



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE *Legislative and Policy Committee* *WI Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative*

MEETING MINUTES *Date: October 13, 2025*

Meeting was held virtually

Members Present: Brenda Frasser, Elizabeth Lucas

Committee Members Present: Courtney Olson, Jaime Sathavisam, Miriam Falk, Leanna Liska, Julie Valadez, Charlie Vear, Jenna Gormal, Kelsey Mullins, Stephanie Prevost, Holland Dvorak

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Items to Bring Forward to Committee

Topics Discussed

Discussion: Wisconsin Violence and Homicide Report

- The Wisconsin Homicide Report shows **2024 had the highest number of homicides on record**, with **99 homicides statewide**.
- The previous record was set in **2022**.
- While violence has decreased nationally, domestic violence (DV) cases and family violence deaths have increased, contributing to the rise in 2024 fatalities.

One-Pager Development

- A one-page summary document has been created to highlight findings and recommendations.
- Feedback & Additions:
 - Focus on educating legislators about the importance of the proposed bill.
 - Elevate racial disparities, particularly that Black women and girls are disproportionately victims of IPV homicides
 - Include impactful quotes within the one-pager.
 - Move away from dense statistics—prioritize stories, impact, and urgency.
 - Note that Wisconsin is one of only five states without a fatality review board—this is unacceptable.
 - Removing “is preventable” to contain realistic expectations and reality of our situation

Data and Fatality Review Board Discussion

- Jenna discussed the survey data and how the Wisconsin Fatality Review Board could help identify and address systemic issues contributing to high homicide rates.
- The group agreed to update language to:

- “Wisconsin ranks 8th in the country for DV-related homicides,” *as the “6th in the country” statistic is no longer accurate.*
 - Note that national data has not been updated since 2022.
- Discussion on benefits of a statewide review board: other states report positive outcomes in prevention and coordination.

Milwaukee Review Board Update

- Charlie shared updates regarding a Milwaukee fatality review team ([BS incident](#)) and discussed systemic issues with law enforcement and tracking of individuals with prior DV or violence histories.

Safe at Home (SAH) Program Discussion

- Group discussed potential correlations between Safe at Home (SAH) participation and homicide prevention.
- Key Points:
 - Current screening does not assess for high lethality risk—eligibility is based on self-reported fear for safety.
 - The program is designed to be low barrier, not exclusively for DV survivors.
 - Data Gap: No current tracking of whether SAH enrollees later become victims of homicide.
 - Leanna will contact the Department of Justice SAH program staff to explore available data.

Legislative and Outreach Strategy

- Public hearing has already taken place in the Assembly, but a vote has not yet occurred.
- Senate action still needed:
 - Senator James – bill author.
 - Senator Tessen – potential committee contact.
 - Committee Chair represents
 - Need to schedule a Senate public hearing and continue outreach.

Survivor Testimony & Advocacy

- Thank you Brenda for your bold testimony
- We need more testimony and survivors sharing the importance of systemic impact and fostering meaningful recommendations and approaches to preventing future harm and violence.
- Review Jackie’s Wing materials for additional survivor impact information.
- Reminder: Staff may lobby using unrestricted funds (not grant funds) up to eight times per year.
- Reach out to Jenna for clarification on lobbying guidelines.

Next Meeting: November 10, 2025

Other Business

Adjourn