



STATE OF WISCONSIN

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE**

P.O. BOX 1185 • MADISON, WISCONSIN 53701 • TELEPHONE (608) 266-0700

**GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE**  
**Legislative and Policy Committee**  
**WI Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative**  
**MEETING MINUTES**  
**Date: January 12th, 2026**  
**Time: 11:00 am**

**Meeting was held virtually**

**Council Members Present:** Elizabeth Lucas, Brenda Frasser

**Committee Members Present:** Courtney Olson, Jenna Gormal, Charles Vear, Natalie Hayden, Karate Ashlee, Julie Valadez, Dr. Autumn Lacey, Stephanie Prevost, Leah Forlenza, Kelsey Mullins, Nela Kalpic, Suzi Schoenhof, Holland Dvorak

**DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present:** Stacey Cicero, Kristen Olsen

**Observers:** Anne Kessenich, Crime Victims' Rights Board Operations Director and Policy Initiatives Advisor

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

**Topics Discussed:**

**Violence Prevention Grant Opportunity**

The Office of Violence Prevention released an [RFP](#) in December for violence prevention funding.

Deadline: January 16 at 2:00 PM

Funding Available: \$10 million allocated statewide.

Submission Platform: DocuSign

DocuSign does not allow saving progress.

If the session times out, all work is lost.

Recommendation: Draft responses in a Word document first, then copy and paste into DocuSign.

Staffing for Domestic Violence Homicide Prevention Training, particularly related to the Lethality Assessment.

Support for launching and sustaining Fatality Review Boards:

- Additional staff time needed to maintain ongoing reviews.
- Development of resources, templates, training, and guidance on:

- How to operate a Fatality Review Board
- How to sustain it long-term

Courtney's Role:

Discussion focused on identifying specific components Courtney is applying for related to getting the fatality review process off the ground.

Appreciation expressed: *Thanks to Courtney* for leading this grant effort.

Upcoming Hearing – Wisconsin Senate Bill 192

Hearing Date: January 14

Time: 1:00 PM

Location: Room 300 Southeast, Wisconsin State Capital

### **Testimony Guidance**

Written testimony can be submitted between now and the hearing. You can come earlier to hearing around 12:30 pm.

Testimony should be updated to reflect:

- Senate committee on Health

Members

[Senator Cabral-Guevara \(Chair\)](#)

[Senator Testin \(Vice-Chair\)](#)

[Senator James](#)

[Senator Smith](#)

[Senator Drake](#)

○

- Bill Number: [Wisconsin Senate Bill 192](#)

Submission Process:

- Email testimony to Jenna for printing. Please send testimony to Jenna: Tuesday, January 13
- If attending in person, print 5 copies (one for each committee member).

Committee Clerk: Michael.Moscicke@legis.wisconsin.gov

Jenna Gormal (End Abuse): Jennag@endabuswi.org

Note: Committee clerks do not read testimony aloud, but committee members do read written submissions.

- Jenna will be attending the hearing on behalf of End Abuse. Courtney will be attending on behalf of the Governor's Council Fatality Review Initiative workgroup.
- End Abuse will post information to listservs—participants are encouraged to share broadly within their networks.
- Jenna will read End Abuse's testimony.

- Participants may nominate someone to read their testimony aloud if unable to attend in person.
- Discussion included the possibility of integrating written testimony with video submissions.

## **Advocacy & Outreach Strategy**

Legislative Outreach

Please contact the committee chairs:

[Todd Novak](#)

[Bob Donovan](#)

- Participants are encouraged to contact the chairs and request an **Executive Session** to vote on SB192.
- **Last session date:** February 15
- If the bill does not pass the Assembly Executive Committee, it will not advance.

### **Suggested Language:**

“Please hold an executive session to vote on SB/AB192 and vote **yes** in support of the bill.”

### **Recommendations:**

Develop personal testimony- the more context we can provide the better. Providing a deeper understanding of the true gravity that domestic violence homicides are having on our state.

Courtney will send out our one-pager. Folks can include the one-pager in their emails and letters to the committee member. There are 5 members of the committee. Please print 5 copies of the Include a one-pager for added context.

## **Other Business**

### **Adjourn**

Next meeting is Monday, February 9<sup>th</sup> at 11am.