



**ILLINOIS
CRIMINAL JUSTICE
INFORMATION AUTHORITY**

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**Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE PRETRIAL WORKING GROUP**

**Minutes
HB3653**

Thursday, March 23, 2022
2:00 PM to 4:00 PM

Location
Via WebEx Video Conference/Teleconference

Task Force Member Attendance	Present	Telephone	Absent
Amanda Pyron, Executive Director: The Network	X		
Amanda L. Vasquez, ICJIA	X		
Christine Call, Executive Director: Center for Advancing Domestic Peace	X		
Deirdre Harrington, Cook County State’s Attorneys Office	X		
Eric C. Arnold, ILETSB Executive Institute Western Illinois University	X		
LaTanya Hill, Director Kane Court Services	X		
Margaret Duval, Executive Director Ascend Justice			X
Monique Patterson, Attorney Supervisor Law Office of Cook County Public Defender			X
Judge Randy Wilt, 17 th Circuit Court	X		
Wendy Venvertloh, Administrative Office of Illinois Courts	X		
Willette Benford, Live Free Illinois	X		

Also present were:

Crystal Johnson, ICJIA, Office of the General Counsel

A. Call to Order and Roll Call

1. Amanda Pyron called the meeting to order at 2:03 PM
2. Crystal Johnson took roll
3. Quorum was established

1. Welcoming Remarks

Amanda Pyron begins by thanking the Domestic Violence Pretrial Working Group members for their time, effort, and energy to this task force. She states that she is looking forward to working with everyone.

2. Acknowledgement of Need for Videoconference Meeting

Crystal Johnson acknowledged the continuing need to convene by videoconference because the public-health challenges presented by the COVID-19 pandemic are still present

3. Member Introductions

Attendees proceeded to introduce themselves. Amanda Pyron thanked everyone for their willingness to share information about themselves and expressed a desire to continue having the task force build a relationship. Amanda Pyron introduced herself and her role as Executive Director of The Network, a gender-based violence prevention program that was one of the organizations that helped draft the gender-based violence provisions in the Pretrial Fairness Act.

4. History of Committee/Legislation:

Amanda Pyron stated the Illinois Domestic Violence Pretrial Working Group was established in the Pretrial Fairness Act which was passed by the legislature and signed by the governor as part of the overall Safety Act. She stated the working group is going to work solely on the portions of the Pretrial Fairness Act that relate to domestic and sexual violence survivors and the protections in the act.

Ms. Pyron stated for survivors, the goal of the working group is to ensure the implementation of the act works efficiently and effectively to safeguard survivors. She stated that we have to implement the act in every jurisdiction in Illinois and monitor the progress and adherence to the law in every jurisdiction in Illinois. She stated it is the work of this working group is to 1) identify the inputs that are needed to ensure survivors are safeguarded, 2) the act is implemented and recommendations are made to the legislature and the governor's office about effective implementation and 3) to ensure the act is fully communicated to jurisdictions across the state.

Ms. Pyron stated as advocates we will start externally monitoring implementation and making sure that systems and processes and procedures are working for survivors and jurisdictions have been given the resources, tools and knowledge to effectively comply with the act.

Ms. Pyron stated the working group will take a narrow look at the Safety Act and Pretrial Fairness Act and only focus on the portions that relate to domestic violence and sexual violence. She stated the working group was established to acknowledge the hard work of eliminating cash bail and the work is going to fall on specialist domestic violence courts. She stated they will be working to assess those who are causing harm for risk prior to making a decision on release or detention.

Ms. Pyron stated that work has begun on a county-level and the biggest change is the workflow process related to domestic and sexual violence cases. She stated there is a need for education around judicial demeanor which currently does not exist beyond a few judges assigned to the domestic violence division or the domestic relations division. She stated this committee would take up those issues identified in the Pretrial Fairness Act as changes of notice to survivors and volunteering risk assessment by judges in the case of domestic violence or sexual violence cases in bond court.

4a. Legislative Discussion

Mr. Eric C. Arnold, Program Director for Illinois Law Enforcement Training & Standards Board Executive Institute, Western Illinois University asked if there was existing data collections on people coming into the criminal justice system? He asked if there was existing data at the county level or if we will be creating it?

Amanda Pyron stated there is currently no data collection statewide or at the county level on domestic violence or sexual violence. She stated one of our key tasks is going to be to recommend elements of data collection that counties track related to domestic and sexual violence.

Ms. Pyron stated there is a separate working group as part of the Pretrial Fairness Act implementation that has been meeting steadily and she has made contact with them and she has requested that this task force have input into their final recommendations.

Mr. Arnold stated that one of his initial concerns when the Safety Act first came out was that the overall response to crimes against women was extremely deficient. He stated it is important to make sure this task force try to strategize to see what effects are noted as it relates to those who enter the criminal justice system for the violence against women crimes. He stated he appreciated Amanda for reaching out to them because if he cannot see the data, he is unsure how to strategize.

Mr. Arnold stated when we talk about assessment, Winnebago is strongest in the state in understanding recidivism as opposed to the data coming out of John Hopkins and lethality and where those paths cross. He stated that if this information is noted in the data collection, he is interested in what it reveals.

Amanda Pyron stated she did not believe it was on their radar and it has been uphill battle having a specific DV risk assessment. She stated we didn't ask for a specific tool like the Audura for fear it would become outdated.

Wendy Venvertloh Deputy Director Performance Management Office of Statewide Pretrial Services for the Administrative Office of the Illinois Courts stated that she supports the Pretrial practices data oversight board as part of her work and that she can be a liaison for that group. She stated there are quite a few counties who are doing modality assessments and that she had read through the 700-page Safety Act and she noted the "PAIP Assessment" that is to be a part of the judges decision making process. She stated that she did not note any additional language that offered a different assessment strategy since the previous one had been stricken and asked what would be used since the Cindy Bischoff assessment was stricken?

Amanda Pyron replied that she would look up the information and get back to the group regarding the assessment. She stated the intent in the conversation was that the working group would recommend a DV specific or gender-based violence specific assessment tool to be utilized for deviant S.A. cases.

Judge Randy Wilt, Associate Circuit Judge 17th Judicial Circuit Court stated we have a tool that is required at bond court on domestic violence cases, but he is not aware of any risk assessment tool for sexual assault type cases. He asked if anyone is aware of a tool being used in other jurisdictions, he would like to be made aware so that the probation department could begin to use it as a part of their pretrial interview process.

Mr. Arnold stated the interesting part about the Cindy Bischoff which threw a shockwave through how law enforcement has been lining itself up for about 10 years was that it was copied out of Dr Jackie Campbell from Johns Hopkins University regarding what the Judiciary had to consider-it was copied from the danger lethality assessment. He stated the Bischoff law was specifically designed to assess lethality not the risk of recidivism.

He stated he is interested in seeing where that goes because it saves victim's lives, law enforcement and children.

Amanda Pyron stated as an organization if there are changes that should be made, we can do that. She stated we would not do a repeal bill.

Deirdre Harrington, State's Attorney's Office, Sex and Gender Based Policy Advisor, stated she wanted to applaud the work and stated this is a huge step forward for DV work.

B. New Business:

1. Ethics & Sexual Harassment Trainings

Crystal D. Johnson ICJIA Office of General Counsel Technical Advisor explained to members their duty to complete annual trainings for all appointees and designees of task forces. Members were told they should expect an email with their log-in credentials, and they should complete the trainings within 30 days of the meeting.

2. Adoption of Bylaws for the DV Pretrial Working Group Task Force (Roll Call Vote)

Amanda Pyron referred to the draft of the bylaws that was previously sent to the DVPWG Task Force members via email on March 21, 2022, and asked for a motion to approve the draft as the official bylaws of the task force.

1. Moved by Judge Randy Wilt
2. Seconded by Eric Arnold
3. Nine (9) votes in favor
4. No oppositions
5. No abstentions

4. Meeting Dates

Amanda Pyron proposed that meetings are held monthly as opposed to quarterly to catch up and identify immediate tasks that need to be addressed.

Amanda L. Vazquez, Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority Acting Research Manager Center for Victim Studies, asked if we have an idea of benchmarks that we need to accomplish and by when?

Amanda Pyron stated that portions of the legislation go into effect February 2023 and that is the aggressive timeline that we are adhering to because that will take time and budget processes. She asked the group if we could meet monthly to produce the preliminary report and move to meeting quarterly to produce the final report.

Latanya Hill, Director, Kane County Court Services asked that if meetings are to be held monthly that the group move forward with scheduling the meetings at the onset so that schedules would be in place.

Judge Randy Wilt and Wendy Venvertloh agreed with scheduling monthly meetings ahead of time.

Everyone agreed that meetings would be held from 2:00 p.m. to 3:30 p.m. on Thursdays. The group agreed to meet May 26th, June 23rd, July 28th, August 25th, September 22nd and October 27th of 2022.

F. Members Updates

None

G. Public Comments

No public comments.

H. Adjournment

6. Moved by Mr. Eric C. Arnold
7. Seconded by Judge Randy Wilt
8. All were in favor
9. No oppositions
10. No abstentions
11. Meeting adjourned at 3:27 PM