

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)
COMMITTEE ON SYSTEMS IMPROVEMENT (CSI MEETING)

Wednesday, November 13, 2024
12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. | Pacific Time (US & Canada)
South Los Angeles Family Source Center
4305 Degnan Blvd., Suite 105, Los Angeles, CA 90008
1st Floor Conference Room

Mission Statement: To implement domestic violence laws and policies and to provide resources and problem-solving support to community partners when implementation issues and problems arise. The Committee also addresses emerging issues that impact victims of domestic violence.

[See the DVC Calendar for Meeting Information](#)

MINUTES

- I. Call to Order – Rachelle Neshkes, Kate Forrest, Gail Pincus
Meeting Protocols- Before we begin this meeting, please be reminded that this is an open and public meeting. Therefore, anything discussed (both verbally and within the online chat) are not protected by any type of confidentiality. Any client identifying information should not be presented. Please avoid discussion of personal cases as well. If you need additional resources, please contact the co-chairs after this meeting.
- II. Welcome and Introductions
- III. Follow up on previous agenda items
 - a. Sheriff's Department issues (co-chairs & Stephanie)
 - Stephanie not present to report on updates with County Counsel Choi, but Det. Strnad noted a recent LASD event there were language access cards for distribution, so there seems to be movement in the right direction
 - LASD has committed to providing replies to e-mail submission of service requests for service, confirming receipt and forwarding to the serving branch; Det. Strnad & Fernandez will be available for a follow-up meeting to check on effectiveness of this protocol prior to the main DVC meeting w/ Sheriff Luna in December
 - b. Service provider list project (Cruz & Ash)
 - No updates in past 3 mos, move to parking lot
 - c. Still soliciting experiences with attorney solicitation of DVRO respondents (Minty)
 - Stephanie Bailiff of Harriet Buhai shared a story in which abuser was alerted to the TRO due to attorney solicitation and assaulted survivor upon her return home, which provides exactly the type of compelling example needed for legislature to act (Rachelle notes in her case the survivor intercepted the mail first so abuser was not tipped off but could have been)

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

→ more info desired, and possible survivor testimony; Det. Strnad offers to try to get the incident report if it occurred in LASD service area and see if the context is mentioned

- Gail shared instance of solicitation of petitioner, who misunderstood the letter and thought she did something wrong (along the lines of 'you can't do this without an attorney') and almost did not show up at her hearing; discussed possibility of requesting blanket rule of no solicitation in DV cases, but concern that this undermines the primary impetus for the ban being safety concerns

d. Electronic recording: template for litigants to make the request (LAFLA?)

- LAFLA had a prior template for requesting permission for litigant to record on personal device for personal reference only pursuant to CRC 1.150(b)), not applicable to new general order to engage official court recording equipment; Kate will work on a new template before next meeting

e. Parking lot (updates if any available): Budget issues, esp. impact on courthouse functioning & victim's services; AB 2185 forensic exam funding; Requesting Minor's Counsel billing records in PACE cases

→ legislation has been passed to back-fill VOCA funding, but it may take a year to implement

IV. New, critical, and emerging issues

a. Debrief on DV & Firearms presentation (Lan)

- Update not available

b. Call for any other community experiences with law enforcement, prosecution, or the courts

- court recently rolled out LACC 3.0 for family court which allows same-day login without prior registration, and tech upgrades are being implemented

(<https://view.communications.lacourt.org/?vawpToken=MDQOLWQBWJVEJMSVFM02SWGYP.Y.130001>) – looking for experiences (currently available in Van Nuys, Pasadena, and Chatsworth) to assess capacity to share audio/video evidence, which has often been a reason for survivors to appear in person for DVRO hearings

→ Courthouse ADR problems: Gail reports that a victim came to Van Nuys station to report stalking, referred to RO clinic, TRO approved, but at return hearing was diverted to court's ADR program to mediate a voluntary stay-away agreement; afterward, without a CLETS RO prohibiting him, abuser purchases a gun and shoots victim in the head and back, currently fighting for her life

- Riffat of South Asian Network reports hearing of similar experiences

- mediation is inappropriate in DV cases, but the form (<https://www.lacourt.org/forms/pdf/FAM190.pdf>) doesn't make it clear that it should only be used in CHROs – relying on mediators to know which cases are which, do they actually read the pleadings?

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

- best practice of clinic providers is to warn litigants they do not need to participate in mediation, but policy needs to be explicit on the provider end – who is it? Discussion/research suggests

<https://dcba.lacounty.gov/countywidedrp/contact/>

V. Next steps and action items

1. Kate will work on a template or guide for pro per litigants to request court electronic recording when no court reporter is available
2. Gail will coordinate w/ Minyong and reach out to Van Nuys ADR provider re: improper mediation of DV cases, Kate will reach out to Stephanie Davidson to discuss whether this has also occurred at Mosk and if we can propose a limitation in sexual assault and stalking cases even if filed as CHROs
3. Stephanie will check with her survivor to see if she wants to be involved in efforts to amend RPC to prohibit solicitation of DVRO respondents; if consenting, provide info to Det. Strnad to look for incident report
4. Gail will reach out to Krista Warfield (shelter committee) to advise of increased referrals that will be coming in January as a result of the rollout of the new lethality assessment LAPD must conduct

VI. Matters not on posted agenda to be presented and placed on a future agenda.

- a. LAPD lethality assessment – keep on future agenda for January rollout
- b. Best way to facilitate attendance at CSI meetings – regular participants have missed out on meetings not on their calendars, is there a way to add to calendar when you register? (Zoom function), or have option of opting in to a recurring calendar invitation?

VII. Public Comments: not to exceed two minutes per person and must be on items of interest which are within the subject matter jurisdiction of the Council.

→ Survivor Justice Center is soliciting clients in need of help with DV related debts, credit report review; invited to email services@lajl.org or call 323-980-3500

VIII. **Next** meeting is scheduled for January 8, 2024 at Family Source Center.

IX. Reminder to complete DVC committee meeting survey: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MC8V9>

X. Adjournment

ACCOMMODATION REQUESTS:

American Sign Language (ASL) interpreters, auxiliary aids and services, or reasonable modifications to attend Domestic Violence Council meetings and access to policies and/or procedures (i.e., to assist members of the disability community who would like to request a disability-related accommodation), will be made available if the request is made at least five (5) business days before the meeting. Late requests will be accommodated based on feasibility. Please direct all requests to: dvc@ph.lacounty.gov or call **213-974-2799** (Monday thru Friday; 9am-5pm.)

