

Legal Process Committee of the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council

Meeting Minutes

October 10th, 2024

11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.

Location: Hall of Justice, 2nd Floor Conference Room 2A, Redwood City

Present: Jeniffer Alcantara (Superior Court/Sr. Managing Attorney), Katharine Berg (Rally Family Visitation Services), Tanya Both (Superior Court/ADR), Charles Cavallino, Co-Chair (CORA), Theresa Dah (Probation), Samantha Esver-Poon (Family Court Services), Melissa Gibbs (CORA), Mitri Hanania (SMCBA Private Defender Program), Elisa Kuhl, Co-Chair (Victim Services), Yvonne Lieu (ADZ Law LLP), Lindsay Marum (Justice at Last), Irene Maxwell (Superior Court), Alessandra Robleto (Superior Court/FL Clerks), Morris Maya (District Attorney’s Office), Brooke Murphy (ADZ Law LLP), Juan Sablan (Probation), Maggie Woods (Bay Area Legal Aid), Theresa Dah (Probation)

Also Present: Robert Spencer (San Mateo Medical Center/DV Council), Martin Fox, David Khan

ISSUES	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Adopt/Approve Agenda	Melissa Gibbs moved to adopt the agenda. Mitri Hanania seconded the motion. No opposition, Lindsay Marum abstained, rest in favor.	Approved
Introductions and Updates	<p><u>CORA</u>: CORA’s fundraiser is today at 6 PM. Applications for the DIVERT program continue to be accepted and the hope is to have hires in place soon for the pilot co-response program with law enforcement.</p> <p><u>Family Court Services</u>: Lisa Bergman retired, there will be a new supervising CCRC. One of the CCRCs is leaving and the plan is to hire at the end of the month. With 2 active CCRCs, there will be longer turnaround times.</p> <p><u>Courts</u>: The clerk’s office has reduced office hours due to the budget cuts and there is currently a hiring freeze except for emergency needs. Mandatory e-service is being implemented and further updates will be forthcoming.</p> <p><u>Victim Services</u>: Actively hiring to fill vacancies, hope is to make offers in the next few weeks. Ariz Becerra is the other regular DV Victim Advocacy, partnering with Joanna Morales.</p> <p><u>District Attorney’s Office</u>: The Uriate Martinez homicide case went to trial and the defendant was found guilty on all charges. There has been a lot of serious cases recently.</p> <p><u>Rally</u>: Looking at a new space in San Mateo due to needing to relocate and hiring fo ra case specialist. Saturdays/Sundays are when in person visitations are being held. Waitlist is 11 families waiting to be scheduled plus 10 in process of scheduling.</p> <p><u>All</u>: A resolution was passed in the Board of Supervisors forming a new High Risk DV Review Team. More details to come.</p>	
Review/Adopt Minutes from 7/11/24 meeting	Brooke Murphy moved to adopt the minutes from the July 11, 2024 meeting. Jeniffer Alcantara seconded the motion. No opposition, Lindsay Marum abstained, rest in favor.	Approved

Carry Over Items	a) Barbara Hammerman Award Nomination (Charles Cavallino): DDA Negeen Abrishamcar received the award at the Board of Supervisors meeting.	
New Business	a) 2025 Meeting Dates/Locations: Meetings shall be on January 9 th , April 10 th , July 10 th , and October 9 th of 2025. Will be looking into booking space in the new County building for the meetings.	
Work Plan Reports	<p>a) Civil-Criminal Crossover (Melissa Gibbs/Morris Maya): DA/CORA collaboration continues with multiple cases being referred to CORA for victims to receive further assistance. There are upcoming joint trainings with East Palo Alto and Menlo Park Police Departments. Negeen Abrishamcar continues to reach out to other law enforcement agencies to schedule further trainings.</p> <p>b) DV Firearms Compliance Unit (District Attorney's Office): Program continues to do well, averaging 6-7 firearms per month and are at full compliance for in county cases. They are receiving county support and JCC funding through June of 2025. Next week will mark the second year of the program.</p> <p>c) Judicial Bench Card (Jenny Horne/Jessica Dayton): No updates, work will begin in January on next round of updates.</p> <p>d) Law Enforcement DV Protocol Update (Jeffrey Carr/Morris Maya/Elisa Kuhl/Paula Vielman-Reeves): Melissa Gibbs met with Chief Johansen (President of the Police Chiefs Association) and Chief Sarasua (DVC representative) and received feedback from the protocol from the police perspective. Workgroup met last month and reviewed the existing protocol. They will be meeting again in November and the goal is to present a draft to the Chiefs Association for review and discussion afterwards.</p> <p>e) Protective Orders: Discussed issue where criminal protective orders require a termination notice but there are occasions where they are not being completed/filed and someone has been arrested for violating the terminated CPO. DAO has been good at working with the Sheriff's Office to get individuals out of jail if arrested, but a lawsuit may be filed when this happens. Discussed who usually fills out the termination notice in court, typically the DA is asked to do so. Mitri Hanania has discussed this issue with the private defenders and will highlight it as well. Discussed checking in with the DV review calendar as well on this issue.</p> <p>f) Allocation of Court Resources: Will be putting up signage regarding the reduced hours in multiple languages to ensure proper notice. Processing of e-filings for family law is backed up, but DV cases are still being prioritized. Adding the hearing date</p>	<p>Workgroup to meet in November to continue preparing draft for the Chiefs Association.</p>

	<p>to filing envelopes may help facilitate getting filings processed for upcoming hearings.</p> <p>g) Courtroom Safety: No update.</p>	
Public Comment	<p>Martin Fox provided public comment, raising an appeals case regarding a veteran in a homicide case. Discussed statutes requiring trial courts having to consider veteran's status and disabilities in probation and sentencing. Asked that Palo Alto's needs for further mental health treatment resources be recognized.</p> <p>David Khan raised concerns regarding protective orders as relates to his own case and situation. Raised concerns about how his relationship with his family has been impacted and claimed there were illegal actions taken in the court and targeting by law enforcement.</p>	

Next Meeting:

January 9th, 2025

11:45am-1:15pm

Hall of Justice, Conference Room 2A

400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063