

Legal Process Committee of the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council
Meeting Minutes
Thursday, April 8, 2021
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference

Present: Melissa Gibbs, Co-Chair (CORA), Jeniffer Alcantara (Superior Court), Laura Alvarez (ADZ Law), Lisa Bergman (Superior Court/Family Court Services), Tanya Both (Superior Court/ADR), Joe Cang (Sheriff's Office), Charles Cavallino (CORA), Jessica Dayton (ADZ Law), Tulin Acikalin (ADZ Law), Paula Vielman-Reeves (ADZ Law), Lauren De La Rosa Koury (BayLegal), Yesenia Garnica (Probation), Jenny Horne (Legal Aid Society of SMC), Tseada Berhanu (Legal Aid Society of SMC), Elisa Kuhl (Victim Services), Jordan Maxwell (Superior Court/Ops.), Nicole Reyes (BayLegal), Karla Pena (Rally), Martin Fox

ISSUES	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Adopt/Approve Agenda	Charles Cavallino moved to adopt and approve the agenda. Jessica Dayton seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.	Approved
Introductions and Updates	<p><u>CORA:</u> CORA has hired a new Executive Director, Karen Ferguson. She is a licensed clinical social worker with over 20 years of experience in non-profit services work. She has worked primarily in gender-based movements with refugees and asylees for the past five years.</p> <p><u>BALA:</u> BALA is still working remotely, those seeking help should be referred to their legal advice line. Virtual clinics will be held on the third Thursday of each month for those who do not qualify for BALA services.</p> <p><u>District Attorney/Victim Services:</u> Morris Maya is the new DV chief, taking over Al Serrato's position.</p> <p><u>Rally:</u> Karla Pena is the new supervisor at Rally San Mateo. Rally is open for in person services on Tuesdays, Fridays, and Saturdays. They are working on reopening on Sundays. Visitation orders ideally will not specify days/times to allow flexibility given limited availability.</p> <p><u>Court:</u> Cut off for same day DVPA TRO review is now 12 noon. DVTROs with direct departments are routed to assigned direct department for review and hearing as per local rules. Judge Dabel is currently out on paternity leave, Commissioner Zorfas will be covering some of his calendars. DV cases will have priority for long cause hearing dates. Work is ongoing regarding possibility of DVPA trials via Zoom.</p> <p><u>FCS:</u> Two staff members recently resigned/retired. There are current 4 CCRCs and Lisa Bergman for conducting FCS sessions. Ongoing challenges with maintaining support staff, one or two people covering multiple departments. Holding FCS sessions remotely has been working well both in county and statewide.</p>	
Review/Adopt Minutes from 1/14/21 meeting	Jessica Dayton moved to approve the minutes. Charles Cavallino seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.	Approved

Carry Over Items	<p>a) DV Trainings for Judges: There are two topics in particular for trainings that there is a desire for judicial officers to have more training on: technology safety and strangulation. Adam Dodge has been recommended for tech safety training and has conducted judicial officer trainings in the past. Strangulation training suggestions are Kathryn Anderson and Chief Ryan Monahan. Alameda County has an annual DV conference as well. Trainings are being offered that judicial officers already have access to for DV, dynamics, lethality, etc. Discussed the policies and requirements of judicial officers to attend these trainings in San Mateo County. Also discussed a San Mateo County training for judicial officers and the community as there is funding present for such an opportunity. Discussed involving the bench in curriculum planning and approaching Judge Hill as she is the supervising family law judge.</p> <p>b) Civil Standby Protocol: Melissa needs to circle back with CORA's Emergency Response Manager. Discussed on how to approach having law enforcement adopt the Lexipol policy as a baseline with some modifications regarding notification to the protected party when en-route to civil standbys. Discussed having orders specify which property is to be retrieved to address potential issues at the civil standbys. There needs to be further discussion with law enforcement about the challenges surrounding civil standbys. Discussed the language to be included in TROs regarding civil standbys, this will be discussed at the next Pro Bono Collaborative meeting for further implementation. Will remain a carry-over item.</p>	<p>Lisa will follow up on available funding and how to apply & qualify for it.</p> <p>Melissa will reach out to Alameda County for more details on their training.</p> <p>Melissa to circle back with CORA emergency response manager.</p> <p>Will discussed at next PBC meeting for implementing the language</p>
New Business	<p>a) Co-Chair Election: Charles Cavallino and Elisa Kuhl are the nominations for co-chair, no other nominations were submitted. Both are voted in as co-chair, Melissa will work with them regarding transition.</p>	<p>Melissa, Charles, and Elisa to discuss transition</p>
Work Plan Reports	<p>a) Civil-Criminal Crossover: Still working on scheduling a civil-criminal crossover meeting as Morris Maya is in a homicide trial, pushed to the end of the month.</p> <p>b) DV Firearms Compliance Unit: Patrol deputies/officers have been collecting firearms at calls, not waiting for detectives/etc. There has been an increase DV/firearm activity. Discussed question of if victim reports firearms that have not been seized is there enough probable cause for a search warrant – answer is yes if they can articulate where the weapons are located and what they are, but it is case by case basis.</p>	

	<p>c) Judicial Bench Card: No update.</p> <p>d) Law Enforcement DV Protocol Update: Paula is working with the police academy to do DV training, she has conducted trainings from a prosecutor’s perspective in the past. She can provide the PowerPoint to Joe for feedback as well. Discussed sending it out to all departments, question has been dissemination of the information. Melissa asked Paula about being involved with the group for protocol updates as well.</p> <p>e) Protective Orders: As previously discussed in updates.</p> <p>f) Allocation of Court Resources: No updates.</p> <p>g) Courtroom Safety: No updates.</p>	
Public Comment	<p>Martin Fox described efforts he is making with behavioral health, hospital systems, and veterans associations to address firearms issues. Discussed programs in Long Beach where teams are dispatched when deemed safe to go retrieve firearms and address other issues. Also discussed the high number of veteran suicides, the issue with keeping San Mateo’s two hospital systems on the same page.</p> <p>Also advised that May is Mental Health Month. Santa Clara County Board of Supervisors is adopting Laura’s Law effective July 1st, which authorizes counties to partner with adjacent counties. Hope is that Santa Clara and San Mateo will partner together.</p> <p>BHRS is in planning process of list of emergency behavioral health services to be compiled alongside Community Wellness Pilot Project. Hope is that resource will be available in six months or less, currently hiring for the pilot project. There should be consolidation of emergency services in that area.</p>	

Next Meeting: Thursday, July 8, 2021
11:45am-1:15pm
Zoom Video Conference