



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: April 13th, 2026
Time: 11:00 am

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present: Brenda Frasser

Committee Members Present: Courtney Olson, Holland Dvorak, Jenna Gormal, Suzi Schoenhof, Charles Veer, Leanna Liska, Miriam Falk and Zanovia McKinly

Governor's Council Staff Present: Stacey Cicero and Kristen Olsen

Call to Order & Welcome

Topics Discussed

Legislative Update

Bill Reference

Bill Status

- Bill (Act 192) was signed into law by Governor Evers in April 2026. A quote from a legislative sponsor was shared with the group.
- Rainbow House was awarded Office of Violence Prevention funding by OVC. It was noted that LAP and Fatality Review funds will be set aside for state-level oversight.

Other Business

- Next steps for the review team
- Best practice for start-up teams and their functions. National DV Fatality Review Initiative document shared with the group. It's best practice to staff cases that have exhausted appeals and are closed or resolved before staffing them. We don't want to be a party to the case with potential evidence. Data collection tools and confidentiality issues have already been raised.
- Advocate for funding to support this work through the funding crisis. Need to establish a statewide team, establish a cost for the teams, so they can report to the legislature. Decide what the funding would be used for. Would start at the end of this year/beginning of next. State admins will have their own plans, which could start with DOJ, but DCF would not have its own budget they'd be in control of.
- Balance prevention grant vs long-term funding. The prevention grant only runs until the end of this year. Long-term funding would not conflict with the statewide budget request. Will need a framework for reporting and a database, but we can get started with the Prevention funds. It was suggested that the group seek placement on the docket at the Statewide Director's Meetings, and possibly the Regional Director's Meetings as well. Staff will add to the agendas.

- **A question was raised about whether there were already established members on the DVF team.**
Many of the members on this workgroup may be good candidates for the statewide team. Are there folks in this workgroup who are interested? Can we use a model from another state or serve as a staffing state-level team (for data), etc.? Rainbow House has provided the LAP training (upcoming in-person training), and cohesion between teams that are out there already.
- **A question was raised about whether it would be possible for this group to ‘take this info on the road.’**
Share best practices with others and show others ‘how to do it’. Would in-person training with Dr. Neal Websdale be helpful? Perhaps start with the SE region due to the increased number of DV homicides? The group will reach out to Dr. Websdale and to Carmen Pitrie. The group agreed to move sooner rather than later, targeting this year. Mark Perkovich is another individual who has been helpful in many ways. It was suggested to focus on “getting the word out” and providing a brief synopsis of relevant, related information. How does this look for Tribal partners? Does this address it? If not, how do we address?
- **It was suggested that the group create and generate materials that will ease the DVF process, with an eye toward a long-term plan.**
We discussed how to access information respecting confidentiality. Something that makes the process simple for advocates to implement. The group discussed whether a website might be helpful to offer guidance, though this approach could be costly.
- **A question was raised about whether there had been ongoing legislative discussions about increasing funding in the budget.** It was noted that those talks had not yet occurred.

Meeting Adjourned (11:53 am)

Next meeting is Monday May 11th @ 11 am