



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**  
**12/9/2024**  
**11:00am – 12:00pm**

**Meeting was held virtually**

**Council Members Present:**

Elizabeth Lucas - DOC

**Committee Members Present:**

Courtney Olson- WDVFRI Chair; Rainbow House Director

Jenna Gormal – End Domestic Abuse WI

Suzi Schoenhof – New Beginnings Director

Stephanie Provost – Golden House Assoc. Director

Susan Kanack - Statewide Forensic Nursing Coordinator

Constance Kostelac – Medical College of Wisconsin

Miriam Falk- Asst. Attorney General, DOJ

Leah Forlenza – Forensic Nurse Examiner

**DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present:**

None

**Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions**

Discussion of meeting with the medical college of Wisconsin who would like to reintroduce legislation that is similar to AB188.

How should we move forward with DVFRI legislation – standalone DV legislation or a broader piece of legislation that encompasses all types of fatality reviews.

Some members want to have umbrella legislation, fears that separate pieces of legislation will be competitive. Would want to have an umbrella piece of legislation that would cover the needs of counties and states. Local teams struggle with information sharing – need to look at what the core criteria is that all review teams would be needed – to try and meet the global needs of review types.

Law enforcement officers have expressed that they did not want to have officer-involved homicides to be one of the review types. Constance will gather more information to understand more about the minutiae of that.

Members expressed concern if officer involved deaths were omitted from review teams. Since many individuals are killed by LE during DV calls. This would be a big gap in information. DV calls are the most dangerous for law enforcement to respond to.

Questions on the cost of this legislation – will legislators be less inclined to pass this if the fatalities listed for review get to be far too long? Will it be easier to focus on just passing a DV fatality review initiative? Different fatality reviews in the state are funded in different ways – so there is a question of whether or not there should be a dollar amount. What should the funding amount be?

Members expressed concern about having dual funding.

Illinois passed their bill in 2022, similar demographic. Similar to WI with a large city, rural state. The state of Illinois funds that team around \$300k.

Discussion of the type of reviews that were included in AB188.

The group proposes to take AB188 and discuss how we can make the bill suitable for the needs of domestic violence at our next meeting.

Group agrees to discuss how we might ensure that AB188 is reflective of DV fatalities, on January 13<sup>th</sup>.

Noted how many types of reviews are so connected – community violence, children, overdose and suicide.

Lots of connections across DV cases.

## **Adjourn**

*Minutes submitted by Jenna Gormal, End Domestic Abuse WI.*