



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: March 9th, 2026

Time: 11:00 am

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present: Brenda Frasser, Elizabeth Lucas

Committee Members Present: Courtney Olson, Holland Dvorak, Jenna Gormal, Leah Forlenza, Deanna Grundl, Suzi Schoenhoft, Stephanie Prevost, Charles Veer, Kelsey Mullins, Leanna Liska, Jaime Sathasivam, Natalie Hayden

Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Topics Discussed

Legislative Update

Bill Reference

- [SB192](#)

Bill Status

- The bill has passed the Assembly and was forwarded to the Senate

Amendment Overview

Original Bill

- Rule-making and policy authority was lent to the Department of Health Services (DHS)
- Established DHS responsibilities related to statewide implementation of the Fatality Review framework
- Clarified processes for record access, confidentiality, and participation

Amendment #1

- Passed previously
- Maintained DHS oversight responsibilities for statewide implementation

Amendment #2 (Current Version)

- Retains language on:
 - Record access
 - Team framework
 - Confidentiality protections
 - Individual immunity for participants operating in good faith
 - Removes DHS from the bill

DHS Funding Evaluation

- DHS estimated implementation costs at approximately \$374,000 per year
- Funding would support four positions:
 - Epidemiologist
 - Program Coordinator
 - Policy Analyst
 - Public Health Educator
- Legislators removed DHS from the bill to avoid creating an unfunded mandate

Concerns Raised

- Lack of statewide consistency
- Training and technical assistance components were removed
- Tribal and rural communities may face increased administrative burdens
- Without DHS oversight there is:
 - No statewide framework
 - No centralized guidance
 - No standardized processes

Confidentiality and Record Sharing

- Proposal to create a statewide standardized confidentiality agreement
- No entity is responsible for establishing standards and guidelines
- Questions remain around:
 - Open records
 - Participation eligibility
 - Statewide guidance

Potential Strategies:

- Secure funding later in the legislative process or through future sessions
- Work with the next Governor's office to include funding in the next state budget
- Invite DHS back into the discussion, as they indicated willingness to implement if funding is provided

Potential Funding Opportunities

- Federal grants (example: Maternal Infant Mortality Review Board)
- Foundation or grant funding
- Prevention funding streams

Discussion centered on whether to continue advocating so the bill does not die in the current legislative session, which ends soon.

Other Business

Adjourn

Next meeting is Monday April 13th @ 11 am.