



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

**NOTES**

**Friday, September 5, 2025; 10:00 AM – 12:30 PM (PST)**

**Kenneth Hahn Hall of Administration**

**500 W Temple St**

**Room 140A & B**

**Los Angeles, CA 90012**

**G**

**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 Chair**

Lan Pham, DVC Executive Director

**DVC Staff:**

Ashley Phillips, Sr Health Program Analyst

**Meeting Attendees:** The meeting was attended by 41 community members and 8 panelists.

**I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS**

Lan Pham provided welcoming remarks and Land Acknowledgement. Attendees self-introduced (name, pronouns, title/role, and agency affiliation).

Lan reviewed DVC meeting protocol and agenda, and let attendees know that the order of the presentation had been modified. LGBTQIA+ Committee will report out later in the program due to schedule conflict.

**II. Centralized Access – Care Connect Update (30 min.)** Cristina Cortes, Senior Manager - Domestic Violence Homeless Services Coalition Downtown Women's Center *(See September DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)*

Cristina gave a progress update on Care Connect. Rollout expected to start November 2025.

**III. Immigration Report (40 min.)** Kathleen Rivas, Supervising Attorney, Immigrants' Rights Project Public Counsel on behalf of LA VAWA Network

Kathleen gave updates about immigration. *(See September DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)*

- 1) ICE enforcement in LA area.
  - a. Raids began June 6<sup>th</sup>
  - b. Ongoing Lawsuit Vasquez Perdomo v. Noem and the temporary restraining order (TRO), challenging raids as occurring and the lack of access to attorneys.
  - c. Sensitive locations policy was rescinded. ICE still cannot enter private areas without a judicial warrant or consent from folks who work there
  - d. Deferred action for visa applicants is not being honored by ICE, everyone should be equipped with know your rights information.
  - e. Deportation cases that have been administratively closed are being reopened. It's important for people to keep track of their information so they know if they have an immigration court appearance scheduled. Missing this appearance leads to an automatic deportation order. This information can be located online. Cases closed for 10+ years are being re-calendared
- 2) USCIS Updates
  - a. Notice to Appear (NTA) has been changed.
  - b. Frequent admin and forms changes
  - c. There has been an increase in information sharing between USCIS and ICE specifically. USCIS officers will now be able to enforce immigration.
- 3) U/T/VAWA Visa Updates
  - a. Still statutorily available, would take an act of congress to undo
  - b. USCIS does have wide discretion when reviewing applications. Doing social media vetting, reviewing for anti-American posts, looking for fraud,
  - c. Risks of filing affirmative immigration relief, no one should apply without speaking to an

attorney first.

4) Notario Fraud

- a. Risks of working with a non-attorney on immigration cases have exponentially increased
- b. This places survivors at greater risk. Clients should take steps to ensure that the person they're working with is a licensed attorney (check online, ask for contract in their primary language, etc.)

**IV. Early Defense for Child Welfare Impacted Families (40 min.)** Sharon Balmer Cartagena, Directing Child, Youth & Family Advocacy Public Counsel; Minyong Lee, Supervising Attorney Neighborhood Legal Services of Los Angeles County *(See September DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)*

Preventative legal advocacy focuses on how to meet families upstream to minimize trauma.

- Pilot is a warmline hub with legal aid spokes. Most folks don't want an attorney, but instead want to be connected to a peer partner.
- DCFS refers all cases in SPA 6 to Shields, who gives the parents resources.
- Parents and peer partners work together to address the issue.
- Majority of cases are not going to petition. Of those petitions, most aren't detained petitions.

**V. DVC Bylaws update (10 min.)** Lan Pham, Executive Director Domestic Violence Council (DVC) LA County – Dept. of Public Health

Lan gave an update on the status of the DVC Bylaws

**VI. Matter not on the posted agenda (to be presented and placed on a future agenda) (10 min.)**

Request to have LA VAWA network come back for status updates.

Request to have Cristina come back for status updates.

Request for future discussion on PROP 50, LARP co-chairs to host to occur prior to Nov via webinar. Add to October 16th meeting agenda for LARP. Send ideas/suggestions to Nancy V.

**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 DVC. (10 min.)**

**VIII. Meeting adjourns** Lan thanked presenters and attendees and provided reminder that the next meeting will be December 5th. Meeting adjourned at 11:34 AM.