



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

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

**Wednesday, October 30, 2024  
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 9:10 a.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph.**

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 (15 of 20 panel members) was present. The DAFR Coordinator, Panel members, and Agents, introduced themselves.

**In-person Attendees:** Dawn Joseph (DAFR Coordinator), Sarah Anders (DAFR Abstractor), Belinda Murphy (Chair), Cassandra Billiot, Melanie Fields, Anna Watt, Jane Killen, Kristen Sanderson, Doug Champlin, Mimi Mickel, Mariah Wineski, Leslie Lyons, Jennifer Hunt, Jill Sessions, Sara Halphen, Laurie Marien, Joycelyn Johnson, Scott LeBleu, Robert Hanser, Vandana Chaturvedi, Francis Robinson, Ramona Harris, Ashley Williams, Jasmine Thomas

**Zoom Attendees:** none

**Absent:** Pam Guidry, Ellen Conner, Cherrise Picard, Bonnie McKneely, Robyn Landry, Maeve Wallace

Everyone welcomed first time attendees, Laurie Marian, Executive Director of the Office of Women’s Policy, Scott LeBleu, Choices Program Director, Clinician for the Family Tree Information, Education, and Counseling Center of the Acadiana Family Tree and Jasmine Thomas, BFH Boards, Commissions, and Councils Strategy and Operations Lead.

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 8/21/24. A motion was made by Francis Robinson to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Doug Champlin and approved by the majority.

**Business:**

The DAFR Coordinator shared proposed DAFR Panel meeting dates for 2025:

- Wednesday, February 19, 2025
- Wednesday, May 21, 2025
- Wednesday, August 20, 2025
- Wednesday, November 19, 2025

All meetings are scheduled from 9:00 a.m.- 3:00 p.m. A motion was made by Mariah Wineski to accept the 2025 DAFR meeting schedule. The motion was seconded by Kristen Sanderson and 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. After a brief moment of silence, the Panel and Agents reviewed a total of five single victim homicides 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 provided the Panel members and Agents with an update on the 2024 DAFR Annual Report. A part of the DAFR's charge is to assist in moving recommendations developed at case review meetings to action including prioritizing needs, brainstorming solutions, and working together with outside partners to implement those solutions. Therefore, this year's annual report highlights four priority recommendations that address several trends and re-occurring findings across case review meetings:

- 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 LCADV at (225) 752-1296 for assistance with establishing a formal bi-directional referral system between healthcare and domestic violence service providers.
- 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.
- 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.
- 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.

These recommendations have been prioritized for implementation over the course of the next two years. She thanked everyone for taking the time out of their schedules to speak to and meet with her to discuss a plan for implementation for these and nine other recommendations from last year's report. Following discussion of the Panel's accomplishments for the year, Dr. Rob Hanser offered to assist with qualitative data evaluation for the above recommendations.

Lastly, the DAFR Coordinator thanked everyone for their time and expertise and congratulated everyone on another successful year of case review. The Panel also thanked her for all of her hard work and leadership. She then asked if anyone had any final comments or thoughts. Melanie Fields asked for a brief summary of cases reviewed in 2024 to share with the Louisiana District Attorney's Association. With no other comments, **the meeting was adjourned at 1:30 p.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph.**

#### Next Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday, February 19, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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