

LOUISVILLE METRO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PREVENTION COORDINATING COUNCIL

Meeting Summary Thursday, January 24, 2019

Members Presents: Chief Steve Conrad and Ellie Kerstetter, Co-Chairs, Onvia McDaniel, Dr. Ursula Mullins, Rep. Jeff Donohue, Angela Rea, Pam Darnall, Linda Bledsoe, Marcia Roth, Kathy Paulin, Samantha Graves, Tina Ward-Pugh, Elizabeth Wessels-Martin, Marguerite Thomas, Chris Foster, Ann Schiavone Dyke, Chief Judge Tara Hagerty, Mike Littlefield/Charles Gootee, Lt. Shannon Lauder, and Ruben Pavlov.

Staff & Guests: Jessie Halladay, Laura Lukat, Jamie Allen and Faith Augustine.

I. Welcome/Call to Order

The meeting was called to order by Chief Conrad, Co-Chair, who welcomed members and guests and expressed appreciation for their attendance. Attendees were asked to introduce themselves.

II. DVPCC Updates

a. Comprehensive Community Assessment Report Discussion/Next Steps

Chief Conrad reminded members that Professor Sack presented the final report to the DVPCC in December 2018. The report included 83 recommendations within 10 different subject areas. One of the recommendations called for the DVPCC, Metro Government, and the Metro Criminal Justice Commission to develop a plan for considering the recommendations in the report and monitoring their implementation. He recalled that at the December meeting, Marcia Roth made a formal motion that members read the full report and come to the January meeting prepared to vote on accepting the report and establishing a process for reviewing and implementing the recommendations, and the motion was unanimously approved. Chief Conrad opened the floor for comments before calling for a motion to accept the report. Angela Rae noted that the Office of the Public Defender supports most of the recommendations. She advised that several recommendations cause concern including the ability to fully staff a specialized domestic violence docket and raised concern about labeling pretrial defendants. Marcia Roth reminded members that the individual agencies of the DVPCC do not have to support or agree with every recommendation that was presented. She stated that the report includes a wealth of information for the DVPCC to consider and believes that the comprehensive report should not be sitting on a shelf. Pam Darnall noted that the report was very well done, is comprehensive, and should guide how the DVPCC moves forward. Elizabeth Wessels Martin added that by accepting the report the DVPCC is acknowledging that the report will guide continuous efforts. Ruben Pavlov noted challenges associated with the BIP recommendations and the creation of a specialized domestic violence docket. Chief Conrad noted that the DVPCC is not expected to implement all of the recommendations. He stated that many will require long-term strategic planning, while some may not be possible

at all. He called for a motion to accept the report as a blueprint for improving services for victims of domestic and interpersonal violence, and the motion was approved with Angela Rae abstaining. Chief Conrad asked members that are interested in participating on the Community Assessment Steering Committee to stay after the meeting to schedule a date/time for the first meeting.

b. Lethality Assessment Program

c. ODARA Implementation

Chief Conrad introduced Lt. Shannon Lauder and called on her to provide an update on the Lethality Assessment Program and ODARA. Lt. Lauder began by introducing herself and speaking of her experience within LMPD. Lt. Lauder reported that during the 4th Quarter of 2018, there were 412 lethality screens conducted. Of this number, 344 were identified as “high danger” screens and 101 spoke to the hotline. In comparison, data for calendar year 2018 indicates that there were 2,147 lethality screens conducted. Of this number, 1,683 were identified as “high danger” screens and 494 spoke to the hotline. Lt. Lauder reported that there were 35,031 domestic violence call for service in 2018, a decrease from 2017. Marguerite noted that the lethality assessment program numbers only account for about one-third of victims that stay in shelter.

Marcia Roth recalled that the Mary Byron Project brought LAP to Louisville after receiving an application from Maryland as part of its Celebrated Solutions Program. She is pleased that the program has worked so well and expressed appreciation to the CWF and LMPD for their efforts. Marcia asked if any possible reasons had been identified for the decline in the number of callers who spoke with an advocate. Lt. Lauder noted that there is no obvious reason but spoke of a number of factors may have impacted the numbers. Marcia asked if LMPD could contact Maryland to see if they have any suggestions or experienced similar declines. Kathy Paulin wondered if it would be beneficial to retrain officers on the LAP since the initial training was held in 2012. Lt. Lauder responded that she would be glad to reach out to Maryland to see if they have any feedback and noted that KYOPS is in process of consolidating the LAP and ODARA information into the electronic JC-3 form. Upon completion of the form all officers will be required to attend mandatory training on the updates.

In response to a question from Ellie Kerstetter, Lt. Lauder stated that officers provide victim rights information to victims but do not have any brochures or pamphlets regarding victim services. Elizabeth Wessels Martin noted that she could provide LMPD with CFW services for officers to distribute. Lt. Lauder committed to follow up with Elizabeth.

d. Legislative Report

Faith reported that as in years past the Criminal Justice Commission continues to track criminal justice-related bills and called attention to the tracker included in the agenda packet. The tracker is emailed to interested stakeholders every Friday. She advised that the 2019 session opened on January 8th, is a short 30-day session that will conclude on March 29th. The last day to file a new bill request is February 8th; February 15th is the last day for new Senate bills; and February 19th is the last day for new House bills. Thus far,

there have been 90 Senate bills and 156 House bills filed. Faith highlighted several bills of interest including SB 58 and HB 25. In response to a question from Representative Jeff Donohue, Chris Foster indicated that the legislative priority of the DVPCC is to create a crime of strangulation. Chief Conrad explained that strangulation is one of the most lethal forms of intimate partner violence. Loss of consciousness can occur in about 10 seconds, brain damage in 2-3 minutes, and death within 4-5 minutes. Research shows that women who were strangled were ten times more likely to be murdered by their abuser than other women. In response to a question from Rep. Donohue, Chris Foster noted that there has not been a commitment to hear the proposed legislation in committee. Rep. Donohue encouraged members to contact him for assistance with moving legislation forward.

e. FRC Recommendations/Action Plan

Judge Hagerty reminded members that Fatality Review Committee was established as a subcommittee of the DVPCC in 1996 and has been in operation for over 22 years. The purpose of the FRC is to promote coordinated agency and community responses to domestic violence by conducting systemic examinations of domestic violence fatalities. It is the ultimate goal of the review process to prevent future domestic violence-related fatalities. She stated that in October of this year the committee will be presenting the next biennial report for Calendar Years 2017 and 2018. During this timeframe the committee has reviewed a total of 26 cases. The report represents an attempt to document the scope of the committee's efforts by presenting an analysis of data derived from the case review process; a summary of the committee's findings and recommendations; and an overview of emerging issues. A preliminary review of the case data for 2017 and 2018 (as also indicated in prior reports) two particularly troubling trends—a rising percentage of DV-fatalities involving the use of a handgun, and a decline in the average number of system contacts per case. Upon review the cases, the FRC has made seven recommendations, but is still in process of analyzing overall case data to finalize recommendations for the past two years. Recommendations include full implementation and training of the ODARA as well as on-going DV training for the Cabinet for Health and Family Services, Probation and Parole and the Family Court term.

Judge Hagerty provided an update on the Family Court training held on January 11th during the judges' annual retreat. She stated that DV training was presented by retired Judge and FRC Co-Chair, Jerry Bowles, and was very successful. She further stated that Jamie Allen and Kathy Paulin presented an overview of the work of the FRC to provide the judges an understanding of the case review process for domestic violence fatalities.

She noted that at last week's FRC meeting, members approved a recommendation for the DVPCC to review the effects/impacts of Mandatory Reporting since the law changed in 2017. Specifically; how it has changed agency operations and the unintended consequences the new law has created. By way of background, in June 2017 Kentucky's mandatory reporting law for victims of domestic violence was changed to a mandatory information and referral provision. The revised law requires certain professionals to provide educational material to victims of domestic and dating violence with whom they have had a professional interaction. The FRC suggested that the DVPCC develop a

questionnaire/survey that members/agencies would provide input for the Council to review. DVPCC members agreed that the survey would be helpful, and unanimously approved the recommendation.

III. Adjourn/Next Meeting

With no further business to discuss, the meeting was adjourned. The next regularly scheduled meeting of the DVPCC will be held on Thursday, April 25, 2019 in the Crown Room at 12 noon.