



LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

STEERING COMMITTEE

MEETING NOTES

Friday, March 21, 2025; 11:30 a.m. to 12:30 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

Michael Hidalgo, DVA Vice Chair with Domestic Violence Alliance (DVA) of City of Los Angeles

Roman James, Commissioner with LA County Commission on Children and Families and LEAP Co-Chair

Tina Rios, Founder of Reimagine Child Safety and LEAP Co-Chair

MEETING ATTENDEES (in person)

Kate Forrest (Jenesse Center), Giovanna James Maddox (Vietnam Veterans of America), Martinez (YWCA of SGV), Nicolle Perras (LAC-SAC), Jaye Prado (The LGBTQ+ Center of Long Beach), Minty Siu-Kootnikoff (Sojourner), Nancy Volpert (Progress Advisors).

MEETING ATTENDEES (virtual)

Nishino Akiko (Community Legal Aid SoCal), Pablo Escobar (1736 Family Crisis Center), Minyong Lee (NLSLA), Kate Marr (Community Legal Aid SoCal), Varsha N. (ROAR Training Consulting, LLC), Alexandra Perez, Jasmine Rodriguez, Adam Seiden (Children's Bureau of Southern California), Latia Suttle (Reimagine Child Safety), Bernita Walker (Project: PeaceMakers, Inc.), Cecilia Walker (Angel Step Inn), Representative from New Starr.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

(Meeting started at 11:40am due to transition from DV General Membership meeting.)

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 Steering Committee Meeting PPT Slides).

II. DVC STANDING COMMITTEE UPDATES

a. COMMITTEE FOR SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT

Co-Chair Kate Forrest provided updates. She mentioned that the priorities for CSI this year is on improving LASD/LAPD response. CSI Co-Chairs has an upcoming meeting with LASD. There remain challenges in regard to survivors/attys' access to records. CA law has changed to say that folks are entitled to photos and 911 calls in addition to reports. Newer judges are expecting corroborating evidence to be included with petitions, will meet with supervising family law judges. Last year, CSI learned that attorneys were sending solicitation letters to DVRO recipients. Folks were receiving letters before they were served. CA Bar of Professional Conduct is convening a workgroup about this.

b. HEALTH COMMITTEE

Co-Chair Ruth Rivera and Kate Marr provided updates. It was mentioned that the Committee is working on how to provide a bridge between health care providers and survivor community. The Committee held a number of listening sessions and would like to present findings and recommendations to LA County Board of Supervisors. There will be two meetings in June 2025. In regard to the annual Beyond Silos Conference, this will be the last year given that funding for the conference is ending. The conference will most likely take place in November versus September this year.

c. INTERFAITH

Co-Chair Varsha N, Bernita Walker, and Cecelia Walker provided updates. The goal of InterFaith is to have people from various religions be present. At the last meeting, there was representation from the Muslim community. The next in-person meeting will be on April 15, 2025, from 12pm to 2pm at the California Endowment. The Committee is working with a number of faith groups throughout Los Angeles. On July 23, 2025, there will be a meeting in SPA6. The group continues to reach out to expand membership and invite faith-based leaders from all backgrounds to participate on the Committee.

d. LA REGIONAL POLICY COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Nancy Volpert and Minty Siu-Kootnikoff provided updates. There are challenges at the state level. Locally, there is a potential shortfall of \$1B from City of LA. Seeing that survivors are impacted on multiple fronts (i.e., Medicaid, SNAP, VAWA, VOCA) and trying to stay focused on work at the state level to have the most impact. There are also reported discrepancies on how things are implemented from court to court.

e. LGBTQIA+ ISSUES COMMITTEE

Co-Chairs Jaye Prado and Giovanna Martinez provided updates. At the February meeting, Laura Roe from LGBTQ Center of Long Beach presented on teen dating violence. The Committee is currently discussing a toolkit for service providers and other resources that providers would find useful.

The next Committee meeting is in-person on April 15, 2025, from 10am to 11:30am at the California Endowment. The focus will be on LGBTQ data collection. The Committee will maintain in-person meetings to ensure safety for attendees.

COMMENTS

Nancy Volpert mentioned that Zoom may be a safer option than MS Teams as attendees who are disruptive can be removed from meetings.

Lan Pham mentioned that DVC Team are learning more about various platforms (i.e., MS Teams, Zoom, and Webex) and will provide information/training to Co-Chairs to increase support for remote meetings.

f. SHELTER DIRECTORS COMMITTEE

Co-Chair Giovanna Martinez provided updates. The Shelter Committee will alternate between open general members meetings and closed planning meetings for DV Shelter Directors. The focus of the Committee has been to re-engage DV shelter/housing programs. There are a lot of challenges for survivors and programs at this time. There is a need to create a disaster preparedness plan for shelters.

III. BOARD MOTION RELATED TO LIVED EXPERIENCE ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Lan Pham provided an overview of the September 24, 2024, Board Directive which established the Lived Experience Advisory Peer (LEAP) Group. She provided the background for LEAP and results of LEAP meetings and community engagement thus far.

LEAP Co-Chair Roman James shared that one of the objectives is to broaden the community’s understanding of how children enter systems (through DV). She mentioned that a focus in her role with the LA Commission on Children and Families is to focus on bringing agencies together and working with LEAP to support this effort. Roman shared the importance of addressing procedures and protocols as they are sometimes weaponized throughout the court process by abusers against survivors.

LEAP Co-Chair Tina Rios discussed the importance of accountability, and LEAP being the opportunity to include perspectives from those with lived experience. She said that one can read a policy and know what is said, it makes a difference to hear and learn directly from survivors; and that people with lived experience is a key part of the solution.

Tina mentioned AB 970 (mandated support) to enhance child abuse reporting system; a pilot project aimed to address DV and help support survivors by way of decision tool to recognize when it’s safe to refer families to supportive services.

Q AND A

Q: When is the next LEAP meeting?

A: The group meets every 4th Wednesday of the month. Meetings are posted on the DVC website.

IV. JOINT DVC LEAP AND DVA EVENT IN MAY 2025

Michael Hidalgo, DVA Vice Chair, provided an overview of an event that the City of LA Domestic Violence Alliance is co-hosting with DVC LEAP. The event is scheduled to take place on May 9th, titled “From Surviving to Thriving” with a focus on mental health. Panelists will include survivors and subject matter experts. Michael encouraged community engagement.

Q AND A

Q: In terms of experts, are you taking suggestions? There are some folks that I think would be great for the panel (i.e., Latia Suttle and Wendy Blanco).

Q: Do you have LGBTQ included on the panel? Just want to be sure that we have LGBTQ survivor representation.

A: If you have someone you have to recommend definitely send their names to DVA Co-Chairs.

V. MATTER NOT POSTED ON THE AGENDA

Lan Pham mentioned that the DVC will reconsider DVC Co-Chairs Retreat currently scheduled for May 20th. Several of the Co-Chairs will be in Sacramento that day as it is also CA DV Lobby Day.

There was a discussion related to DVC providing online trainings and webinars and attendees supported DVC trainings being recorded and uploaded onto DVC website.

VI. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Lan Pham mentioned that the DVC General Membership and Steering Committee are both meeting at Kenneth Hahn Hall quarterly. The next meeting is scheduled for June 6th from 10am to 12:30pm.

More to come on dates/times/location of meetings in April and May. This announcement will be available in the coming week.

VII. CLOSING

Lan thanked presenters and attendees. Meeting adjourned at 12:40pm.