

LOS ANGELES COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

GENERAL MEETING

NOTES

Tuesday, June 20, 2023; 12:00 PM – 2:00 PM (PST)

MLK Healing Center

Community Engagement Room 11833

Wilmington Ave,

Los Angeles, CA 90059

DVC MISSION

The Los Angeles County Domestic Violence Council (DVC) provides leadership in the creation and support of a victim/survivor-centered, countywide, and coordinated approach to educate, prevent, and respond to domestic/intimate partner violence.

DVC Chair

Lan Pham, DVC Executive Director

DVC Staff:

Cindy Hernandez, DVC Admin. Assistant

Meeting Attendees: The meeting was attended by 41 community members and 8 panelists.

I. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTIONS

Lan Pham provided welcoming remarks and Land Acknowledgement. Attendees self-introduced (name, pronouns, title/role, and agency affiliation).

Lan reviewed DVC meeting protocol and agenda, and let attendees know that the order of the order of the presentation has been modified. LGBTQIA+ Committee will report out later in the program due to schedule conflict.

II. PRESENTATION: PLATFORM TO PREVENT GUN VIOLENCE

Andrea Welsing, Director of Office of Violence Prevention Los Angeles County provided an overview and history of the Office of Violence Prevention (OVP). She shared information on OVP Early Implementation Priorities, Gun Violence Prevention Platform, OVP Program Activities, DVC/OVP Opportunities to Partner. *(See June DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)*

For Q and A/Discussion, the groups discussed:

- Balancing personal rights with GVRO. It was shared by an attendee that some communities do not trust law enforcement and GVRO implementation may result in disproportionate arrests of historically marginalized communities. Andrea shared that there needs to be options for a community-lead approach and work to focus on support for individuals and families impacted by violence or at risk of perpetrating harm.
- Many attendees inquired about DVRO and GVRO and the different between both as well as local criminal legal response and processes. Lan noted that due to an interest on this issue, a separate space will be carved out for a continued conversation/training/discussion on this topic.
- An attendee requested that Andrea return to DVC to provide an update/follow on OVP's implementation of the Gun Violence Prevention Platform and related work.
- Attendees wanted to know if there are community involvement opportunities, and Andrea replied "yes".
- Attendees asked if OVP is available for community presentation, and Andrea replied "yes".

III. PRESENTATION: OFFICE OF THE DISTRICT ATTORNEY – FAMILY VIOLENCE DIVISION

Stephanie Pearl Mire, Head Deputy District Attorney with the Office of the District Attorney - Family Violence Division provided an overview and history of the Office of the District Attorney – Family Violence Division. She provided information on the number of cases managed by the office (3,000/year), staffing (50 trained attorneys), protocol and how DV cases are handled by the office (vertical prosecution), and issues of interest and priority for the office (i.e. teen dating/domestic violence, examining the disproportionality and overrepresentation of DV victimization for Black/African American communities) and leadership on specific projects (i.e. DV Death Review).

For Q and A/Discussion, attendees inquired about the vertical prosecution model versus the previous VIP model. Stephanie mentioned the Division's decision for the change to limit the number of cases for each attorney.

Vertical prosecution allows for attorneys to follow cases from the beginning until the end. Attendees inquired about training and if there are opportunities for community to partner to the DA Office. Stephanie said that there are opportunities and that attendees who are interested may contact her directly.

IV. PRESENTATION: BUREAU OF VICTIM SERVICES

Tanishia Wright with the LA County Bureau of Victim Services provided an overview of the Bureau of Victim Services including the work of the Division of Direct Services, The Claims Verification Unit, and the Restitution Enhancement System. Other information provided include Trauma Informed Victim Services, BVS K-9 Unit, and Self Care. *(See June DVC General Meeting PPT Slides.)*

V. UPDATE: LGBTIA+ ISSUES COMMITTEE

Giovanna Martinez and Jaye Prado, Co-Chairs of the DVC LGBTQIA+ Issues Committee shared information on their roles as DVC Co-Chairs, and also work in community to address DV and LGBTQIA+ issues. Other information included regarding the recognition of Pride Month as a time to celebrate, but also a time to reflect on the challenges that the community continues to face, and it can be a stressful and solemn time. The Co-Chairs provided information on the Committee, resources, and the opportunity to participate.

VI. UPDATE: IMMIGRATION ISSUES

Kathleen Rivas, Supervising Attorney with the Immigrant Rights Project provided updates on Immigration and how changes in practice and legislation may impact survivors' experience. She provided an update on SB 836, shared about recent trends in fraudulent legal assistance from non-licensed individuals claiming to be attorneys, backlog and wait-time with USCIS, and policy which grant work permits for victims/survivors.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENTS AND PUBLIC COMMENTS

Attendees shared information about agencies specific to hiring and job openings. No public comment.

Lan mentioned that interested attendees may send information to dvc@ph.lacounty.gov and the DVC will send and email out to members on DVC listserv.

VIII. CLOSING

Lan thanked presenters and attendees and provided reminder that the next meeting will be July 18th, 2023. Meeting adjourned at 2:00pm.