



**LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)**

**GENERAL MEMBERSHIP**

**MEETING NOTES**

**Friday, March 21, 2025; 10:00 a.m. to 11:30 a.m. (PST)**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**(and MS Teams)**

**500 W Temple St, Los Angeles, CA**

**DVC MISSION**

The Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council (DVC) provides leadership in the creation and support of a victim/survivor-centered, countywide, and coordinated approach to educate, prevent, and respond to domestic/intimate partner violence.

**DVC STAFF TO THE MEETING**

Lan Pham, Executive Director with LA County Domestic Violence Council (DVC)/DVC Chair

Ashley Phillips, DVC Sr. Health Program Analyst

Cindy Hernandez, DVC Admin. Assistant

**DVC GUESTS/PRESENTERS**

Nicolle Perras, Executive Director with LA County Sexual Assault Council (LAC-SAC)

Yi Ding, Commissioner with LA County Commission for Women/ Violence Against Women and Girls Committee

Julie Rivera-Coo, Sr. Attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County and LA VAWA Network

**MEETING ATTENDEES (in person)**

Victoria Cruz (Peace Over Violence), Yi Ding (LACCW), Kate Forrest (Jenesse Center), Roman James (LA County Commission on Children and Families), Janis Johnson (LA County District Attorney’s Office), James Maddox (Vietnam Veterans of America), Giovanna Martinez (YWCA SGV), Michael Hidalgo (Domestic Violence Alliance of City of Los Angeles), Oscar Pineda (The LGBTQ+ Center of Long Beach), Jaye Prado (The LGBTQ+ Center of Long Beach), Kamelia Reed (Child 3 Family Center), Varsha N. (ROAR Training and Consultant), Nicole Perras (LAC-SAC), Julie Rivera-Coo (Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County), Minty Siu-Kootnikoff (Sojourn), Tina Rios (Reimagine Child Safety), Nancy Volpert (Progress Advisors), Bernita Walker (Project: PeaceMakers, Inc.).

**MEETING ATTENDEES (virtual)**

Elizabeth Arrazola (Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District ), Genevieve Awad-Kamel (Antelope Valley Domestic Violence), Pat Bell (House of Ruth), Nikki Brown (Community Legal Aid SoCal), Pallavi Dhawan (Los Angeles City Attorney’s Office), Erika Carmona ( Para Los Ninos), Pablo Escobar (1736 Family Crisis Center), Victoria Gomez (Office of Supervisor Holly J. Mitchell, Second District), Carrie Jacobson, Jazmine Gonzalez, Rosanna Piccini (1736 Family Crisis Center), Abel Renato, Jerilyn Stapleton (Hollywood NOW//DVA CD4 Rep), Latia Suttle (Reimagine Child Safety Coalition), Bernita Walker (Project: PeaceMakers, Inc.), Cecelia Walker (Angel Step Inn), Sarah Whitman (Los Angeles Homeless Services Authority), Erika Zapata (LA County Office of Women’s Health).

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Lan Pham provided welcoming remarks and Land Acknowledgement. Attendees self-introduced. Lan provided an overview of DVC meeting protocol and agenda. *(See March 2025 DVC Agenda and DVC General Membership PPT Slides).*

**II. PROPOSED CHANGES TO DVC BYLAWS**

Lan Pham provided background information on DVC Bylaws and DVC’s process for soliciting feedback. This includes community assessment from October 2023 through October 2024, and discussion of potential items for updates with DVC Co-Chairs, DPH leadership, and LA County Counsel.

Lan shared a registration link for those who are interested in partnering with the DVC in reviewing the current DVC Bylaws and providing feedback and mentioned that the deadline is March 28, 2025, to sign up:

<https://forms.gle/RUXFgXcEEWAr7woU8>

**Q AND A**

*Q: For folks (DVC Co-Chairs) who have provided feedback on DVC Bylaws changes, do they still need to complete the survey if they would like to provide additional feedback.*

*A: Yes. Please complete the survey if you would like to be included in DVC’s community engagement related to bylaws updates.*

### III. UPDATE ON LA COUNTY SEXUAL ASSAULT COUNCIL (LAC – SAC)

Nicolle Perras, Executive Director of LA County Sexual Assault Council provided a general overview of LAC-SAC. She mentioned the process of getting the website up and running and that LAC-SAC will notify the community when this is completed. Nicolle shared that the overall goal of LAC-SAC is to strengthen partnerships with community, break down silos, work on prevention, and support intervention and healing. (See *March 2025 DVC LAC-SAC PPT Slides*).

#### Q AND A

*Q: In reference to sexual assault data, is there some kind of overlay that is being used for COVID since we were in lockdown? Because 2020 isn't a good measure. How are we ensuring that we account for the difference in 2020?*

*Q: Based on the statement the Nicolle made, I have for years asked for the numbers with regards to law enforcement, what are the numbers with the courts? How do we know how to target our resources within these member groups if we don't know the numbers? Is it possible to get a true count of violence in the County? At the time I was asking what are the protocols/procedures for dealing with this (violence) public health crisis? What is actually being done in LAC and do we know what we are tackling?*

*A: Thanks for your questions. We'll never get an accurate number since people underreport. For instance, with DV, only a certain number of DV are reportable. Collection of data is based on agencies' protocols. We try to review multiple sources of data to create a picture of what's happening. We operate knowing that there's a domino effect of these forms of violence. It is frustrating that we don't have data, but one of our mandates is to better collect data.*

*Q: In selecting membership for LAC-SAC, you mentioned that three seats are provided for people with lived experience, can you share how it was decided that there would be three? How many seats are designated per Board district?*

*A: LAC-SAC does not have designated number of seats. We came up with an equity matrix. We didn't want to box ourselves in.*

*Q: Is Nicolle sending out a list of LAC-SAC agencies?*

*A: Yes.*

### IV. JOINT LACCW – DVC “DV BRIEFING” IN MAY 2025

Yi Ding, LA County Commission for Women Commissioner, mentioned that the DV Breakfast is resuming in 2025 after a short break. She asked that attendees save the date for May 29, 2025, from 9:00am to 11:30am. Ding mentioned that the event will be interactive and will be offering tabling opportunities.

Ding also shared that LACCW has been working with DVC (Lan Pham) to review a draft memo about the event; and a flyer has been developed. Ding requested that DVC share the flyer with DVC members. The flyer has a link where community members may provide feedback on what topics should be discussed at the DV Briefing. The deadline to complete the survey is March 28, 2025.

ACTION ITEM: DVC (Cindy Hernandez) will be posting the final flyer to DVC listserv members.

### V. IMMIGRATION REPORT

Julie Rivera-Coo, Sr. Attorney with Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County presented.

#### BACKGROUND

*Under an interim final rule published on March 12, the Trump administration is set to reanimate a provision of U.S. immigration law that has essentially been dormant for decades: a requirement for all immigrants who did not enter with a visa to register with the federal government after their arrival and carry proof of their registration with them.*

*The administration has issued a new form for immigrants who are not already registered to submit—however, many immigrants, including those who lack formal legal status, are already considered registered. The administration is using this registration process, which will become law effective April 11, alongside federal criminal law—which makes it a crime for immigrants to fail to register or fail to carry proof of registration. In doing so, the Trump administration is giving itself another tool to use against immigrants: the threat of criminal prosecution.*

*The registration requirement will force many people in the United States—including those who entered without inspection and have had no contact with the federal government during their years living in American communities—to make a choice between two options that both carry serious risk. Many others, such as immigrants who are already deemed registered—which includes both many undocumented immigrants and many who have legal status in the United States—will face a risk of prosecution if they fail to carry registration papers with them at all times.*

Information provided by <https://www.americanimmigrationcouncil.org/research/trump-administration-registration-requirement-immigrants>.

## **IMMIGRANT REGISTRATION REQUIREMENT**

Julie mentioned that immigration registration starts soon for 2025. The goal is the find/deport undocumented immigrants and if people don't register, they may face criminal charges. She suggested that people should not register until 4/11/25 or pre-register. Parents are being encouraged to register minor kids. If someone entered the U.S. without papers and over 14 years of age, they must provide their name, fingerprint, criminal history, etc. To register, the individual must first create a US Citizenship and Immigration Services (UNCIS) online account, then go in person, photo, sign, etc. For more information: <https://www.uscis.gov/alienregistration>.

The Immigrant Legal Resource Center (ILRC) is telling people that there is a suspected injunction, and telling people to wait to see what happens. Bottom line is that there are a lot of steps. It's complicated. ICE can look at database and go to round people up. There are risks and benefits. The greatest risk is for those with no status who qualify for nothing, to potentially face deportation and criminal liability. For those who are in process, failing to register can result in discretionary denials. So, if you qualify for something, there could be benefits. Before registering, one should consult with an attorney; For instance, if picked up by ICE and deported, or if registered and deported. One should consider cost vs benefit. Folks may be afraid to ask. People should not go to notaries (notaries) because they're unregistered and give out incorrect advice. For more information: <https://www.ilrc.org>.

### **Q and A**

*Q: What if you have VAWA or something that takes a long time?*

*A: There was a lot of fraud, so UNCIS is taking a long time (4 years) to process VAWA applications. Everyone is getting an interview now.*

## **DEFERRED ACTION FOR CHILDHOOD ARRIVALS (DACA)**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Circuit Court issued a ruling on DACA that is partially unlawful (only applies to Texas). The ruling potentially opens the program up for first time application in all 50 states, and end work permit access for DACA recipients in TX, keeping only the deportation protections part of the DACA program.

Julie shared that people can still renew and should be renewing. Initials (1<sup>st</sup> time applicants) may be allowed. Decisions are made pretty quickly (approx. 6 months). There is no pathway to citizenship, but applicants will receive tax ID numbers. Advanced parole may be allowed. However, DACA recipients may be stopped at the border. Sometimes people exit and then enter the U.S. and do so lawfully. They may be able to do a family petition to stay in the U.S.

## **VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN ACT (VAWA)**

New forms are being used; gender is now changed to binary. There is a currently a big lawsuit. USCIS said that they would give people time. The rule is that one cannot leave any box on immigration forms blank even if it does not apply, otherwise, it would be returned. There is now more information being gathered on forms about social media. They may review your profile. They may review clients' computer peripheral which may impact their applications (i.e., suspected criminal activity of others connected to the individuals will be tagged).

How to prepare families? Have a step by step family preparedness plan. Do one for each kid. Store devices somewhere. Have short-term and long-term plans. If someone is detained it will be difficult to get them out on bond. It could take years to be released. Review the forms. Have the red cards available in your office.

ICE has quotas. Don't speak. ICE will sweep up anyone they think is not a citizen. US citizens may get swept up too. Don't say anything; Or say, "I'm going to remain silent", "I don't give permission to check this". Not correctly collecting evidence by ICE can lead to cases to be dismissed.

Please find the links to our Know Your Rights Videos in English and Spanish and also the caregiver's affidavit and family preparedness forms: <https://nlsia.org/services/immigration/>

Link for Red Card (Rights if ICE stops you): <https://www.ilrc.org/red-cards-tarjetas-rojas>

## **CARE GIVERS AFFIDAVIT**

A Caregiver's Authorization Affidavit is an official form based on California's recognition that adults who have minors living with them are "caregivers" who often want and need to take some responsibility for the minor's education and other care. Care givers affidavit is under family code section. Parent doesn't sign, care giver signs (i.e., immediate relative). Legal guardianship not recommended unless child has special needs. Notarized letter doesn't really count.

**Q and A**

*Q: Should we add "N/A" to each field on the 1198 form?*

*A: Yes, even the addendum.*

**I. MATTER NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA**

Lan Pham mentioned that updated 2025 DVC General Meeting dates will be available on DVC website before COB on March 31, 2025.

**II. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS**

Jerilyn Stapleton announced about a free self-defense workshop in North Hollywood.

**III. CLOSING**

Lan thanked presenters and attendees. Meeting adjourned at 11:30am.