



State of Louisiana
Louisiana Department of Health
Office of Public Health

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

**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

The meeting was called to order at 9:07 a.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph.

The meeting was facilitated by Dawn Joseph, who then proceeded with roll call. It was determined a quorum (11 of 20 panel members) was present.

In-person Attendees: Dawn Joseph (DAFR Coordinator), Sarah Anders (DAFR Abstractor), Kristen Sanderson, Jane Killen, Leslie Lyons, Anna Watt, Joseph Patout, Bonnie McKneely, Melanie Fields, Joycelyn Johnson, Cassandra Billiot, Ramona Harris, Pam Guedry, Jennifer Hunt, Scott LeBleu, Francis Robinson, Christina Lafleur.

Zoom Attendees: Anjell DeGruy, LeJeune Johnson.

Absent: Doug Champlin, Laurie Marien, Mimi Mickel, Mariah Wineski, Cherrise Picard, Jill Sessions, Ellen Connor, Vandana Chaturvedi, Sara Halphen, Robert Hanser, Maeve Wallace, Ashley Williams.

The DAFR Coordinator, DAFR Abstractor, Panel Members, Agents, and PAMR Team members introduced themselves. Everyone also welcomed first time attendee and new Panel Member, Captain Joe Patout, Commander of the Special Investigations Unit with Louisiana State Police.

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 02/19/25. A motion was made by Ramona Harris to approve the minutes as written. The motion was seconded by Bonnie McKneely and approved by the majority.

Business:

Vote for DAFR Panel Chair: Due to the recent retirement of DAFR Panel Chair, Captain Belinda Murphy, the DAFR Coordinator called for nominations for a new chairperson from the floor. Kristen Sanderson nominated Bonnie McKneely, Domestic Violence Specialist for the Office of the Attorney General, to serve as the new DAFR Chair. A motion was made by Kristen Sanderson to confirm Bonnie McKneely as DAFR Panel Chair. The motion was seconded by Chief Joycelyn Johnson and approved by the majority.

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.

DAFR Case Review: The DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph, then reviewed the Panel's guiding principles, functions, and confidentiality requirements. With no members of the public present, Panel Members, Agents, and the PAMR Team prepared for case review. Dawn 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 four homicide-suicides and two pregnancy-associated deaths 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.

Closing Remarks: Following case review, the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph, gave the Panel and Agents a quick update on the DAFR 2024 Annual Report. The 2024 report was submitted to the legislature and is now available electronically on the Louisiana Department of Health website. She also told them she'd be emailing everyone a copy of the report on Thursday, May 15, 2025. Lastly she thanked everyone who participated in the first round of recommendation planning meetings and encouraged others to join the conversation and reminded them that meeting dates and times for June and July were included in May DAFR Panel meeting email sent on May 9, 2025. With no further comments or concerns, the coordinator thanked everyone for their time and expertise. **The meeting was adjourned at 2:52 p.m. by the DAFR Coordinator, Dawn Joseph.**

Next Meeting Details:

Date: Wednesday, August 20, 2025

Time: 9:00 a.m.

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