

LOUISIANA STATE DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITY REVIEW (DAFR) PANEL MEETING MINUTES

Date: Wednesday, July 19, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Location: Louisiana State Police Headquarters, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806

In-person Attendees: Dawn Joseph (DAFR Coordinator), Deon Sumer (DAFR Abstractor) Doug Champlin, Ellen Conner, Kristen Sanderson, Melanie Fields, Ramona Harris, Bonnie McKneely, Pam Guedry, Cherrise Picard, Anna Watt, Joycelyn Johnson, Joseph Kanter, Mariah Wineski Belinda Murphy, Mimi Mickel, Renee Antoine, Leslie Lyons, Francis Robinson, Jr.,

Zoom Attendees: None

The meeting was called to order at 9:05 a.m.

The meeting was facilitated by the Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Chairperson, Captain Belinda Murphy, who then proceeded with Roll Call. It was determined a quorum (16 of 20 panel members) was present. The DAFR Coordinator, Panel members, and Agents introduced themselves and welcomed Dr. Joseph Kanter, State Health Officer, La Dept. Health and Leslie Lyons, Regional Administrator, Dept. of Children and Family Services to their first in-person DAFR meeting. We also introduced and welcomed the most recently added member of our team, Deon Sumer, DAFR Abstractor, La Coalition Against Domestic Violence.

Time was allotted for public comment. No comment was made during this time.

Meeting attendees silently read a copy of the meeting minutes from the DAFR meeting held on 4/19/23. A motion was made by Doug Champlin to approve the minutes as distributed. The motion was seconded by Belinda Murphy and approved by the majority.

Business:

Capt. Belinda Murphy reviewed the Panel's Guiding Principles and Functions.

With no members of the public present, panel members and agents took a brief break and prepared for case review.

The Chairperson asked meeting attendees to take a moment of silence in honor of the victims and survivors of domestic violence in Louisiana. After a brief moment of silence, the Panel and Agents reviewed a total of seven cases (one homicide-suicide and six homicide cases) from 2021. They determined:

- Contributing risk factors that were preventable
- Recommendations to prevent deaths from similar causes or circumstances in the future
- Additional information about the fatality that would have been helpful to know

Following case review, the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph, spoke to everyone about the addition of Agents to the Panel to address diversity, equity, and underserved populations. Those with a strong interest and knowledge of these specific barriers are needed to improve and generate positive health outcomes for all Louisianians, but especially for victims of domestic abuse. The DAFR Coordinator briefly discussed the following:

- Diversity- the range of similarities and differences each person brings to society, including but not limited to national origin, language, race, color, disability, ethnicity, gender, age, religion, sexual orientation, gender identity, socioeconomic status, veteran status, and family structures.¹

¹ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) Health Equity Glossary. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity/health-equity-communications/nccdphp-health-equity-glossary.html#:~:text=Diversity%3A%20Any,family%20structures>

- Underserved Populations- Groups that have limited or no access to resources or that are otherwise disenfranchised. These groups may include people who are socioeconomically disadvantaged; people with limited English proficiency; geographically isolated or educationally disenfranchised people; people of color; women and children; individuals with disabilities and seniors.²
- Equity- achieved when it is recognized that each person or group of people has different circumstances and resources are allocated accordingly to reach an equal outcome.³
- Representative Considerations for Inclusion: African Americans, Hispanics, Asian and Pacific Islanders, Native Americans, Immigrants, LGBTQIA2S+, Veterans Organizations, Faith-Based Organizations, Deaf and Hard of Hearing, Rural Communities, Seniors, etc.

Panel members agreed to share contact information for persons they believed would add to the case review by addressing these gaps and barriers. They also discussed the need to add an Agent to the Panel from Department of Corrections to assist with providing additional insight.

The DAFR Coordinator asked everyone if they had any final comments or thoughts, with none, she thanked the panel, agents, and abstractor for their time, expertise, and dedication. She also gave a special thanks to Captain Murphy for allowing LDH to use their equipment, supplies, and facility to host meetings. Dawn then reminded everyone that the fourth and final meeting of the year would be held in conjunction with the La Department of Health Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) Team to review maternal mortality cases due to domestic violence. They were also reminded of the meeting date, time and location, Wednesday, October 18, 2023, 9a-3p, La State Police Headquarters.

Captain Murphy thanked everyone again for their time and participation and adjourned the meeting at 2:45 p.m.

² FEMA Glossary. Retrieved from:

<https://www.fema.gov/about/glossary/u#:~:text=Groups%20that%20have,needs%3B%20and%20seniors.>

³ National Center for Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion (NCCDPHP) Health Equity Glossary. Retrieved from: <https://www.cdc.gov/chronicdisease/healthequity/health-equity-communications/nccdphp-health-equity-glossary.html#:~:text=Equity%20is%20achieved%20when%20it%20is%20recognized%20that%20each%20person%20or%20group%20of%20people%20has%20different%20circumstances%2C%20and%20resources%20are%20allocated%20accordingly%20to%20reach%20an%20equal%20outcome.>