



# Domestic Violence Council (DVC) General Membership Meeting

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Friday, March 21, 2025

11:30am to 12:00pm (Pacific Time)

Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration  
& Virtual (MS Teams)





# Welcome Remarks



# Welcome and Introductions

- Your name
- Pronouns
- Title/Role
- Agency or Affiliation

# Meeting Protocol



- ❑ Please be reminded that this is an open and public convening. Anything discussed in this space is not protected nor confidential. No client or survivor identifying information should be discussed/shared.
- ❑ This meeting is not recorded. We ask that attendees do not record the meeting with your own computers or personal devices.
- ❑ Similar to other DVC meetings, agendas are available/posted 3 days before the meeting.
- ❑ Notes and other handouts are available within 10 business days: <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/minutes/minutes.htm>
- ❑ If you need additional information or have questions about this or other DVC meetings, please email us: [DVC@ph.lacounty.gov](mailto:DVC@ph.lacounty.gov).

# Agenda



ITEM	DESCRIPTION	LEAD
1.	Welcome and Introductions. (5 min.) <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Remarks by the Chair</li><li>DVC Co-Chairs and Attendees Introductions</li></ul>	Lan Pham, <i>DVC Chair</i>
2.	Standing Committee Updates <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>Committee of Systems Improvement (5 min.)</li><li>Health Committee (5 min.)</li><li>InterFaith (5 min.)</li><li>LA Regional Policy Committee (5 min.)</li><li>LGBTQIA+ Issues Committee (5 min.)</li><li>Shelter Directors Committee (5 min.)</li></ul>	Kate Forrest, Rachele Neshkes, and Gail Pincus <i>CSI Co-Chairs</i> Barbara Kappos, Kate Marr, and Ruth Rivera <i>Health Committee Co-Chairs</i> Varsha N, Bernita Walker, and Cecelia Walker <i>InterFaith Co-Chairs</i> Minty Siu-Kootnikoff and Nancy Volpert <i>LARP Co-Chairs</i> Jaye Prado and Giovanna Martinez <i>LGBTQIA+ Co-Chairs</i> Giovanna Martinez and Krysta Warfield <i>Shelter Directors Co-Chairs</i>
3.	Discuss October 2025 Board Motion related to standing up a lived experience advisory committee. (10 min.)	Lan Pham, <i>DVC Chair</i> Dachelle Kendrick, Roman James, and Tina Rios <i>LEAP Co-Chairs</i>
4.	Discuss proposal for a joint DVA-DVC "DV and Mental Health" Event in May 2025. (5 min.)	Michael Hidalgo, <i>DVA Vice Chair</i> <i>Domestic Violence Alliance (DVA)</i> <i>City of Los Angeles</i>
5.	Matter not on the posted agenda (to be presented and placed on a future agenda) (5 min.)	
6.	Public Comments not to exceed two minutes person and must be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the DVC. (5 min.)	
7.	Meeting adjourns.	

# Item II. Standing Committees Update



COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIRS
<p><b>Committee on Systems Improvement</b></p> <p><i>Works to implement DV laws and policies and to provide resources and problem-solving support to community partners when implementation issues and problems arise.</i></p>	<p>Kate Forrest, Sr. Staff Attorney Jenesse Center, Inc.</p> <p>Gail Pincus, Executive Director Domestic Abuse Center</p> <p>Rachelle Neshkes, Sr. Attorney Survivor Justice Center</p>
<p><b>Health Committee</b></p> <p><i>Works to promote cross-sector collaboration between healthcare and domestic violence advocacy fields, improve response to DV and the health impacts of violence, and advance transformational policy and systems change in intersectional approaches to communities impacted by violence within Los Angeles.</i></p>	<p>Barbara Kappos, Executive Director East Los Angeles Women's Center</p> <p>Kate Marr, Executive Director Community Legal Aid SoCal</p> <p>Ruth Rivera, Wellness Program Coordinator East Los Angeles Women's Center</p>

# Item II. Standing Committees Update



COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIRS
<p><b>InterFaith</b></p> <p><i>Works to inform, educate, and support the faith community in the prevention and response to domestic violence, inclusive of all religions.</i></p>	<p>Varsha N., JD Founder ROAR Training &amp; Consulting, LLC Mayo Clinic Trained Wellness Coach</p> <p>Cecelia Walker, Coordinator Angel Step Inn</p> <p>Bernita Walker, CEO and Co-Founder Project: PeaceMakers, Inc.</p>
<p><b>DVC-DVA LA Regional Policy Committee</b></p> <p><i>Works to evaluate and recommend appropriate legislation to its membership and the LA County Board of Supervisors.</i></p>	<p>Nancy Volpert, Principal Progress Advisors</p> <p>Minty Siu-Kootnikoff, Legal Services Director Sojourn</p>

# Item II. Standing Committees Update



COMMITTEE	CO-CHAIRS
<p><b>LGBTQIA+ Issues Committee</b></p> <p><i>Works to engage communities, to bring visibility, and to raise awareness of the disproportionate prevalence of domestic violence and multiple other forms of violence impacting LGBTQIA+ communities. Also works to educate service providers about the barriers that LGBTQIA+ community face when accessing services.</i></p>	<p>Jaye Prado, Lead Legal Services Advocate LGBTQ Center Long Beach</p> <p>Giovanna Martinez, Associate Director of Domestic Violence Programs YWCA San Gabriel Valley</p>
<p><b>Shelter Directors Committee</b></p> <p><i>Works to strengthen domestic violence shelters and to provide comprehensive support to survivors.</i></p>	<p>Krysta Warfield, Director of Client Services Haven Hills</p> <p>Giovanna Martinez, Associate Director of Domestic Violence Programs YWCA San Gabriel Valley</p>



# Item III. Board Motion Related to Lived Experience Advisory Committee



- Motion by Supervisor Janice Hahn dated September 24, 2024, directed the Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council to establish an Ad Hoc Advisory Committee within the Domestic Violence Council to engage with Los Angeles County domestic violence survivors and work in collaboration with the Office of Violence Prevention to provide recommendations on how Los Angeles County may improve policies, protocols, training, and other efforts to improve response, access, services, and support for survivors of domestic/intimate partner violence.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will be comprised of and led by domestic violence survivors and will recruit domestic violence survivors and gender-based violence survivors to be a part of its membership.
- The Ad Hoc Committee will engage the community of survivors and the Office of Violence Prevention on issues of access, response, and supportive services for domestic violence survivors, and provide a written report to the Board of Supervisors in 180 days with recommendations on how Los Angeles County may improve its response, services, and support for survivors and their families.

# Item III. Board Motion Related to Lived Experience Advisory Committee



- Lived Experience Advisory Peer (LEAP) Group was formed; Co-Chairs: Tina Rios, Dachele Kendrick, and Roman James.
- LEAP Co-Chairs held 7 planning meetings before convening the first LEAP General Membership meeting in February 2025. LEAP's first General Membership meeting was held on Wednesday, February 26<sup>th</sup>, 2025, from 9:30am to 11:00am via MS Teams. Flyers about the meeting was created in collaboration with DPH Communications Team and flyers and email announcements about LEAP General Membership meeting were shared with DVC members, a listserv of more than 1000 people.
- There was 27 survivors and three (3) Co-Chairs who were present. Twenty attendees (or 74%) were DV service providers and seven (7) (or 26%) were non providers. All were female identified.
- Critical issues discussed by the group: safety, shelter/housing, financial support, mental health, legal services, training, information sharing/hub, and representation of survivors in DVC spaces.
- Areas for systems improvement included: implementation of a survivor-centered approach to ending GBV, increasing community-based programming, enhanced cross agency coordination, increased training for first responders and service providers, and expand Specialized DV Teams across the County.
- **LEAP meets monthly on the 4<sup>th</sup> Wednesday of each month from 9:30am to 11:00am via MS Teams. Their March and April agenda will be focused on expanding membership and planning its first event, "From Surviving to Thriving: Mental Health and DV".**
- **LEAP projects and workplan will be presented at June DVC General Membership Meeting.**

# Item IV. DVA – DVC LEAP, “From Surviving to Thriving: Mental Health and DV”



**Michael Hidalgo, Co-Chair**  
City of Los Angeles – Domestic Violence Alliance (DVA)  
&  
Victim Services Coordinator  
LA City Attorney’s Office – Victim Assistance Program



## LOOKING FORWARD

Thanks for your patience. We will be posting DVC 2025 meetings by/before March 31, 2025:

<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/calendar/calendar.htm>



# Item V. Matter Not Posted on the Agenda



# Item V. Public Comments





# Let Us Know How We Did



**MONTHLY MEETING  
SURVEY LINK:**

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MC8V9>

Thank you!