

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

MEETING MINUTES

February 25, 2026

Meeting Venue: Office of the Chief Medical Examiner – OKC Office
921 NE 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 (First Floor Conference Room – First door to the left
of the building’s south entrance)

MEMBERS

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

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

Interim Chair Janice Carr (ONA) presided over the start of the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, which was held at Office of the Chief Medical Examiner (OKC Office), 921 NE 23rd St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 on February 25, 2026. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Secretary of State before the December 15, 2025, deadline, and at the front door of the Office of the Attorney General and the agency’s website more than 24 hours in advance. Janice Carr (ONA) called the meeting to order at 9:09 am.

II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum

Roll call was conducted at 9:09 am. Quorum was achieved at roll call with 15 members present. Three additional members, Melissa Van Duyne (OAG), Francia Thompson (OSBI), and Sean Webb (DAC) were present but were not counted towards quorum due to the primary designee 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 (LAP) Coordinator Scott Hawkins, and Coordinator Jaiden Balthrop-Russell. OAG staff present included Assistant Attorney General Scott, Deputy General Counsel Cheryl Dixon, and General Counsel Bradley Clark. Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

III. Opening Comments*

DVFRB Program Manager (PM) Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the meeting with several remarks. He announced the 2026 DVFRB Annual Report was published by the February 1, 2026, statutory deadline. He thanked members for attending meetings throughout 2025, and for lending their time and expertise in the service of advancing the DVFRB’s mission of reducing domestic violence fatalities in Oklahoma.

Mr. Hernández then reminded members who are appointed by the Attorney General that their two-year term will expire at the end of June. As a result, he would be initiating the nomination and appointment process for the July 2026 – June 2028 DVFRB term. He requested members notify

him whether they would be open to continue serving on the Review Board so he could let the organizations they represent know whether they have a continuing interest in being part of the Board's membership.

Finally, he also reminded members to set aside time for the April 22 DVFRB community review meeting. For the benefit of new members, Mr. Hernández explained that the community review entails organizing a Review Board meeting at a local community where a homicide happened. He explained the goal is to embed the Board's membership in the community to facilitate meetings with community-based organizations, government entities, and other individuals who may have had first-hand experience with the individuals associated with the homicide.

IV. (Action) Discussion and Possible Action on Establishment of DVFRB-Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET) Subcommittee - [70 O.S. § 3311.5\(G\)](#).*

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera reminded members about the December 3, 2025, DVFRB meeting with representatives from CLEET and the Board's intent to further collaborate through a subcommittee for the purposes of 70 O.S. § 3311.5(G). He reminded members that a vote was taken in the December meeting, but since there was no agenda item creating a subcommittee specifically, the action was not valid, and the creation of the subcommittee had to be addressed by the Board during this meeting's agenda item. Mr. Hernández asked members who would be interested in serving on the subcommittee. He stated Lead Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Coordinator Scott Hawkins would be the lead OAG staffer for the subcommittee. Mr. Hernández added that DVFRB Vice Chair Laura Kuester had expressed interest in being part of the subcommittee. Tom Edwards (OSA), Angela Beatty (OCADVSA), and Melissa Van Duyne (OAG) expressed interest in being part of the subcommittee.

Tom Edwards (OSA) made a motion to create a DVFRB subcommittee for the purposes of 70 O.S. § 3311.5(G). Shelly Harrison (NAAV) seconded the motion. The motion passed unanimously by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

V. (Action) Discussion and Possible Action regarding Minutes of the following 2025 meetings: March 26, April 30, June 25, August 27, September 24, October 22, and December 3.

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera reminded members that a consensus was reached as to the previous meeting minutes during the December 3, 2025, DVFRB meeting, but no roll call was taken. As a result, edits and a roll call vote would be taken during this meeting.

The March 26, 2025, meeting minutes were discussed. Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) provided grammatical corrections. Laura Thomas (DAC) made a motion to approve the minutes as amended. Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (13 Aye, 0 Nay, 2 Abstain).

The April 30, 2025, meeting minutes were discussed. Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) provided corrections. Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) made a motion to approve the minutes as amended.

Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (10 Aye, 0 Nay, 5 Abstain).

The June 25, 2025, meeting minutes were discussed. Shelly Harrison (NAAV) made a motion to approve the minutes. Nicole Flemming (DOC) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (12 Aye, 0 Nay, 3 Abstain).

The August 27, 2025, meeting minutes were discussed. Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) made a motion to approve the minutes. Tomm Edwards (OSA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (12 Aye, 0 Nay, 3 Abstain).

The October 22, 2025, meeting minutes were discussed. Celia Cobb (OCME) made a motion to approve the minutes. Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (10 Aye, 0 Nay, 5 Abstain).

The December 3, 2025, meeting minutes were discussed. Tomm Edwards (OSA) made a motion to approve the minutes. Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (11 Aye, 0 Nay, 4 Abstain).

VI. (Action) Discussion and Possible Action to convene in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(C) and 22 O.S. § 1601(C) related to the review and discussion of one (1) or more individual cases of domestic violence deaths.

- a. Vote to convene in Executive Session pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307(C) and 22 O.S. § 1601(C).**
- b. Review Case No. 230063.**
- c. Vote to Exit Executive Session.**
- d. Discussion and Possible Action regarding item(s) discussed in Executive Session.**

Celia Cobb (OCME) made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:54 am. Shelly Harrison (NAAV) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

The Board voted to exit executive session at 11:03 am. Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) made a motion, and Emily Nicholls seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

VII. Presentation on the 2025 DVFRB Annual Report (Published January 2026) and Legislative Update on Board recommendations. Speaker: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera.

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the presentation by stating the 2025 DVFRB Annual Report had a cautious, optimism overtone after several years of record-breaking domestic violence homicides. He provided an overview of the DVFRB's legislative accomplishments during 2022-2025 and how that momentum led to having four bills being under consideration in the 2026 legislative session. He outlined and briefly explained the proposals under consideration:

- Budget – Recommendation 1 – Continued State appropriation of \$600,000 to the Oklahoma Attorney General state agency budget to fund specialized trauma-focused mental health services for child witnesses of intimate partner violence-related homicide or attempted murder.
- HB 3763 (Rep. Tim Turner and Senator Warren Hamilton) – Recommendation 2 – Requiring annual domestic violence training for Oklahoma law enforcement officers.
- HB 4342 (Speaker Pro Tempore Anthony Moore and Senator Todd Gollihare) – Recommendation 3 – Enacting domestic violence propensity evidence legislation.
- SB 1325 (Senator Bill Coleman and Rep. Toni Hasenbeck) – Recommendation 4 – Strengthening areas of Oklahoma law regarding the use of GPS monitoring of domestic violence offenders in bail and VPO proceedings.
- HB 3264 (Rep. John George and Senator Kristen Thompson) – Making all domestic violence offenses 85% crimes. At a minimum, prioritize Domestic Abuse by Strangulation

Mr. Hernández then gave a brief overview of the most noteworthy statistical takeaways found for the year 2024. This included highlighting decreases in the following statistical categories:

- Homicide events and victims
- Counties and DA Districts with at least one homicide
- Relationships categories
- Murder-suicide events and victims
- Child homicide victims
- Intimate partner homicide victims

Mr. Hernández cautioned the membership about these trends, pointing out that although the number of homicides went down, domestic violence crime statistics reported to the Oklahoma State Bureau of Investigation (OSBI) increased across all categories. This included increases in the number of incidents, victims, suspects, and arrestees reported through the OSBI's State Incident-Based Reporting System (SIBRS). Mr. Hernández stated the following:

- Domestic violence (All relationships) = From 2021-2024, the total number of unique victims has increased by 17.7%, the total number of unique incidents increased by 16.6%, the total number of suspects increased by 15.7%, and the total number of arrestees increased by 18.4%. The total number of offenders (sum of suspects and arrestees) has increased by 16.4%.
- Intimate partner violence = From 2022-2024, the total number of unique victims has increased by 8.1%, the total number of unique incidents increased by 8.4%, the total

number of suspects increased by 7.6%, and the total number of arrestees increased by %. The total number of offenders (sum of suspects and arrestees) has increased by 9.3%.

Finally, the DVFRB PM discussed the continued increase in protective order filings. He stated DVFRB research found a total of 21,509 victim protective orders (VPOs) were filed in 2024. It is the highest number recorded between 2016 and 2024. It marks four consecutive years where the total increased after a significant decrease in 2020. The 2024 total is 2.1% higher than the one found in 2023. He closed by saying that between 2021 and 2024 the number of filings increased by 12.1%.

VIII. 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\(A\)\(10\)](#).

Celia Cobb (OCME) announced the Woodforest Charitable Foundation, based out of Houston, TX, is interested in collaborating with the DVFRB to fund the initiative geared towards serving children exposed to intimate partner violence-related homicide and attempted murder. She stated they are open to meeting with the DVFRB and exploring areas for collaboration and funding opportunities. DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández stated he would take the lead in facilitating this relationship and in determining how to best move forward.

IX. Adjournment*

Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS) made a motion to adjourn at 11:53 am. Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 11:53 am.