation
  - 4. Funding.
- B. The duties of the Council are as follows;

1. To make recommendations for any necessary legislation relating to domestic violence to the Office of the Attorney General;

2. To provide financial support to programs for the prevention of domestic violence in the State;

3. To study and review all appropriate issues related to the administration of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada with respect to offenses involving domestic violence, including, without limitation, the availability of counseling services; and

4. With the assistance of the Court Administrator, based upon the study and review conducted pursuant to paragraph (3), to prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau on or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature. In preparing the report, the Council shall solicit comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges, and justices of the peace in rural Nevada and include in its report, as a separate section, all comments, and recommendations that are received by the Council.

#### **ARTICLE IV**

#### FINANCES

- A. **Funding.** This Council is funded through the Account for Programs Related to Domestic Violence pursuant to NRS 228.460, private donations, legislative appropriations, and state and federal grants as available.
- B. Gifts or donations. The chair or any Council member may solicit gifts, donations, or in-kind services to be used by the Council for the purposes stated in these bylaws in accordance with state law. The Council reserves the right to refuse any gift, donation, or in-kind services.
- C. **Fund-raising events.** Council sponsorship of its own or other fund-raising events must be approved in advance by the Council or the Council chair.
- D. **Expenditures.** Expenditures of the Council shall be governed in accordance with NRS 228.460.

#### ARTICLE V

#### **MEMBERSHIP**

- A. Members shall serve a three (3) year term and may be reappointed.
- B. Members shall serve without compensation but while engaged in the business of the Council, are entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally.
- C. Members who have two absences per year may be subject to removal by the chair.
- D. Members may be recommended for removal by a two-thirds vote of the quorum present, subject to the chair's approval.
- E. All vacancies shall be recommended to the Council for replacement by a geographically balanced nominating committee, and subject to a two-thirds vote of the quorum present. The chair has the right to accept or reject the Council's recommendation in appointing new members.
- F. There shall be no more than 30 voting members of the Council. It is the Council's goal that the Council be comprised of a group of individuals who are geographically balanced, culturally diverse, and representative of the various disciplines involved in domestic violence issues.
- G. The chair may appoint other members as deemed necessary.
- H. The Domestic Violence Ombudsman shall serve as a non-voting ex-officio member of the Council.

#### ARTICLE VI

#### OFFICERS

- A. The officers of this Council will be comprised of a chair, a vicechair, a secretary, and a treasurer.
- B. The chair will be the Attorney General or his/her designee.

- C. The vice-chair, secretary, and treasurer will be elected by the Council annually, at the first meeting of the calendar year.
- D. The Council may remove the vice chair, the secretary, the treasurer, or any chair elected by the Council by a two-thirds vote of the quorum present.
- E. The duties of the chair will be as follows:
  - 1. To serve as presiding officer during Council meetings;
  - 2. To plan the agenda and schedule meetings;
  - 3. To serve as spokesperson for the Council;
  - 4. To respond to correspondence on behalf of the Council; and
  - 5. To perform the duties as prescribed in these bylaws; and
  - 6. To perform other appropriate duties as they may arise.
- F. Should the chair be absent or unable to fulfill duties as outlined in section E, the vice-chair shall act in their place.
- G. In the event that both the chair and the vice-chair are absent, the Attorney General's designee will act as presiding officer.
- H. The secretary shall ensure that the minutes are accurate prior to being presented to the Council.
- I. The treasurer shall deliver a budget report at each Council meeting.

#### ARTICLE VII

#### MEETINGS

- A. The Council shall meet at least three (3) times each calendar year and may meet at other times upon the call of the Chair.
- B. At least one meeting in each calendar year shall be held at a location within the Fourth, Fifth, Sixth, or Seventh Judicial Districts.
- C. A simple majority of the voting members shall constitute a quorum.
- D. Council meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241).
- E. Minutes will be taken at each meeting and draft minutes will be furnished to Council members prior to the next meeting.

#### ARTICLE VIII

#### VOTING

- A. Action on any matter requires a simple majority vote of the quorum present in accordance with NRS 241.015(1) (a).
- B. No proxy voting will be allowed.

#### ARTICLE IX

#### COMMITTEES

- A. Every member of the Council, with the exception of the chair, shall serve on at least one committee.
- B Committees may be formed at the discretion of the chair upon advice of the Council or pursuant to Council action. Each committee will exist until its work is completed. Committees may consist of Council and non-Council members.
- C. Each committee shall designate a chair or co-chairs.
- D. The committee chair or chair's designee shall be prepared to report on the committee's progress and recommendations at the next regularly scheduled Council meeting following the committee meeting.
- E. Committee meetings shall be conducted in accordance with the Open Meeting Law (NRS Ch. 241).
- F. Minutes will be taken at each committee meeting.
- G. A simple majority of the committee's membership shall constitute a quorum.
- H. Each committee chair shall hold regular meetings. If the committee has not met prior to two consecutive council meetings, the committee may vote to replace the existing chair.
- I. Committee members may be removed by a simple majority vote of the quorum present at the meeting or by the Chair of the Council.

#### ARTICLE X

#### AMENDMENTS

Bylaws may be amended at any regular meeting of the Council, provided that a notice of the amendment has been sent to all members one month prior. Amendments shall be passed by a simple majority vote of the quorum present in accordance with NRS 241.015(1) (a).

Accepted and approved by the Council on this 29th *day of January* 2009.

Signed: \_\_\_\_\_

CATHERINE CORTEZ MASTO Attorney General, Chair to the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

# **APPENDIX C**

### Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

# NRS 228.480 Creation; appointment of members; compensation of members

- 1. The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence is hereby created within the Office of the Attorney General.
- 2. The Council must consist of not more than 30 members appointed by the Attorney General from the various geographical regions of the State.
- 3. The term of office of a member of the Council is 3 years.
- 4. A vacancy on the Council must be filled in the same manner as the original appointment for the remainder of the unexpired term.
- 5. Each member of the Council:
  - (a) Serves without compensation; and
  - (b) While engaged in the business of the Council, is entitled to receive the per diem allowance and travel expenses provided for state officers and employees generally

(Added to NRS by <u>2005, 940</u>)

#### NRS 228.485 Chairman; meetings; adoption of rules

- 1. The Attorney General or his designee is the Chairman of the Council.
- 2. The Council shall annually elect a Vice Chairman, Secretary, and Treasurer from among its members.
- 3. The Council shall meet at least three times in each calendar year and may meet at other times upon the call of the Chairman. At least one meeting in each calendar year must be held at a location within the Fourth Judicial District, Fifth Judicial District, Sixth Judicial District, or Seventh Judicial District.
- 4. The Council shall adopt rules for its own management and government. (Added to NRS by <u>2005, 940</u>)

#### NRS 228.490 Duties

- 1. For the purpose of preventing and eliminating domestic violence in this State, the Council shall:
- (a) Increase awareness of the existence and unacceptability of domestic violence in this State;
- (b) Make recommendations for any necessary legislation relating to domestic violence to the Office of the Attorney General; and
- (c) Provide financial support to programs for the prevention of domestic violence in this State.
- 2. The Council shall:
- (a) Study and review all appropriate issues related to the administration of the criminal justice system in rural Nevada with respect to offenses involving

domestic violence, including, without limitation, the availability of counseling services; and

- (b) With the assistance of the Court Administrator, based upon the study and review conducted pursuant to paragraph (a), prepare and submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the Director of the Legislative Counsel Bureau, on or before February 1 of each odd-numbered year, for transmittal to the next regular session of the Legislature. In preparing the report, the Council shall solicit comments and recommendations from district judges, municipal judges, and justices of the peace in rural Nevada and include in its report, as a separate section, all comments, and recommendations that are received by the Council.
- 3. The Council may apply for and accept gifts, grants, donations, and contributions from any source for the purpose of carrying out its duties pursuant to this section. Any money that the Council receives pursuant to this subsection must be deposited in and accounted for separately in the Account for Programs Related to Domestic Violence created pursuant to NRS 228.460 for use by the Council in carrying out its duties.

(Added to NRS by 2005, 940)

#### NRS 228.205 Victim Information Notification Everyday System: Establishment; appointment of Governance Committee; duties of Governance Committee; no cause of action by victim established by failure of System.

- 1. There is hereby created in the Office of the Attorney General the Victim Information Notification Everyday System, which consists of a toll-free telephone number and an Internet website through which victims of crime and members of the public may register to receive automated information and notification concerning changes in the custody status of an offender.
- 2. The Attorney General shall:
  - (a) Appoint a subcommittee of the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence created by <u>NRS 228.480</u> to serve as the Governance Committee for the System; and
  - (b) Consider nominations by the Council when appointing members of the Governance Committee.
- 3. The Governance Committee may adopt policies, protocols, and regulations for the operation and oversight of the System.
- 4. The Attorney General may apply for and accept gifts, grants, and donations for use in carrying out the provisions of this section.
- 5. To the extent of available funding, each sheriff, and chief of police, the Department of Corrections, the Department of Public Safety, and the State Board of Parole Commissioners shall cooperate with the Attorney General to establish and maintain the System.
- 6. The failure of the System to notify a victim of a crime of a change in the custody status of an offender does not establish a basis for any cause of action by the victim or any other party against the State, its political

subdivisions, or the agencies, boards, commissions, departments, officers or employees of the State or its political subdivisions.

- 7. As used in this section:
  - (a) "Custody status" means the transfer of the custody of an offender or the release or escape from custody of an offender.
  - (b) Offender" means a person convicted of a crime and sentenced to imprisonment in a county jail or in the state prison.

(Added to NRS by 2013, 167)

# APPENDIX D

# **Domestic Violence Fatality Review in Nevada**

# Annual Report

November 30, 2014

#### **Report Authored by:**

Tara Phebus, M.A., Executive Director of the Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy at UNLV with contributions from the State of Nevada Attorney General's Office, Attorney General – Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team, Clark County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team and Washoe County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team.

All materials and publications (written, visual, or sound) resulting from sub-grant award activities shall contain the following statements: "This project was supported under 2013-VAWA-45 awarded by the state administering office for the STOP Formula Grant Program. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this publication/

program/exhibition are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the state or the U.S. Department of Justice, OVW."

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# I. INTRODUCTION

Domestic Violence Fatality Review is considered to be a best practice tool and is becoming increasingly utilized across the country. The process includes a multidisciplinary review team that compiles information to review deaths related to domestic violence. Through these reviews, teams identify red flags that may have indicated escalating levels of violence and enables the team to develop recommendations to improve systems designed to protect victims of domestic violence. In a 2011 report from the Violence Policy Research Center, Nevada ranked number one in the rate of women killed by men. While these numbers are trending down (the same report in 2013 ranked Nevada sixteenth nationally), domestic violence related fatalities are still a concern in Nevada. This review process is working to help to identify areas in need of improvement, establish a formal mechanism to further examine those needs, and allow agencies and organizations to work together to make improvements, thus reducing deaths related to domestic violence

This report is intended to give an update on the work of Domestic Violence Fatality Review teams statewide since the last report was released in April 2013. The report also includes progress on existing recommendations as well as any new recommendations for prevention identified by each of the teams.

## II. DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM ACTIVITIES 2013-2014

## Attorney General Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team (AG-DVFRST)

#### Target Review Area: 15 Rural Counties in Nevada

Since the last fatality review report in April 2013, the statewide team has conducted two more case reviews in rural jurisdictions; a case was reviewed in Silver Springs (Lyon County) and a case in Minden (Douglas County). Each review was conducted over two days and outcomes of the reviews are outlined in section V. 2014 Recommendations. The team also participated in a statewide meeting in June 2014 to discuss the review process, lessons learned, successes, and challenges in conducting reviews and making recommendations. This meeting was well attended and helped to build collaboration and information sharing between the three teams to create a more consistent statewide system for domestic violence fatality review in Nevada. A full summary of this meeting is included in this report under Appendix A.

# Clark County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (CC-DVFRT)

Target Review Area: Clark County, Nevada

The Clark County review team has conducted four case reviews since the last report in April 2013. In addition to case reviews the Clark team spent time reviewing internal processes for team membership and case selection, making changes to the protocols to create more specificity in membership requirements, as well as establishing a concrete procedure for case selection. The case selection process now allows the Clark County Coroner's Office to identify domestic violence related fatalities and bring them to the team for review and selection, allowing for a centralized case identification process rather than relying solely on individual law enforcement jurisdictions to identify cases.

In addition, the Clark County team invited agencies to present to the group about their programming or systems in order to learn more about resources available to individuals in our community. The team heard presentations from Communities in Schools about programs available for families as well as from the Nevada Office of Suicide Prevention (OSP). The OSP presentation gave the team information on outreach activities related to suicide prevention as well as training opportunities for professionals to help identify and provide resources to those struggling with suicidal thoughts. This presentation was especially useful given that the team had reviewed a number of homicide and suicide cases.

# Washoe County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (WC-DVFRT)

#### Target Review Area: Washoe County, Nevada

The Washoe County review team has conducted four case reviews since the last report. The team has focused on further developing their case review process by making some modifications. In the last year the Washoe County team has changed their process such that now when cases are selected the information is sent to team members two months in advance of the meeting, then one month prior to the meeting a core group of team members with case specific information meet to create the timeline for the review. Once the timeline is created it is presented at the team's review meeting where members then engage during the meeting to identify red flags and generate recommendations for prevention.

## **III. STATEWIDE MEETING OF ALL TEAMS**

On June 3, 2014 members of the statewide domestic violence fatality review team as well as both local teams (Clark and Washoe) held a joint meeting to discuss the review process and identify both successes and challenges identified over the past two years. (Notes from this meeting are attached in Appendix B)

An outcome of this meeting was to create a "vetting team" that is responsible for the review, action, and follow through on recommendations from the three review teams. A representative from each of the teams was requested to attend a meeting with the Attorney General and her staff to discuss the composition of this "vetting" team. This meeting was held on November 19, 2014 in Carson City, NV. Plans for this team are outlined in the next section of this report.

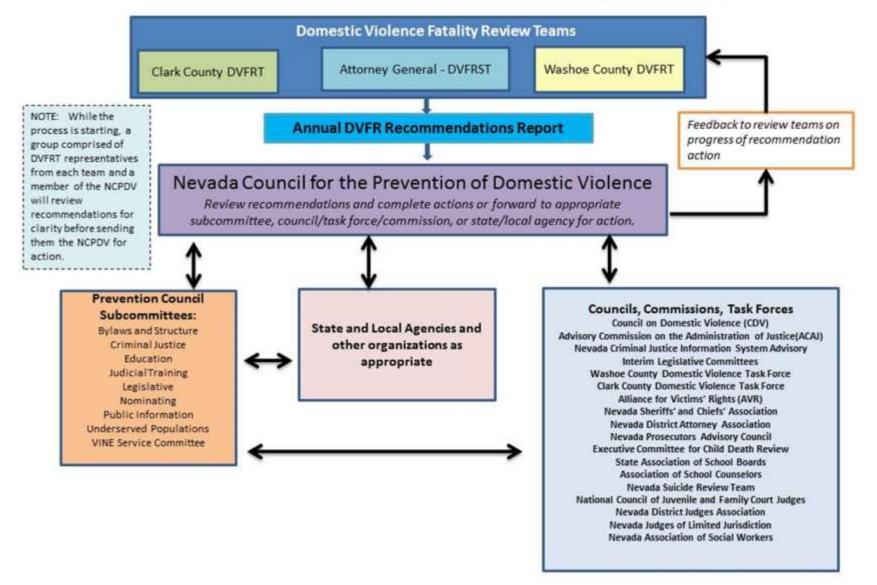
### Domestic Violence Fatality Review in Nevada (DVFR) – Recommendation Process

As DVFR in Nevada has grown, teams have struggled to identify ways to make and implement effective recommendations for improvement. To streamline the process for receipt and review of recommendations from Domestic Violence Fatality Review Teams, the Attorney General and representatives from all three review teams met to discuss creating a process that establishes a central location for recommendations to be submitted, reviewed, and acted upon.

During this meeting the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (Council) was identified as an existing group that is well positioned to serve as the central depository for the review process. In the proposed plan, each review team would annually compile recommendations identified during case reviews and submit them to the Council. The Council would use their meetings to review and discuss these recommendations and identify an action plan to carry out the recommendations. This may be a referral to another agency, commission, or task force in the state or assignment to one of the Council's subcommittees. The Council would continue to work on the recommendations until they are considered complete and would update the team making the recommendation on the progress being made. Figure 1 below outlines the proposed process for making, reviewing, and implementing recommendations from DVFRTs.

#### Figure 1. Domestic Violence Fatality Review Recommendation Process

#### Recommendation Process for Domestic Violence Fatality Review in Nevada



#### IV.2013 DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW RECOMMENDATIONS

# Attorney General - Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team Recommendations

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1:**

Create policy, protocol, or other method to ensure that agencies are submitting complete and accurate information to the Nevada Criminal Justice Information System (NCJIS).

<u>RATIONALE:</u> : NCJIS – Nevada Criminal Justice Information System is a database for information sharing that contains all information on criminal activity, but is only as good as the agencies and individuals submitting the information. DA's, city attorney's, courts, law enforcement should all have processes in place to ensure that full, accurate, and complete information is input into this system – including arrests, convictions, and Temporary Protection Orders

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2**

Ensure that once a danger/lethality assessment is completed that the victim is referred for services and also follow up with the perpetrator. This could come in the form of the creation of high risk teams that place the focus on the prevention of crime and strengthen police response to high risk perpetrators.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> Many agencies (law enforcement and other service providers) have implemented lethality assessments, but need more resources and guidance on how to use that information once the assessment is complete. The implementation of high risk teams would allow for specialized treatment of these cases to strengthen the ability for police to respond and prevent violent crimes.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #3**

Provide support to agencies to allow them to achieve a level of capacity that will allow them to implement best practices in their field.

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

The Nevada Department of Public Safety (DPS) is working on crafting regulations that specify exactly what information should go into NCJIS and when that information should be added.

In addition, once regulations are completed, training will be developed and implemented for law enforcement to ensure they are aware of the new requirements.

Contact Person: Julie Butler, Department of Public Safety

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department (LVMPD) has created a process for administering lethality assessments that has been in place since 2009.

A brief summary of the LVMPD lethality assessment and follow up process is provided in Appendix A of this report

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence has been identified to receive and <u>RATIONALE</u>: Best practices in many areas related to domestic violence treatment and prevention have been developed but local agencies struggle to implement these processes because of high caseloads and/or insufficient staffing levels.

take action on recommendations from all three DVFRTs in the state.

The process was outlined and presented to the Council on December 8, 2014. This process will assist in developing interagency relationships statewide and facilitate building capacity in communities interested in implementing best practices.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #4**

Explore the possibility of the creation and implementation of a process/procedure for instant Temporary Protection Orders (TPOs) at the time of arrest.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: The Temporary Protection Order (TPO) at the time of the incident is often most valuable at the time of the incident and an instant system would prevent delays in protecting victims from additional abuse. This system may require on-call judges, and advocates that could be available immediately at the time of arrest. **NRS 33.017 Definitions.** As used in <u>NRS 33.017</u> to <u>33.100</u>, inclusive, unless the context otherwise requires: 1. "Extended order" means an extended order for protection against domestic violence. 2. "Temporary order" means a temporary order for protection against domestic violence. (Added to NRS by 1985, 2283; A 1997, 1808; 1999, 1372; 2001, 2128; 2003, 1754; 2007, 1275)

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

Currently both Washoe County and Clark County have systems in place to issue emergency temporary protection orders.

This recommendation will be referred to the Nevada Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association as well as the District Attorneys' Association for review and assessment of the capacity issues that prevent this system from being implemented in rural jurisdictions.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #5**

Work with judges and attorneys statewide to discontinue the practice of pleading down domestic violence cases.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> When these cases are pled down to lower level offenses, sentencing is ineffective or even dangerous. For example, impulse control classes/anger

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

Resources for improvement in a community's response to domestic violence, including best practices for prosecuting domestic violence cases in Nevada are listed in Appendix A of this report.

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management classes are not effective in domestic violence cases. In addition, this creates a system where future domestic violence incidents are treated as a first offense, and therefore the cumulative nature of domestic violence sentencing is ineffective.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #6**

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Implement a regular review for the processes used when perpetrators are "Gone on Arrival."

**<u>RATIONALE</u>**: In these circumstances, law enforcement may or may not follow up on locating these individuals. If 24 hours pass, then law enforcement can seek a warrant for their arrest but this is not consistently done across jurisdictions.

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

To better understand the current practices and available resources relative to Recommendations 6, 7, and 8, a brief online survey will be developed and disseminated to the Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association, asking agencies to provide information on current practices.

This information will be complied and then shared with the Association members so they can better address these recommendations by sharing processes in different jurisdictions to identify best practices for each community.

| RECOMMENDATION #7   | ACTION TO DATE |
|---|----------------|
| Ensure that a language line or other reliable and certified | See #6         |
| interpretation services are available for 911 operators as  |                |
| well as law enforcement and ensure staff are trained on     |                |
| when and how to use these services in the course of their   |                |
| job.  |                |

**RATIONALE:** Interpretation services may not be available 24 hours a day in all jurisdictions and staff may

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not be aware of when and how to access these services. In DV cases, reporting abuse is a very important step and if victims are not understood at the time of the call or law enforcement response, victims may become frustrated by the system and not use the systems that are there for their protection.

| <b>RECOMMENDATION #8</b>                                 |
|--|
| Review standard procedures for 911 operators in Public   |
| Safety Answering Point (PSAP) locations statewide to     |
| ensure that operators are trained using national best    |
| practices in how to respond to calls related to domestic |
| violence.  |

<u>RATIONALE:</u> When victims of domestic violence call 911 for help operators should be trained to conduct a safety assessment of the caller to ensure their safety is secured before demographic information is collected. In some instances, valuable time is lost and victims remain at risk while the operator gets basic demographic information like name, address, etc.

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

See # 6

#### Clark County - Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Recommendations

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1:**

Work with the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence's Education Committee to identify existing programs and best practices for increasing age appropriate education and awareness about domestic violence for children and youth in Nevada schools.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> In one of the cases reviewed by the team, the couple had children in the home that witnessed the abuse and in one case even made multiple calls to law enforcement when domestic violence occurred. The team identified a need to educate students about

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

The Clark County team will review programs in other parts of the state (Child Assault Prevention, SHARE program, etc.). In addition the team will connect with individuals implementing the Clark County School District human trafficking curriculum to see if the messaging is also applicable to concepts around domestic violence prevention.

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domestic violence so that they have tools and resources available if they recognize the signs in their own homes or dating relationships.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2**

Work with the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence's Public Information Committee to implement a broad public education campaign to recognize that even seemingly minor incidents in a relationship can be red flags that often escalate to more severe violence, power, and control issues in a relationship.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: In all of these cases in hindsight someone in the victim or perpetrator's family, their friend, neighbors or coworkers identified incidents of controlling behavior or violence and if these earlier incidents (although perceived as minor or isolated) would have been taken more seriously the death may have been prevented.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #3**

Create a subcommittee at the state level to review laws/policies related to the minimum age when a protection order may be requested without a parent or guardian to see if these restrictions can be changed to accommodate younger victims.

RATIONALE: In some cases the domestic violence or dating violence starts very young and victims may be too embarrassed to talk to their parents about their concerns so requiring a parent or guardian for victims under age 18 may be a barrier to them seeking out these protections even when they have very serious concerns.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #4**

Amend NRS 202.360 so that persons convicted of a misdemeanor offense of battery constituting domestic

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

The Public Information subcommittee of the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence has created a plan to implement the national "No More" campaign in Nevada.

http://www.nomore.org

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

In 2014 the Attorney General's Office and the National Council on Family and Juvenile Court Judges held two statewide meetings to better understand juveniles and domestic violence. One area of focus was on the relationship types most prevalent for juveniles and domestic violence. The Summary of these meetings was compiled into a report that will be shared with the Clark County team for possible action. The summary is also in Appendix C of this document.

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

*Currently the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence is exploring legislative* 37

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violence are included in the list of persons prohibited from options to address this issue. owning or possessing a firearm.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: In two of the cases reviewed the perpetrator used a firearm to commit the murder and in both of those cases the firearm was owned by the perpetrator. In one of the cases reviewed the perpetrator had been previously convicted of domestic violence but still remained in possession of his firearms. This suggested change would bring Nevada state law more in line with federal law.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #5**

Work with the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence to identify existing or develop educational messaging or training about mental illness/substance abuse and the impact on victims of domestic violence to help professionals to be more sensitive to these issues

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

The Ombudsman for Domestic Violence in the Attorney General's Office is currently working on plans for a statewide training institute for sex trafficking/domestic violence/sexual assault. When this is created it would serve as a resource to provide this type of continuing education in Nevada.

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<u>RATIONALE</u>: In one of the cases reviewed mental health issues of the victim may have led to chronic alcohol abuse which may have hindered her ability to advocate for herself, and may have impacted her credibility with law enforcement when reporting incidents of domestic violence. We know that victims may use substances as a coping mechanism to deal with the abuse and their abusers may withhold treatment for mental illness to maintain control. Training for sensitivity to these issues may allow for better services to victims with these special needs.

Currently the International Association of the Chiefs of Police has information on their website about improving officer response to people with mental illness. This information can be found at http://www.theiacp.org/responsetomentalill

#### **RECOMMENDATION #6**

Request that the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence and their Underserved Populations Committee could work with inpatient/outpatient mental health service providers as well as domestic violence shelters statewide to help address specific concerns for domestic violence victims with mental health diagnoses.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> Historically, it has been difficult for victims of domestic violence with mental health or substance abuse issues to access domestic violence shelters. For the safety of all the women in the shelters there are strict rules of conduct that must be followed and these can be difficult for victims with mental illness or those addicted to drugs or alcohol, but they could still benefit from the safety a shelter can offer. Currently there has been some work done to address these concerns, but it would be more beneficial if the issues were addressed on a statewide level.

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

This recommendation will be forwarded to the Nevada Network for Domestic Violence as well as the Division of Public and Behavioral Health to identify existing outreach efforts to ensure that mental health concerns are addressed for victims of domestic violence.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #7**

Identify existing training or develop training based on best practices, for medical providers on what to do after a lethality assessment or how to provide information discreetly if medical staff suspects that a patient is the victim of domestic violence.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: In two of the cases reviewed, the team identified that the victim had been to the hospital for medical treatment after a violent incident and although a

#### **ACTION TO DATE**

A request will be sent to a Clark County Traumatologist working out of the University Medical Center to better understand an existing program designed to provide case management for victims of violence. Once the information is compiled an informational letter will be sent to the Nevada Hospital Association to recommend best practices and existing resources for 39

lethality assessment was completed, it was unclear what *hospitals.* steps were taken after the assessment to help ensure the victim's safety. In addition, in these incidents even if the assessment wasn't done medical staff likely had a suspicion and could have provided resources or information even if the victim indicated that the injury was not a result of domestic violence.

Washoe County - Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Recommendations

| <b>RECOMMENDATION #1:</b>   | ACTION TO DATE   |
|---|--|
| Create policy, protocol, and training to ensure that all Temporary<br>Protection Order Offices within the courts have access and/or<br>staff are bilingual to ensure that the victims applying for TPO's<br>are afforded the opportunity to have all their questions, concerns,<br>and education explained to them in a language they understand.   | <i>See response to AG-DVFRST<br/>Recommendations #6, 7, 8 above.</i>   |
| RATIONALE: Several of our previous cases over the past two<br>years have involved immigrants from other countries who did<br>not speak or understand English very well. There are<br>international language services which provide bilingual<br>speakers to assist in the interpretation and explanation of a<br>TPO and would assist in ensuring the victim understands the<br>TPO process and any fears or concerns they may have could be<br>addressed at the time of application. |  |
| <b>RECOMMENDATION #2</b>  | ACTION TO DATE   |
| Provide statewide training to law enforcement personnel on<br>domestic violence, signs of domestic violence and TPO process.<br><u>RATIONALE:</u> Many agencies throughout the state have<br>experienced an increase in the number of new officers on the   | The practice and policy was created<br>at the Reno Police Department and<br>training was completed for all<br>personnel. |
| street. This influx is can partially be attributed to the early<br>retirement age for law enforcement personnel (25 years of<br>service). The basic law enforcement academy provides a very<br>limited amount of domestic violence and TPO training to new<br>officers. Nevada continues to lead the nation in domestic<br>batteries and we need to educate our first responders on   | <i>Currently the Washoe County DVFRT is working on ensuring sustainability for this program.</i>                         |
|   | 40   |

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identifying and addressing this issue. This training should also involve the best practices in the prevention and outreach resources available for victims.

#### V. 2014 RECOMMENDATIONS

#### Attorney General-Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1:**

Communities should implement a "Coordinated Community Response" to Domestic Violence to ensure communication between agencies and improved systems for prevention of domestic violence and protection of victims.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: Timeliness of response from law enforcement as well as continued communication and coordination of services between law enforcement and service providers in the community is crucial to the elimination of domestic violence and associated fatalities in Nevada. There is extensive research on this topic and continues to demonstrate that it is a model practice for communities. http://files.praxisinternational.org/ccrdv.pdf

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2:**

*Efforts should be made for early and consistent contact with victims to ensure their safety and cooperation in apprehending and prosecuting the suspects.* 

<u>RATIONALE</u>: In domestic violence cases victims will often recant their initial allegation for fear of additional abuse, therefore law enforcement needs to ensure that in their system for response they are working with victims immediately to ensure their safety and also develop a trusting relationship that will assist in the eventual prosecution of the case. This element should be a part of the coordinated community response noted in Recommendation #1.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #3:**

State leaders should explore options to develop a statewide data system that will identify and track domestic violence arrests, convictions, sentencing, and recidivism.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: Currently there is no one data system that can be used to provide these metrics. This data is essential in understanding the scope of domestic violence statewide as well as our systems' response to it.

#### Clark County - Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Recommendations

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1:**

Review policies related to minimum lengths of temporary protection orders. The timeframes should be a minimum of 5-7 days for emergency orders and a minimum of 30-45 days for temporary orders.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: Judges have a lot of discretion when it comes to issuing protection orders and the decisions are not always in the best interest of the victim's safety. Therefore required minimum standards would increase the likelihood that the order stays in place for as long as the victim needs it.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2:**

Require that all judge pro-tems MUST have training on the dynamics of domestic violence before being allowed to preside over cases.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> This effort is underway through Judge Frank Sullivan (Eight Judicial District Court) and attorneys sitting in for Domestic Violence commissioners. They have received mandatory training and Judge Sullivan is also requiring that all hearing masters as well as attorneys sitting in for them have this training before they are allowed to sit on the bench for protective order hearings. This is a current practice but not an official "court rule". Also, the Clark County team is looking to review the content of the training curriculum to ensure it adequately covers the dynamics of domestic violence and not just the laws relative to domestic violence.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #3:**

Ensure that the health curriculum for K-12 students in Nevada includes relevant information regarding healthy relationships.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> Safe Nest and the Rape Crisis Center currently provide some training in Clark County but not for all schools at all grade levels. This information could be included in the child sexual abuse prevention or sex trafficking prevention curriculums.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #4:**

Work with the Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence to provide training to nursing staff on screening for domestic violence/sexual assault during regular/annual visits. Request a letter from the AG's office to the Nevada Hospital Association and Nursing Boards regarding the importance of screening at visits as well as resources for screening tools to use and resources to provide if abuse is disclosed.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: Victims may be hesitant to come forward and report the abuse they are suffering. Many times medical appointments may be the only time the victims is alone with a professional that could provide assistance in obtaining support and services. Therefore, it is crucial that medical professionals and especially nurses are trained to screen their patients for domestic violence and are able to provide resources for victims.

#### Washoe County-Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team Recommendations

#### **RECOMMENDATION #1:**

Include batterer information into Alcoholics Anonymous (AA) and Narcotics Anonymous (NA) groups.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: The majority of the cases reviewed by the team have some element of alcohol or drug abuse by both perpetrator and/or victim. Including batterers' treatment information and resources to pre-exiting NA and AA groups would allow the information to reach the target audience.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #2**

Educate victims on the difference between a No Contact order and a Protection Order

<u>RATIONALE:</u> Victims often times do not understand the difference or more specifically their rights and the differences in protection and perpetrator restrictions between a no contact order and a protection order. Safety can be impacted based on what they believe each one will do.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #3**

Ensure that batterers are court ordered to attend groups while detained. Analyze what those groups specifically provide and how often and quickly they are offered.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> While a perpetrator is sitting in jail it is the perfect opportunity to order them to attend groups' specific to domestic violence. While there are currently groups offered, and credit given to offenders that attend, they are not court ordered.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #4**

Provide domestic violence information to weekly motels and apartment complexes.

<u>RATIONALE</u>: Many domestic violence homicides occur in weekly motels and apartment complexes so it is important to have information in those complexes for tenants to access and to make sure the managers are made aware as well.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #5**

Bridges out of Poverty training for Law Enforcement

<u>RATIONALE:</u> There are huge dynamics around poverty and domestic violence. The *Bridges out of Poverty* training provides an opportunity for those that work with families living in poverty to help get a better understanding and perspective on why they make the decisions they make and how to be most effective when working with them.

#### **RECOMMENDATION # 6**

Strangulation training for first responders – educating them on the fact that there could be no visible injuries on the victim yet it could still be strangulation. Better documentation of the event and other non-visible injuries. A checklist should be developed or first responders to use on scene.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> In strangulation cases there is a tendency for first responders to question the validity of the victims' story if there are no visible injuries to the neck, etc. If first responders could be educated that a lack of injury does not mean that a crime did not occur. Also, there are many other indicators of strangulation that they could be educated about. A checklist should be created as an educational tool.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #7**

More education on teen dating violence and healthy relationships for teens at the middle and high school level.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> Early education to teens is a huge preventative measure for both the batterers and the victims. Many programs will separate the boys and the girls and then do education specific to the batterers and victims in each grouping. This has shown to be very effective at the national level.

#### **RECOMMENDATION #8**

Improve documentation of Victim Injuries Provide training for law enforcement so they are more consistent with follow-up photos of victim injuries days after the event. In addition a BOLD clause on the law enforcement victim information sheet that encourages victims to take additional photos as their injuries progress or provide victims with a contact number for a specific agency (or reporting agency) to take those follow-up photos for them should be added by all three law enforcement jurisdictions in Washoe County.

<u>RATIONALE:</u> Many injuries in both domestic violence and strangulation cases get more pronounced and even appear days after the event. It is important to capture those images as they can often support the victims statements even if at the time of the event there were no visible injuries.

#### VI.NEXT STEPS FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW IN NEVADA

The process for Domestic Violence Fatality Review in Nevada continues to be revised as we work to create a system that can help to eliminate domestic violence fatalities in Nevada. In the next year, teams will continue to meet to review cases, identify red flags and recommendations, and work together to improve systems and services aimed at preventing and treating domestic violence.

In December 2014, all three DVFRTs in the state were invited to participate in training provided by the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative to assist teams in making better and more effective recommendations as well as learn new strategies for implementing recommendations statewide.

Teams plan to utilize the proposed recommendation process in 2015 and make adjustments as necessary. In addition, the teams will continue to hold an annual meeting to bring members of all three teams together to share lessons learned and identify ways to continually improve the fatality review process in Nevada. Information from these meetings, annual reports, as well as a domestic violence fatality review program manual will be located on the Nevada Attorney General's website in the domestic violence section.

#### APPENDIX A: SUCCESSFUL PROGRAMS AND BEST PRACTICE GUIDELINES IN NEVADA

In the process of conducting reviews and crafting recommendations for prevention, teams have identified successful programs and model protocols that may be helpful for communities in thinking about how to make improvements. In the paragraphs below you will find a brief description of the program as well as a person to contact if you would like more information on the program.

#### 1. COORDINATED COMMUNITY RESPONSE TO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

#### **Douglas County Special Victims Response Team (SVRT)**

The Douglas County Special Victims Response Team (SVRT) is a coordinated community response designed to significantly improve the safety of victims of sexual assault, domestic violence, and stalking by implementing protocols to ensure victims receive immediate access to victim services and the criminal justice system, and to ensure that offenders are held accountable. Both public and private agencies in Douglas County entered into a memorandum of understanding as to their respective roles.

The SVRT partners include: (1) the Douglas County District Attorney's Office (DCDA) acts as the sole public prosecutor and single point of contact through an investigator assigned full-time to investigating cases of sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking and ensuring that the protocols are followed on all cases; (2) the Douglas County Sheriff's Office (DCSO) is the primary law enforcement agency and is responsible for responding to all calls for service. public safety issues, reported crimes and the initial investigation of reported criminal activity; (3) the Douglas County Department of Alternative Sentencing (DAS) is responsible for supervising defendants who are placed on court ordered pretrial supervision based on conditions of release and for supervising probationers, who as a condition of a suspended sentence, are released under the supervision of DAS by the court; (4) the Family Support Council of Douglas County (FSC) is the non-profit domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking victim service agency and shelter program providing 24/7 crisis hotline and victim advocacy in both English and bilingual/bicultural Spanish and provides access to victims 24/7 for advocacy, safety planning, shelter, transportation and accompaniment to court or hospital services, and provides weekly drop-in support groups, and one-on-one peer counseling or therapy with a licensed marriage and family

therapist; (5) the Douglas County Partnership of Community Resources is a non-profit substance abuse and wellness coalition that serves to strengthen collaborative projects in the community and serves as a technical assistance agency in collecting data, assisting in the preparation and submission of SVRT reports and identifying emerging community issues related to the SVRT, and; (6) the Douglas County Juvenile Probation Department is responsible for issues related to juveniles within the community.

Some of the key components of the SRVT protocol include: (1) contact with the victim within the first 12 critical hours following the crime to provide services and referrals within the scope of the SVRT; (2) provides for a single point of contact for all sexual assault, domestic violence and stalking cases; (3) weekly meetings with representatives from all of the partners of the SVRT to review the status of all ongoing cases and discuss new arrests and submissions from the previous week; (4) pretrial GPS monitoring of the offender as a condition of bail or as a condition of any additional suspended jail time after conviction; (5) and dedicated and thorough investigations of all cases, including listening to all non-privileged inmate recorded telephone calls and jail visits.

Contact: Mark Jackson, Douglas County District Attorney

#### 2. LETHALITY ASSESSMENT

#### Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department

The Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department implemented the lethality Assessment Program in February 2009, as a pilot project to address the increase in domestic violence homicides. This innovative program is based on collaboration and seamless services for victims who are determined to be at high risk for lethality. It is initiated when officers take a report for domestic violence. Victims are asked a series of questions to help assess the potential for escalating violence. Officers assist these victims in calling the local domestic violence hotline to begin formulating a safety plan, and arrange for shelter or obtaining more information about resources. While a majority of victims may not want to talk to an advocate immediately after talking to police, an advocate from the LVMPD Victim Services Unit will contact the victim within the first 24 hours to follow-up with resources, support, and advocacy. When an arrest is made, the lethality assessment is included in the documents forwarded to the court for prosecution. While Southern Nevada saw a significant decrease in domestic violence homicides since 2010, the Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department continues to expand proactive programs to support repeat victims, hold repeat offenders accountable, and intervene before the violence escalates. Since January, 2014, LVMPD advocates have reached out to 4,356 victims at risk for escalating violence.

Contact: Elynne Greene, LVMPD Victim Advocate Supervisor

For more information about danger assessments please visit the Danger Assessment website from Johns Hopkins University at <u>http://www.dangerassessment.org/</u>

#### 3. PROSECUTING DOMESTIC VIOLENCE IN NEVADA

The State of Nevada Advisory Council for Prosecuting Attorneys has recently produced two important documents for prosecutors of domestic violence in Nevada. These include the Domestic Violence Resource Manual as well as the Best Practices in Prosecuting Domestic Violence. Both of these resources can be found on the State of Nevada Attorney General's website at the link below.

http://ag.nv.gov/Hot Topics/Victims/DV Prosecuting/

#### 4. MODEL POLICIES FOR DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

The International Association for Chiefs of Police (IACP) has many resources on their website including model polices for law enforcement for domestic violence. The information can be accessed at the link below.

http://www.theiacp.org/ViewResult?SearchID=797

#### APPENDIX B: JOINT MEETING OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAMS

Attendees:

Attorney General Domestic Violence Fatality Review Statewide Team (AG-DVFRST) Clark County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (CC-DVFRT) Washoe County Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team (WC-DVFRT)

June 3, 2014

#### Agenda:

- 1. Welcome and Introduction Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto
- 2. Purpose and overview of the meeting and goals for the discussion

The purpose of this meeting is to have an open discussion between members of Nevada's DVFR teams, as well as the coalitions and task forces in the state working to prevent domestic violence and strengthen systems that work with victims, perpetrators, and their families once violence has already occurred. The goal for today is to identify barriers to conducting effective case reviews and making recommendations for prevention as a result of those case reviews as well as discuss solutions to those barriers and gain some consensus about how the recommendation process can work for all DVFR teams to be most effective.

# 3. Overview of purpose of DVFR and what work has been done over the past two years

The statewide team was established in 2012 and with that came work to establish a Clark County team as well as coordinate efforts between the two local teams (Clark and Washoe) and the statewide team. In April 2013 a report was published that outlined the work of the teams over the past year including a set of recommendations for prevention (see attached). During this time local teams as well as the statewide team started to identify barriers to conducting effective case reviews as well as struggling to identify where recommendations should be directed. Over the past two years the statewide team has convened to review three cases, the Clark team has reviewed six cases and the Washoe team has reviewed six cases.

- 4. Identified barriers to conducting case reviews
  - Access to criminal history record for perpetrators
  - Sometimes teams are not sure who should be contacted to participate in the review how can we find more people to involve in the review that may have case specific information?

- It was noted that the timelines that are created help to identify people that could participate in the review but this is done at the meeting
- There are issues obtaining certain pieces of information because of confidentiality laws the teams do not have subpoena power to compel agencies or organizations to provide information this is particularly an issue with school information on any children involved
- It is important to bring all information together in advance of the review and have the timeline drafted before the full team gets together to review creating the timeline itself takes a lot of time and the group's time is better spent in discussion (for state team that meets only over 2 days other local teams like creating the timeline together)
- Local teams meet monthly and this can be a barrier because waiting a month for the next meeting breaks momentum in discussion of the case – the 2 day model is good but scheduling could be an issue for local groups
- Finding family/friends to talk to the team about the case is a challenge they are hard to locate and may not be interested in participating in the review
  - Friends/Family could be interviewed by one team member and information brought back to the team so that they don't have to attend the actual meeting itself

#### 5. Barriers to making recommendations

- There are questions about when does each team have responsibility to implement recommendations? Teams need the commitment of all stakeholders to work on implementing recommendations.
  - Teams need a list of entities that work on DV prevention as well as additional prevention resources and then can funnel out recommendations or information to the appropriate place.
  - Some recommendations are local others are statewide this should help guide where the recommendation goes
  - Whomever is working on the recommendation needs time to research and provide suggestions for implementation
  - If recommendations are directed to an agency invite them to attend the meeting and discuss the recommendation then they could go back and work on it and report out to the team later
  - All members of the teams report learning from the reviews and using the information to improve their practice – team members need to regularly report back to the group any changes they made as a result

of the reviews so that can be documented as an outcome of the review

- Create a team made up of members from all over the state and all three review teams that can accept recommendations from DVFRTs and this group will identify the appropriate place to send the recommendation and will be responsible for follow up and reporting back to the team that originally made the recommendation.
- Hold an annual meeting of all teams to discuss progress and work on improving the processes for case reviews this meeting could also review and discuss the annual report before its release
- Create a program manual for DVFR in Nevada this could be reviewed at our next annual meeting
- Create a structure/proposal to create the vetting team for recommendations.
- Create a website for DVFR that would include recommendations, annual reports, membership lists, task forces, coalitions, etc. All DV groups that have webpages should be asked to also link to the DVFR page.

#### **Barriers related specifically to the AG-DVFRST:**

- Need a dedicated Case Agent may be someone in law enforcement. When the team comes into a community for a review they don't know what the relationships are between agencies so may get conflicting information for the review.
- Identify cross-jurisdictional issues in advance (criminal history primarily in one county but fatal incident happens in another) Decide how the team will handle those cases when this is identified in advance where does the review take place?
- State team uses the NNADV report to select cases for review but that report may not have enough cases to choose from each year.
- Gathering information from shelters maybe people as they enter shelter could designate a safe person to contact and the team can try to follow up with them

# 6. Solutions (Group Discussion) – How to address the issues/redefine what fatality review is and what it's mission should be

- Hold a planning session in advance of the review meeting with only those with case specific information and talk to the homicide detectives to find additional friends/family that could be interviewed for the case review
- Focus some reviews on cases with no documented history with law enforcement – these may give us more insight into why things go

unreported – but a concern is who will track down information needed for the case review when there are no public records

- Regarding the concerns about gathering confidential information mental health records for the deceased can be accessed by this team under current law – need to develop a process for requesting these records and citing appropriate statute.
- Address the Sheriffs' and Chiefs' Association and recommend a standard lethality assessment statewide and design a process for communication across jurisdictions to protect victims
- Julie Butler is working on doing outreach to courts to help them fill in information in NCJIS – dispositions are missing in 800,000+ records statewide – courts are required to report this information to DPS but it's not being done – they are up to 56 courts consistently reporting but this should be higher (NOTE: In response to the notes – the Administrative Office of the Courts responded to report that their compliance check indicates 74 of 76 courts submitting records).
- Create Best Practices for prosecuting DV cases and train and education law enforcement by promoting this best practices
- Identify all community groups related to DV prevention/intervention and work with coordinate or combine efforts and ensure that they have representatives on the team – they may be best suited to carry out recommendations

#### 7. Next Steps

- Submit notes from the meeting to all attendees for review and feedback (Submitted on 7/29/14)
- Create a Program Manual for DVFR in Nevada (In Progress)
- Create an outline for the proposed team that could review recommendations and refer them out appropriate group for action (Meeting held on 11/19/14)
- Draft the next Annual Report for DVFR (Complete)

#### **APPENDIX C: TEAM MEMBERSHIP**

#### ATTORNEY GENERAL – DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW STATEWIDE TEAM

| NAME                    | <b>ORGANIZATION/AGENCY</b>                               |
|-------------------------|--|
| Catherine Cortez Masto  | Nevada Attorney General                                  |
| Darin Balaam            | Reno Police Department                                   |
| Julie Butler            | Nevada Department of Public Safety                       |
| Karen Carey             | Tahoe SAFE Alliance                                      |
| Sandra Dieterich-       |  |
| Hughes                  | S.A.F.E. House   |
| April Green             | Legal Aid Center of Southern Nevada                      |
| Mark Jackson            | Douglas County District Attorney                         |
| Brett Kandt             | Council for Prosecuting Attorneys                        |
| Kathryn Baughman        | Nevada Division of Public and Behavioral Health          |
| Marla Morris            | Nevada Division of Child and Family Services             |
| Susan Meuschke          | Nevada Network Against Domestic Violence                 |
| Leslie Preston          | Newmont Mine   |
| <b>Team Facilitator</b> |  |
| Tara Phebus             | UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy |
| Attorney General Staff  |  |
| Kareen Prentice         | Domestic Violence Ombudsman                              |
| Heather Procter         | Senior Deputy Attorney General                           |

#### CLARK COUNTY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

| NAME                    | ORGANIZATION/AGENCY                                      |
|-------------------------|--|
|                         | Clark County District Attorney's Office- Victim/Witness  |
| Magann Jordan           | Assistance.  |
| Tiffany Brown           | Clark County Coroner's Office                            |
| Raeshann Canady         | Clark County Family Court                                |
| Mayra Castro            | Henderson City Attorney's Office - Criminal Division     |
| Stephanie Charter       | Clark County District Attorney's Office                  |
| Kimberly Del Rossi      | Henderson Police Department                              |
| Brigid Duffy            | Clark County District Attorney's Office                  |
| Tiffany Driscoll        | Boulder City Police Department                           |
| Rachelle Ekroos         | Center for Forensic Nursing International                |
| Carol Ferranti          | Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department                 |
| Debora Flowers          | Nevada Division of Child and Family Services             |
| April Green             | Legal Aid of Southern Nevada                             |
| Elynne Greene           | Las Vegas Metro Police Department                        |
| Caroline Greene         | Henderson City Attorney's Office - Criminal Division     |
| Paula Hammack           | Clark County Department of Family Services               |
| Margaret King           | District Court - Family Mediation Center                 |
| Vicki Kinnikin          | Mojave Mental Health                                     |
| Suzette Landholm        | Las Vegas City Attorney's Office                         |
| Susie Lewis             | Henderson Police Department                              |
| Renee Lightford         | Community Member   |
| Minddie Lloyd           | Bamboo Bridges   |
| Jan Lucherini           | North Las Vegas Police Department                        |
| Carolyn Muscari         | SAFE House   |
| Kimberly Phillips       | North Las Vegas City Attorney's office                   |
| Sharon Savage           | Clark County Dept. Family Services.                      |
| Dana Seidlinger         | Nellis Air Force Base, Family Advocacy and Treatment     |
| Tami Utzig              | SafeNest   |
| Peggy Wellman           | Las Vegas Metropolitan Police Department                 |
| Wendy Wilkinson         | District Court - Family Division                         |
| Lourdes Yapjoco         | Southern Nevada Health District                          |
| Team                    |  |
| Coordinator/Facilitator |  |
| Tara Phebus             | UNLV Nevada Institute for Children's Research and Policy |
|                         |  |

# WASHOE COUNTY - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW TEAM

| NAME                 | ORGANIZATION/AGENCY                              |
|----------------------|--|
| Darin Balaam         | Washoe County Sheriff's Office                   |
| Rosie Basterrechea   | Washoe County Social Services                    |
| Greg Blair           | Reno Police Department                           |
| Joe Bowen            |  |
| Roni Branson         | Committee to Aid Abused Women                    |
| John Etchemendy      | Safe Embrace                                     |
| Lori Fralick         | Reno Police Department                           |
| Dr. Michael Freda    | Ridgeview Counseling Group                       |
| Ken Harmon           | Washoe County Sheriff's Office                   |
| Kasey Lafoon         | Washoe County Sheriff's Office                   |
| Kim Meyer            | Washoe County Sheriff's Office                   |
| Jennifer Olsen       | Sparks Police Department                         |
| Stephanie O'Rourke   | Department of Public Safety Parole and Probation |
| Dr. Melissa Piasecki | University of Nevada, Reno                       |
| Kareen Prentice      | Nevada Office of the Attorney General            |
| Kimberly Schweickert | Washoe County Social Services                    |
| Robert Smith         | Washoe County Regional Animal Services           |
| Alane Thomas         | Washoe County Social Services                    |
| Debbie Titterington  | Reno Police Department                           |
| Rocky Triplett       | Sparks Police Department                         |
| Kelli Anne Viloria   | Law Offices of Kelly Anne Viloria                |
|                      |  |

#### APPENDIX D: Juveniles and Domestic Violence – Meeting Report from May 30, 2014

#### Summary of Community Dialogues regarding Juveniles & Domestic Violence May 30, 2014

#### **OVERVIEW**

Over the past several years, a number of issues and concerns have arisen in Nevada about the handling of domestic violence incidents involving juveniles. These issues are partly due to the state's definition of domestic violence which includes acts against or upon "any other person to whom the person is related by blood or marriage." NRS 33.018. Amid stories that significant numbers of juvenile offenders were being improperly charged with domestic battery, the Nevada Attorney General, as chair of Nevada's Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, convened two community dialogues to explore concerns regarding the intersection of juveniles and domestic violence in the state's two most populous counties. A Clark County dialogue was held in Las Vegas on March 10, 2014, and a Washoe County dialogue was held in Reno on March 14, 2014. Both information-gathering discussions were facilitated by Hon. Steven Aycock, (Ret.), Judge-in-Residence at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). NCJFCJ was asked to provide facilitation as well as advice and support in developing the agenda for the meetings because of the organization's extensive experience with similar interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdiction discussions. NCJFCJ staff also took notes at the meetings and drafted this summary of the conversations. Participants included a broad range of professionals including law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, civil attorneys, advocates, juvenile services, and social service agencies. This wide array of interested individuals and stakeholders was encouraged to share their perspectives and concerns in order to better understand the numbers of juvenile offenders involved in incidences of domestic violence and how their cases are processed by the system. The general consensus from both community gatherings was that the opportunity to communicate provided needed clarity about processes in north and south and

increased awareness and understanding about different roles within the system. CLARK COUNTY DIALOGUE

The dialogue in Las Vegas started off with some statistics provided by Judge Voy, who said there were approximately 1,075 DV cases referred to the Juvenile Department in 2013. (See attached Exhibit 1.) About 60% of the referrals were male and about 40% were female. According to Judge Voy, very few of the cases involved intimate partner violence (only around 3.5%) and the great majority involved altercations between the juvenile and a parent, grandparent, sibling, or

other family member. These statistics were compared to national data which indicates a much higher percentage of abuse in teen relationships, and other participants stated that there was significant under-reporting of teen dating violence based on the number of calls received from concerned parents. Nonetheless, there was general agreement that a disproportionate number of the domestic violence cases in Clark County involved juveniles and other family members rather than intimate partners.

In further exploring the numbers, prosecutors explained that they filed formal petitions (charges) in only 361 cases in 2012 – probably about a third of the total referrals/arrests. Of those 361, prosecutors said that the great majority were settled/negotiated/dropped or reduced (to something not DV) and only about 60-65 cases were actually prosecuted. They explained that in juvenile matters, the law provides guidance but is not mandatory, so they have considerable discretion in adjudicating DV cases.

There was lots of discussion about the process involved in arrest, booking, and filing of citations vs. petitions, intake by the department of Juvenile Services, detention, or hold vs. release, and the involvement of social services. Participants generally agreed that proper assessment (including familial dynamics, substance abuse, and mental health issues) and prompt services/intervention leads to the best results for the juvenile offender. There was also general consensus that resources were inadequate to address the needs identified during intake, with a particular lack of services and interventions focused on the needs of juvenile offenders <u>and</u> juvenile victims.

Participants also talked about several collateral consequences of domestic violence adjudications. Some noted that military service can be precluded, although it wasn't clear if that was due to firearms disabilities or to the fact that any crime of violence presents concerns. Others noted that there can be harsh immigration consequences due to a juvenile's status as a DV offender.

Another topic that arose throughout the dialogue concerned access to information – history of prior DV, history of child abuse/neglect, current or past involvement of the family with social services, etc. Juvenile services personnel and prosecutors were particularly troubled about recent changes in the UNITY database system and lack of access to relevant information that could improve intervention and services. In corralling what was most needed at the end of the dialogue, participants focused on (1) better communication/information sharing within and between systems and (2) better access to community-based services, including comprehensive assessments; (3) more attention on prevention efforts (e.g., in schools); (4) cross training and/or multi-disciplinary training to increase awareness of roles and functions; and (5) better data on outcomes.

Attached as Exhibit 2, is a list of attendees at the Clark County meeting.

#### WASHOE COUNTY DIALOGUE

The community dialogue in Reno focused around identifying how cases involving juveniles and DV get processed. Christine Eckles of the Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services reported that there were 247 referrals in 2012, including 188 arrests and 59 citations. Similar to Clark County, Washoe County participants identified that the majority of the cases involving juveniles arrested for DV involve parent-child altercations, with only about 5% involving siblings and very few involving intimate partners.

Participants discussed the process involved in adjudicating DV cases concerning juvenile offenders, including detention hearings, release conditions, and referral to the DA for the filing of formal petitions. Of the 247 referrals in 2012, 74 petitions got filed by the DA (though not all were for DV charges). Once filed, a PD is appointed.

As in Clark County, prosecutors reported that all sorts of dispositions are available in juvenile matters, since they have broad discretion to decide how to best proceed in a particular case. Participants also said that the majority of citations involving juveniles arrested for domestic violence are resolved through informal probation services.

Referrals to Juvenile Services result in an assessment which includes questions about substance abuse, mental health issues, and violence/abuse in the home. It was noted that these assessment meetings occur with the parents present, so it can be sometimes be difficult to assess the history of family violence. Attached as Exhibit 3, is the screening checklist used by the Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services that was made available during the meeting.

There was discussion about the collateral consequences for a juvenile of a DV adjudication, with participants noting that some immigration proceedings may be affected, there can be firearms disabilities which could mean the youth is ineligible for military enlistment, and the adjudication can preclude getting into shelter or temporary housing. Several participants pointed out that adjudication is not equal to a conviction, so some of these consequences may be less serious than in adult cases. In any case, even if the charge is dismissed, there is still an arrest on the juvenile's record (unless it is sealed).

The participants discussed challenges in sharing information between agencies and other actors in the system. Prosecutors and juvenile services both indicated that access to more information (prior history of DV, family history of social services involvement) is always preferable in determining the best intervention and treatment. The courts seem to have better access to inter-agency information, but most agreed that improvements in communication would be desirable.

As in Clark County, Washoe County participants identified a serious gap in services available, particularly for juvenile victims and also for DV offenders. They discussed the need for specialized programs for youth charged with DV. Also mentioned was the challenge and frustration of parents/families not accessing available services – parents need to *want* services for themselves and the juvenile in their household if

intervention is to work. The general feeling was that there is a need for solutions focused on families, not on the individual.

In summarizing what participants believed was most important to addressing juveniles involved in domestic violence, participants said: (1) education on teen dating violence, in schools and the community, and corresponding services including access to safety planning; (2) improving communication between different agencies and actors in the process by addressing barriers to information sharing; (3) obtaining more resources for victims and families, and developing more

programs/services for juvenile offenders; (3) earlier intervention with more and earlier screening and greater collaboration between social services and the school district; and (4) creative ideas for engaging the family unit because the problem is usually bigger than the juvenile offender.

Attached as Exhibit 4 is a list of attendees at the Washoe County meeting. CONCLUSION

These community dialogues brought together two different sets of stakeholders from very different parts of the state with distinct judicial and case management processes, and enabled them to gain a greater understanding of how juvenile offenders of domestic violence are handled in their jurisdictions. There was general agreement that the dialogues provided an extremely useful opportunity to communicate between professionals engaged in working with juveniles involved in domestic violence.

In spite of some differences in how cases get processed and what resources are available in Clark and Washoe counties, the community discussions identified many common threads:

- the need for improvements in communication/information sharing between different agencies and actors in the system;
- the need for more resources for, and better access to, community-based services, especially programs geared toward juvenile offenders and services targeted specifically for juvenile victims;
- the importance of prevention and early intervention efforts, including education on teen dating violence and early screening and greater collaboration between social services and the schools;
- the need for better data gathering and for creative ideas for engaging the whole family; and
- the value of ongoing multi-disciplinary dialogue and cross training to strengthen the possibilities for collaboration.

Under the sponsorship of the Attorney General's office and through these community dialogues, the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence was able to enhance statewide communication about these important issues involved in addressing juveniles and their involvement in domestic violence.



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# I. DISTINCT YOUTH STATISTICS

|       | A, By Year |
|-------|------------|
| Total |            |
| 1,078 | 2013       |
| 184   | 2014       |

| Total | White | Other | Hispanic | Aslan/Pacific<br>Islander | African<br>American/Black | C. Ethnicity by Year |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1.078 | 385   | 61    | 321      | 26                        | 285                       | 2013                 |
| 184   | 53    | 5     | 63       | 10                        | ន                         | 2014                 |

| Total | Male | Female   | Gender by Year |
|-------|------|----------|----------------|
| 1,078 | 638  | 440      | 2013           |
| 184   | 100  | <b>%</b> | 2014           |

. 00

| 18+   |   | 17  | 16  | 15   | 14  | 13 | 12 | 1  | 10 | ø | 60 | . Age by Year |  |
|-------|---|-----|-----|------|-----|----|----|----|----|---|----|---------------|--|
|       |   |     |     |      | 98  |    |    |    |    |   |    | fear          |  |
| 4 078 | 7 | 264 | 278 | 2222 | 176 | 83 | \$ | 17 | 13 | ω | N  | 2013          |  |
|       | N | 50  | 46  | 36   | 18  | 18 | 7  | A  | 4  | N | 2  | 2014          |  |

W. DISTINCT ARREST STATISTICS

|       | A. By |
|-------|-------|
| Total | Year  |
| 1,251 | 2013  |
| 193   | 2014  |
|       |       |

| Total | White | Other | Hispanic | Asian/Pacific<br>Islander | African<br>American/Black | C. Ethnicity by Year |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1,251 | 441   | 74    | 373      | 8                         | 333                       | 2013                 |
| 193   | 55    | a     | 66       | 10                        | 8                         | 2014                 |

III. TOP FIVE DV CHARGES

| Assault | Battery with a Deadly Weapon | Battery by Strangulation | Assault with a Deadly Weapon | Battery |      | HIDDA IONITER IS BOOMED A THE INCLARED |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------|------|--|
| 12      | 20                           | 25                       | 31                           | 1,050   | 2013 |  |
| -       | 3                            | -                        | cn.                          | 180     | 2014 |  |

| Total | Male | Female | B. Gender by Year |
|-------|------|--------|-------------------|
| 1,251 | 748  | 505    | 2013              |
| 193   | 106  | 87     | 2014              |

| Total | 18+ | 17  | 16  | 15  | 14  | 13 | 12 | 11  | 10 | 8 | 09 | D. Age by Year |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|-----|----|---|----|----------------|
| 1,251 | 7   | 295 | 300 | 251 | 196 | 99 | 62 | 22  | 44 | 3 | 2  | 2013           |
| 193   | N   | 50  | 49  | 39  | 19  | 17 | 7  | cn. | -  | 2 | N  | 2014           |

Exh. 1, pg 2 of 2

#### 2015 BIENNIAL REPORT

#### Monday, March 10, 2014 Clark County Dialogue

Hon. Steven Aycock (Ret.) Ravi Bawa Mary Berkheiser Edwin Cirame Summer Clarke Liz Greb Elynne Green April Green Nancy Hart Kiande Jakada Karen James Michael Johnson Magann Jordan Brett Kandt Susan Meuschke Leisa Moseley Michael Oh **Carlos Ponce** Frank Ponticello **Kareen Prentice** Shannon Richards **Justin Roberts** Pat Schreiber Hon. Frank Sullivan Hon. Willam Voy Martie Washington Daniel Tomaino Debbie Goldner Cheri Wright Tara Phebus Al Salinas Jan Lucherini

#### 2015 BIENNIAL REPORT

EXHIBIT 2

## Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services Domestic Violence Case Screening Check List

| Name of Minor:                                    |  |
|---|--|
| Relationship of the minor to the victim:          |  |
| Does the minor live with victim?:                 |  |
| Any physical injuries to victim: (Please explain) |  |
| Age of victim:                                    |  |
| Was youth under the influence of drugs/alcohol?   |  |

| RAI score:   |
|--|
| Prior Legal History - are there any other prior referrals for domestic battery?                      |
| Are there any alerts in JCATS?   |
| Has the juvenile had prior incidences of violence at home? (IF YES, ASK PARENT/GUARDIAN FOR DETAILS) |
| Are parents willing to accept custody? (IF NO, ASK PARENT/GUARDIAN<br>WHAT SPECIFIC CONCERNS ARE)    |
| If not, is there an alternative family member / friend placement available at this time?             |
| Is juvenile willing to go home? (IF NO, ASK JUVENILE WHAT SPECIFIC CONCERNS ARE)                     |

Exhibit 3

Revised: 4/19/2012

#### Friday, March 14, 2014 Washoe County Dialogue

**Ross Armstrong** Hon. Steven Aycock (Ret.) Jennifer Bascom Tannan Birmingham **Christine Brady** Kristen Clements-Nolle **Christine Eckles** Hon. Sue Edmondson Mary Encarnacion Jessica Ernster Elizabeth Florez Jamie Gradick Nancy Hart Brett Kandt Susan Meuschke Suzanne Ramos Cindi Smith Ryan Sullivan Jo Lee Wickes

#### EXHIBIT 4

# **APPENDIX E**

### FY 2015 Work Program – Category 1042-15 Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

| In-state Travel \$3,400   |
|---|
| There are approximately 26 members and estimated travel is based<br>on 13 members from Northern Nevada, Southern Nevada,<br>and rural Nevada – to attend one rural meeting. |
| Miscellaneous travel for mileage for members to attend<br>the rural and video-conference meetings   |
| <b>Operating</b>  |
| Postage Paid to State Mailroom\$100   |
| Postage based on \$5 per month.   |
| Meeting Expenses\$200   |
| Meetings – three video-conferenced meetings, one rural meeting  |

# **APPENDIX F**

#### Judicial Domestic Violence Survey Summary

One of the statutory requirements for the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence (NCPDV) is to survey the judges regarding domestic violence issues and put their responses in the biennial report to the Legislature. What follows is a summary of the survey as well as the detail responses.

The Judicial Training Committee of the NCPDV is responsible for drafting the survey and the summary for the report. During the last year, the Committee invited a couple of speakers from the National Judicial College and the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges to address the areas related to domestic violence that are covered in the courses required for Nevada judges to attend. They both spoke on other related course offerings and their ability to customize a training.

The committee also discussed the survey requirement as well as asked questions regarding how to engage judges for additional training. The recommendations were to survey the judges to find out what information they felt they needed to learn more about as well as whether any of the judges felt comfortable teaching any of the information.

The Judicial Training Committee took this valuable information and created the survey that follows. The survey was sent by the Attorney General Catherine Cortez Masto to all the judges in the state. The survey received responses from 23 judges representing all three jurisdictions (district, justice, and municipal courts).

In response to the question about what additional areas of information the judges wanted, threat assessment received the most responses at 12; counseling for perpetrators was next at 11; and judicial response and decision making followed at 10.

When asked what areas of information their staff needed, the most responses were received for threat assessment and victim services.

Three judges did agree they had experience enough to share information with their colleagues and identified themselves and the areas. Most judges who responded indicated they were not comfortable providing training.

The last question was open ended and asked for comments to share with the full Council. The following comments were received:

- a. We need more resources for victims (male and female) and children in the rural areas.
- b. I have found that most of the trainings I have attended have been less about things that a judge can consider or do (i.e., privileges for advocates, evidentiary issues, counseling options, etc.) than they have been about matters that a judge cannot consider (i.e., sympathy for the victim, anger towards the accused, etc.)
- c. The counsel [sic] should be aware of the increase in frequent of women charged with domestic violence the crime is not limited to male perpetrators.
- d. No
- e. I used to be Chief of the Special Victim's Unit at the District Attorney's Office and used to instruct in the area of child abuse and domestic violence. Thus, I have a lot of experience in this area and that is why my answers appear to reflect I am uninterested in training. I am always interested in these topics. Thank you. Abbi Silver
- f. No

#### 2014 Biennial Judges' Questionnaire for Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence

- Court Jurisdiction (23 total responses) District Court – 10 responses Justice Court – 7 responses Municipal Court – 6 responses
- 2. Would you like additional information or training about any of the following topics as they relate to domestic violence cases?
  - A. Child Abuse (3) 2 District, 1 Municipal
  - B. Child Support in protection orders 1 Justice
  - C. Counseling for perpetrators (11) 7 District, 1 Justice, 3 Municipal
  - D. Elder abuse (4) 2 District, 2 Municipal

- E. Evidence in criminal cases (7) 3 District, 1 Justice, and 3 Municipal
- F. Extended Protection Orders (5) 1 District, 2 Justice, 2 Municipal
- G. Firearm restrictions (9) 2 District, 4 Justice, 3 Municipal
- H. Judicial response and decision making (10) 4 District, 2 Justice, 4

Municipal

- I. Strangulation and other DV (2) 1 District, 1 Justice
- J. Temporary Protection Orders (4) 1 District, 1 Justice, 2 Municipal
- K. Threat assessment (12) 5 District, 2 Justice, 5 Municipal
- L. Trauma in the family (8) 5 District, 1 Justice, 2 Municipal
- M. Understanding batterers (6) 2 District, 2 Justice, 2 Municipal
- N. Victim dynamics and recanting (8) 3 District, 3 Justice, 2 Municipal
- O. Witness tampering (6) 2 District, 1 Justice, 3 Municipal
- P. Victim services/resources (8) 3 District, 3 Justice, 2 Municipal
- 3. Is there any additional information or training not listed above that you would be interested in relating to domestic violence?

**Justice Court:** "Addressing the issue alcohol and drugs play in domestic violence cases." N/A No

- 4. Does your court staff need additional information or training about any of the following topics as they relate to domestic violence cases?
  - A. Counseling for perpetrators (6) 3 District, 1 Justice, 2 Municipal
  - B. Elder abuse (4) 1 District, 2 Justice, 1 Municipal
  - C. Extended Protection Orders (3) 1 District, 1 Justice, 1 Municipal
  - D. Firearm restrictions (6) 2 District, 2 Justice, 2 Municipal
  - E. Strangulation and other DV (2) 1 District, 1 Justice
  - F. Temporary Protection Orders (5) 2 District, 1 Justice, 2 Municipal
  - G. Threat assessment (8) 2 District, 2 Justice, 4 Municipal
  - H. Trauma in the family (5) 2 District, 1 Justice, 2 Municipal
  - I. Victim dynamics and recanting (5) 1 District, 1 Justice, 3 Municipal
  - J. Victim services/resources (7) 3 District, 2 Justice, 2 Municipal
  - K. Understanding batterers (2) 1 Justice, 1 Municipal
- 5. Is there any additional information or training not listed above that your staff would be interested in relating to domestic violence?

**Justice Court:** "The different circumstances in which domestic violence arises. In prior training I recall there were 4 types, the ones I remember are the typical control issue of either husband or wife, and the ending of a marriage or like-kind relationship filled with frustration, hurt, and anger." N/A No

- 6. Are you knowledgeable and comfortable sharing information (alone or on a panel) with your peers or court staff about any of the following topics **as they relate to domestic violence?** 
  - A. No or none of these areas (13) 6 District, 5 Justice, 2 Municipal
  - B. Child abuse (3) 2 District, 1 Justice
  - C. Child support in protection orders No responses
  - D. Counseling for perpetrators 1 Justice
  - E. Elder abuse 1 Justice
  - F. Evidence in criminal cases 1 District, 1 Justice
  - G. Extended Protection Orders 1 District, 1 Justice
  - H. Firearm restrictions No responses
  - I. Judicial response and decision making (3) 2 District, 1 Justice
  - J. Strangulation and other DV 1 District, 1 Justice
  - K. Temporary Protection Orders 1 Justice
  - L. Threat assessment 1 District, 1 Justice
  - M. Trauma in the family 1 District
  - N. Understanding batterers No responses
  - O. Victim dynamics and recanting 1 District, 1 Justice
  - P. Victim services/resources 1 Justice
  - Q. Witness tampering 1 District, 1 Justice
- 7. If you chose any of the above topics, please provide your name so that we may contact you to help develop a future training opportunity.
  - Judge Abbi Silver (Child abuse, Evidence in criminal cases, Extended Protection Orders, Judicial response and decision making, Strangulation and other DV, Victim dynamics and recanting, Witness tampering)
  - Judge Dave Clifton (Child abuse, Elder abuse, Evidence in criminal cases, Extended Protection Orders, Judicial response and decision making, Strangulation and other DV, Temporary Protection Orders, Threat assessment, Victim dynamics and recanting, Victim services/resources, Witness tampering)
  - c. Judge Sandra Pomrenze (Child abuse, Judicial response and decision making, Threat assessment, Trauma in the family)
- 8. Do you have any other comments or questions for the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence?

"I used to be Chief of the Special Victim's unit at the District Attorney's office and used to instruct in the area of child abuse and domestic violence. Thus, I have a

lot of experience in this area and that is why my answers appear to reflect I am uninterested in training. I am always interested in these topics. Thank you."

"The council should be aware of the increase in frequency of women charged with domestic violence – it is not just a man on woman issue."

"I have found that most of the trainings I have attended have been less about things that a judge can consider or do (i.e., privileges for advocates, evidentiary issues, counseling options, etc.) than they have been about matters that a judge cannot consider (i.e., sympathy for the victim, anger towards the accused, etc.)"

"We need more resources for victims (male and female) and children in the rural areas."

No. No.

# **APPENDIX G**



### THE MICHAEL BOLTON CHARITIES, INC.

(For Children And Women At Risk)

THE MICHAEL BOLTON CHARITIES, INC. P.O. Box 936 Branford, Connecticut 06405

TERMS OF GRANT AGREEMENT

#### L TERMS OF GRANT

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Grantee: The Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence State of Nevada - Office of the Attorney General 101 N. Carson St. Carson City, NV 89701

Federal Tax ID: RCE-011-994

- B. Date Authorized November 15, 2013
- C. Grant Purpose. Funding to support the efforts of the Council to prevent and eliminate domestic violence.
- D. Amount of Grant: \$10,000
- E. Payment Schedule: (Enclosed)
- F. Period of Grant (One Year)

BOARD OF DIRECTORS MICHAEL BOLTON, Chairman • DAVID G. CARTER, President • JAMES P. SANDLER, Vice President • TOMMY FEBBRAIO, Treasurer PATRICIA R. BEAUREGARD • CHIP L. BOWLBY • LAURA A. CAHILL • BARBARA CANE • TOM GROSS, JR. • DR. HIRUHISA HANDA ROBERT P. DORAN, President Emeritus • ROBERT J. EPSTEIN, Director Emeritus www.michaelboltoncharities.com P. O. BOX 936 • BRANFORD, CT 06405 • TEL: (203) 483-6463 • FAX: (203) 481-1154

G. Special Conditions, if any: The grant is for the explicit purpose described in the Grantee's request, as modified by this Agreement, and subject to the Grantee's acceptance by its execution of this Agreement and its return to The Michael Bolton Charities, Inc. (MBC) within ten (10) days from the Date of Notice.

#### II. Reports of Grant Activity

41.115

The Grantee will furnish the MBC with a written progress report within fifteen (15) days after the end of each calendar quarter commencing with the calendar quarter during which the Date of Notice occurs. All such progress reports shall contain the following information with respect to such calendar quarter and the twelve (12) month period to date:

- A. Amount of Funds Expended
- B. Use of Funds Expended
- C. Projects commenced
- D. Projects continued
- E. Projects terminated
- F. Projects completed
- G. General summary of activities during the calendar quarter
- H. General summary of proposed activities in the following calendar guarter.

#### III. Applicable Laws

This Grant shall be used only in accordance with applicable laws, ordinances and regulations of the city and state wherein the Grantee has its principal office and of the State of Connecticut, the United States and all applicable Internal Revenue Service Rules, regulations, and rulings and procedures.

#### IV. Reversion of Grant Funds

Grantee will return to the MBC any unexpected funds at the termination of the Grant period by the MBC under the terms hereof.

- 2 -

#### V. Limit of Commitment

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Unless additional grants are determined, in the sole and absolute discretion of the MBC, this Grant is the only grant being made and the MBC has no obligation to provide other or additional support or payment of funds to or for the benefit of the Grantee.

#### VI. Use of Grant Funds and Operation

A. Expenses charged against this grant may not be incurred prior to the Date of Notice of the Grant or subsequent to the termination date, and may be incurred only as necessary to carry out the purposes and activities of the approved program.

B. Funds must be used by the Grantee strictly in accordance with the budget submitted and approved; any variation from the budget must be approved in advance by the MBC.

C. The Grantee is responsible for the expenditure of funds and for maintaining adequate supporting records consistent with generally accepted accounting practices.

D. Equipment purchased with grant funds shall be the property of the Grantee so long as it is not diverted from the purposes for which the grant was made. If the purpose of use is changed or the Grantee goes out of existence, the property reverts to the MBC.

E. The Grantee is responsible for reporting to the MBC if there are any changes in the program/project as described in the application for funding. This would include but not be limited to, changes in purpose, staff, funding from other sources and relationships with other agencies. If there is any doubt about the importance of any changes, the MBC should be notified.

F. The Grantee must be able and willing to prove to the MBC's satisfaction that no portion of the grant funds has been used for purposes not clearly identified as charitable under all applicable State and Federal law.

G. The MBC reserves the right at any time to terminate this Grant upon written notice to the Grantee if, in its sole and absolute discretion, it shall determine that the Grantee has made any misrepresentations, has in any way misappropriated grant funds, or has done anything inconsistent with the terms of this Agreement or has breached any of the terms of this Agreement.

#### VII. Publicity

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Announcement of the Grant in form provided by or approved in advance by the MBC, shall be made to the news media by the Grantee as soon as practicable after the Date of Notice of the Grant, with a copy provided to the MBC by the Grantee. All subsequent public announcements, news articles, or information concerning the Grant program shall include a reference to the participation of the MBC in its funding.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the parties hereto do hereby set their hands and seals.

| THE | MICHAEL | BOLTON   | CHARITIES | , INC.   |  |
|-----|---------|----------|-----------|----------|--|
| (To | Benefit | Children | and Women | At Risk) |  |

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# **APPENDIX H**

#### Summary of Community Dialogues regarding Juveniles & Domestic <u>Violence</u> May 30, 2014

#### OVERVIEW

Over the past several years, a number of issues and concerns have arisen in Nevada about the handling of domestic violence incidents involving juveniles. These issues are partly due to the state's definition of domestic violence which includes acts against or upon "any other person to whom the person is related by blood or marriage." NRS 33.018. Amid stories that significant numbers of juvenile offenders were being improperly charged with domestic battery, the Nevada Attorney General, as chair of Nevada's Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence, convened two community dialogues to explore concerns regarding the intersection of juveniles and domestic violence in the state's two most populous counties.

A Clark County dialogue was held in Las Vegas on March 10, 2014, and a Washoe County dialogue was held in Reno on March 14, 2014. Both information-gathering discussions were facilitated by Hon. Steven Aycock, (Ret.), Judge-in-Residence at the National Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges (NCJFCJ). NCJFCJ was asked to provide facilitation as well as advice and support in developing the agenda for the meetings because of the organization's extensive experience with similar interdisciplinary and multi-jurisdiction discussions. NCJFCJ staff also took notes at the meetings and drafted this summary of the conversations.

Participants included a broad range of professionals including law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, public defenders, civil attorneys, advocates, juvenile services, and social service agencies. This wide array of interested individuals and stakeholders was encouraged to share their perspectives and concerns in order to better understand the numbers of juvenile offenders involved in incidences of domestic violence and how their cases are processed by the system. The general consensus from both community gatherings was that the opportunity to communicate provided needed clarity about processes in north and south and increased awareness and understanding about different roles within the system.

#### CLARK COUNTY DIALOGUE

The dialogue in Las Vegas started off with some statistics provided by Judge Voy, who said there were approximately 1,075 DV cases referred to the Juvenile Department in 2013. (See attached Exhibit 1.) About 60% of the referrals were male and about 40% were female. According to Judge Voy, very few of the cases involved intimate partner violence (only around 3.5%) and the great majority involved altercations between the juvenile and a parent, grandparent, sibling or other family member. These statistics were compared to national data which indicates a much higher percentage of abuse in teen relationships, and other participants stated that there was significant underreporting of teen dating violence based on the number of calls received from concerned parents. Nonetheless, there was general agreement that a disproportionate number of the domestic violence cases in Clark County involved juveniles and other family members rather than intimate partners.

In further exploring the numbers, prosecutors explained that they filed formal petitions (charges) in only 361 cases in 2012 – probably about a third of the total referrals/arrests. Of those 361, prosecutors said that the great majority was settled/negotiated/dropped or reduced (to something not DV) and only about 60-65 cases were actually prosecuted. They explained that in juvenile matters, the law provides guidance but is not mandatory, so they have considerable discretion in adjudicating DV cases.

There was lots of discussion about the process involved in arrest, booking, filing of citations vs. petitions, intake by the department of Juvenile Services, detention or hold vs. release, and the involvement of social services. Participants generally agreed that proper assessment (including familial dynamics, substance abuse, and mental health issues) and prompt services/intervention leads to the best results for the juvenile offender. There was also general consensus that resources were inadequate to address the needs identified during intake, with a particular lack of services and interventions focused on the needs of juvenile offenders <u>and</u> juvenile victims.

Participants also talked about several collateral consequences of domestic violence adjudications. Some noted that military service can be precluded, although it wasn't clear if that was due to firearms disabilities or to the fact that any crime of violence presents concerns. Others noted that there can be harsh immigration consequences due to a juvenile's status as a DV offender.

Another topic that arose throughout the dialogue concerned access to information – history of prior DV, history of child abuse/neglect, current or past involvement of the family with social services, etc. Juvenile services personnel and prosecutors were particularly troubled about recent changes in the UNITY database system and lack of access to relevant information that could improve intervention and services.

In corralling what was most needed at the end of the dialogue, participants focused on (1) better communication/information sharing within and between systems and (2) better access to community-based services, including comprehensive assessments; (3) more attention on prevention efforts (e.g., in schools); (4) cross training and/or multi-disciplinary training to increase awareness of roles and functions; and (5) better data on outcomes.

Attached, as Exhibit 2 is a list of attendees at the Clark County meeting.

#### WASHOE COUNTY DIALOGUE

The community dialogue in Reno focused around identifying how cases involving juveniles and DV are processed. Christine Eckles of the Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services reported that there were 247 referrals in 2012, including 188 arrests and 59 citations. Similar to Clark County, Washoe County participants identified that the majority of the cases involving juveniles arrested for DV involve parent-child altercations, with only about 5% involving siblings and very few involving intimate partners.

Participants discussed the process involved in adjudicating DV cases concerning juvenile offenders, including detention hearings, release conditions, and referral to the DA for the filing of formal petitions. Of the 247 referrals in 2012, 74 petitions got filed by the DA (though not all were for DV charges). Once filed, a PD is appointed.

As in Clark County, prosecutors reported that all sorts of dispositions are available in juvenile matters, since they have broad discretion to decide how to best proceed in a particular case. Participants also said that the majority of citations involving juveniles arrested for domestic violence are resolved through informal probation services.

Referrals to Juvenile Services result in an assessment which includes questions about substance abuse, mental health issues, and violence/abuse in the home. It was noted that these assessment meetings occur with the parents present, so it can be sometimes be difficult to assess the history of family violence.

Attached as Exhibit 3 is the screening checklist used by the Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services that was made available during the meeting.

There was discussion about the collateral consequences for a juvenile of a DV adjudication, with participants noting that some immigration proceedings may be affected, there can be firearms disabilities which could mean the youth is ineligible for military enlistment, and the adjudication can preclude getting into shelter or temporary housing. Several participants pointed out that adjudication is not equal to a conviction, so some of these consequences may be less serious than in adult cases. In any case, even if the charge is dismissed, there is still an arrest on the juvenile's record (unless it is sealed).

The participants discussed challenges in sharing information between agencies and other actors in the system. Prosecutors and juvenile services both indicated that access to more information (prior history of DV, family history of social services involvement) is always preferable in determining the best intervention and treatment. The courts seem to have better access to interagency information, but most agreed that improvements in communication would be desirable.

As in Clark County, Washoe County participants identified a serious gap in services available, particularly for juvenile victims, and also for DV offenders. They discussed the need for specialized programs for youth charged with DV. Also mentioned was the challenge and frustration of parents/families not accessing available services – parents need to *want* services for themselves and the juvenile in their household if intervention is to work. The general feeling was that there is a need for solutions focused on families, not on the individual.

In summarizing what participants believed was most important to addressing juveniles involved in domestic violence, participants said: (1) education on teen dating violence, in schools and the community, and corresponding services including access to safety planning; (2) improving communication between different agencies and actors in the process by addressing barriers to information sharing; (3) obtaining more resources for victims and families, and developing more programs/services for juvenile offenders; (3) earlier intervention with more and earlier screening and greater collaboration between social services and the school district; and (4) creative ideas for engaging the family unit because the problem is usually bigger than the juvenile offender.

Attached, as Exhibit 4 is a list of attendees at the Washoe County meeting.

#### CONCLUSION

These community dialogues brought together two different sets of stakeholders from very different parts of the state with distinct judicial and case management processes, and enabled them to gain a greater understanding of how juvenile offenders of domestic violence are handled in their jurisdictions. There was general agreement that the dialogues provided an extremely useful opportunity to communicate between professionals engaged in working with juveniles involved in domestic violence.

In spite of some differences in how cases get processed and what resources are available in Clark and Washoe counties, the community discussions identified many common threads:

- the need for improvements in communication/information sharing between different agencies and actors in the system;
- the need for more resources, and better access to, community-based services, especially programs geared toward juvenile offenders and services targeted specifically for juvenile victims;

- the importance of prevention and early intervention efforts, including education on teen dating violence and early screening and greater collaboration between social services and the schools;
- the need for better data gathering and for creative ideas for engaging the whole family; and
- the value of ongoing multi-disciplinary dialogue and cross training to strengthen the possibilities for collaboration.

Under the sponsorship of the Attorney General's office and through these community dialogues, the Nevada Council for the Prevention of Domestic Violence was able to enhance statewide communication about these important issues involved in addressing juveniles and their involvement in domestic violence.



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# I. DISTINCT YOUTH STATISTICS

|       | A. By Year |
|-------|------------|
| Total |            |
| 1,078 | 2013       |
| 184   | 2014       |

| Total | White | Other | Hispanic | Asian/Pacific<br>Islander | African<br>American/Black | C. Ethnicity by Year |
|-------|-------|-------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1,078 | 385   | 61    | 321      | 26                        | 285                       | 2013                 |
| 184   | 53    | 5     | 63       | 10                        | ន                         | 2014                 |

| Total | Male | Fomale | B. Gender by Year |
|-------|------|--------|-------------------|
| 1,078 | 638  | 440    | 2013              |
| 184   | 100  | 84     | 2014              |

| Total | 18+ | 17  | 16  | 15  | 14  | 13 | 12 | 11 | 10 | ø | 00 | D. Age by Year |
|-------|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|----|----|----|----|---|----|----------------|
| 1,078 | 7   | 264 | 278 | 222 | 176 | 83 | 48 | 17 | 13 | ω | N  | 2013           |
| 184   | N   | 50  | 46  | 36  | 18  | њ  | 7  | 4  | -  | N | 2  | 2014           |

| Total | White | Other    | Hispanic | Asian/Pacific<br>Islander | African<br>American/Black | C. Ethnicity by Year |
|-------|-------|----------|----------|---------------------------|---------------------------|----------------------|
| 1,251 | 441   | 74       | 373      | 30                        | 333                       | 2013                 |
| 193   | 55    | <b>6</b> | 66       | 10                        | ß                         | 2014                 |

# 4 ARGES BY DISTINCT YOUTH

| Assault | Battery with a Deadly Weapon | Battery by Strangulation | Assault with a Deadly Weapon | Battery |      |
|---------|------------------------------|--------------------------|------------------------------|---------|------|
| 12      | 20                           | 25                       | 31                           | 1,050   | 2013 |
| 4       | 3                            | 2                        | εn                           | 180     | 2014 |

| 12 | 11  | 10 | 9 | 09 | D. Age by Year | Total | Male | Female |  |
|----|-----|----|---|----|----------------|-------|------|--------|--|
| 62 | 22  | 14 | 3 | N  | 2013           | 1,251 | 746  | 505    |  |
| 7  | cn. | -  | N | N  | 2014           | 193   | 300  | 87     |  |

| Exhibit | 1, | Part | 2 | of | 2 |
|---------|----|------|---|----|---|
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#### 2015 BIENNIAL REPORT

2013 2014

B. Gender by Year

2013

2014

A. By Year

11. DISTINCT ARREST STATISTICS

# Monday, March 10, 2014 Clark County Dialogue

Hon. Steven Aycock (Ret.) Ravi Bawa Mary Berkheiser Edwin Cirame Summer Clarke Liz Greb Elynne Green April Green Nancy Hart Kiande Jakada **Karen James** Michael Johnson Magann Jordan Brett Kandt Susan Meuschke Leisa Moseley Michael Oh Carlos Ponce Frank Ponticello **Kareen Prentice** Shannon Richards Justin Roberts Pat Schreiber Hon. Frank Sullivan Hon. Willam Voy Martie Washington **Daniel Tomaino** Debbie Goldner Cheri Wright

Exhibit 2, Part 1 of 2

#### 2015 BIENNIAL REPORT

Tara Phebus Al Salinas Jan Lucherini

Exhibit 2, Part 2 of 2

# Washoe County Department of Juvenile Services Domestic Violence Case Screening Check List

| Name of Minor:                                    |  |
|---|--|
| Relationship of the minor to the victim:          |  |
| Does the minor live with victim?:                 |  |
| Any physical injuries to victim: (Please explain) |  |
| Age of victim:                                    |  |
| Was youth under the influence of drugs/alcohol?   |  |

|      | RAI score:   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|------|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|--|
|      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | Prior Legal History - are there any other prior referrals for domestic battery?  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | Are there any alerts in JCATS?   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | Has the juvenile had prior incidences of violence at home? (IF YES, ASK PARENT/GUARDIAN FOR DETAILS)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | Are parents willing to accept custody? (IF NO, ASK PARENT/GUARDIAN<br>WHAT SPECIFIC CONCERNS ARE)<br>If not, is there an alternative family member / friend placement<br>available at this time? |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
|      | Is juvenile willing to go home? (IF NO, ASK JUVENILE WHAT SPECIFIC CONCERNS ARE)   |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Duty | ty PO authorizes:  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |
| Nam  | ne of PO:  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

Revised: 4/19/2012

# Friday, March 14, 2014

## Washoe County Dialogue

**Ross Armstrong** Hon. Steven Aycock (Ret.) Jennifer Bascom Tannan Birmingham Christine Brady **Kristen Clements-Nolle Christine Eckles** Hon. Sue Edmondson Mary Encarnacion Jessica Ernster Elizabeth Florez Jamie Gradick Nancy Hart Brett Kandt Susan Meuschke Suzanne Ramos Cindi Smith Ryan Sullivan Jo Lee Wickes

Exhibit 4