



Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW

Minutes

HB3161

Tuesday, January 13, 2022

12:00 PM to 2:00 PM

Location

Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

Task Force Member Attendance	Present	Telephone	Absent
Sen. Sally Turner	x		
Rep. Maurice West	x		
Sen. Tony McCombie	x		
Jennifer Cacciapaglia, City of Rockford	x		
Jenny Schoenwetter, Harbor House	x		
Jennifer Greene, Life Span Chicago	x		
Amanda Pyron, The Network: Advocating Against Domestic Violence	x		
Cassandra Tanner Miller, Colton’s Legacy	x		
Willette Benford, Live Free Illinois	x		
Jennifer Vancil, Quanada	x		
Michelle Meyer	x		
Meg Hefty, Sarah’s Inn Forest Park	x		
Jenna Lopez, YWCA	x		
Megan Alderden, DePaul University, Program Director of Criminology			x
Fawn Pettet, Land of Lincoln, Alton	x		
Carol Klarquist, Office of the Illinois State Public Defender	x		
Stacy Short, Illinois Department of Children and Family Services	x		
Caleb Schaffner, ICJIA	x		
Wendy Cohen, Attorney General Office	x		
Emily Miller, Deputy Chief of Staff for Policy Office of Illinois Governor JB Pritzker	x		

Dan Likens, ISP Division of Criminal Investigations Zone 1 Commander	x		
Teresa Tudor, Illinois Department of Human Services	x		
Dr. Jacob Stelter, North Shore, Lake County	x		
Robert Mannis, Lt. Gov's Office	x		
Sheryl Friedrich, IDPH	x		
Ret. Chief Tom Weitzel	x		
Sheriff Andy Hires	x		
Sara Block, Ascend Justice	x		

Also present were:

Nathan Bossick – ICJIA Strategic Planning Administrator
 Crystal D. Johnson – ICJIA Office of General Counsel Advisor
 Samantha Gadte-Member of the Public
 Christine Raffaele-Member of the Public
 Vickie Smith-Member of the Public

A. Welcoming Remarks

Sara Block began by thanking the Illinois Domestic Fatality Review Task Force members for their time, effort, and energy to this task force. She stated that the work is critical, and she is excited to see it come to fruition.

B. Acknowledgement of Need for Videoconference Meeting

1. Sara Block acknowledged the continuing need to convene by videoconference because the public-health challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic are still present

C. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Sara Block called the meeting to order at 12:17 PM
2. ICJIA Office of General Counsel Advisor Crystal D. Johnson took roll
3. Quorum was established

D. Introductions

Sara Block asked everyone to give a brief introduction of themselves by stating their name, their role, and what makes them excited to be a part of the fatality review initiative. Attendees (except for dial-in callers) proceeded to introduce themselves. Sara Block thanked everyone for their willingness to share information about themselves and expressed a desire to continue having the task force build a relationship.

E. History of Committee-Representative West

Rep. West stated he was excited about the initiative and he received this legislation from the city of Rockford. and that the administration had made it a top priority to tackle domestic violence which led to the city desiring a domestic violence fatality review team. He stated he filed the legislation not knowing what he was getting into. He stated a lot of the advocates that are present on the call today were a part of the initiative along with a two-day training from Dr. Neil Websdale. He stated, 15% of our homicides in our state, our domestic violence homicides, and from July 1 of 2020, to July 1 of 2021-168 incidents of domestic violence homicide occurred leading to 78 deaths. He stated this was a bipartisan-unanimous-vote and that his colleagues in both chambers saw the importance of this group. He stated the purpose of the group is to review domestic violence related

fatalities and near fatalities, to identify potential obstacles or breakdowns in systemic interventions barriers to safety gaps in the community services, and consider alternate and or more effective systemic responses in order to prevent future fatalities. He stated what is really important for us is that the work that we are doing is going to be preventative measures, not responsive tactics. He stated this is part of the job for all of us in our, individual capacities, helping people, saving lives. He thanked Sara for her leadership and stated this has become one of his passions.

E. Structure of Committee-Sara Block

Sara Block stated the creation of the statute is a 2-tiered structure for domestic violence fatality review and includes this committee and the regional review teams. She stated across the country, they're over 200 domestic violence review teams and they all operate somewhat, uniquely. She stated that we wanted to ensure that our initiative and alumni had both local reach and local focus with a state-wide lens for support. She stated this committee is that state-wide lens. She stated our job as this committee is to really provide support for the actual reviews that will be occurring in the regions. She stated the regions will be organized by the circuit court boundaries although they're not led by the circuit court but organized by those boundaries. She stated we have a plan that over a course of 6 years each of the regions will launch the domestic violence fatality review teams. She stated the statute outlines the responsibilities of both the committee as well as the regional review teams and how the reviews will actually happen. She stated she wanted to make sure that everyone here understood that our role is going to be to support, and it's both a support in terms of helping facilitate and prepare the regions to do the actual reviews. She stated equally importantly are the recommendations that are coming from the regional teams and how information is fed to this committee. She stated we will be producing a report every- other- year that summarizes the recommendations coming from the teams. She stated if we didn't have our role of a state-wide committee, then we would have pockets of review teams happening across the state with recommendations that would just stay localized. She stated it's providing that connection amongst the regional teams as well as being able to support the recommendations that are coming from across the state. She stated our review team will look at fatalities that are both caused by homicide and suicide as well as near fatalities so very severe domestic violence, cases in which the survivor of domestic violence has caused the death of the person who perpetrated domestic violence. She stated the diversity of cases that are eligible for review under domestic violence with had review in Illinois will give a really diverse richness to the issues that we're facing.

E. New Business

- 1. Proposed date for next meeting:** March 15, 2022, 12:00 p.m. to 2:00 p.m.
- 2. Election of Co-Chairs:**
 - a. Nomination-Sara Block**
 1. Moved: Representative West
 2. Second: Jennifer Greene
 3. Third: Jenna Lopez
 4. All were in favor
 5. No abstentions
 6. No objections
 - b. Nomination-Megan Alderden**
 1. Moved: Sara Block
 2. Second: Jennifer Cacciapaglia
 3. All were in favor
 4. No abstentions
 5. No objections
 - c. Nomination: Jenny Shoenwetter**

1. Moved: Sara Block
2. Second: Representative West
3. All were in favor
4. No abstentions
5. No objections

3. Adoption of Bylaws for the Task Force (Roll Call Vote)

Chair Block referred to the draft of the bylaws that was previously sent to the Domestic Violence Fatality Review members via email on January 11, 2022 and asked for any amendments to the bylaws.

1. Secretary Jenny Shoenwetter moved to have “chairman” moved to gender neutral language.
2. Wendy Cohen had a question about allowing proxies to vote.
3. Jennifer Cacciapaglia had a question about designees being allowed as proxies.
4. Chair Sara Block moved to adopt the bylaws as amended to change line (2) from “chairman” to “chairperson.”
5. Jennifer Cacciapaglia second the bylaws as amended.
6. Nine (18) votes in favor
7. No oppositions
8. (1) abstention

4. Sexual Harassment and Ethics Training

Chair Sara Block opened the meeting up to ICJIA Office of General Counsel advisor Crystal D. Johnson to explain the Sexual Harassment and Ethics Training requirement to members. Crystal D. Johnson explained to members that they would receive an email containing their username and password that would allow them to login to the OneNet system to complete the trainings. She further explained that in the event there were issues with logging in-members would be given paper copies of the trainings to complete for ICJIA’s record keeping.

5. Selection of 2-year or 3-year terms

Chair Sara Block opened the meeting to ICJIA Office of General Counsel Karen Sheley to draw names by lot for the two-year and three-year terms. General Counsel Sheley requested clarification of the members who would be chosen for two-year or three-year terms and Chair Sara Block informed her that it would only be for the voting members of the committee. General Counsel Sheley stated that all twenty-five members had not been selected and that once the members were appointed, their names would also be drawn by lot for the required terms. Representative West asked if two-year terms could be renewed and Chair Sara Block confirmed that they could be renewed. The following names were drawn for two-year terms: Fawn Pettet, Jennifer Vancil, Jenny Shoenwetter, Jennifer Greene, Cassandra Tanner Miller, Jennifer Cacciapaglia, Jenna Lopez, Representative West, Willette Benford, Emily Miller, Tom Weitzel and Meg Hefty.

6. Budget for Contractor

Chair Sara Block asked ICJIA Strategic Planning Administrator Nathan Bossick to explain the budget for the Domestic Violence Fatality Review contractor. Nathan Bossick stated that we are currently working on this but we need a little more time to complete it. He stated we are also extremely limited on what we can share due to the state procurement rules but we are hoping that we can push this to the next meeting where we can have more information.

F. Public Comments

Vickie Smith, member of the public stated that she is excited that this is getting off the ground and she is looking forward to hearing about all the excellent work everyone is going to do. She stated she is humbled at the representation by the members of the only coalition against domestic violence. She stated this has been a long time coming and it's needed now more than ever.

G. Adjournment

1. Next meeting will be Tuesday, March 15, 2022 at 12:00 p.m.
2. Moved by Ret. Chief Tom Weitzel
3. Seconded by Chief Hires
4. All were in favor
5. No oppositions
6. No abstentions
7. Chair adjourned meeting at 1:08 PM