



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: September 8, 2025

Meeting was held virtually

Council Members Present:

Brenda Frasser

Committee Members Present:

Dana World Patterson

Julie Valadez

Jessica Trauth

Holland Dvorak

Kelsey Mullins

Marlys Howe

Courtney Olson

Charles Veer

Constance Kostelac

DCF/Governor's Council Staff Present:

Kristen Olsen

Stacey Cicero

Call to Order, Welcome and Introductions

Items to Bring Forward to Committee – None at this time

Topics Discussed

- Hearing for Fatality Review Legislation has been scheduled for Wednesday at 10 am.
 - MCW representative (Connie) is working with gov't relations
 - Connie and someone from the child death review teams will testify and possibly some local community partners.
 - Don't know if there will be another hearing – challenging because don't get a lot of lead time- this hearing was posted on Friday – but Connie will check with team to learn what they think will happen after this one
 - Discussion about language in bill
 - Under list of reviewable deaths – 250.22 wanted to make sure it was a homicide OR death involving domestic violence or intimate partner violence. Language is designed to support and allow teams to be created, but not mandate them. Also because there are several review teams around the state wanted to ensure that all were allowed to operate.
 - Links for bills shared in chat
 - [1940395](#)

- [2025 Senate Bill 192](#)
- Discussion of creating/ updating one page document to assist with telling “story” of “why” this legislation matters
 - Courtney has added information on Senate and Assembly reps and the areas they cover
 - SB192 –Sen from district 19 is chair. Vice Chair is sent. 24. Sen 23 is on committee and DV champion
 - AB192 – Courtney is in one jurisdiction and can complete outreach
 - Julie shared she can reach out to the Madison representative.
 - Lobbying overview provided by Jenna via meeting with Courtney
 - Ideas for one page document:
 - Holland and Marlys stated they would be able to help with the one page document. Courtney will put together a work group.
 - What statistics to folx want to include from END and WCASA? Reviewed data currently available
 - Hope to have 2024 homicide report data out to listserv for review by week of 15th.
 - Black women in WI are 20/x more likely to be killed than their white counterparts.
 - 1 of only approximately 5 states that does not have a fatality review
 - Testimonials – first-hand accounts – suggested by Dana –
 - Brenda is willing to do a testimonial. Can send what she has written. Courtney stated that she can help add Brenda’s voice into the document.
 - Statewide maps that show where the fatalities are occurring
 - Conversation about statistics pertaining to Suicide related to DV.
 - Anecdotal experiences shared regarding livid experience around “unknown” or uninvestigated deaths.
 - Would like to include in reviews; however, can be hard to gather data as it is not “reported” as a crime.
 - Could add to this document after hearing to have a well-rounded document to send out for future
- Brenda is hosting an event on October 4th in honor of her daughter
 - Sherriff, Governor, and some survivors have been invited to speak beginning at 10 am
 - Open invitation if anyone from this group is interested in attending and speaking about the bill.

Other Business

Discussion regarding the time and date of the next meeting.

Adjourn