

Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board
313 N.E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73005
(405) 522-1984 | FAX (405) 557-1770

MEETING MINUTES

March 26, 2025

Meeting Venue: Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General
313 NE 21st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

MEMBERS

Celia Cobb (OCME) [P]	Nicole Flemming (DOC) [P]	Angela Beatty (OCADVSA alt.) [P]
Melissa Van Duyne (OAG) [P]	Vacant (OSA)	Brandon Pasley (OCADVSA) [P]
Brandi Combs (OSDH alt.) [P]	Don Sweger (OACP) [A]	Sheila Stinson (Supreme Court) [P]
Emily Nicholls (OSDH IPS alt.) [P]	Vacant (OBA)	Shelly Harrison (NAAV) [P]
Marissa Belase (OKDHS alt.) [P]	Sean Webb (DAC) [P]	Tania Bardin (NAAV) [P]
Heather Cropper (OSBI) [P]	Martina Jelley (OSMA) [P]	
Vacant (ODMHSAS)	Sara Coffey (OOA) [A]	
Janelle Bretten (OJA) [P]	Janice Carr (ONA) [P]	

I. Call to Order and Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Act

Chair Brandon Pasley (OCADVSA) presided over the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, which was held at the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General, 313 NE 21st St, Oklahoma City, OK on March 26, 2025. Notice of the meeting was posted annually with the Secretary of State before the December 15, 2024, deadline and at the front door of the Office of the Attorney General more than 24 hours in advance. Chair Brandon Pasley (OCADVSA) called the meeting to order at 9:15 am.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted at 9:19 am. Quorum was achieved at roll call with 16 members present. Two alternate designees were present but were not counted towards quorum at the time of roll call due to the primary designee being present. The alternate designees were Sara Wray (OAG) and Amanda Demboski (DHS). DVFRB staff present included Anthony Hernández Rivera, OAG DVFRB Program Manager (PM) and Nicholas Massey, OAG Research Analyst (RA).

Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the November 20, 2024, Regular Meeting*

Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) moved to approve the November 20, 2024, regular meeting minutes at 9:19 am. Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) seconded the motion. The motion to approve the minutes passed by roll call vote (8 Aye, 8 Abstain, 0 Nay).

IV. Update – Statewide DVFRB Lethality Assessment Protocol Initiative Funded by the U.S. Department of Justice (DOJ), Office on Violence Against Women (OVW), Improving the Criminal Justice Response (ICRJ) Program Grant, and U.S. DOJ Bureau of Justice Assistance, Byrne State

**Crisis Intervention Program Grant (Byrne SCIP). Speaker: DVFRB
Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera. ***

DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by providing an overview of the DVFRB's concerns about Oklahoma's inconsistent implementation of the lethality assessment protocol (LAP) by law enforcement across the state since it was mandated by state statute. He reminded members that LAP legislation was passed in 2014 mandating law enforcement officers conduct the 11-question risk assessment at the scene of intimate partner violence calls. However, just a few years after the passage of the law, DVFRB homicide case reviews began revealing law enforcement neglected to conduct the assessment in prior intimate partner violence calls for service in the leadup to intimate partner homicides (IPH). As a result, the DVFRB had consistently elevated the issue in its annual reports on different occasions over the last 10 years. He added the most recent LAP recommendation was published in 2022 and called for more LAP-specific training at law enforcement conferences. It also called for at least one hour of annual peace officer continuing education requirements to be dedicated to LAP and intimate partner violence training. Mr. Hernández stated he, and DVFRB Research Analyst Nicholas Massey, began offering training to law enforcement towards the end of 2023. This included leading LAP training sessions at the 2023 Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) Major Crimes Conference; the 2023 Oklahoma Sheriffs' Association (OSA) Annual Conference; and the Fall of 2023 Oklahoma Association of Chiefs (OACP) of Police New Chiefs Training. He mentioned that in 2024 the DVFRB team led LAP sessions at 23 different venues, impacting several hundred law enforcement officers throughout the year with LAP-specific training. He stated the goal was to raise awareness and equip peace officers with best practices and the foundational knowledge of the LAP's importance.

Mr. Hernández mentioned the team quickly recognized how time-consuming training is and how it unfortunately could subtract from other DVFRB-related responsibilities. He mentioned this led program staff realizing an ongoing training effort would be unsustainable for the long term. As a result, they searched for grant funding that could support an ongoing training initiative and ease the training workload to current DVFRB staff. This led to the identification of a Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women, Improve the Criminal Justice Response (ICJR) grant as a potential funding source to support staff dedicated to LAP training. Mr. Hernández stated DVFRB staff took the initiative to prepare and submit a grant application proposing an overhaul of Oklahoma's LAP system. The federal government ultimately awarded approximately \$1 million for a statewide LAP implementation initiative. He mentioned that shortly after applying for the ICJR funds, the Oklahoma District Attorneys' Council (DAC) alerted DVFRB staff of a second grant that could be dedicated towards supporting an LAP position. As a result, staff prepared and submitted a second grant application to DAC's Byrne State Crisis Intervention (SCIP) Board. This proposal was also approved and resulted in a \$260,000 grant award. Therefore, a total of approximately \$1.3 million of federal grant funding was secured to hire three full-time LAP Training Coordinators who will lead Oklahoma's first statewide LAP implementation initiative. Mr. Hernández announced the new LAP Training Coordinators were set to start on April 1, 2025. He mentioned former DVFRB member, and 22-year Pottawatomie County Sheriff's Office Lieutenant Scott Hawkins would be the Lead LAP Training Coordinator; followed by 5-year U.S. Army veteran and 10-year retired Lawton Police Department detective David Folkert; lastly, Jaiden Balthrop would be joining from the DAC. The DVFRB PM mentioned the state would be divided into different regions and the coordinators would be responsible for creating and

disseminating training materials. They would also be working to onboard 100 agencies on a new LAP platform that will streamline the LAP referral process. Mr. Hernández explained law enforcement and victim services agencies would be onboarded to a cloud-based platform that would digitize, store, and forward referrals done in the field directly to victim advocate agencies. He mentioned this process would help avoid the form being lost after initial contact on the scene. Mr. Hernández explained the goal would be to onboard 50 agencies to the new platform over a three-year period. He then explained different metrics that would be used to gauge program's success. For example, he mentioned one metric would be to leverage existing LAP-related data reported by OAG certified programs through Family Violence Prevention and Services Act (FVPSA) quarterly grant reports. Mr. Hernández then gave an overview of the new staff's role of sustaining LAP awareness efforts with the Oklahoma Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), Sheriffs' Association (OSA), the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), among others. He also mentioned plans to launch the LAP Taskforce that was operational until the COVID-19 pandemic. Finally, he talked about the team's preparation of an annual report titled The State of the LAP as a way to keep the public informed of ongoing efforts and as form of accountability.

V. Update – DVFRB Application to Fiscal Year 2025 U.S. DOJ, Office of Juvenile Justice Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP) – Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence Grant. Speaker: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera*

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened discussion by mentioning the goal was to discuss the status of the preparation of the U.S. DOJ OJJDP grant discussed in 2024. He reminded members that the OJJDP grant funds would be used to fund a wraparound services program for child witnesses of domestic violence homicide. This program would address the DVFRB's long-standing concerns for the well-being of children who witness intimate partner homicide or murder-suicide. He reminded members that this was the lead recommendation in the 2024 DVFRB Report.

He stated his intention in 2024 was to apply to both ICJR and OJJDP, but ultimately, he was able to apply to ICJR only, so the goal was to focus on the OJJDP proposal in 2025. Mr. Hernández mentioned the federal government released the OJJDP grant solicitation for FY 2025 towards the end of January. However, unfortunately, the grant solicitation was pulled from the U.S. DOJ website shortly afterwards, and there is no indication of whether the solicitation will open again. He remarked this was very unfortunate, but in the meantime, staff were on standby and ready to prepare and apply in the event the solicitation was released.

Mr. Hernández said the Oklahoma Attorney General's Office requested \$750,000 in state appropriations to build the program. However, due to calls by state leaders for agencies to maintain flat budgets, it is uncertain whether that funding request will be granted. Nevertheless, the DVFRB PM said he has continued conversations with relevant stakeholders and potential partners at the University of Oklahoma Center on Child Abuse and Neglect, to outline what the program could potentially look like, and its costs, just in case any kind of funding is secured. He emphasized that regardless of the outcome he would prepare a proposal in case the federal OJJDP grant solicitation opens and reminded members that if the legislature does not appropriate funds to support the project, the DVFRB could elevate the issue again in the 2025 report to send a message that there is still a need for funding to support this program.

Mr. Hernández emphasized there is no rule against repeating recommendations. He pointed out repeating recommendations has worked in the DVFRB's favor in the two most recent legislative sessions. As an example, Mr. Hernández closed by mentioning the 2023 recommendations that were not filed in the 2024 session were subsequently included again in the 2024 DVFRB report, and they have been making their way through the legislative process in 2025.

VI. Update and Proposal – DVFRB Review Regions and Map. Speaker: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera*

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by stating the goal of this agenda item was to circle back to conversations that took place during the September 27, 2023, DVFRB regular meeting. During that meeting, the DVFRB PM and members discussed the volume of cases the review board reviews each year. They also talked about the prospects of having a more methodological approach to how the DVFRB reviews cases throughout a year. Historically, he mentioned that the DVFRB PM has prepared and slated cases for review where the victim and perpetrator had significant system interaction. . Mr. Hernández observed that, although this method has been effective in generating constructive conversations, it has also resulted in an unstructured review agenda. By that, he pointed to how case selection is not based on a regional approach from one meeting to the next. This meant the locations of reviewed homicides significantly varied every month. As a hypothetical example, he said that on any given month, the DVFRB would alternate between reviewing a homicide that occurred in the state's metropolitan areas, but then quickly pivoted to reviewing another that occurred in a more rural area on the opposite side of the state. Mr. Hernández observed this pattern could repeat itself several times throughout the year.

Mr. Hernández commented this practice hindered the DVFRB's ability to potentially observe regional trends as cases were reviewed throughout the year. He argued homicide reviews would be more effective if meeting dates were dedicated to reviewing homicides that occurred in specific areas of the state from one meeting to the next. For example, he mentioned one month could be dedicated to reviewing two cases from the Oklahoma City metro area and surrounding counties, while the same thing could be done the next month but with cases in or around the Tulsa area. Afterwards, the board could pivot to reviewing cases in Southwest or Southeast Oklahoma and so forth. He remarked doing this would enable the board to base recommendations on a broader sample of cases, thereby reflecting different community needs, resource availability and geographical challenges.

The DVFRB PM showed several examples of state agency regionals maps shown in 2023. This included regional or district maps of the following Oklahoma state agencies:

- OCCY - Child Death Review Board (CDRB)
- State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) - Investigative Regions
- Oklahoma Highway Patrol Troop Areas
- Oklahoma District Attorneys
- Office of Homeland Security Regional Response System
- Oklahoma Human Services (OHS) – Child Welfare Services Regions and Districts

Mr. Hernández mentioned adopting a DVFRB regional map would also assist with monthly case selection. The current method entails identifying a case with significant systems contact, which results in verifying cases from one county to the next until a suitable candidate is identified. Structuring reviews on a regional level would help uncover unique needs or issues across different areas of the state. Mr. Hernández showed members a proposed map built utilizing Geographic Information Systems (GIS) mapping software. He provided an overview of the regions and other data layers displaying homicide data to showcase his reasoning for the designed layout. Afterwards, he asked members for their feedback.

Some members asked whether there would be enough time to review cases from all regions on any given calendar year. Mr. Hernández stated the number of regions could be adjusted if necessary. He also mentioned the possibility of reviewing two cases at a meeting pulled from adjacent regions. One member expressed concern about the feasibility of reviewing more than one case due to time constraints. It was mentioned the DVFRB has recently not been able to enter executive session till 11:00 am. Several members asked whether the focus should shift back to spending more time in executive session. Mr. Hernández mentioned this could be done but at the expense of subject-matter presentations. He suggested working to strike a better balance between case reviews and presentations, but reminded members the latter often contextualize cases and provide actionable policy recommendations addressing overarching issues observed in case reviews.

Mr. Hernández said another option was to potentially meet for longer stretches of time, but he understood that might not be feasible with everyone's schedule. He also recognized there were no easy choices but said he was doing as much as he could with the three hours of meeting time currently scheduled for every meeting. Members further discussed alternatives to increase the board's ability to conduct business. One member asked whether a virtual option was permissible, but it was quickly determined that it was not allowed under the Oklahoma Open Meeting Act. Others asked whether a similar model to how the Child Death Review Board (CDRB) reviews cases might be worth exploring. Mr. Hernández mentioned that might be difficult due to how much more extensive DVFRB case files are compared to the CDRB's.

Mr. Hernández, however, told member the focus today was to discuss any feedback about the map and potentially vote to adopt it. He said he could send out an email with the map's information for members to examine and provide written comments. Dr. Janice Carr (ONA) stated she thought it would be timely to vote on the map that same day and if any changes needed to be incorporated a new vote could be taken later.

As a result, Dr. Janice Carr (ONA) made a motion to adopt the current version of the DVFRB map with eight regions at 10:22 am. Sean Webb (DAC) seconded the motion. The motion to approve the map passed by roll call vote (14 Aye, 0 Abstain, 0 Nay)

VII. Potential Rescheduling – April 30, 2025, DVFRB Community Review. Speaker: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera. *

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by discussing the potential rescheduling of the April 30, 2025, DVFRB Community Review. For the benefit of new DVFRB members, Mr. Hernández briefly explained the community review process. He stated the DVFRB

has historically met at the Attorney General's Office to conduct business. However, starting in 2022, the board adopted a new model whereby at least once a year, members met in the community where the homicide under review happened. Mr. Hernández mentioned this gave members an opportunity to embed themselves in the community, at least for one day, and interact with local system professionals and subject matter experts. He mentioned the first community review took place in 2022 in Ponca City, OK (Kay County), and in 2023 in Weatherford, OK (Custer County). The objective in 2024 was to meet in Tulsa, OK (Tulsa County), but the meeting had to be cancelled due to issues with quorum and last-minute concerns by community partners regarding the case's statute of limitations.

He reminded members the community review has normally been scheduled for June, but last year the board agreed to move the meeting to earlier in the year. He said April was the agreed upon date, and the idea was to use the February and March meetings to decide what case would be reviewed in the April community review. Unfortunately, the February meeting had to be cancelled due to concerns with inclement weather. As a result, this agenda item's goal was to determine whether the board wished to move forward with the community review meeting in April or reschedule it for later in the year. Mr. Hernández asked members for feedback on what they would prefer. He stated one option was to push the meeting to later in the year. One member asked whether the community partners were okay with engaging the DVFRB about the previous year's case in 2025 and, if so, whether we could move forward with the same case. Mr. Hernández said he would have to circle back with the community partners to confirm, but that last year they stated they would be okay with moving forward with the meeting in 2025. He also mentioned another option could be to meet somewhere else, but that the previous year, Dr. Martina Jelley (OSMA), mentioned it would be timely to meet in eastern Oklahoma since the review board had already met on the northern and western sides of the state in previous community reviews.

Members agreed it might be difficult to organize the community review later in the year. They agreed to move forward with the April date with the case slated to be reviewed in 2024. The DVFRB PM stated he would let members know if he encountered any issues and that worst case scenario, if they were not able meet in Tulsa, they could plan to meet at the OAG and consider next steps. Mr. Hernández closed by saying he would seek the help of Dr. Jelley and Dr. Coffey to secure meeting space in Tulsa.

VIII. DVFRB Annual Report Recommendations Legislative Update 2022-2024. Speaker: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera *

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by stating the goal of this agenda item was to provide DVFRB members with a legislative update on DVFRB Annual Report recommendations published during 2022-2024. He began by giving an overview of two bills that became law after the 2024 legislative session.

He first mentioned the passage of HB 3752 filed by Representative Josh Talley and Senator Ally Seifried. Mr. Hernández explained this bill added a member from the Department of Corrections to the DVFRB membership and implemented a 2022 DVFRB Annual Report recommendation. Second, he mentioned the passage of SB 2039 by Speaker Charles McCall and Senator Pro Tempore Greg Treat. This bill led to a historic funding increase to OAG certified DV/SA service providers, thereby implementing a 2023 DVFRB recommendation.

Mr. Hernández then gave an overview of bills going through the 2025 legislative session. He first mentioned the status of HB 1591 by Representative John George and Senator Darrell Weaver. He explained the bill looked to add Domestic Abuse by Strangulation, Domestic Assault and Battery (A&B) with a Deadly Weapon, and Aggravated Assault and Battery Upon a Law Officer to the list of convictions that are required to be served no less than 85% of completion. The second bill was SB 541 by Senator Todd Gollihare and Representative Nicole Miller. He explained the bill would allow prosecutors to file Domestic Assault and Battery (A&B) with a Deadly Weapon charge if any deadly weapon is present. It also makes Domestic A&B Subsequent Offense and Domestic A&B on a Pregnant Person statutorily considered violent crimes. Finally, it looked to classify subsequent DV charges and assault a woman with knowledge of pregnancy as an 85% crime.

The third bill was SB 813 by Senator Ally Seifried and Representative Stan May. He explained the bill would clarify that law enforcement must make every effort to serve protective orders and ensure petitions are filed with the district court the following day. It also aimed to repeal the statute requiring law enforcement provide a Stalking Warning Letter to the accused whenever a stalking complaint is made, and the law enforcement agency determines that stalking has occurred. The fourth bill was SB 607 by Senator Brent Howards and Representative John George. This bill declares that statements related to domestic abuse are admissible in pre-trial and post-trial criminal and juvenile delinquent hearings, merit hearings, probation revocation hearings, and deferred judgement hearings. The final bill was HB 1413 by Representative Josh West and Senator Bill Coleman. He explained the bill would make pleas and findings of guilt of stalking or violations of a protective order constitute a conviction for sentencing purposes related to domestic violence where a prior conviction is relevant.

After discussing each bill, Mr. Hernández noted whether they had passed their chamber of origin. He emphasized all bills passed their chamber of origin and were currently pending in the opposite chamber. He closed his discussion by saying bills in the 2025 legislative session were advocated for in the 2023 and 2024 editions of the DVFRB report.

IX. Early Discussion on Potential DVFRB Meeting Subject Matter Expert Presentations and Recommendations

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera stated the goal of this agenda item was to provide DVFRB members with a roadmap of this year's policy agenda. He mentioned this entailed scheduling subject matter expert presentations that would further contextualize issues observed in homicide case reviews. This included discussing issues such as Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs); the overlap of intimate partner violence (IPV) with mental health and substance abuse issues; firearms in the context of IPV and homicide, as well as any statutory suggestions stemming from these discussions.

For example, Mr. Hernández mentioned he was organizing a federal partners roundtable discussion for May 28. This discussion entailed the DVFRB engaging with prosecutors from all three U.S. Attorney's Offices and agents with the Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF). Another plan was for the DVFRB to host representatives from Oklahoma's prosecutorial system on August 27. This included hosting Assistant District Attorney Shawna Taylor (District 8

– Kay and Noble County) and District Attorneys’ Council (DAC) Assistant Executive Coordinator Ryan Stephenson. Finally, he planned for the DVFRB to engage ACEs experts later in the fall. Among the experts he wanted to recruit to lead this presentation were DVFRB members Dr. Sara Coffey (OOA) and Dr. Martina Jelley (OSMA). He also mentioned plans to recruit Dr. Jason Beaman, Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse Services Chief Medical Officer, and author of a recent peer-reviewed journal article on quantifying ACEs in Oklahoma. Lastly, Mr. Hernández mentioned Dr. Jennifer Hays-Grudo, who works at the Center for Integrative Research in Childhood Adversity at Oklahoma State University.

Mr. Hernández then called on members to let him know if they thought of any other subject-matter experts that might be good to host for a presentation at some point during the year. No further discussion followed.

X. Discussion and Possible Action on the 2025 DVFRB Annual Report Recommendations Subcommittee and Development Timeline. Speakers: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera and Assistant Attorney General and DVFRB Member Sara Wray (OAG). *

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by giving an overview of the current DVFRB policy recommendation process and suggesting the board consider changes to it. Mr. Hernández explained the process over the last several years entailed having an early discussion of potential recommendations in August and September and then choosing 3-5 proposals in October so they can be drafted by the November meeting and published by the February 1 statutory deadline.

Mr. Hernández explained the complexity of the recommendations over the last two years has increased, as all recommendations are essentially detailed policy papers now. He emphasized these papers often require drafting preliminary legislative language and seeking feedback from stakeholders and subject matter experts. He stated the current turnaround times had become unsustainable and too onerous on DVFRB staff. For example, he remarked the current method entails completing the following tasks for each recommendation over the course of just one month:

- Research and literature review
- Technical assistance and feedback from stakeholders and/or subject matter experts
- Staff writing
- OAG Executive Feedback
- Feedback incorporation

He emphasized all of this is done while having to draft the statistical sections of the report, writing or editing 2-3 spotlight articles, and researching and preparing a homicide case file to review during the final regular meeting of the year. Mr. Hernández emphasized this workload, under the current turnaround time, had become unsustainable due to the increased complexity of the DVFRB annual report project. As a result, he proposed a staggered method where the DVFRB would identify 1-2 recommendations for development earlier in the year (potentially August) and then choose an additional 1-2 no later than October. The goal would be to have initial drafts ready by the last regular meeting of the year (December). The DVFRB PM emphasized this method would give board staff more time for research and engagement with relevant stakeholders and technical

assistance subject matter experts. Ultimately, this new timeline would enable the DVFRB membership to review well-rounded drafts during the final meeting of the year.

Lastly, Mr. Hernández proposed potentially creating a DVFRB subcommittee dedicated to policy recommendations research and drafting. The membership agreed with the DVFRB PM on adopting the new proposal, but thought it was not necessary to create the subcommittee. Members expressed support for the staggered method of choosing recommendations in the interest of facilitating the staff's work.

XI. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session*

Pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307B for the purpose of case review

- a. Adjourn to Executive Session*
- b. Review and Discussion of case #220027 and potential as 2025 community review candidate
- c. Review and Discussion of case ##220038 and potential as 2025 community review candidate
- d. Review and Discussion of Case #2200085 and potential as 2025 community review candidate
- e. Consideration of return from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

Emilly Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 11:03 am. Celia Cobb (OCME) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (16 Aye, 0 Abstain, 0 Nay). Quorum was maintained throughout the executive session. The Board concluded and came out of executive session at 11:55 am.

XII. Announcement by Chair as to the necessity of any Board action as a result of Executive Session. Vote as a result of Executive Session*

No action was taken as a result of executive session.

XIII. New Business Not Known or Which Could Not Have Been Reasonably Foreseen Before the Posting of the Agenda in Accordance with 25 O.S. § 311(9).

No new business.

XIV. Announcements

No new announcements.

XV. Adjournment*

Sean Webb (DAC) made a motion to adjourn at 11:55 am. Melissa Van Duyne (OAG) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:55 am.