

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

Tuesday, February 20, 2024
2:15 P.M. to 3:15 P.M. | Pacific Time (US & Canada)
MLK Healing Center
11833 Wilmington Ave, Los Angeles, CA 90059
Room: Community Engagement, 1st Floor

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 – Gail Pincus, Rachelle Neshkes, Kate Forrest.
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. Items needing attention from past meeting(s):
 - a. Language access with sheriff's office: LAFLA is still working on a demand letter, item should be kept on the agenda for future updates
 - b. Best practices or requested protocol for custody order violations:
 - i. Robust community discussion sharing stories of difficulties clients have with law enforcement telling them to go back to family court, but more orders not being a good solution if existing ones aren't enforced; conversely, anyone can bring any order to a law enforcement officer and claim it's the most recent one, so it could be harmful to our clients if reports were made on all allegations of custody violations without vetting them. Available legal remedies (e.g. contempt) are not pro-per friendly.
 - ii. LASD confirms that general policy is to advise persons reporting a custody order violation to go back to court, and if there is insistence on a report being made it is written up as a "suspicious circumstance" filing as opposed to a full report, which goes back to detective bureau rather than being sent to prosecutors; however, the protocol is much different if the situation rises to the level of child concealment, which will likely result in an arrest

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- iii. LAPD confirms that they will generally provide a business card and advise persons reporting a violation of a stand-alone custody order to take it back to family court, but write a report if it's violation of custody provisions within a CLETS-registered RO
- iv. Community brainstorming about other options:
 1. Focusing on safety planning that relies less on law enforcement;
 2. Use stations for exchanges where there is a DART presence and ask an advocate to accompany when making a report, maybe even ask judge to include in order that law enforcement facilitate the exchange?;
 3. Compile a case history of violations and present it to a detective as a pattern
→ if you've already had interactions with a particular detective, go back to them; if you're presenting a pattern case without prior detective contact, ask for a supervisor or watch commander; if neither is successful, you can contact Maria Sadanaga for assistance
- v. Best practices for getting good documentation of exchange issues
 - Independently: if parents use an app like Talking Parents or Our Family Wizard, write "I'm here" upon arrival (OFW has a "pindrop" feature for location, survivors can request a free PDF of messages if they identify that it's a DV case);
 - Via law enforcement: advise client to get a business card when they arrive to prove they were present on time to prevent abuser from claiming they weren't - sheriff stations have time stamps at the front desk, most LAPD do not but officer can write time on the card
→ if it's LASD a call for service instead of front desk exchange, a "tag number" will be generated, ask for it to be documented on a card; can also get resolution notes upon request
2. Appointment of Minor's Counsel in DVPA proceedings – no updates

IV. Call for optional updates or recent experiences with:

- a. Law enforcement
 - i. Electronic submission for service of process (AB 2791), demand for certification/clerk stamp – no updates
 - ii. Production of photos/911 calls (SB 290)
→ HANDOUT: Van Nuys Victim Access notice (English/Spanish)
- b. Prosecution
 - i. SB 320 implementation (firearms relinquishment) – no updates
 - ii. Modification of CPOs (AB 467) – no updates

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- c. Courts – SB 599 of limited utility because courthouse exchange is not accessible for most people due to courthouse hours not aligning with common exchange times, as well as factors like parking costs
- V. New and emerging issues
 1. Abusers receiving diversion in DV cases: FVD rep confirms misdemeanor DV is officially a carveout that is not supposed to be eligible for diversion, but sometimes it's not straightforward DV, e.g., could be mental health issues or Veterans' court where diversion is granted even if there is DV involved; prosecutor will generally object, but there is a high burden of proving likelihood of "super strike"
 2. Victims are not being heard before sentencing: DA & CA reps both confirm need for victims to assert Marsy's law rights early; if diversion has already been granted, the case is held in abeyance (though it is still worth reporting violations, which can cause diversion to be revoked)
 3. Victims not knowing who to contact to assert Marsy's law rights, or even if they are protected by a CPO:
 - a. Which office is prosecuting is discernable from the case prefix, reach out to contacts at DA or CA and they can tell you even if it's not theirs
 - b. Whether there is a CPO is not noted in the online docket, so you would have to visit the criminal courthouse to request the case file; however, Det. Strnad notes that if a CPO was granted, that fact should be in CLETS along with the case number – offers to be point of contact, 909-450-2728
- VI. Next steps and action items
 - Community requests compilation list of resources for non-IPV/DV gender-based violence, including sexual assault and human trafficking
 - Discuss change of day/time for CSI meetings
- VII. Matters not on posted agenda to be presented and placed on a future agenda.

None
- VIII. 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.

None
- IX. **Next** meeting is scheduled for March 19, 2024 at The California Endowment, 1000 Alameda St., LA 90012.
- 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.)

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