

**Fourth Judicial District
Family Violence Coordinating Council
Serving Hennepin County**

Present: Avalon, Stephanie; Braun-Lewis, Jackie; Brey, Katie; Bute, Shiloh; Cichowicz, Nick; Crockford, Carrie; Eckberg, Deborah; Furnstahl, Referee Mike; Golden, Naomi; Hogan, Elizabeth; Kaul, Ann; Keuseman, Amanda; Lewis-Dmello, Angela; Lokensgard, Siri; McNaughton, Lisa; Milgrom, Aaron; Morgan, Stephanie; Nelson, Melynda; Pilz, Judith; Ratner, Rachel; Saunders, Jennifer; Taylor, Jennifer; Twogood, Ben; Weinstein, Michael; Wilson, Kate

1. **Welcome:** Referee Mike Furnstahl, co-chair
2. **Approve April 12, 2018 minutes:** Minutes approved as submitted.
3. **Fatality Review Board annual report:** Deena Anders, Executive Director
Deena presented the Fatality Review Board annual report. The board is made up of thirty different individuals and is chaired by Judge Karasov, with Referee Madden as the vice chair. They work to identify missed opportunities to provide support or access to safety to a victim and to hold perpetrators accountable. They also look at patterns of behavior that might have predicted homicide. The team has access to non-public information, and all cases are from Hennepin County and occurred between one and five years ago.

In 2017, they reviewed three different cases and looked at the presence of risk factors. From the report, they identified a number of opportunities such as establish a funding stream that supports a forensic exam in all cases of strangulation, develop partner partnerships, work with child protection, and a dedicated court calendar for this work.

4. **Committee Reports**
 - a. **Advocates Committee:** Stephanie Avalon reported that they did a fair amount of updating and discussed possible training ideas for the advocate committee.
 - b. **Civil-Jennifer Taylor** reported they discussed internal family court issues, upcoming training in September aimed at advocates, and training on child testimony October 5th
 - c. **Criminal-Jennifer Saunders** reported that they met in April talked about ideas for CLE speakers in October, haven't heard back yet, training for prosecutors/attorneys to talk about advocates perspective, talk about probation and what they see in cases. A few more people have been attending and she has reached out to others be on the committee.
 - d. **Juvenile committee-no report**

5. Announcements/Open Forum

- Shiloh Bute reported that CMLS and Tubman got a grant to representing victims on family protection order calendars. Tubman will take the calendar on Wednesdays. The grant will continue for at least the next year.
- Katie reminded everyone the ramp is coming down in June 15.
- Katie asked the group to send her ideas for future speakers for July meeting.

6. Meeting adjourned at 12:50 pm

Future presentations/Agenda items

NEW DATE July 12, 2018 – No Wrong Door

Sept 13, 2018 – MSBW Legislative Update

Upcoming events

Use this link to find us on the web.

[http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-\(FVCC\).aspx](http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-(FVCC).aspx)

[Use this link to access our Google Calendar of events.](https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fvccalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago)

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Learning from Tragedy: Using Domestic Fatality Review to Shape Effective Interventions & Policy

May 10, 2018
Deena Anders,
Project Director
Fourth Judicial District
Fatality Review Team



Fatality Review

- Identify missed opportunities to provide support or access to safety to a victim or to hold a perpetrator accountable
- Map the contacts both perpetrator and victim had in the system and examine the type of interactions that occurred
- Look for patterns of behavior that might have predicted the homicide



How it works...

- Choose case
- Case research
- Case chronology
- Team member reporting
- Discussion and clarifying questions
- Observations
- Opportunities for Intervention





Case Make-Up 2017

- One woman killed by boyfriend- no system history between them but significant history for him
- One woman killed by her husband- she had moved to Minnesota to get away from him and he was involved in intervention services
- One woman killed by her long-term boyfriend- no system involvement for domestics but he was involved for gun possession and assault

Presence of Risk Factors

Potential Predictors of Homicide	Case 1	Case 2	Case 3
The violence had increased in severity and frequency during the year prior to the homicide.	X	X	X
Perpetrator had access to a gun.	X	X	X
Victim had attempted to leave the abuser.	X	X	X
Perpetrator was unemployed.	X	X	X
Perpetrator had previously used a weapon to threaten or harm victim.	X	X	X
Perpetrator had threatened to kill the victim.	X	X	
Perpetrator had previously avoided arrest for domestic violence.	X	X	
Victim had children not biologically related to the perpetrator.	X		
Perpetrator sexually assaulted victim.	X	X	
Perpetrator had a history of substance abuse.	X	X	
Perpetrator had previously strangled victim.	X	X	
Perpetrator attempted to control most or all of victim's activities.	X	X	X
Violent and constant jealousy.	X	X	X
Perpetrator was violent to victim during her pregnancy.	n/a	X	n/a
Perpetrator threatened to commit suicide.		X	X
Victim believed perpetrator would kill her.		X	
Perpetrator exhibited stalking behavior.		X	X
Perpetrator with significant history of violence.	X		
Victim had contact with a domestic violence advocate. <small>(this is a protective factor)</small>		X	

Opportunities from 2017

Policy

- Establish funding stream to support forensic exam in all cases of strangulation akin to the system that provides a forensic exam following sexual assault.



Provider Partnerships

- Develop partnership to provide access to free psychological assessment/evaluation by non-profit providers in jails, at probation offices, and other locations frequented by those who may be required by the court to undergo assessment but do not have the funds to access the services.
- Offer resource for intervention services related to domestic abuse for all parties involved, including children, even in the absence of prosecution or conviction to promoting the resource as harm reduction rather than punitive consequence. Referrals can be offered at any contact- at the scene, upon release from jail.
- Consider wrap-around MICD services to include a review of criminal justice system involvement and a case plan that incorporates services to help mitigate criminal behaviors.



Child Protection

- Collect factual evidence that accounts for the dynamics of domestic violence before removing children from parental custody.
- When considering an out-of-home kinship placement, incorporate information about the intergenerational nature of domestic abuse and conduct more intensive screening for safe placement.



Court

- In cases of domestic abuse, it is essential that court calendars be structured for fast and consistent response. A dedicated calendar with small number of assigned judges is a way to achieve this outcome.
- Judicial Officers develop an understanding of the manner that probation enforces court orders (like no use or dv programming) and how probation determines the level of programming.
- When a petitioner files a motion to dismiss an Order for Protection, court may inquire as to whether that person has had a chance to meet with an advocates, and offer time for the petitioner to do so before ordering the dismissal.





**Fourth Judicial
District Domestic
Fatality Review Team**

www.amatteroflifeanddeath.org

Chair: Judge Fred Karasov
Project Director: Deena Anders, 651-263-2901
