



STATE OF WISCONSIN

GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

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GOVERNOR'S COUNCIL ON DOMESTIC ABUSE

**LEGISLATIVE, POLICY & SYSTEMS COORDINATION SUB COMMITTEE
Workgroup Meeting: Wisconsin Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative**

**Meeting Minutes
August 12, 2024
11AM-12 PM**

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present:

Elizabeth Lucas, OVSP Co-Chair Legislation/Policy Committee

Committee Members Present:

Courtney Olson, Rainbow House

Marlys Howe, Madison Victim Witness

Jenna Gormal, End Abuse

Natalie Hayden, Exposed Inc

Leena VAWA STOP

Kelsey Mullins, Legal Advisor Court Operations – VAWA STOP

Leah Forlenza, FNE Child Coordinator

Charles Vear, Research Analyst

Suzi Schoenhofst New Beginnings Director

Susie Kanack FNE DOJ

Stephanie Prevost, Interim ED Golden House

Nela Kalpic, Marsy's Law

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present:

None

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Note taker Suzi Schoenhofst, New Beginnings

Items to Bring Forward to Committee

Updates Gov Council

There were technical compliance issues. Are we meeting the requirements for an open meeting? Recording, taking minutes, etc. We are covered.

Topics Discussed

Discussed Goals/Objectives:

WI is 1 of 5 states that does not have a DV initiative as part of its legislation. Started 2 years ago. It's a 10-year process to build initiative. Researched best practices and models.

Assembly Bill 188 – create a review initiative (all forms of fatality under one umbrella) Doesn't include DV specifically. If funding is not appropriated DV may not be funded. All teams would operate under DHS. This means DHS could leave out DV. Did not get passed on the floor. The bill died.

Main issues:

Should we create a stand-alone? Ask for a specific DV Fatality Review.

There is a rise in WI homicides.

Only 12% of legislation on the table made it to the finish line. We work in a polarized environment. We need broad-based representation (not just LE or advocacy)

DV Homicide reports

2021 WI tied for 8th in the US for DV Homicides

2022 20 % increase (96) New category added (family violence)

2023 complete analysis not done yet

Milwaukee is seeing a large number of cases but folks are not in the system for DV high risk.

Most homicide cases have not had an engagement in the system. The trends and gaps help us learn to improve outreach. Dr Jacqueline Campbell's research: studied over 4000 DV homicides 44% had called LE within the year prior but only 4% of those who died had sought services.

All Advocate/Ascension hospitals have programs for specific FNEs per Leah Forlenza

Thoughts on creating a stand-alone DV initiative?

Marlys believes a stand-alone makes sense. Keep the genuine and important aspects upfront.

Courtney – How would it be funded? Where would it be housed? IL has a separate Office (\$300,000 annually to run the program) IL Leg passed in 2021. They had 1 state office that oversaw and 9 regional teams. Not sure what state agency oversees the project. Every state that surrounds us has an initiative. IL similar in size and structure. They have a good plan. Perhaps DV homicide and prevention. DCF Grant coming up due in 3 weeks – potential funding for underrepresented populations. Courtney offered to apply for the grant but we need it to be housed somewhere. IL model has an office with staff but they pay for regional teams, mileage costs etc. Could we go the foundation route? Many are 'seed money' for a 1-3 year timeframe. MN operated its Fatality Review Initiative. Has own website. It's not a one-time ask.

Marlys suggests staying away from fed grants (especially now). Suggests relying on the state. Grants can take so much time to report etc.

Suzi Schoenhoft asked if we could apply with subgrantees subcontractors or group grants.

Susie Kanack defers to having more people at the table. More data may generate more and better information to move forward

Elizabeth Lucas suggested waiting on the application and perhaps Milwaukee could guest speak at the next meeting.

Legislation session closes in April. We have until January to think what that looks like. Should we look at where funding options may be? How will it be funded? Have to create an unfunded mandate. Unless there is funding to implement it may need to be held off.

This group will actively look for funding matches for this initiative. Each person will bring back one possible funding option next month/meeting.

Courtney attended the DV Fatality Review Initiatives webinar. Should we invite one of these speakers to our next group?

Charlie discussed the outcome of the Bobbi Lou Schoeffling case. Some results were to add personnel to search for those with a warrant and follow up with victims. Only staff cases that have gone through all the steps in the system. Charles will ask if the Milwaukee DV Fatality Review Team and Bobbi Lou Team (Connie) to speak at our next meeting.

Recording:

https://app.read.ai/analytics/meetings/01J53MZXZB95DKKKMV00F32JSW?utm_source=Share_CopyLink**Next**

Meeting September 9th @ 11 am

Other Business

None

Adjourn

12:01