

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Quarterly Meeting Minutes**  
**March 11, 2019**

**Call to Order:** The Chair, Chief Judge Michael Newell called the DVCC Quarterly meeting to order at 1:06 p.m.

**Introductions:** In attendance were the following DVCC members and designated representatives: Chief Judge Michael Newell (Chair, Family Court), President Judge Jan Jurden (Superior Court), Chief Defender Brendan O’Neill (ODS), Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS), Commissioner Perry Phelps (DOC), Representative Krista Griffith (General Assembly), Representative Michael Smith (General Assembly), Vincent Poppiti, Esq., Laura Graham, Esq., (CLASI), Margaret Chou, MD (Christiana Care), Professor Jennifer Naccarelli (University of DE), Diane Glenn (Dover PD), Deputy Attorney General Michael DegliObizzi (DOJ), and Ariana Langford.

DVCC Staff: Maureen Monagle, Natasha Smith, Aimee String, Galen Purcell, and Tracie Dixon-Stanley.

Also in attendance were: Ellie Torres (Family Court), Rachael Neff (Family Court), Ava Carcirieri (Family Court), Lee Clough (Capitol Police), Terica Jones (CJC), Gary Melvin (DSHS), Sue Ryan (DCADV), Blanche Creech (People’s Place), Lori Sitler (Child Inc.), Nancy McGee, (SAND).

**Minutes:** A motion to approve the December 10, 2018 minutes was made, seconded and the minutes were approved.

**Election of the Chair and Vice Chair**

Per the DVCC Statute, election of the Chair and Vice Chairperson shall be biennially, at the first meeting of the calendar year in odd-numbered years, to serve a 2-year term. Chief Judge Michael Newell, the Chair, turned the floor over to Maureen Monagle to introduce the nominated candidates up for election. Chief Judge Michael Newell was nominated to continue as Chair and Secretary Robert Coupe (DSHS) was nominated to serve as Vice Chair. A motion was made to approve nominations; motion was seconded with two abstentions due to participation on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

**Vote-Renewal of At-Large Members**

Per the current DVCC Statute, At-Large Members will serve a term of 3 years and may be eligible for reelection. That change became effective on May 9, 2018. Six of the At-Large Members were elected in March of 2018, under the previous term of one year. The following At-Large members are eligible for reelection, and will serve for an additional 3 years: Vincent Poppiti, Dana Harrington Conner, Laura Graham, Jennifer Naccarelli, Diane Glenn, and Ariana Langford. A motion was made to approve re-elections to a 3-year term; motion was seconded with one abstention due to participation on the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council.

**VAWA Implementation Committee Funding Recommendations**

Terica Jones sought approval from the Council for the following grant program:

- **FY2018 S.T.O.P. Violence Against Women Formula Grant Program:**  
Delaware was awarded \$950,489.00 for the FFY 2018 S.T.O.P VAWA Grant. The grant is in the second year under the “FFY2017-FFY2020 Four Year Implementation Plan”. The VAWA Implementation Committee recommends \$37,000.00 be awarded to Delaware Capitol Police for a PFA Hearing Presence to support overtime for Capitol Police Officers, dedicated to Family Court for the PFA Hearing duty in all three counties. Victims will be provided with additional security during and after PFA Hearings. An additional recommendation of \$49,860.00 be awarded to Delaware Capitol Police for a Domestic

Violence Risk Analyst to continue training to all police departments on the Lethality Assessment Program (LAP). The analyst will be the point person for referrals and risk intakes for High-Risk DV Cases (referrals are linked to the PFA coverage and additional security for victims with Court proceedings). A motion was made to approve; motion was seconded. The funding recommendations were approved with two abstentions due to participation on the VAWA Implementation Committee.

### **Fatal Incident Review Team (FIRT) Update**

Natasha Smith announced the 2019 FIRT Annual Report is complete and will be available on the DVCC website. Natasha gave an overview of the calendar year data from 2018. There were 7 incidents of domestic violence homicide and 10 victims of domestic violence homicide. The causes of death for the 10 homicide victims were 2 stabbings and 8 by firearm. The victim offender relationships were 2 wives, 4 girlfriends, 1 ex-girlfriend, and 3 minor children (ranging in ages from 3-6). Additionally, out of the 2018 domestic violence related homicides, one perpetrator was released on unsecured bail and had a current criminal no contact order with the victim. The FIRT will begin to track data to identify if a perpetrator has a current no contact order or was released on bail for calendar year fatalities.

### **Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Presentation**

Council members received a copy of the 2018 Delaware LAP Usage by agency and the 2010-2018 Statewide LAP Usage totals.

Gary Melvin is the DV Risk Analyst with the Capitol Police, under the Department of Safety and Homeland Security. Gary was invited to provide an overview of the LAP in Delaware.

The LAP is an instrument launched in 2005 by Dr. Jacqueline Campbell, of Johns Hopkins University, and the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence (MNADV). Gary noted between the years 2007-2012 Maryland had a 34% reduction in domestic violence homicides due to the use of the LAP. Delaware Police Chiefs adopted the LAP in 2010 and it went live on November 10, 2010. Statewide usage of the LAP has increased from 39% usage in 2010 to 84% usage in 2018. Future initiatives for Delaware LAP include:

- Increasing the number of cases that get asked the 11 LAP questions.
- Increasing the number of victims who use the domestic violence hotline.
- Gathering better data from Peoples Place and Child Inc. on hotline calls received.

Gary also gave an update on initiatives from Delaware Capitol Police:

- Domestic (VIP) Violence Intervention Program has over 120 new yearly referrals with an increase in uniformed officers assigned to PFA hearings in New Castle, Kent, and Sussex Counties.
- Implemented LEISS emergency email alert containing new high risk victim case information to initiate earlier victim contact and follow up for referrals to domestic violence services providers.

### **DVCC Committee Updates**

- Criminal Justice: Hon. Brendan O'Neill reported the committee discussed the concern of how the LAP has been incorporated into the interim rule on bail triggering a cash bail presumption for offenders. The LAP is intended to assess needs and connect services to domestic violence victims and not for uses to assess offender risk. A resolution will be drafted and forwarded to the Chief Justice on behalf of the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council highlighting the Council's concerns of the disincentive for victims of domestic violence to answer honestly if they believe their answers will influence cash bail



options. Draft language for the resolution is as follows: “The authors of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) have indicated that the LAP is neither designed nor intended to assess a defendant’s risk. A high risk inclusion, by the LAP, should not trigger a presumption of cash bail for the alleged offender”. Moe Monagle will forward a draft of the letter and language to the council members for additional recommendations and approval via email.

- Treatment: Hon. Brendan O’Neill reported the committee will create a sub-committee to explore revising and modernizing the Batterers’ Intervention Program Standards.
- Immigration: Laura Graham reported the committee met on March 5, 2019 and continues to confirm committee membership. The committee is compiling an email list to formalize upcoming community and outreach events to promote awareness of language services available at court, help with Protection From Abuse orders, and where to get services, regardless of immigration status. The next meeting will be April 30, 2019.
- Training: Aimee String reported the committee is working on training Family Court mediators on Batterers’ Intervention evaluations and continues to assess the training needs of the Bench and Bar Association. The next meeting is T.B.D.
- Medical: Dr. Margaret Chou reported the committee met on January 9, 2019 and has prioritized updating the Resource Manual for Healthcare Professionals whose latest revision was 2011. The committee will identify groups to partner with who have been instrumental in the past with the universal distribution of the manual. Some of network groups to be contacted are the Delaware Medical Society, nurses associations, medical aid units, and the Delaware Healthcare Association.
- Legislative: Moe Monagle reported the committee has a new committee chairperson, Representative Krista Griffith. The committee continues to look at the FIRT panel recommendation to update the statute to reflect membership inclusion of a medical professional. The next meeting is T.B.D.

### **Executive Director’s Report and Announcements**

Council members received a listing of all the DVCC Committee members’ names and their agency affiliation.

- Announced Galen Purcell started on March 4, 2019, as the new High Risk DV Coordinator located in Dover, Capitol Police.
- Reported the Elderly & DV Committee has not met and has a chairperson vacancy. Actively looking for a volunteer.
- April 7-13, 2019 – National Crime Victims’ Rights Week (NCVRW).
- April 9, 2019 – 28<sup>th</sup> Annual Crime Victims’ Tribute will be held at Dover High School, 6:30 p.m. – 8:30 p.m. Keynote speaker is Emily Hill a 2016 Delaware DV survivor who was issued a lifetime PFA.
- The Sexual Assault Awareness Month Proclamation request has been submitted to the Governor’s office. The date is yet to be set.

### **Public Comment**

- Sue Ryan made the following announcements:
  - Delaware’s Housing Continuum of Care secured additional federal funds for rapid rehousing. Child Inc. and Peoples Place are the service providers coordinating the rollout of the services.



- The Domestic Violence Community Health Advocates Project is fully staffed and currently accepting referrals. The project intersects safety and health and is a collaborative effort with Child, Inc., Christiana Care, and the Westside Family Health Center. Recognizing while medical providers screen for domestic violence the victim can also be immediately connected to the appropriate domestic violence service providers who can address a victim's concerns for safety.
- The DCADV will be sending a letter to the Chief Justice outlining concerns of the Interim Bail Rule.
- The Safe and Respectful.org new website was rolled out during the Teen Dating Violence Awareness Proclamation signing at the Governor's office on February 12, 2019. The website is a collaborative effort with Child Inc. and Peoples Place geared towards victims of teen dating and relationship violence. The DCADV welcomes additional conversations with the DVCC and CJC to address the need for more teen services in the State.
- Reiterated concerns mentioned at the December 10, 2018, Council meeting regarding the Request for Proposal for Family Visitation Centers.
- DCADV national partners are advocating for the reauthorization of funding for VAWA and the Family Violence Prevention and Services Act.
- Lori Sitler made the following announcements:
  - The State amended the Request for Proposal for Family Visitation Centers permitting requests of Family Visitation Centers to be co-located in state service center buildings.
  - Two of the three New Castle County Domestic Violence Community Health advocates are bi-lingual.
  - The offer should be considered from Dr. Jacqueline Campbell for Delaware to be included along with the Maryland Network Against Domestic Violence and the Office on Violence Against Women in the creation of a domestic violence assessment tool for judges.

The meeting adjourned at 2:12 p.m.

Submitted by,

Tracie Dixon-Stanley

***Next Meeting Date: Monday, May 13, 2019 @ 1:00 p.m., Buena Vista – Buck Library***

