

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

June 25, 2025

Meeting Venue: YWCA OKC (Rotary Room)
2460 NW 39th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112

MEMBERS

Celia Cobb (OCME) [P]	Nicole Flemming (DOC) [P]	Brandon Pasley (OCADVSA)
Sara Wray (OAG) [P]	Sean Webb (DAC) [P]	[P]
Brandi Combs (OSDH alt.) [A]	Martina Jelley (OSMA) [P]	Sheila Stinson (Supreme Court)
Emily Nicholls (OSDH IPS alt.) [P]	Sara Coffey (OOA) [A]	[A]
Amanda Dembowski (OKDHS alt.) [P]	Janice Carr (ONA) [A]	Shelly Harrison (NAAV) [P]
Janelle Bretten (OJA) [P]	Angela Beatty (OCADVSA alt.) [P]	Tania Bardin (NAAV) [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 YWCA OKC (Rotary Room), 2460 NW 39th St, Oklahoma City, OK 73112 on June 25, 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 9:15 am.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted at 9:15 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). Also present were the OAG Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) team comprised by Lead LAP Training Coordinator Scott Hawkins, and LAP Training Coordinators David Folkert and Jaiden Balthrop-Russell. 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. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the April 30, 2025, Regular Meeting*

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

V. Federal Law Enforcement Partners Presentations and Roundtable Discussion – Speakers: Representatives from U.S. Attorney’s Office –

Northern, Western, and Eastern Districts of Oklahoma; Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosive (ATF) – Muscogee Field Office

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by thanking federal partners for taking the time to visit with the DVFRB membership. These partners included representatives from the U.S. Attorney’s Office for the Northern, Western and Eastern Districts of Oklahoma and the ATF – Muscogee Office. Attending Assistant U.S. Attorneys (AUSA) included Deputy Criminal Chiefs (Violent Crimes) Jacquelyn Hutzell (Western District), Melody Nelson (Northern District – Present via telephone), and AUSA Jonathon Soverly (Eastern District). ATF Special Agent Ashley (Muscogee Field Office) was also present.

AUSA Hutzell prepared and led a presentation titled, *Using Federal Gun Law to Fight Domestic Violence*. The presentation’s agenda included discussing the following:

1. History of Operation 922
2. Federal charging options
3. Benefits of Federal Charges
4. Success of Operation 922

AUSA Hutzell first explained the mission of Operation 922 and what it entailed. She stated the goal behind the initiative was targeting domestic violence offenders for prosecution by focusing on federal firearm and ammunitions offenses. The operation stemmed from a Project SAFE Neighborhoods (PSN) initiative by the Western District whereby they partnered with local and federal law enforcement authorities to develop a strategy to:

1. Identify a significant violent crime problem in the district
2. Define a “target area”
3. Coordinate with PSN partners for focused enforcement and prosecution

AUSA Hutzell pivoted towards defining the target area by giving a brief statistical overview of domestic violence crimes in the Oklahoma City area. This snapshot referenced data from a 2019 infographic prepared by Palomar, Oklahoma City’s Family Justice Center. After the statistical overview, AUSA Hutzell listed the different partners underpinning the initiative. This included mentioning federal partners such as the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), U.S. Marshall Service (USMS), ATF, and the U.S. Attorney’s Office. Local partners mentioned included the Oklahoma City Police Department, Oklahoma and Cleveland County, and Palomar.

AUSA Hutzell proceeded to give an overview of the federal charging options at their disposal. She emphasized the PSN strategy targeting domestic violence through Operation 922 required a “thinking outside the box” strategy, whereby domestic violence offenders could be prosecuted for specific federal crime violations that might require minimum to no victim cooperation. AUSA Hutzell proceeded to list more than 31 federal criminal offenses and statutes that have been used to charge domestic violence offenders since Operation 922 inception. She then pivoted to listing federal firearm laws and Oklahoma equivalent statutes, outlining the similarities and differences between them, thereby showcasing gaps in Oklahoma state law that could be better aligned to empower state District Attorneys to combat domestic abuse.

AUSA Hutzell then gave an explanation of how federal prosecution differs from state domestic

violence charges. She emphasized that the main difference stems from federal charges having steeper penalties due to many of the crimes they target are felonies at the federal level but might be misdemeanors at the state level. AUSA Hutzell explained the extent of sentencing possibilities and their unique advantages versus their state counterparts, including but not limited to:

- Violation of Section 922(g) carries up to 15 years in federal prison
- Possibility of ACCA penalties
- No Parole (must do 85%)
- Supervised after release
- 18 U.S.C. ‘3661 = No limitation
- Hearsay statements admissible with some “minimal indicia of reliability.” United States v. Cook, 550 F.3d 1292 (10th Cir. 2008)
- Preponderance of the evidence

AUSA Hutzell closed this part of the presentation by summarizing why federal prosecution should be considered alongside state domestic violence. This summary included outlining the following advantageous considerations:

- Felony v. Misdemeanor
- Sentencing possibilities
- Ammunition
- Speedy Trial Act
- Grand Jury
- Pretrial advantages & detention
- Predictability
- Resources

She further explained the pre-trial advantages of federal prosecution, including detention, close supervision on bond, among others. Finally, they are also able to adopt older pending cases too. AUSA Hutzell closed the presentation by giving a brief statistical overview of the success of Operation 922 since March 2018. This included the following:

Defendants charged:	379
Convicted/Guilty Pleas	358
Sentenced	335
Average sentence	76.22 months + 1 life
Number of firearms seized	543
Ammunition seized	15,403 rounds

AUSA Hutzell closed by noting cases have come from 26 different counties in the Western District of Oklahoma and that 122 of those were identified as gang-related (32.2%) from 45 different gangs.

VI. Introduction and Presentation – DVFRB Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Team Members and Project Update

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by announcing the OAG's new LAP Team officially started in their new roles on April 1, 2025. He stated that as part of their role they would be serving as DVFRB staff and coming to meetings to update the review board about the LAP project's status. Mr. Hernández then asked the new team to introduced themselves and briefly talk about their professional background. Lead LAP Training Coordinator Scott Hawkins, and LAP Training Coordinators David Folkert and Jaiden Balthrop-Russell introduced themselves and briefly talked about their previous professional experiences.

Afterwards, they talked about the work they have done since starting in their new roles and future projects, including training and the new cloud-based LAP platform. [This included a presentation] Mr. Hernández closed by stating an LAP team update agenda item would be consistently on the meeting agendas to keep the review board informed of the project's progress.

VII. Discussion - Discussion – The Oklahoma Attorney General and DVFRB's role in 70 O.S. § 3311.5(G): Development and Implementation of the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) Domestic Violence and Stalking Investigation Training.

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by stating he had recently been alerted to the existence of a statute giving the DVFRB a role in the development and implementation of the CLEET Domestic Violence and Stalking Investigation Training. He stated he was not aware of this statute and was recently alerted by Lead LAP Training Coordinator Scott Hawkins. Mr. Hernández asked Mr. Hawkins to update the review board on this new development and the potential areas of collaboration that might stem from it.

Mr. Hawkins stated he recently became aware of the statute after being alerted of its existence by Tecumseh Police Department Chief of Police JR Kidney. The Chief alerted Mr. Hawkins in the leadup to a training led by the Chief himself on domestic violence and sexual assault law enforcement practices. Mr. Hawkins stated he alerted the DVFRB PM about the statute and they began to discuss how DVFRB input could shape CLEET training if the collaboration was exercised. For example, Mr. Hawkins emphasized how greater emphasis on LAP training would be possible if the DVFRB were collaborating on the development and implementation of the CLEET training. The DVFRB PM and Mr. Hawkins informed the board they would be taking steps to build a relationship with CLEET and gauge interest in collaborating. Mr. Hawkins closed by saying he would coordinate a meeting for later in the year so that CLEET could engage with the review board about the matter.

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 that due to the legislative session ending on May 30, 2025, he wanted to give the membership a legislative update for recommendations made during 2022-2024. Mr. Hernández proceeded to mention the bill number, year, authors, purpose and status of the following bills:

Bill	Year	Authors	Purpose	Status
HB 3752	2024	Rep. Josh Talley and Sen. Seifried	Adding Department of Corrections representation to DVFRB *2022 DVFRB Recommendation	Passed – Effective: November 1, 2024
SB 2039	2024	Speaker McCall and Sen. Pro Temp Treat	Funding increase to OAG certified DV/SA service providers *2023 DVFRB Recommendation	Passed – Effective: November 1, 2024
HB 1591	2025	Rep. George and Sen. Weaver	Adds domestic abuse by strangulated, domestic assault and battery 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. *2023 and 2024 DVFRB Recommendation	Did not reach Governor
SB 541	2025	Sen. Todd Gollihare and Rep. Nicole Miller	Allows prosecutors to file Domestic Assault & Battery (A&B) with a Deadly Weapon charge if any deadly weapon is present. Makes Domestic Assault and Battery subsequent offense and Domestic Assault and Battery on a Pregnant Person statutorily considered violent crimes. Classifying subsequent DV charges and assaulting a woman with knowledge of pregnancy as 85% crimes *2023 and 2024 DVFRB Recommendation	Law – Without Gov. Signature Passed – Senate Passed – House
Bill	Year	Authors	Purpose	Status
SB 813	2025	Sen. Ally Seifried and Rep. Stan May	Clarifies that law enforcement must make every effort to serve the protective order but ensures that petitions are filed with the district court the following day, regardless. Repeals the statute that requires law enforcement to provide a Stalking Warning Letter to the accused whenever a stalking complaint is made, and the law enforcement agency determines that stalking has occurred. *2024 DVFRB Recommendation	Law – Without Gov. Signature Passed – Senate Passed – House
SB 607	2025	Sen. Brent Howard and Rep. Gohn George	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 judgment hearings. *2024 DVFRB Recommendation	Law – Without Gov. Signature Passed – Senate Passed – House
HB 1413	2025	Rep. Josh West and Sen. Bill Coleman	Makes pleas and findings of guilt to stalking or violations of a protective order constitute a conviction for sentencing purposes related to domestic violence where a prior conviction is relevant. *2024 DVFRB Recommendation	Law – Without Gov. Signature Passed – House Passed – Senate
Bill	Year	Authors	Purpose	Status
State Budget OAG Budget	2025	House and Senate Budget Bill	Statewide DVFRB program to provide trauma-informed services to children impacted by family violence-related homicides. Proposed appropriation = \$600,000 *2024 DVFRB Recommendation	Pending Gov. Signing Budget Passed – Senate Passed – House *Possible Line-Item Veto

Mr. Hernández closed by stating these last two legislative sessions have been arguably the most productive in DVFRB history. He thanked members for their continued service, collaboration, and attendance at meetings. The DVFRB PM added he hoped for another productive legislative session in 2026.

IX. Early Discussion on Possible Recommendations for the 2025 Edition of the DVFRB Annual Report and Selection Process*

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the discussion by stating the DVFRB Annual Report recommendation process would be starting in August. He reminded members this would entail selecting one or two possible recommendations in August for further development instead of doing that entirely in October. This would give staff more time to do the appropriate research, technical assistance consultations, and drafting. He closed by stating he would prepare a preliminary list of candidates for consideration at the August meeting.

X. 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 on whether potential 2024 homicides fit into the DVFRB data collection criteria
- c. Review and Discussion of Case #230027
- d. 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 11:18 am. Shelly Harrison (NAAV) 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 12:00 pm.

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

A motion to vote was made on whether to exclude cases discussed in executive session from 2025 DVFRB Annual Report homicide. The motion was seconded. The vote was the following:

- i. Case 1: Unanimous by roll call vote to exclude case.
- ii. Case 2: Unanimous by roll call vote to exclude case.
- iii. Case 3: 9 Yay, 1 Nay, 1 Abstain vote by roll call vote: Shelly Harrison (NAAV) abstains, Sara Wray (OAG) voted against case exclusion, all other present members voted for case exclusion.
- iv. No action on case 4.
- v. No action on case 5.

XII. 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.

XIII. Announcements

No new announcements.

XIV. Adjournment*

Angela Beatty (OCADVSA) made a motion to adjourn at 12:00 PM. Shelly Harrison (NAAV) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:00 PM.