



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: July 14th, 2025

Time: 11:00 am

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present: Brenda Fraser, Elizabeth Lucas

Committee Members Present: Courtney Olson, Suzi Schoenhof, Holland Dvorak, Kelsey Mullins, Nathan Schwanz (Medical College of WI), Leeana Liska, Connie Kostelac (Medical College of WI), Charlie Vear (Medical College of WI), Miriam Falk, Jenna Gormal

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present: None

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

11:03am-11:08am

Topics Discussed

- Waiting for SB 192 to move forward (this is the bill to create Fatality Review Initiatives under DHS).
- There was a suggested amendment specific to a Law Enforcement portion of the Bill. Medical College of WI (MCW) did not take a position on that.
- The legislature is on a break right now, but MCW hopes it will pick up at the end of July or beginning of August.
- There may be opportunities to testify in front of the legislature regarding the proposed Bill (MCW does not know how much advance notice they would receive for testimony requests).

Other Business

Adjourn

The meeting ended at 11:16am, due to a technical difficulty.

Meeting Resumed: Note Taker switched from Elizabeth Lucas to Holland Dvorak

Members of the team would like to offer testimony during the legislative process as we advocate for the AB

FAQ Resources from NDVFRI were dropped in the chat

Are there specific legislators?

Representative Moses is one of the drafters + supporters- he is one of the legislators on the Health Committee.

We are attempting to maintain support from the senate. The hangup from the last session was Law Enforcement groups. Hopefully they will stay neutral so we can move this forward.

This bill has not really moved

Concerns were expressed from the applicability and how it interconnects with LE fatality. If there is a law enforcement fatality- they do not want third party review as most LE agencies have their own internal review did not want to create duplicity. This only applies when the LE is harmed while on duty and does not include fatalities of LE officers that are off duty. Including LE that may be someone perpetrating harm or the victim.

A question was asked as to whether this includes fatalities while responding to domestic violence calls. We know responding to DV calls can be especially dangerous. We also know individuals will use LE to cause further harm- including but not exclusive to suicide by cop.

Having a conversation around including DV related fatalities that includes LE. Responding to DV related calls can be potentially dangerous.

Further conversation- LE has their own investigation and their own review. Do they have separate review process- beyond the initial investigation. LE creating separate procedures for a review of LE involved fatality and an investigation of a LE involved fatality. Encouraging and ensuring there is no misinformation between investigations and fatality review. These are two different ways of analyzing the incident.

DV is one of the leading cause of the LE fatalities. This is a system- problem. Concerns expressed regarding intentionally excluding the fatality reviews that include LE can leaves gaps in information and response. How can we review DV fatalities and risk if we exclude LE response.

The may vs. shall- does not preclude from review. Not legally obligated to participate but may participate if the LE would like to. We do not want to cause concern from the LE groups as last time they put a stop to the bill proceeding.

How can this work group support MCW proposed bill?

Offer education around the importance of having a fatality review board. Highlight the positive impact of public health in Wisconsin.

Raise visibility- educate state-partners about the importance of the bill and how it can support Wisconsin. We are one of the few states to not have a statewide review board.

End Abuse and legislative advocacy - sends out templates and language around what we are advocating for.

MCW feels good about the committee's prospects. Representative Moses has a high level of credibility and influence over that caucus. He will continue to monitor the process.

NDVFRF offered support- we are grateful for bipartisan support. We are strategically doing what we can to help uplift and support this legislation.

Encouragement of the DV service providers to write their own testimonies. We do some of our own research on our end and look at the committee members and do some focused advocacy. Reaching out to legislators. We can mobilize quickly in the event they schedule a hearing. Support to help achieve the bill to get across the finish line.

Meeting Disruption at 11:16am: Rosenberg was the name of the chatbot that entered the public meeting. This is not a new occurrence and has been happening to public meeting by the governor's council.

Next meeting is August 11th