

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

MEETING MINUTES

October 22, 2025

Meeting Venue: Loving/Cartwright Conference Room
Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General
313 NE 21st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

MEMBERS

Celia Cobb (OCME) [A]	Crystal Hooper (ODMHSAS)	Sara Coffey (OOA) [A]
Susan Laib (OAG) [P]	[P]	Janice Carr (ONA) [P]
Jackie Kanak (OSDH alt.) [P]	Janelle Bretten (OJA) [P]	Laura Kuester (OCADVSA) [P]
Emily Nicholls (OSDH IPS alt.) [P]	Nicole Flemming [A]	Vacant (OCADVSA)
Amanda Dembowski (OKDHS alt.) [P]	Tomm Edwards (OSA)	Sheila Stinson (Supreme Court) [P]
Jenny Virden (OSBI) [P]	Don Sweger (OACP) [P]	Shelly Harrison (NAAV) [A]
	Laura McConnell (OBA) [A]	Tania Bardin (NAAV) [P]
	Sean Webb (DAC) [P]	
	Martina Jelley (OSMA) [P]	

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

Due to vacancies in both the DVFRB Chair and Vice Chairmanships positions, DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera presided over the start of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, which was held at Office of the Attorney General, 313 NE 21st St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 on October 22, 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 and the agency's website more than 24 hours in advance. Mr. Hernández called the meeting to order at 9:06 am.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted at 9:06 am. Quorum was achieved at roll call with 15 members present. Two additional members, Melissa Van Duyne (OAG) and Francia Thompson (OSBI), were present but were not counted towards quorum due to the primary designees being present. DVFRB staff present included Anthony Hernández Rivera, OAG DVFRB Program Manager (PM) and Nicholas Massey, OAG Research Analyst (RA), and OAG Lead Lethality Assessment Protocol Coordinator Scott Hawkins. Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

III. Discussion and Possible Selection of DVFRB Interim Chair and Vice-Chair Due to Recent Officer Resignations*

Mr. Hernández stated the DVFRB was currently without officers due to the resignation of former Chair Brandon Pasley and Vice-Chair Marissa Belase stepping down from the role earlier in the year. Due to this the membership needed to vote on who would be taking over these roles on an interim basis for the remainder of the review board's current two-year term.

He opened the discussion by asking if there were any motions to nominate someone for the Interim Chair position. Janice Carr (ONA) made a motion where she made herself available to be the Interim DVFRB Chair for the remainder of the Board's two-year term. Chief Don Sweger (OACP) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

Mr. Hernández thanked Janice Carr for her willingness to serve in this new role.

He then asked whether there was a second motion nominating someone for the Interim Vice Chair position. Laura Kuester (OCADVSA) proceeded to make a motion where she made herself available to be the Interim DVFRB Vice Chair for the remainder of the Board's two-year term. Chief Don Sweger (OACP) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain). Mr. Hernández thanked Laura Kuester for her willingness to serve in this new role.

IV. Brief Remarks Regarding Recent Direction of DVFRB Meetings by Oklahoma Attorney General (OAG) Victim Advocacy and Services Unit (VASU) Chief Susan Laib

Chief Susan Laib addressed the Board and made remarks regarding the recent direction of DVFRB meetings. She committed to ensuring improved preparation, communication, and collaboration from the team and thanked the members for the work they do on the Board, which includes reviewing difficult cases, identifying patterns, and improving systems to save lives. Ms. Laib encouraged members to contact her should anyone have any concerns about the direction of meetings.

V. 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.

VI. 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.

VII. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the June 25, 2025, Regular Meeting*

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

VIII. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the August 27, 2025, Regular Meeting*

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

IX. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from the September 24, 2025, Regular Meeting*

No action was taken on this action item due to minutes not having been finalized by the time of the 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 homicide fit into the DVFRB data collection criteria
- c. Review of case #220085
- d. Consideration to exit from executive session and return to regular meeting agenda.

DVFRB Chair Janice Carr (ONA) made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:19 am. Chief Don Sweger (OACP) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

XI. Presentation – Domestic Violence Issues, Barriers, and Policy Gaps/Recommendations from a Judge’s Perspective. Speaker: Oklahoma County District Court Judge Sara Murphy Bondurant.

Judge Sara Bondurant’s presentation was titled, “Reimagining Oklahoma’s Domestic Violence Response – Toward an Intervention and Accountability Mode.” She began by giving an overview of Oklahoma’s current landscape by addressing four main points:

- Oklahoma consistently ranks among the top states for domestic violence homicide. Why is that?
- Civil Victim Protective Orders (VPOs) are often the only victim touchpoint.
- Fragmented coordination between civil and criminal courts.
- Gaps in offender monitoring and victim safety.

Afterwards, she pivoted to giving a basic overview of VPOs, and addressed the following points:

- The quasi-criminal nature of VPOs
- Protection from Domestic Abuse Act 22 OS §60 *et seq.*
- VPOs are tools (not just a piece of paper) Initial filing/hearing is CIVIL
- Criminal nature of EPO and VPO violations
- Must be served – any law enforcement officer can serve
- 66% compliance/34% true predators* (National Library of Medicine PMC 1448307 Apr 2004)
- NCIC/Sheriff’s Office
- Any violation is a criminal violation (except court costs)
 - 1st Misdemeanor
 - 2nd Felony
- VPOs Good in all 50 states/tribes
- Dom Abuse (IP/F); Harassment(IP/F); Stalking*; Rape*; Sex Offense*; Forcible Sodomy*; Assault and Battery with a Deadly Weapon*; Family of Murder Victim*; Any Adult Victim of a Crime*
- (IP/F) – Must have Intimate partner or Family relationship
 - Must have a police report if not IP, Family or Roommate
- After hours/weekend EPOs available for LEOs
- Reason for not qualifying: victim dismissal; does not meet criteria; unable to locate Respondent; contested in Court; weaponized Courtroom

Judge Bondurant then pivoted to speaking about broader systemic issues, including:

- No uniform enforcement standard – “May Arrest” vs. “Shall Arrest”
- Lack of judicial monitoring or follow-up post-VPO
- No acceptable centralized data system for VPOs or DV charges
- Fragmented interagency communication

Afterwards, she gave an overview of accountability gaps in the system's response to DV:

- Inconsistent monitoring of offenders
- Limited or uneven sanctions for non-compliance
- Victim accountability burden
- Lack of system accountability

Judge Bondurant then began highlighting several statutory changes that would address the previous issues:

- Proposed Statutory Change #1 – Mandatory Arrest
 - Amend 22 O.S. §60.16(B)(1)
 - Replace “may arrest” with “shall arrest” for DV offenses involving injury, strangulation, or weapons.
 - Aligns with best-practice jurisdictions
 - Enhances immediate victim protection
- Proposed Statutory Change #2 – GPS Enforcement
 - Expand and fund 22 O.S. §60.17 to require GPS tracking for high-risk offenders
 - Victims may opt-in for real time alerts
 - Annual review for ongoing necessity
 - State indigency fund for GPS cost coverage
- Proposed Statutory Change #3 – Domestic Violence Intervention Court Act
 - High Risk Indicators
 - Prior conviction or charge for domestic abuse, stalking, or harassment
 - Violation of a VPO, including attempts to contact the victim
 - Threats or actions involving serious bodily harm, strangulation, or use of a deadly weapon
 - A pattern of escalating control or violence toward the protected person
 - Access to firearms or prior firearm/weapon use during domestic disputes
 - History of coercive control, monitoring, intimidation behaviors
 - Documented lethality assessment or risk screening identifying high danger potential

Taking the previous indicators into consideration, the Judge Proposed the following:

- Create true Domestic Violence Intervention Court under the Administrative Office of the Courts (AOC)
 - Domestic violence charges, protective orders, and any actions for divorce, separate maintenance, guardianship, adoption or any other proceeding involving custody or visitation between the same parties may be presented to this court
 - Integrate probation, Batterer Intervention Programs (BIPs), GPS monitoring, and accountability programs
 - Provide data-driven evaluation
 - Annual reporting to the District Attorneys Council (DAC) and AOC
- Proposed Statutory Change #4 – Data Repository
 - Establish statewide DV Technical Repository Linking:
 - VPOs
 - DV criminal filings
 - GPS monitoring compliance
 - Managed by the DAC or AOC

- Proposed Statutory Change #5 – Repeal Anti-Red Flag Statute
 - Oklahoma 21 O.S. §1289 – Prohibits Red-Flag/Emergency Risk Protective Order Laws
 - Block localities from removing firearms from high-risk individuals
 - U.S. v. Rahimi (2024) upheld federal authority to disarm domestic abuser under protective orders.
 - Repeal would:
 - Align state policy with federal law
 - Enable ERPOs for imminent risk cases
 - Restore access to federal funding for gun-violence prevention

Judge Bondurant then gave an overview of what she titled her “DV Intervention Wishlist.” This included mentioning the following proposals:

- Explicitly criminalize tech abuse: stalker-ware/air-tagging
- Require evidence-based prosecution (Crawford/Davis)
- CLEET DV Response Review Board

The Judge finalized her presentation by making a call for action:

- Funds GPS monitoring for civil VPOs for high-risk Respondents
- Fund Domestic Violence Intervention Courts
- Repeal 21 O.S. §1289.24 to permit ERPOs
- Amend 22 O.S. §60.16(B)(1) to “shall” arrest
- Create DV Repository
- Wishlist Items

XII. Discussion and Possible Action on Possible Recommendations and Spotlight Article Candidates for the 2025 Edition of the DVFRB Annual Report*

Mr. Hernández reminded members that during the last meeting the Board recommended directed program staff to develop three specific recommendations. He provided an overview of the three drafts, including some background on each one. This discussion encompassed the following recommendations:

Recommendation 1 – Requesting additional funding for the Oklahoma Child and Adolescent Survivor Initiative. He reminded members that in the last report the request for funding to get the program started was the lead recommendation. The request was for \$850,000 and the legislature granted \$600,000 during the 2025 legislative session. Mr. Hernández stated this would be enough to start the program in the Oklahoma City metro area, but that Tulsa and the rest of rural Oklahoma would be left behind. He stated this second request would be to sustain the program in Oklahoma City and help expand it to Tulsa. He also mentioned he was working on a federal grant proposal for the FY 2025 Strategies to Support Children Exposed to Violence solicitation by the Department of Justice – Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP). He stated the additional state appropriation, and hopefully a successful federal grant award, would help program sustainability for a few years.

Recommendation 2 – Continue aligning domestic violence crimes’ punishments to those of stranger-on-stranger crimes. Mr. Hernández explained this recommendation would focus on making Domestic Abuse by Strangulation an 85% crime; making domestic violence crimes convictions eligible for the violent offender registry; and amending 22 O.S. §60.16(B)(1) to say “Shall” arrest instead of “May”. He added the first of these would address the fact that convicted domestic abusers who strangle on average are sentenced to 11 years in Department of Corrections

custody, but because the offense is not an 85% crime, they only serve an average of just 1.63 years. The second would address a gap whereby domestic violence offenders who have been convicted of crimes in 22 O.S. §644 are not eligible to be registered in Oklahoma’s violent offender registry. Finally, the third would address a recommendation made by Judge Sara Bondurant.

Recommendation 3 – Enacting domestic violence propensity evidence legislation. This recommendation would push for the passage of 2024’s SB 1557, which passed with overwhelming support in both chambers of the legislature, but was ultimately vetoed by the Governor. Mr. Hernández explained he would partner with District Attorney’s Council (DAC) Assistant Executive Coordinator Ryan Stephenson to write this recommendation. He mentioned the idea would be for a broad coalition to support this bill, including getting support from the DAC, the Association of Chiefs of Police (OACP), and the Sheriffs’ Association (OSA).

Mr. Hernández then pivoted towards suggesting that a policy issue that was slated to be discussed as a spotlight article in the report be elevated to a recommendation instead. He referred to issues surrounding the ankle monitoring of high-risk domestic violence offenders. He stated the OAG had identified this as an agency priority and it would help the legislative team have the full backing of the DVFRB when they are advocating for the bill in the state capitol. Tomm Edwards made a motion to elevate ankle monitoring advocacy issues to a recommendation instead of a spotlight article. Chief Don Sweger seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

Mr. Hernández then explained a series of spotlight article candidates he would be developing. This included one on firearm related issues, specifically those addressed by federal prosecutors during the meeting to learn about Operation 922, and another on innovative technologies used to bridge the gaps between different data systems as a way of being more proactive in the response to high-risk offenders. He also mentioned the creation of a new section where the DVFRB could outline other legislative priorities without them having to be formal recommendations.

After discussing a set of other recommendations, the Board identified the recommendation addressing mandatory domestic violence and Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) training as part of Oklahoma peace officer’s annual certification requirements as a strong candidate. This was after being informed of the OAG’s interest in making this an agency priority in the upcoming legislative session. Sean Webb (DAC) made a motion to elevate this issue to a formal recommendation. DVFRB Chair Janice Carr seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously (13 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

XIII. 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.

XIV. 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.

XV. Announcements

No new announcements.

XVI. Adjournment*

DVFRB Vice Chair Laura Kuester (OCADVSA) made a motion to adjourn at 12:04 pm. Tomm Edwards (OSA) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 12:04 pm.