

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

Wednesday, March 12, 2025
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: 105/ Floor #1

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. Follow up on previous agenda items
 - a. TRO applications without addresses:
 - attendees report no new instances of pushback from the court when attempting to submit without addresses, but LAFLA has already assigned the research project to an intern who will have a memo by next month for use if there are future incidents
 - preparers of TRO applications have been engaging in safety planning with applicants to determine whether there is risk of listing respondent's address on FAM-020 or DV-110 in terms of recent committee discussions on pre-service solicitation (see section b below); to address potential concerns of law enforcement not having an address for restrained person when receiving notice of a firearms violation, can be included in "location of firearms" in DV-110 box 2 but still leave address of restrained person blank above
 - b. Attorney solicitation of DVRO respondents
 - Clara Mora of LAFLA has volunteered to be the point person for collection of examples of restrained parties being solicited by attorneys prior to being served has had a negative impact on the petitioner; attendees are encouraged to email cmora@lafla.org with any relevant experiences

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Domestic Violence Council
1000 S. Fremont Ave.-#99, A-9 East 5th floor, Alhambra, CA 91803
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/>

(213) 974-2799

chernandez2@ph.lacounty.gov | lpham@ph.lacounty.gov

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

- attendee shares that there will be a hearing of the California Bar Committee on Professional Responsibility and Conduct on March 14, 2025 at 10am during which the public may make comments if registered 24 hours in advance; attendees are encouraged to take this opportunity to raise the issue of pre-service solicitation of restrained parties posing a safety issue and proposing revision of Rule 7.3 to prohibit this practice

c. Ongoing problems with SB 290 compliance (records access)

- LAFLA's systematic issues advocate will be looking into this, attendees are encouraged to gather specific examples (station and problem encountered) to share once the project begins

- LAPD already distributed a department-wide notice, but CSI rep is working on developing a form to have at desks and online to assist victims in requesting the allowable items and guide personnel in proper handling of these requests

- committee is interested in finding out whether there was any equivalent notice distributed throughout LASD, but there is no LASD present at today's meeting to answer; DVC will add this to the agenda for meeting w/ LASD staff later this month, and follow-up on ensuring regular attendance of a rep at CSI meetings

d. Collaboration w/ FLC to meet with family law judges

- attempts in progress but no updates currently

IV. Develop agenda for quarterly sheriff's meeting

a. Service - Documentation of Due Diligence attempts

- discussion is had regarding what particular relief we are seeking, as specific asks are easier to discuss w/ LASD than general aspirations; questionnaire could guide details to be added (e.g. whether the vehicle listed on the SER-001 was present at the service location), but there are concerns about limiting narrative input - not all possible parameters can be captured on a standard form, we really need them to be more descriptive of all circumstances

b. DV liaisons at stations

- point person most knowledgeable on the issue; committee feels this is a reasonable ask in lieu of formal DART programs (which are tabled due to funding crisis)

c. Symposium (Lan)

- rather than annual, DVC is considering more regular meetings for training - forum is "Access to Advocacy" invitation that has gone out; DVC is convener but needs partnership, can explore possibility of CLE credit if applicable

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

- discussion is had regarding past quarterly meeting with the court, but attempts to reinstate have been met with pushback

d. Other necessary issues:

1. Records access guidance in compliance with SB 290 - see section III(c) above
2. Ongoing problems with service requests submitted by email – we thought this had been adequately addressed, but attendee Stephanie Bailiff shares numerous problems (failure to provide confirmation receipts previously promised, stations still asserting they cannot accept email submissions, names on proof of service not matching pleadings); she is invited to attend the DVC-LASD meeting to present her specific examples, anyone else wanting to be heard should contact co-chairs

V. New, critical, and emerging issues

- a. Pro per difficulties seeking alternative services: TRO clinic staff report in increase in incidence of restrained parties evading service but applicants unable to navigate application for alternative service -DV-205-INFO is now being provided as a standard part of the informational packet for litigants coming into the clinic, but it does not specify how the request is to be made – attorneys report success with using the DV-115 request to reschedule, checking section 4(c) “other reason” box and explaining attempts and basis for belief that RP is evading, but FC 6340(a)(2)(A) language specifies that the findings of due diligence and evasion need to be made by the court at the hearing, so we want to make sure it’s clear that advance application on a form is NOT required and litigants can make the request orally at the return hearing; perhaps add a citation to 6340(a)(2)(A) to guide the litigant in making the request?
- DV-205-INFO also does not have an available Spanish translation
- b. Training on TRO applications: shelter advocates and other non-legal professionals could benefit from knowledge-sharing on best practices for preparing a strong DV-100 request; discussion is had as to best format/delivery – considering foundational training recorded for viewing by new staff, followed by (periodic?) live workshop(s)
- c. EPO access for victims: advocates report concerns with the carbon copies provided to victims on scene being too faint to be usable for attaching to TRO applications, or victims not knowing they need to have a copy thinking it’s “in the system” (misunderstanding disconnect between law enforcement and courthouse clinics); discussion is had as to possible solutions
- asking officers to write harder is simplest b/c no additional resources are expended, but isn’t a guaranteed fix; officers could also advise victims to take a picture of the original; some advocates report clients having been emailed a copy but it is not standard practice

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Domestic Violence Council
1000 S. Fremont Ave.-#99, A-9 East 5th floor, Alhambra, CA 91803
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/>

(213) 974-2799

chernandez2@ph.lacounty.gov | lpham@ph.lacounty.gov

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

- best practice for DART advocates when calling back on a consent form to ask if they have a copy of their EPO and if they can read it, and if not obtain a copy for them
- dream solution would be sticker printer in patrol cars that would give victims a QR code linking to their EPO and additional resources, but this high-cost ask, were not put on the agenda.

- d. Justice Portal access for DV agencies: CRC 2.522 (https://courts.ca.gov/cms/rules/index/two/rule2_522) provides for remote access to court records for “qualified legal services project providing brief legal services,” but there is question about who qualifies as a QLSP outside of standard legal aid organizations
 - some DV agencies report success getting approved with a tailored pitch about why their org qualifies; discussion of process (court IT needs to work with your tech dept once approved) and protocols (recommend incorporating into your services agreement consent to access records)
- e. Denials of TRO applications without corroborating evidence: concerning trend noted with new bench officer in Inglewood Christmas Brookens (replacement for retired Judge Titus) expecting attachments which is contrary to FC 6300(a) provision that orders may be granted on affidavit alone; however, it is difficult to say whether that was in fact the reason and thus abuse of discretion without reviewing denied applications – it is possible they lack sufficient detail and the denial was checked DV-109(4)(b)(2)

VI. Next steps and action items

- a. CSI co-chairs and Stephanie Bailiff will attend LASD-DVC meeting and raise agenda issues above
- b. Marie will continue to work on standard form to aid in SB 290 records requests for LAPD
- c. Minty will reach out to Judicial Council contact to inquire about Spanish version of DV-205-INFO
- d. Lisa Szekely and Stephanie Davidson will collaborate on possible training program for TRO applications
- e. Jenesse will explore possibility of utilizing a summer intern to track TRO denials coming out of ING-6

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

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.

- a. Gail requests an update on LAPD lethality assessment and training for providers ahead of roll-out; LAPD reports anticipated use beginning in July, but may be pushed back
- b. Roman James suggests the possibility of a dedicated DV court as is being piloted in some other cities to address the frequent mishandling of DV cases in family court; community agrees court with expertise would be ideal, but concerns are raised about expansion of already flawed dedicated restraining order courtrooms which have at times been served by brand new judges with no DV experience for brief periods while awaiting preferred assignment; need for more training of all family law JOs is a recurring theme for our community

IX. **New Survey questions!** Reminder to complete our DVC Monthly Meeting Evaluation Survey:

<https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/C8MC8V9>

X. Next meeting is scheduled for April 9, 2025 at Family Source Center.

Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Domestic Violence Council
1000 S. Fremont Ave.-#99, A-9 East 5th floor, Alhambra, CA 91803
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/>

(213) 974-2799

chernandez2@ph.lacounty.gov | lpham@ph.lacounty.gov

LA COUNTY PUBLIC HEALTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COUNCIL (DVC)

XI. 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.)



Los Angeles County Department of Public Health – Domestic Violence Council
1000 S. Fremont Ave.-#99, A-9 East 5th floor, Alhambra, CA 91803
<http://publichealth.lacounty.gov/dvcouncil/>

(213) 974-2799

chernandez2@ph.lacounty.gov | lpham@ph.lacounty.gov