



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: November 10, 2025

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present: Brenda Frasser

Committee Members Present: Courtney Olson, Jenna Gormal, Holland Dvorak, Carly Hirsch, Leah Forlenza, Kelsey Mullins, Stephanie Prevost, Charles Vear, Natalie Hayden, Suzi Schoenhof, Deanna Grundl, Skye Alloway, Julie Valadez, Miriam Falk

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero, Kristen Olson, Sharon Gilbert

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Items to Bring Forward to Committee

1. One-Pager Overview and Feedback

Purpose:

- The one-pager aims to articulate the importance of the initiative and serve as a tool for advocacy.
- The team agrees this document will be used to inform and engage partners, legislators, and the broader community.

Edits & Corrections:

- Typo: In Ms. Antonia's quote, change "is of" → "are."
- Clarify who *Tristan* and *Ms. Antonia* are — add full name and title.

Content Feedback:

- Offerings of appreciate- the document is clear, to the point, and includes supporting statistics.
- Positive feedback on the graph illustrates homicide rate increases and trends.
- Noting the importance of a task force that assists with systemic gaps in reporting, data, and collaboration.
- Note the lack of accurate data — current numbers are incomplete or imprecise, though still compelling.

- Acknowledge that obtaining reliable data remains a major challenge for the Indigenous Task Force.
- Disturbing trends articulated through the graph. Illustrating increase in homicides.
- Addressing violence against Black Women and disparities here in Wisconsin. Addressing causes and solutions. Review the [2024 Homicide Report](#).

Language Adjustments:

- Discussion around the phrasing “system accountability.”
 - Suggest reframing to “reform” or “improvement”.
 - Recognize that system partners may have mixed reactions—some will embrace reform, others may feel apprehensive.
- Intention: Reflect the Homicide Review Board’s role in identifying system gaps and supporting survivor-centered accountability and reform.

2. Legislative Strategy

- Legislative session is anticipated to wrap up between February/March
- Goal: Have the Assembly version of the bill ready by **February 15**.
- Public hearing happened; no executive sessions have been held yet.
- Intentional advocacy with the committee chairs and members of both the Assembly and Senate committees to advance the bill.
 - **Senator Testin & Senator James** – put pressure to have them bring the bill fourth in committee.
 - **Assembly Chairs:** Novak and Schneider.
- Identify all committee members and determine existing network connections in each district to encourage local advocacy.

Contact: **Jenna** (jennag@endabusewi.org) for guidance and coordination.

- **Lobbying Rules:**
 - Individuals may lobby their own legislators as many times as they want
 - Non-profits funds may lobby up to four times in a six-month period
 - We are providing education **not** suggesting they vote in a certain way
- **District Contacts:**

- Senate District 19: Carly (Christine Anne Center)
- Senate District 24: Local DV agencies
- Assembly District 61: Skye (consults with programs in District 61)
- Jenna will coordinate outreach once hearings are scheduled.

3. Messaging and Community Engagement

- Emphasizing sharing this message with impacted communities—raise awareness of disparities and promote community engagement.
- Encourage partners to share materials broadly and highlight Wisconsin's disproportionate rates.
- Outreach ideas:
 - Development of a short awareness video
 - Aim to create materials for statewide circulation.

4. Training and Capacity Building

Strangulation Institute:

- Highly regarded training opportunity.
- Contact: Carmen and Matt (Sojourner Family Peace Center) for info on Miriam Falk's December MKE area training on strangulation.
- Participants are encouraged to attend; follow-up opportunities are available after training completion.

Sojourner Family Peace Center [publication](#) on Custody and intersections with Domestic Violence and impacts on survivors and children.

Adjourn