

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)
COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT (CSI MEETING)

Tuesday, May 21, 2024
2:15 P.M. to 3:15 P.M. | Pacific Time (US & Canada)
DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS

900 S. Fremont Ave. Alhambra, CA 91803

Mission Statement: To implement domestic violence laws and policies and to provide resources and problem-solving support to community partners when implementation issues and problems arise. The Committee also addresses emerging issues that impact victims of domestic violence.

[See the DVC Calendar for Meeting Information](#)

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order – Gail Pincus, Kate Forrest.
Meeting Protocols - Before we begin this meeting, please be reminded that this is an open and public meeting. Therefore, anything discussed (both verbally and within the online chat) are not protected by any type of confidentiality. Any client identifying information should not be presented. Please avoid discussion of personal cases as well. If you need additional resources, please contact the co-chairs after this meeting.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Items needing attention from past meeting(s):
 - a. Language access with sheriff's office – LAFLA demand letter?
→ Stephanie reports that the draft has been finalized, and she's meeting w/ language access expert on Thursday, so by next meeting it should be moving out of her office
 - b. Crowd-sourcing resource list for non-IPV/DV gender-based violence (SA/HT)
- No updates
 - c. Change of day/time for CSI meetings
→ date and time determined to be 2nd Wednesdays of the month from 12-1:30pm, locations pending; attendees will be encouraged to utilize remote option
- IV. Call for optional updates or recent experiences with:
 - a. Law enforcement
 1. Electronic submission for service of process (AB 2791), demand for certification/clerk stamp
→ No updates given during meeting, but there is concern over processing delays and lack of confirmation that a request has been processed; will revisit next time LASD is represented at the meeting
 2. Production of photos/911 calls (SB 290)
- No updates

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b. Prosecution

1. SB 320 implementation – firearms relinquishment
→ Gail raised concerns about the lack of transparency and victim involvement in this process – how does a survivor find out whether the judge did anything? Minute orders for compliance hearings can be purchased online, but aren't automatically mailed to the survivors; no specific ask/proposal at this time, but will bring it up again when CA rep is in attendance
2. Modification of CPOs (AB 467)
 - No updates

c. Courts

1. Virtual visitation orders or courthouse exchange (SB 599)
 - No updates
2. Appointment of Minor's Counsel in DVPA proceedings
→ Discussion as to scope of this agenda item, restriction clarified last year in AF v. Jeffrey F was regarding minors seeking their own ROs, in which they can hire independent counsel if of sufficient capacity to enter into such a contract, and if not a GAL may be appointed, but MC is not appropriate b/c DVRO is not a best interests determination; MC can still be appointed to investigate best interests in regards to what subsequent custody and visitation orders should be, but not as to whether a DVRO should issue

V. New and emerging issues

- a. AB 2185 & related Board of Supervisors motions re: Sexual Assault Response Team and Forensic Examinations
→ DA's office seeks community collaboration to get through to the Board of Supervisors, brainstorming about available connections
 - Explains that the way the DA's office reads the law is that the board is supposed to pick a designee who helps the nurses who complete Sexual Assault and Domestic Abuse Forensic Exams get funding, and then they get reimbursed through the state, but no one knows who the designee is, so there is currently no funding source available
→ DA is also in the process of establishing protocols w/in LAPD (pilot agency, but want to get it county-wide) to get the right kinds of forensic exams for strangulation, head trauma, etc.; including mandating photographing petechiae (needs training to do it correctly – e.g. eyelid as globe, not as flat surface); but DAFE would be even more comprehensive

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- b. Judicial Evaluation Committee: we were hoping to establish a connection there to work on getting DV-competency included in assessments of candidates for judicial office; so far no success, but will continue to have this on the agenda

VI. Next steps and action items

- a. Call for community connections: everyone is asked to brainstorm who we might be able to call on to assist with above items
- b. Lan requests participation in upcoming survey re: needs & gaps for VOCA funding in our region, particularly as it relates to legal services
- c. Co-chairs will work with Cindy & Lan to determine when change to meeting day/time can be implemented, attendees are asked to place a tentative hold on June 12th, otherwise the 18th

VII. Matters not on posted agenda to be presented and placed on a future agenda.

- a. Minor's counsel accountability: spurred by the discussion on MC in DVPA actions, attendees share experiences with MCs not reaching out to anyone until right before the hearing, base recommendations on one brief meeting w/ no opportunity to build rapport w/ children to assess what's really going on
 - Training issues: only 12 hours required to get on the list; discussion of whether there should be inquiry into modification of FC 3151, perhaps requiring contact w/ client w/in a certain number of days of appointment, but there is already difficulty following existing broader rules like acting as an advocate as opposed to giving recommendations; we would like to see MCs w/in legal aid programs, but there are a lot of barriers
 - Billing issues: given how little some do, are they billing for work not done? How do we access billings to review what they're claiming to have done? Issues with both private pay (abuser may have some control if they're paying) as well as public pay (PACE appointments, <https://www.lacourt.org/division/familylaw/pdf/MinorsCounselAppointmentsOrder.pdf>, have low hourly pay and caps at each level of inquiry)
- b. Dependency judgments: a lot of the issues our clients face in family law arise from vague/poorly drafted dependency orders, and joint custody orders w/ their abusers stemming from the fact that there is no 3044 equivalent under WIC
 - Trainings w/ LADL have gotten pushback b/c they represent both sides
 - Discussion of need to lift up the issue and get more coordination between the systems given how much overlap there is, need to get supervising judges in FL and dependency working together
 - Discussion of the prominent role SW recommendations play in final hearing, inquiry into training SW on why joint legal is problematic in DV cases

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- Lan offers to make an email connection with Carlos Torres, who is the lead contact for the DCFS DV Hotline project and might be able to help us explore what SW training on DV looks like
- Aside from 3044, there remains the problem of lack of access to financial relief when ROs are transferred to dependency

VIII. Public Comments: not to exceed two minutes per person and must be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council.

IX. **Next** meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024 at The California Endowment, 1000 Alameda St., LA 90012.

X. Adjournment

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS:

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, auxiliary aids and services, or reasonable modifications to attend Domestic Violence Council meetings and access to policies and/or procedures (i.e., to assist members of the disability community who would like to request a disability-related accommodation), will be made available if the request is made at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Late requests will be accommodated based on feasibility. Please direct all requests to: dvc@ph.lacounty.gov or call **213-974-2799** (Monday thru Friday; 9am-5pm.)

