

Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board
313 N.E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73005
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MEETING MINUTES

April 30, 2025

Meeting Venue: Legacy Plaza West (Room 1209)
5310 E 31st St, Tulsa, OK 74135

MEMBERS

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

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

Chair Brandon Pasley presided over the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, which was held at Legacy Plaza West (Room 1209), 5310 E 31st St, Tulsa, OK 74135 on April 30, 2025. Notice of the meeting was posted 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 10:02 am.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted at 10:02 am. Quorum was achieved at roll call with 12 members present. 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 March 26, 2025, Regular Meeting*

No action was taken on this action item due to minutes not having been finalized by the time of the meeting.

**IV. Welcoming and Day Agenda Remarks – 2025 DVFRB Community Review.
Speaker: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera.**

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera made brief remarks to welcome members and guests to the 3rd annual DVFRB community review. He specially thanked members for attending the meeting despite the inclement weather conditions during the morning. Afterwards, he gave an overview of the day's agenda, remarking the goal would be to engage with community-based organizations and systems to learn about the domestic (DV) and intimate partner violence (IPV) landscape in the Tulsa metro area and surrounding counties.

V. Tulsa County Victim Services Presentations and Roundtable Discussions – Speakers: Representatives from Domestic Violence Intervention Services (DVIS); Family Safety Center (FSC); Muscogee Creek Nation – Center for Victim Services. Approximate Allocated Time: 9:30 am – 10:30 am*

Representatives from DVIS began the roundtable discussion by thanking the DVFRB for the work they do and then giving a brief presentation of the top barriers and challenges victims in domestic violence situations commonly face. First, they pointed to a lack of knowledge or trust of resources or the lack of resources altogether. This included remarks and discussions about limited shelter resources and bed availability, as well as the inconsistent implementation of the Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) by law enforcement to connect victims to a local DV agency. Second, they talked about common emotional barriers, including feeling of shame, self-blame, the fear of abusers and being judged. Finally, they mentioned the significant financial barriers victims have to face in violent situations. This includes little or no access to financial resources due to perpetrators' control of them. They spoke about how this ultimately impacts access to safe, affordable housing and other basic necessities (food, clothing, reliable transportation, etc.)

The presentation then pivoted towards discussing prevalent systematic barriers to service provision. The first issues they mentioned were related to protective order processes, including filing, service, and the multiple court hearings. Second, they mentioned the limited availability of DV detectives for the volume of cases the Tulsa Police Department DV Unit works. Notably, they mentioned the unit has six detectives that receive approximately 600 cases a month. Finally, they mentioned LAP implementation issues as a significant systemic barrier to serving victims at high-risk. For example, they mentioned DVIS had only received 54 LAP-related calls during January-April 2025. This led to pivoting to a quick overview of ongoing efforts in Tulsa to address DV. Three initiatives were mentioned, including the Tulsa Mayor's Commission on DV and working groups; ongoing support for the Rapid Intervention Team (RIT) and its multidisciplinary coordination; and finally, the exploration of additional evidenced based interventions for Batterer Intervention Programs (BIP).

Representatives from the Muscogee Nation Center for Victim Services (CVS) were the second group to give a presentation as part of this roundtable discussion. Shannon Buchanan began the presentation by giving an overview of the CVS's role at the Muscogee Nation. This included speaking about how the CVS helps victims of domestic violence, teen dating violence, stalking, sexual assault, and other violent crimes within the reservation regardless of sexual orientation, race, ethnicity, or tribal affiliation. It also entailed providing an overview of the types of services provided by CVS. For example, they mentioned the CVS provides emotional support, court advocacy in tribal, federal or state courts, assistance in filing protective orders, assistance locating emergency shelter, assistance obtaining SANE/DVNE exams, and limited financial assistance based on individual need. Ms. Buchanan then emphasized the CVS's role in assisting law enforcement in their response to DV calls. This includes taking crisis calls stemming from LAP's for intimate partner violence (IPV) incidents; safety planning with victims, including arranging for safe shelter if needed; and coordinating DVNEs with the Muscogee Nation SANE Program. It was also mentioned the CVS plays a role in coordinating SANE nurse exam for adult/child victims, which also includes safety planning, arranging for safe shelter if needed, and providing advocacy for forensic interviews. Finally, she said the CVS prepares and provides LAP packets for law enforcement and works to meet other needs law enforcement may have.

Ms. Buchanan finalized her portion of the presentation by giving an overview of the CVS staffing roles and office locations within the boundaries of the Muscogee Nation.

Billy Hoskison then began speaking about his role at the CVS. He stated he was an attorney and provided an overview of his career background before joining CVS. He explained his role as a staff attorney and his work in helping victims navigate both civil and criminal proceedings. He also described several challenges encountered in his work, including judges lacking training/awareness of DV and IPV dynamics. W. Hunter Dodson finalized the Muscogee Nation presentation by giving an overview of his role at the CVS. He stated he was also an attorney and served as the Coordinator for the Firearms Technical Assistance Project (FTAP) at the Muscogee Nation. He explained FTAP was a federal grant project directed towards reducing domestic violence homicide by limiting offenders' access to firearms. Mr. Dodson added his goal is to ensure laws and protocols are in place to make sure offenders do not have access to firearms, and make sure they are enforced and being followed. For example, he mentioned his role is to ensure that if someone has a valid protective order stating that they should not have firearms, or if they have prior felony convictions, that they don't have access to any kind of firearm. He then provided an overview of the project's progress over the last two years, including ongoing efforts to conduct a series of focus groups and listening sessions to gather information regarding people's perceptions and experiences with firearms, particularly in a DV context.

The Family Safety Center (FSC) was represented by Victim Advocate Cathy Coco-Hill. She first gave an overview of the FSC by stating where it was located and that it was Tulsa's Family Justice Center (FJC). Ms. Coco-Hill stated the FSC aims to house community and system partners under one roof so that victims have a one-stop shop where they can access as many of the services needed at once. She explained the FSC is moving to a new building with much more capacity and space, enabling them to have even more community partners than they already have. Ms. Coco-Hill explained this availability will help overcome transportation barriers victims face. She then gave an overview of some of the biggest obstacles/challenges they encounter victims struggling with. This included:

- Insufficient staff attorneys
- Insufficient mental health resources
- Insufficient shelter/housing
- Trauma and grief

Ms. Coco-Hill closed by emphasizing the difficulty for victims to protect themselves in the age of technology and the overall challenges of staying safe even in a city of Tulsa's size. She also emphasized issues with law enforcement capacity to respond to DV calls immediately due to high call volume across all call for service categories.

VI. 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 of case #220027
- c. Consideration to exit from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

The DVFRB did not adjourn to executive session.

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

No action was taken due to no adjournment to executive session.

VIII. Tulsa Police Department (TPD) and Tulsa Fire Department (TFD) Presentations and Roundtable Discussions – Speakers: Representatives from TPD and TFD. Approximate Allocated Time: 10:30 am – 12:00 pm.*

The Tulsa Police Department (TPD) was represented by Detective Captain Malcolm William, Homicide Detective Jason White, DV Detective Amy Hall, and Advocates Whitney Allen, Kimberly Starnes and Kristi Freshwater. DV Detective Amy Hall gave a brief presentation on TPD’s work in responding to DV in Tulsa. Detective Hall began her presentation by emphasizing the TPD DV Unit investigates all cases with a DV nexus. This might include crimes such as robbery, auto theft, among others that might not be thought of as a DV crime at first glance. She then provided a statistical overview of TPD DV case management data for 2023. This included the number of calls for service and total by several crime types. Detective Hall also mentioned that the DV unit worked over 12,600 cases with six detectives and two supervisors for 2024. She mentioned that due to the volume of cases the department is forced to triage and use innovative strategies such as their Domestic Caution Indicators Pilot Program. Detective Hall explained the program entailed the development of an internal protocol to flag suspects who are within the 72-hour window when a probable cause arrest can be made. This came about due to officers from different shifts running into suspects who were wanted for offenses that might have been reported during other shifts during that window of time. Detective Halls showcased the program’s effectiveness by providing statistics from January 12, 2025, to April 19, 2025. During that timeframe, arrests were made across 61 shifts and resulted in 324 TPD DV arrests. TPD’s presentation then pivoted to giving an overview of their Victim Services Unit. TPD Advocate Kristi Freshwater led this part of the presentation. She provided a brief overview of the services they provide and statistics on the number of victims they serve. Gender and racial statistics were presented, with the biggest takeaways being that the majority of victims they come into contact are women and the significant representation of Black/African American, American Indian/Alaska Native and Hispanic or Latino individuals served from 2022-2025.

Chief of EMS Justin Lemery and Fire Captain Anthony Castorena represented the Tulsa Fire Department (TFD). Chief Lemery gave a brief presentation on how domestic violence impacts TFD’s first responder services to the citizens of Tulsa. He began by providing a brief overview of TFD’s presence throughout Tulsa. This included showing a map with current and future fire stations and their respective calculated services areas. He mentioned TFD had 30 stations, 734 members, and their role spans from providing first response, mobile integrated healthcare, as well as other services such as investigations, inspections, etc. Chief Lemery then pivoted to showing statistics on TFD’s response to violence-related calls, specifically those involving the stabbing and shooting of the victim. Afterwards, he provided an overview of TFD’s work with adopting and deploying mobile integrated healthcare models to address the unique needs of the community. He briefly explained that these healthcare models stem from the collaboration between the TFD, TPD, and Family & Children’s Services (FCS). These larger co-responder model aims to address mental health crises by pooling subject matter expert across disciplines to better meet the needs of individuals in mental health crises. Chief Lemery emphasized TFD has been actively involved in this initiative through Tulsa’s Community Response Team (CRT) and other related initiatives like the Alternative Response Team (ART) and the Integrated Response Team (IRT), further expanding

the city's capacity to address mental health needs. He finalized his presentation by giving an overview of survey data related to firefighter perceptions and well-being in their official capacity.

IX. 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
- c. Consideration of return from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

Emily Nicholls (OSDH IPS) made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 11:44 am. Celia Cobb (OCME) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (12 Aye, 0 Abstain, 0 Nay). Quorum was maintained throughout the executive session. The Board concluded and came out of executive session at 12:40 pm.

X. 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.

XI. Announcement – Lunch Recess (12:00 pm – 1:00 pm) *

DVFRB Chair Brandon Pasley announced a lunch break after the exit from executive session. He announced a brief 40 minute lunch recess.

XII. Reconvening of the Meeting - Chair *

DVFRB Chair Brandon Pasley reconvened the meeting at approximately 1:18 pm.

XIII. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum *

Quorum was established with 12 members present. DVFRB staff present included Anthony Hernández Rivera, OAG DVFRB Program Manager (PM) and Nicholas Massey, OAG Research Analyst (RA).

XIV. Presentation and Discussion – Tulsa County Integrated Domestic Violence Court. Speaker: Judge Kelly Greenough. Approximate Allocated Time: 1:00 pm – 2:00 pm *

The Tulsa County Coordinated Domestic Violence Court was represented by Judge Kelly Greenough. The Judge did not prepare a formal presentation but provided remarks about the court's role in Tulsa County. Judge Greenough first gave a brief account of her professional background before giving an overview of the court. This overview entailed explaining that the Tulsa County Domestic Violence Court is a criminal DV court with both misdemeanor and felony dockets focusing on intimate partner violence (IPV) in cases of DV, violation of protective orders, and stalking. Judge Greenough emphasized the court works to coordinate with Protective Order and Family Court to increase victim safety and offender compliance. It was explained that the overall goal of the court was to:

- Increase victim safety through partnerships with victim services agencies and training
- Hold offenders accountable through increased judicial monitoring
- Reduce recidivism and homicide

A brief overview of court staff was also discussed, including the role of:

- Judges – Three judges work together and preside of the DV Court.
- Court Coordinator
- Court Case Manager
- Prosecutors
- Advocates
- Pre-Trial Compliance Officer
- Probation and Parole Officers
- Batterers Intervention Program (BIP) Providers
- Social Service Providers
- Public Defenders
- Rapid Intervention Team

The court's case management process was also discussed, including:

- Types of cases seen by the court
- Method for case identification, screening, and transfer
- Information sharing
- Case scheduling

Other topics discussed included community stakeholders involved in DV court operations, victim safety, including court security, victim services, and risk assessment, followed by offender accountability like compliance reviews and other offender services. Judge Greenough also discussed the grant funding supporting this court project, issues surrounding ankle monitoring for offender monitoring and compliance, and an overview of outcomes and statistics of compliance court over the previous 18 months.

XV. 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
- c. Consideration of return from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

The DVFRB did not adjourn into executive session.

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

No action was taken due to the DVFRB not adjourning into executive session.

XVII. Presentation and Discussion – Speakers: Representatives from Tulsa County District Attorney's Office. Allocated Time: 2:00 pm – 3:00 pm *

Assistant District Attorney (ADA) Elyssa Kohler led the Tulsa County District Attorney's Office presentation. She began by giving an overview of her office and mentioning her fellow ADAs on the Special Victims and Domestic Violence Units. ADA Kohler then pivoted to explaining how the District Attorney's Office handles caseloads and other general procedures guiding their approach to prosecuting these types of crimes. She explained that domestic violence dockets take place in the form of insulated court proceedings. This results in cases being handled by specialized district judges who are trauma informed, specific public defenders, and case specific victim advocates. ADA Kohler explained this alignment of court personnel dedicated to working

domestic violence cases was more conducive to having a consistent response to victims and defendants. The presentation then pivoted towards giving an overview of well-known hurdles to prosecuting domestic violence-related crimes. The overview included briefly explaining the following issues:

- Victim Cooperations
- Crimes of Secrecy
- Narcissistic Traits
- Lack of Accountability
- Legal Layers
- Complex Relationships
- Community Perception

ADA Kohler explained how their team attempts to overcome the hurdles they are able to have some effect on. These include victim cooperation, legal layers, complex relationships and community perception. She emphasized the role of evidence-based prosecution practices to limit victim involvement in the criminal justice process. These prosecution practices have made the team emphasize relationship-building with local law enforcement agencies so that officers on patrol are aware of the practices that help facilitate evidence-based prosecutions. This included focusing on:

- 911 Calls
- Body Worn Camera
- Sexual Assault (SANE) or Domestic Violence Exams (DVNE)
- Jail Calls
- Phone Data
- EMSA Notes
- Medical Records
- Prior Incidents
- Burks/Res Gestae

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera asked the prosecutors what policy recommendations the DVFRB should consider for further study. They briefly discussed the following:

- They stated the domestic violence statute (21 O.S. 644) is too broad and should focus more on intimate partner violence, as those are predominantly the types of crimes they prosecute.
- Discussion on how the penalty for misdemeanor Domestic Violence Assault and Battery should go from 0-90 to 0-365 days.
- Discussion and feedback on Oklahoma Survivorship Act – Stated the law is too lenient on the evidence needed to be able to seek relief.
- Discussion and feedback on the surrendering of firearms during probation or when relief is granted on a protective order. The discussion centered on whether this was being enforced or happening at all.
- Discussion and feedback on prosecution turnover and salaries.

ADA Kohler finalized the presentation by providing the team's contact information. DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera closed by thanking the team for visiting with the review board.

XVIII. 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
- c. Consideration of return from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

The DVFRB did not adjourn into executive session.

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

No action was taken due to the DVFRB not adjourning into executive session.

XX. Presentation and Discussion – Speakers: Representatives from the Tulsa County Office of Juvenile Affairs and Oklahoma Human Services. Approximate Allocated Time: 3:00 pm – 4:00 pm. *

OJA was represented by Behavioral Health Clinician Katherine Ireland and Assistant District Supervisors Carlton Cole and Rachel Andrews. The OJA Team did not have a formal presentation but did give remarks to the DVFRB. They each introduced themselves by giving an overview of their professional background and role at OJA. Afterwards, they gave an overview of OJA's juvenile justice role in Oklahoma, followed by an explanation on juvenile holding facility operations. The DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera asked if they encountered any statutory gaps or challenges when delivering their services. They mentioned a common obstacle are situations where juvenile competency is an issue and the lack of resources supporting a recourse for them to gain competency. The team also emphasized the importance of realizing the best interventions are those that stem from the community. They also pointed to OJA not being built or having the resources to work with juveniles with high level mental health issues. Finally, they stated that any juvenile justice initiative should be geared towards encouraging and facilitating parent engagement. They added parent engagement should be to an extent mandatory if their child is involved with OJA, as this is crucial for clients to buy in and complete their treatment plans.

XXI. 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
- c. Consideration of return from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

Emily Nicholls (OSDH IPS) made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 3:25 pm. Martina Jelley (OSMA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (12 Aye, 0 Abstain, 0 Nay). Quorum was maintained throughout the executive session. The Board concluded and came out of executive session at 4:00 pm.

XXII. Announcement by Chair as to the necessity of an 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.

XXIII. Live Teams (Online) Presentation and Discussion – Speakers: Representatives from Battered Women’s Justice Project (BWJP) – City of Tulsa Commission on Domestic Violence and Urban Institute. In person guest speaker: Representatives from Block Builderz.

The DVFRB PM opened the discussion by thanking the BWJP and Urban Institute team for taking the time to engage with the DVFRB virtually. BWJP representatives Amalfi Parker and Sujata Warriar introduced themselves and provided an overview of their professional background and their role in providing technical assistance to the Tulsa Mayor Commission on Domestic Violence. LaBrisa Hurling from the George Kaiser Family Foundation (GKFF) also introduced herself and gave an overview of GKFF’s role in supporting BWJP’s technical assistance work with the Tulsa commission. Finally, Storm Ervin from the Urban Institute (UI) gave an overview of her role at UI and in leading the GKFF funded evaluation published in May 2023 titled, How Tulsa, Oklahoma, Responds to Survivors of Domestic Violence – Results from an Assessment of Services and System Responses for Domestic Violence Survivor and Victims.

The BWJP team’s presentation involved discussing their role in setting up Tulsa’s Coordinated Community Response Team (CCRT) extension of the Tulsa Mayor’s Commission on Domestic Violence announced by former Tulsa Mayor George Theron Bynum in November 2023. This included discussing the work they have done to date and future plans, including setting up a Tulsa-specific Domestic Violence Fatality Review Team. They stated their work aimed to build on the recommendations in UI’s May 2023 report prepared by Storm Ervin. For example, they gave an overview of Tulsa’s Coordinated Community Response (CCR) model stemming from the Mayor’s DV Commission. This included a DV working group comprised of four (4) committees, including:

- Criminal Legal System Interagency Committee
- DV Fatality Review Committee
- Community Response Protocol Committee
- Alternate Community Responses Committee

Afterwards, they presented 2023 law enforcement and prosecution DV data. This included 911 aggregate numbers of calls for service categorized as DV by the Tulsa Police Department and the Tulsa County Sheriff’s Office; arrests and clearance totals; and prosecution outcomes at the Tulsa County District Attorney’s Office. The BWJP team closed their presentation by providing an overview of early outcomes/results of their work, including system/partner buy-in and next steps. They also emphasized the oftentimes difficult nature of measurable outcomes in the short-term and how its hard to quantify progress made in term of community and system coordination, collaboration, and communication. DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera closed by thanking the BWJP team and UI’s Storm Ervin for visiting with the review board.

XXIV. 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.

XXV. Announcements

No new announcements.

XXVI. Adjournment*

Sara Coffey (OOA) made a motion to adjourn at 5:00 pm. Celia Cobb (OCME) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 5:00 pm.