

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

Wednesday, June 12, 2024

12:00 P.M. to 1:30 P.M. | Pacific Time (US & Canada)

Family Source Center (FSC) in Leimert Park

4305 Degnan Blvd. Los Angeles, CA 90008

Room: Suite 105

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 demand letter?
→ Stephanie reports that while researching the federal, state, and local laws and policies around language access, she discovered a current demand from the Board of Supervisors to all County Departments for an official Language Access Plan, due to be submitted by 6/30/24; Det. Strnad will inquire into who is the point person within LASD for their LAP, and see if there is an opportunity to collaborate; whether it ends up being collaborative or the original demand, LAFLA is inviting other agencies to sign onto the letter – email sdavidson@lafila.org for more
 - b. Crowd-sourcing resource list for non-IPV/DV gender-based violence (SA/HT)
→ Move to parking lot – regular participants in this committee are IPV/DV focused, so we aren't well-situated to meet this ask
 - c. New CSI meeting day/time in effect – 60 or 90 minutes going forward?
- No updates
 - d. Establishing contacts at Board of Supervisors, specifically as re: AB 2185 forensic exam funding
→ Move to parking lot – regular attendees have been asked, no additional avenues expected to emerge
 - e. Strategies for getting DV-competent judges on the bench

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- No updates, but keep on agenda

f. Exploring possibilities for Minor's Counsel accountability in family court

→ Robust discussion/brainstorming session: Arati shared that the Family Violence Appellate Project has been seeing many cases with harmful MC involvement, echoed by community members seeing problems such as: MC being allowed to testify as witnesses when their role is as counsel; being treated as experts w/o being qualified; opining in any capacity as to whether DV has occurred, conflating DVRO analysis with custody issues; MCs siding with abusers and arguing against DVRO issuance

****If you see these issues, try to put as much on the record as possible, and reach out to FVAP (info@fvapl.org) - technical assistance may be available, including on emergency relief, even if they cannot fully take the case*

*Training issues:

- MC only requires 12 hours of total training

(https://www.courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index.cfm?title=five&linkid=rule5_242), and the required topics are all lumped together - "the effects of domestic violence and child abuse and neglect on children" is bundled in the list of "special issues" including child development and working with multidisciplinary experts;

- Source of training is problematic as well – some is offered by Judicial Counsel, but private groups do as well (including those in the Parental Alienation camp); it's unclear from the court rule who is qualified to offer credits required for MC minimum training

*Ideas to minimize harm:

- If MC is ordered, ask judge to be explicit in appointment order as to scope limitation to custody issues

- Should there be a rule when an MC is appointed in a DVPA proceeding that it be bifurcated, with MC only being involved at the custody portion following the DV determination itself? Arati shared from her experience in SF that she often saw attorneys from the Shriver Project

(<https://www.courts.ca.gov/documents/AB-590.pdf>) sit out for any portion of a proceeding not having to do with custody; local agencies with Shriver grants include LACLJ & NLS – ask if they have model guides for limited scope custody advocacy that should be applied to MCs?

IV. Call for optional updates or recent experiences with:

a. Law enforcement

1. Electronic submission for service of process (AB 2791), demand for certification/clerk stamp

→ Discussion regarding problems with submissions to csdwebmail@lasd.org (only way to submit electronically currently) – emails are sent with no confirmation that it has been sent to the serving station, and sometimes lost (not entered into system, no result in

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<https://lasd.org/courtservices/caseinquiries/>), follow-up is difficult b/c it's not clear if problem is with whoever monitors the email address or the serving station

- LASD rep notes current manpower throughout the department, and that this email address was originally established for a different purpose and appropriated in a pinch to meet the requirement for GOV 26666.5 when the deadline came

- community ask is for confirmation email to be sent by csdwebmail@lasd.org once they have forwarded the request to the serving station, or for each serving station have a dedicated email address for this purpose, and for there to be a phone number to follow up on submissions when no confirmation has been received; Det. Strnad will endeavor to find out who is the point person on this issue

2. Production of photos/911 calls (SB 290)

- No updates for LAPD or LASD; Inglewood responded to formal complaint with assertion that adequate training has been conducted to remedy the problem (clerks insisting they would not release photos w/o subpoena), if you experience differently, please let Kate know

b. Prosecution

1. SB 320 implementation – firearms relinquishment

- No updates, move to parking lot?

2. Modification of CPOs (AB 467)

- No updates, move to parking lot?

c. Courts

1. Virtual visitation orders or courthouse exchange (SB 599)

- No updates, move to parking lot?

2. Appointment of Minor's Counsel in DVPA proceedings

V. New and emerging issues

a. Applying 3044 at the DVRO hearing: Gail reported a problem of custody orders compliant with 3044 not being issued after a DVRO that seemed to relate back to the 2023 Wills v. Costa-Willis

(<https://fvaplaw.org/resource/in-re-marriage-of-willis-and-costa-willis/>) holding that the court could not

apply 3044 if no one requested a change in custody; community discussion about the reach of this decision – not as catastrophic as it seems b/c facts were not only that no one checked the box

requesting it but also no one ever raised the issue at the hearing; however, pro per litigants often do not know or assert the right to raise additional issues, and subsequent relief of filing an RFO to modify may

not be expedient, so drafting to request all desired relief is still important to make sure the court will

making the ruling at the time of the hearing; also important to remember that the court is not obligated

to apply 3044 when the parties have a stipulation regarding custody

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- b. Custody orders issued in denied DVROs: Blaire raises this issue that has also been seen by others, discussion about problems both ways – courts may see DVRO request as relating to high-conflict parenting that could be resolved if there were custody orders, but if there are subsequent problems a dismissed DVRO in a standalone RO courtroom is not the appropriate venue to litigate custody matters; however, procedurally correct approach of filing disso, parentage or custody & support action may not address the immediate need, so survivors without a DVRO may be better off with custody orders in place. No specific agenda item proposed at this time
- VI. Next steps and action items
- VII. Matters not on posted agenda to be presented and placed on a future agenda.
 - Janis Johnson from the DA's office asked in the chat for the DV community's opinion on a list of the most qualified DV experts
- 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.
- IX. Next meeting is scheduled for July 10, 2024
- 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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