

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

**MEETING MINUTES**

**March 25, 2026**

**Meeting Venue:** Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General  
313 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105

**MEMBERS**

|                                    |                              |                                    |
|------------------------------------|------------------------------|------------------------------------|
| Celia Cobb (OCME) [A]              | Crystal Hooper (ODMHSAS) [P] | Sara Coffey (OOA) [P]              |
| Melissa Van Duyne [P]              | Vacant (OJA) [P]             | Janice Carr (ONA) [P]              |
| Michelle Barr (OSDH alt.) [P]      | Nicole Flemming (DOC) [P]    | Laura Kuester (OCADVSA) [P]        |
| Emily Nicholls (OSDH IPS alt.) [P] | Tomm Edwards (OSA) [P]       | Vacant (OCADVSA)                   |
| Amanda Dembowski (OKDHS alt.) [P]  | Don Sweger (OACP) [A]        | Sheila Stinson (Supreme Court) [P] |
| Jenny Virden (OSBI) [P]            | Laura McConnell (OBA) [A]    | Shelly Harrison (NAAV) [A]         |
|                                    | Laura Thomas (DAC) [P]       | Tania Bardin (NAAV) [P]            |
|                                    | Martina Jelley (OSMA) [P]    |                                    |

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

Interim DVFRB 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 the Office of the Oklahoma Attorney General, 313 NE 21<sup>st</sup> St, Oklahoma City, OK 73105 on March 25, 2026. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Secretary of State before the December 15, 2025, deadline, and on 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 9:08 am.

**II. Roll Call and Establishment of Quorum**

Roll call was conducted at 9:09 am. Quorum was achieved at roll call with 14 members present. An additional member, Emily Nicholls (OSDH-IPS), arrived after roll call was called, bringing the total number of members present to 15. Four additional members, including Ashley Ferguson (OSDH), Francia Thompson (OSBI), and Sean Webb (DAC), and Angela Beatty (OCADVSA) were present but were not counted towards quorum due to the primary designee being present. OAG DVFRB staff present included OAG DVFRB Program Manager (PM) Anthony Hernández Rivera, OAG Research Analyst (RA) Nicholas Massey, and OAG Lead Lethality Assessment Protocol (LAP) Coordinator Scott Hawkins, and Coordinator Jaiden Balthrop-Russell. OAG staff present included Senior Assistant Attorney General (AAG) Greg Winningham, AAG Scott May, and Deputy General Counsel Cheryl Dixon. Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

**III. Opening Comments\***

DVFRB Program Manager (PM) Anthony Hernández Rivera opened the meeting with several remarks. Mr. Hernández 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 stated he would be contacting their respective organizations the following week to notify them of their term's upcoming expiration. Mr. Hernández added he would be including them in the email sent to their organization's leadership so they can do appropriate follow-ups if necessary. Additionally, he also notified designated members, those that serve on behalf of state agency heads, that he would be

working with them to give their agency leadership an opportunity to update their designations if they wished to do so.

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 entailed 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 regarding February 25, 2026, regular meeting minutes. \***

Judge Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) made a motion to approve the minutes. Tomm Edwards (OSA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (10 Aye, 0 Nay, 5 Abstain)

**V. Update on Board recommendation during 2026 legislative session. Speakers: DVFRB Program Manager Anthony Hernández Rivera and OAG Deputy Director of Government Affairs Macey Whitehouse-Rice**

DVFRB PM Anthony Hernández stated he would be updating the board on the status of DVFRB-related bills during the 2026 legislative session. He informed members that Ms. Whitehouse-Rice was unable to attend due to government affairs commitments at the state capitol. Mr. Hernández provided the following updates and background information:

- [SB 1325](#) – Domestic Violence Offender GPS Monitoring (Status: Passed the Senate)
  - Bill Authors: Sen. Bill Coleman and Rep. Toni Hasenbeck
  - Background: Requires a defendant charged with domestic abuse by strangulation, with a dangerous/deadly weapon, or after a prior domestic abuse adjudication to not be released on bail unless they wear a GPS monitoring device until the end of their case. It requires the defendant to pay for the cost of the device.
- [HB 4342](#) – Domestic Violence Propensity Evidence (Status: Passed by the House of Representatives)
  - Bill Authors: Speaker Pro Tempore Anthony Moore and Sen. Todd Gollihare
  - Background: Allows prior instances of domestic violence abuse to be used as admissible evidence in court proceedings.
- [HB 3264](#) – Domestic Abuse by Strangulation as an 85% (Passed by the House of Representatives)
  - Bill Authors: Rep. John George and Sen. Kristen Thompson
  - Background: Makes domestic abuse by strangulation an 85% crime which requires those convicted to serve 85% of their sentence before they are eligible for release.

Mr. Hernández also gave an update on an additional domestic violence bill Ms. Whitehouse-Rice worked on alongside the District Attorneys Council's (DAC) Domestic Violence Resource Prosecutor Assistant District Attorney Jacobi Whatley:

- [SB 1264](#) – Expands the definition of “Great Bodily Injury” (Scheduled to be heard on the Senate floor)
  - Bill Authors: Sen. Christi Gillespie and Rep. Nicole Miller
  - Background: Expands the definition of “Great Bodily Injury” to include concussions, prolonged pain, and injuries affecting more than 10% of the victim’s body, and covers cases committed in the presence of a minor.

**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. 240074**
- c. **Continued review and discussion of case No. 230063**
- d. **Vote to exit executive session.**
- e. **Discussion and possible action regarding item(s) discussed in executive session.**

Judge Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) made a motion to adjourn to executive session at 9:25 am. Laura Kuester (OCADVSA) seconded the motion. The motion passed by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

The Board voted to exit executive session at 10:45 am. Sheila Stinson (Judiciary) made a motion, and Sara Coffey (OOA) seconded. The motion passed by roll call vote (15 Aye, 0 Nay, 0 Abstain).

**VII. 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).**

DA Laura Thomas announced this would be the last meeting she attended due to her upcoming retirement. She stated she was proud to have served on the DVFRB and emphasized the importance of the Board’s work.

**VIII. Adjournment\***

DVFRB Vice Chair Laura Kuester (OCADVSA) made a motion to adjourn at 10:48 am. Sara Coffey (OOA) seconded the motion. The meeting adjourned at 10:48 am.