

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

Date: Wednesday, May 15, 2024

Time: 9:00 a.m. – 3:30 p.m.

Location: Louisiana State Police Headquarters, 7919 Independence Blvd., Baton Rouge, LA 70806, Conference Room 3000

**In-person Attendees:** Dawn Joseph (DAFR Coordinator), Belinda Murphy, Jill Sessions, Sara Halphen, Melanie Fields, Jordan Pedalino, Ashley Williams, Bonnie McKneely, Jane Killen, Maeve Wallace, Pam Guidry, Robert Hanser, Ellen Conner, Kristen Sanderson, Francis Robinson, Ramona Harris, Jennifer Hunt, Doug Champlin, Mariah Wineski, Mimi Mickel, Anna Watt

**Zoom Attendees:** Cory Rodivich, Vandana Chaturvedi, Robyn Landry

**Absent:** Leslie Lyons, Joycelyn Johnson, Cherrise Picard

**The meeting was called to order at 9:07 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 (13 of 20 panel members) was present. The DAFR Coordinator, Panel members, Agents, and prospective Agents to the Panel introduced themselves. Everyone welcomed first time attendees, Cory Rodivich, Chief Investigator for the Jefferson Parish Coroner's Office and Jennifer Hunt, Domestic Violence Programs Specialist for the New Orleans Health Department.

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 02/21/24. A motion was made by Belinda Murphy to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Doug Champlin and approved by the majority.

### **Business:**

The Panel voted to add one new Authorized Agent to the DAFR Panel:

- Jennifer Hunt is the Domestic Violence Programs Specialist for the New Orleans Health Department and Coordinator of the New Orleans Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Team (NODAFR). Jennifer earned her B.A. from Loyola University New Orleans in Women's Studies and History and her M.A. from University of Texas at Austin where her research focused on trauma and interpersonal violence. Following graduate school, Jennifer built a career in crisis intervention, survivor support advocacy, and violence prevention education working for community agencies that serve torture and sexual and domestic violence survivors, refugee and asylum seekers, and community members experiencing resource insecurity. She is a Credentialed Advocate- Intermediate Level with the National Organization for Victim Advocacy.

After her biography was shared, Capt. Belinda Murphy made a motion to add Jennifer Hunt as an Authorized Agent to the DAFR Panel. The motion was seconded by Kristen Sanderson and approved by the majority. The newly appointed Authorized Agent then signed Authorized Agent and Confidentiality Agreements.

Following a congratulatory round of applause, welcoming Jennifer to the Panel, Capt. Murphy reviewed the Panel's Guiding Principles, Functions, and Confidentiality Requirements. With no members of the public present, panel members, agents, and the PAMR Team took a brief break and prepared for case review. Captain Murphy 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 six homicide-suicides and one homicide due to domestic violence. They also 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, shared information about the upcoming NODAFR Domestic Abuse Fatality Review Training with the National Domestic Violence Fatality Review Initiative on June 12-13, 2024 at Loyola University. After Jordan and Jennifer of the NODAFR shared additional information, Dawn let everyone know that she would forward the calendar invitation for those interested in attending. She then announced that the DAFR Team is still working to fill the DAFR Abstractor position and asked for the Panel's help. The position is with our partner, the Louisiana Coalition Against Domestic Violence and based in Baton Rouge. Dawn told everyone that she would email them a copy of the job description for circulation within their networks. Lastly, Dr. Maeve Wallace shared her exciting news, as recipient of the National Collaborative on Gun Violence Research Grant — "Evaluating the Impact of Emergency Risk Protection Order and Domestic Violence Restraining Order Firearm Relinquishment Laws on Pregnancy-Associated Homicide". After explaining a little about the project, she invited the Panel to participate in key informant interviews to share their expertise, opinions, and insights on state firearm policies as potential strategies to reduce intimate partner homicide. Dawn then asked if anyone had any final comments or thoughts. With none, she thanked the panel and agents for their time, expertise, and dedication.

**The meeting was adjourned at 3:32 p.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph.**