

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

Wednesday, September 11, 2024
12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. | Pacific Time (US & Canada)
South Los Angeles Family Source Center
4305 Degnan Blvd., Suite 105, Los Angeles, CA 90008
1st Floor Conference Room 

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 – Rachelle Neshkes, 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. Follow up on previous agenda items
 - a. Sheriff's Department issues
 - i. Report back from Lan's meeting, ongoing service issues
 1. Det. Strnad will connect CSI with Sgt. Fernandez who has insight on e-submission of service requests; will also follow up on work with Office of Constitutional Policing
 2. Lan has scheduled a meeting between DVC & LASD leadership for Oct 7, will report back next CSI
 - ii. Report back on LAFLA language access demand letter
→ Demand letter was sent to County Counsel on 8/7/24, quick response received from Lana Choi who indicated she would look into the issue and is interested in partnering to collaborative address the issue, but no follow-up as of today's date; LAFLA will continue to keep on top of this
 - b. Budget issues
 - i. Statewide funding impacts – updates from CalOES or CalVCB?
- No updates
 - ii. Reduction in courthouse staff impacts?
- No updates, but led to discussion of related court-reporter shortage update, see below
 - iii. Funding for AB 2185 forensic exams – updates?

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- No updates

c. Service provider list project (Cruz & Ash)

- No updates

d. Minor's Counsel issues, access to PACE billing records

- i. Training: discussed the current requirements found in California Rules of Court 5.242(c), which requires only 12 hours of training to be on the panel, and while DV training is required, it is mixed in with other topics including statutes and case law, stages of child development, working with multidisciplinary experts, etc.; community would like to see a minimum number of hours specifically on DV as opposed to a passing reference, as well as criteria for who is qualified to provide the training
- ii. Re: billing, Gail shares county-paid expert perspective: there is a PACE office in every courthouse, and bills must be signed off on before submission; the form has code numbers for types of service and number of hours, but it's general categories (e.g., we likely wouldn't be able to differentiate between time spent interviewing one parent vs the other or the child themselves if it's just "phone contact")
- iii. Discussion about best approach to increase transparency: attorneys and litigants should start asking Minor's Counsel for billing records – it is anticipated they will say no, but having a record of those denials will provide evidence of the need for intervention; however, there are concerns about getting on MC's bad side during litigation given how much sway they have, and if we wait until the case is over, damage may already be done. Best practice when there are concerns that MC hasn't adequately met w/ the child may be asking for continuance at the hearing to allow add'l interviews and leave it to judicial officer to inquire as to adequacy of contact to date

IV. New, critical, and emerging issues

- a. Electronic recording of court proceedings now permitted in limited circumstances: on 9/5/24, LASC issued General Order 2024-GEN-011-00 to address the constitutional crisis created by lack of verbatim report of proceedings in fundamental rights cases. Presiding judge orders clerks to operate electronic recording equipment in family law, probate, and civil departments when the judicial officer finds the following: (1) proceeding concerns matters that implicate fundamental rights; (2) one or more parties wishes to have possibility of creating a transcript; (3) no official court-employed CSR is reasonably available; (4) private CSR not available or party is unable to pay; (5) proceeding involves significant legal or factual issues such that verbatim record is likely necessary; and (6) proceeding shouldn't be further delayed.

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- i. Community agrees that due to fundamental rights to parent and to be free from violence, and the fact-intensive nature of these cases that would be virtually impossible to appeal without a record, all of our cases should qualify, but we need to make sure self-represented litigants are aware of the right and how to assert it – LAFLA may be working on a template to use when making the request?
 - ii. Because unavailability of reporter is one of the criteria, it remains best practice to file FW-020 at least 10 days in advance to demonstrate reasonable attempt to secure a CSR; litigants now just do not face the issue of whether to seek a continuance if a reporter is not available to fulfill that request, because electronic recording can be used instead
 - iii. Recordings will be accessed through a third party provider, <https://fortherecord.com/los-angeles/>, inviting everyone to share experiences as this rolls out
- b. Respondents getting tipped off to DVRO filings against them before service:
- i. FLC listserv has shared experiences with respondents receiving solicitation letters from private attorneys offering services to defend against DVRO prior to petitioner completing service, which poses safety risk (survivors may be waiting to serve until they have a safety plan in place, or when the children are not with the perpetrator, etc.) as well as possible service evasion (won't open door once they know what's coming); discussion settles on prohibition in the Rules of Professional Conduct being the best remedy
 - ii. Community member also reports concerns about sheriffs leaving a card or notice with request to contact in order to get respondent to come to the station to pick up papers – established practice for other family law service, as for DV cases, unknown if this is an anomaly or emerging trend, keep an eye on it
- c. LAPD will soon be implementing a new lethality assessment department wide, anticipated roll out in January 2025.
- i. Questions re: who will present the trainings: Jennifer Smith standing in for Marie reports they're already on it; community request for the videos of the trainings to be made public
 - ii. Questions re: access: lethality assessments will be attached to the incident report as a matter of course, no separate request required

V. Next steps and action items

- a. DVC will meet with LASD on October 7th; Sgt. Fernandez re: service issues may be included or separate meeting may be scheduled
- b. Budget updates: Gail will ask contact at Victims of Crime about cuts, Pallavi will reach out to Mayor's office about AB 2185 funding

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- VI. Matters not on posted agenda to be presented and placed on a future agenda.
- a. LAFLA has requested to have time at next meeting to introduce a new data collection & tracking project – please come to the next meeting to find out how you can contribute
 - Community shares desire to resurrect EPO tracking – DV calls responded to vs. EPOs requested, and when they were not requested what was the reason; Gail suggests tying this into the new LAPD lethality assessment protocol – proposes that if it's at a certain level, officer "shall" request EPO? (concerns raised re: enforceability of compulsory terms)
- VII. 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.
- None
- VIII. **Next** meeting is scheduled for October 9, 2024 at Family Source Center.
- IX. Reminder to complete DVC committee meeting survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MC8V9>
- 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.)

