



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

**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) and Belinda Murphy (La State Police) 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 21, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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