



**State of Louisiana**  
Louisiana Department of Health  
Office of Public Health

**LOUISIANA DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITY REVIEW (DAFR) PANEL MEETING AGENDA**

**Wednesday, May 14, 2025 - 9:00 A.M – 3:00 P.M.**

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

**Zoom Link for Public Viewing:**

<https://uno.zoom.us/j/84721514259?pwd=SatTpvwualti64spS3qjM3xkzFuvha.1>

Meeting ID: 847 2151 4259 | Passcode: 315756

**AGENDA**

- I. Call to Order & Roll Call
- II. Introductions
- III. Public Comment
- IV. Approval of February 19, 2025 Meeting Minutes
- V. Business
  - A. Item up for Vote: DAFR Chairperson
  - B. The Pregnancy-Associated Mortality Review (PAMR) – Review of two pregnancy-associated mortalities due to domestic abuse
  - C. Mandate Review
  - Break
  - D. Case Review Part I
  - E. Group Discussion
  - F. Lunch Break
  - G. Case Review Part II
  - H. Group Discussion
- VI. Closing Remarks/Adjourn

**Convening entity:** Louisiana Department of Health ◦ Office of Public Health ◦ Bureau of Family Health

**Chair:** Vacant

**Facilitator:** Dawn Joseph, DAFR Coordinator, [dawn.joseph@la.gov](mailto:dawn.joseph@la.gov)

Members and guests may submit requests for accessibility and accommodations prior to a scheduled meeting. Please submit a request to [dawn.joseph@la.gov](mailto:dawn.joseph@la.gov) at least 48 hours prior to the meeting with details of the required accommodations.

In lieu of verbal public comment, individuals may submit a prepared statement in accordance with Senate Rule 13.79. Statements should be emailed to [dawn.joseph@la.gov](mailto:dawn.joseph@la.gov) and must be received at least 24 hours prior to the meeting to be included in the record for the meeting.

**Per LA RS 40:2024.4:**

A. The functions of the review panel shall include:

- (1) Identify and characterize the scope and nature of domestic abuse fatalities in this state and, if the decedent victim is female, report all of the following:
  - (a) Whether the decedent was pregnant at the time of death.
  - (b) Is there medical evidence that indicates that the decedent had been recently pregnant but was no longer pregnant at the time of death.
  - (c) Whether the decedent was single, married, or divorced to the extent such information can be determined.
- (2) Research and review trends, data, or patterns that are observed of domestic abuse fatalities.
- (3) Review past events and circumstances of domestic abuse fatalities by reviewing records and other pertinent documents of public and private agencies that are responsible for investigating deaths or treating victims.
- (4) Research and revise, as necessary, operating rules and procedures for review of domestic abuse fatalities including but not limited to identification of cases to be reviewed, coordination among agencies and professionals involved, and improvement of the identification, data collection, and record-keeping of the causes of domestic violence fatalities.
- (5) Recommend systemic improvements to promote improved and integrated public and private systems serving victims of domestic abuse.
- (6) Recommend components for prevention and education programs.
- (7) Recommend training to improve the identification and investigation of domestic violence fatalities that occur in Louisiana.

B. The review panel may do all of the following:

- (1) Establish local and regional panels to which the review panel may delegate some or all of its responsibilities under this Part.
- (2) Analyze data available through any state systems that may decrease the incidence of domestic abuse fatalities in this state.
- (3) Create formal partnerships with existing local and regional fatality review panels to accomplish its responsibilities under this Section.

Acts 2021, No. 320, §2, See Act.



**State of Louisiana**  
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**MEETING MINTUES: LOUISIANA DOMESTIC ABUSE FATALITY REVIEW (DAFR) PANEL  
REGULAR MEETING**

**Wednesday, February 19, 2025  
9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m.**

**Location:**

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

**The meeting was called to order at 9:17 a.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph, following a fire drill.**

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 (12 of 20 panel members) was present.

**In-person Attendees:** Dawn Joseph (DAFR Coordinator), Sarah Anders (DAFR Abstractor), Belinda Murphy (Chair), Cassandra Billiot, Melanie Fields, Anna Watt, Kristen Sanderson, Doug Champlin, Mimi Mickel, Mariah Wineski, Jennifer Hunt, Scott LeBleu, Francis Robinson, Ramona Harris, Ashley Williams, Bonnie McKneely, Pam Guedry, Ellen Connor, Christina Lafleur.

**Zoom Attendees:** Robert Hanser, Anjell DeGruy, LeJeune Johnson, Jasmine Thomas.

**Absent:** Cherrise Picard, Joycelyn Johnson, Maeve Wallace, Jane Killen, Leslie Lyons, Laurie Marien, Jill Sessions, Sara Halphen, Vandana Chaturvedi

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 10/30/24. A motion was made by Belinda Murphy to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Francis Robinson and approved by the majority.

**Business:**

**The Pregnancy Associated Mortality Review (PAMR):** The PAMR Coordinator, Anjell DeGruy, briefly explained the purpose of the Louisiana Department of Health's PAMR and explained that the Panel would be reviewing two Pregnancy Associated homicides due to domestic violence. Afterward, LeJeune Johnson, LCSW and PAMR Informant Interviewer shared her experience interviewing loved ones of the victims and the importance of incorporating these interviews into the case review process.

**Additions of Authorized Agents to the Panel:** The DAFR Coordinator proposed the addition of two new Authorized Agents to the Panel. Scott LeBleu, Choices Program Director with the Acadiana Family Tree and Christina Lafleur, Probation and Parole Supervisor-Baton Rouge District with the Louisiana Department of Corrections & Public Safety.

- Scott LeBleu is a Licensed Professional Counselor and the Choices Program Director with The Acadiana Family Tree. He has a B.S. in Psychology in 2004 and a M.S. in Counselor Education with a concentration in Community Counseling in 2007. He has experience working with at-risk youth in the Lafayette Parish School System grades Pre-K - 12th, working with adolescents, adults, and couples in a private practice setting, providing community-based mental health services, and working with adults dealing with issues involving acute and chronic mental illness and substance use in an inpatient setting. Scott's work with The Family Tree has involved providing counseling, facilitating a support group for survivors of suicide loss, providing psychoeducation classes for anger management and domestic violence prevention, and overseeing program delivery.
- Christina Lafleur is a Probation & Parole Supervisor for the LA Division of Probation & Parole at the Baton Rouge District Office. She has 22 years of experience assisting offenders with rehabilitation and identifying those who are a threat to public safety. During her time as an officer, she has supervised various specialized caseloads including, drug court, violent offenders, and mental health offenders. In the past 10 years she has led the training unit, sex offender unit, acted as the warrant coordinator and case assignment coordinator. However, her most significant contribution has been creating and running the only dedicated Domestic Violence Unit of Probation & Parole Agents in the state. Christina's unit works closely with the Capital Area Stop the Loss Task Force. Christina and her team of six agents work to address complaints and reports of domestic violence. Christina is also a Facilitator for the Victim Offender Dialogue Program through the Louisiana Victim Outreach Bureau.

Kristen Sanderson made a motion to accept the addition of Scott LeBleu and Christina Lafleur as Authorized Agents to the state DAFR Panel. Melanie Fields seconded the motion and it was approved by the majority.

Capt. Murphy then reviewed the Panel's guiding principles, functions, and confidentiality requirements. With no members of the public present, Panel members, and Agents 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. Immediately following, the Panel and Agents reviewed a total of five homicide-suicides and one pregnancy-associated death due to domestic violence. They also determined:

- Systems' gaps- Healthcare, Criminal, Civil, Laws/Legislation,
- Contributing risk factors that were preventable,
- Recommendations to prevent deaths from similar causes or circumstances in the future, and
- Additional information about the fatality that would have been helpful to know.

Following case review, the DAFR Coordinator provided the Panel with an update on the 2024 DAFR Annual Report:

- In 2024 the DAFR Panel reviewed a total of 26 homicides due to domestic abuse that occurred in 2022:

- Four Pregnancy-Associated Deaths
- Eight Homicide-Suicides
- 14 Homicides
- Cases reviewed were from eight of the nine LDH Administrative Regions and 15 of the state's 64 parishes
- In order to guide plan implementation for the four selected recommendations listed below, the DAFR Coordinator suggested forming committees:
  - Healthcare providers should develop relationships with local domestic violence service providers to facilitate warm-hand offs for patients in need of support services. Providers should contact the La Coalition Against Domestic Violence (LCADV) at (225) 752-1296 for assistance with establishing a formal bi-directional referral system between healthcare and domestic violence service providers. DAFR members Mariah Wineski (LCADV) and Kristen Sanderson (BFH) volunteered to assist with this recommendation.
  - Healthcare providers should enhance support for women experiencing IPV by increasing the awareness of and enrollment in Louisiana's Maternal, Infant, and Early Childhood Home Visiting (MIECHV) services where trained nurses or professional parent educators can build trusting relationships with mothers. These relationships create safe spaces for women to disclose IPV and receive referrals to critical support services. DAFR members Mariah Wineski (LCADV) and Kristen Sanderson volunteered to assist with this recommendation.
  - Law enforcement should schedule first-aid training for all police officers and ensure police units are supplied with tourniquets to provide life-saving treatment for victims of abuse and other injured parties when they are first to arrive to the scene. DAFR members Doug Champlin (Bureau of EMS), Belinda Murphy (La State Police), and Bonnie McKneely (Office of the AG) volunteered to assist with this recommendation.
  - The court system should implement a comprehensive approach to provide resources for families suffering from domestic abuse. This can include referring victims of abuse to supportive social and legal services, providing safe spaces for child visitation and custody exchange, while also mandating perpetrators of abuse to batterer intervention programs and substance abuse or parenting programs. DAFR members Pam Guedry (Lafourche P.A.C.T. Place Supervised Visitation), Mariah Wineski (LCADV), Jennifer Hunt (New Orleans Health Dept., NOHD), Scott LeBleu (Choices Program, Family Tree) and Robert Hanser (University of Louisiana at Monroe, ULM) volunteered to assist with this recommendation.

The DAFR Coordinator will also reach out to other DAFR members to assist with recommendation implementation and contact the Panel and Agents as needed for additional assistance. With no further comments or concerns, the coordinator thanked everyone for their time and expertise. **The meeting was adjourned at 2:30 p.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph.**

#### Next Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday, May 14, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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