

# The Connecticut General Assembly



## Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council

### MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 31, 2024

ATTENDANCE: Senator Mae Flexer, Meghan Scanlon, Senator John Kissel, Representative Kai Belton, Honorable Kevin C. Doyle, William Anselmo, Att. Nancy Tyler, Chief Alaric Fox, Lt. Ryan Maynard, TFC. Daniel Richman, Att. Gail Hardy, Att. Maurice W. Reaves, Joe DiTunno, Charles Forcier, Mary Kozicki, Merit Lajoie, Karen Foley O'Connor, Andrea O'Connor, Att. Phyllis DiCara, Eulalia Garcia, Chief Roberto Rosado, Nancy Turner, Capt. Heather LaRock

#### I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairwoman Flexer called the meeting to order at 12:40 pm.

#### II. MEETING MINUTES APPROVAL

- A motion was made to approve the November 29, 2024, meeting minutes by Senator Kissel and seconded by Att. DiCaro. The motion passed unanimously with one abstention.

#### III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

#### IV. MEETING POLICIES AND PROCEDURES FOR SUBCOMMITTEE REPRESENTATIVES

- Meghan Scanlon reviewed two housekeeping items:
  - clarified procedure for designating a representative on a subcommittee and that it is acceptable for a Council member to designate a staff member to serve on a subcommittee. The individual must be an employee representative of the agency.
  - reminded members that the Council brings together many viewpoints to tackle systemic issues in a respectful and civil way. Co-chairs expect a certain level of professionalism among Council members moving forward.

#### V. SUBCOMMITTEE REPORTS

##### a. LAW ENFORCEMENT MODEL POLICY

- Chief Fox reviewed the subcommittee proposed updates and changes to the model policy which focused on swapping out Public Acts mentioned for specific Statute numbers, changes in dates and catching up on other statute changes. Substantive changes included:
  - Added language regarding whether children are *present* or involved at a domestic violence scene. This segways into law enforcement's

relationship with the Department of Children and Families and their mandated reporter obligations.

- clarified language related to mandate arrest and speedy information. As this section read previously, law enforcement would be mandated to make an arrest in speedy information situations. The arrest obligation is broader so one piece of the section was removed, and a change was made to clarify when a police officer has probable cause an arrest must be made. This is how law enforcement has been operating but policy was lagging.
  - clarified when an officer is involved in domestic violence that an internal investigation is mandatory regardless of whether the department has an internal affairs unit or not. This section caused confusion for law enforcement as well as within the subcommittee. All departments conduct internal affairs investigations but not all have an internal affairs unit.
  - Added a new change with the Domestic Violence GPS Alert Notification. The language now reflects the current state of the program as it exists.
  - updated language regarding use or threatened use of a weapon in a family violence crime to reflect new statutory language in C.G.S. 53a-217 and 53a-217(c) and removed old language from 2022.
  - updated language regarding Risk Protective Orders. Recent legislative changes to C.G.S. 23-89 have been incorporated to reflect the state of the state more accurately.
- A motion was made to accept changes to model policy by Meghan Scanlon seconded by Senator Flexer and passed unanimously.

## b. ARREST WARRANTS & ORDERS OF PROTECTION

- Att. Gail Hardy reported on the Subcommittee meeting including:
  - Members reviewed the focus of the subcommittee being arrest, prosecution, penalties for violation of restraining order, criminal protective orders, process and execution of arrest warrants and victim notification of firearm seizure.
  - Members discussed:
    - a recent domestic violence arrest warrant sweep and after a lively discussion regarding prioritizing and expediting domestic violence review and execution of arrest warrants it was decided that it would be best to educate members and invite members of law enforcement to present on the process involved from the receipt of a 9-1-1 call, to arrest, prosecution and the advocacy portion involved in domestic violence arrests. The goal is to identify any weak spots and to strengthen the process.
    - data and various database systems that might be a resource to determine the number of arrest warrants pending and those executed.
    - future presentations including firearm seizure and safety planning with presentations from the State Police Special Licensing and Firearms Unit, the Judicial Branch Court Operations Protective Order Registry and PRAWN.
    - C.G. S. 54-86e and the confidentiality of identifying information pertaining to victims of certain crimes. Members discussed a recent situation where a defendant obtained a victim's confidential address and that in various parts of the state the process for managing this information is different. Members began discussion on how this process could be uniform across the state and agreed that the safety of victims is paramount.

- charge of subcommittee includes looking at administrative changes that can be employed to make sure victims are protected and that the processes involved in arrest warrants, prosecution, and execution of arrest warrants are clear.

#### c. OFFENDER INTERVENTION STANDARDS

- Chairwoman Scanlon provided update subcommittee has not been able to meet yet but will be meeting in February and will have an update at the next full Council meeting.
- Joe DiTunno added that a lot of work on the standards has already been done so when the subcommittee meets, they will be reviewing new, updated standards and why the changes were made. Documents will be provided to subcommittee members in advance of the meeting.

#### VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Council members were reminded if they want to sign up for a subcommittee to contact Co-chairs.

#### VII. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The council will meet on Wednesday, February 28<sup>th</sup> at 12:30 pm.

#### VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn made by Chairwoman Scanlon, seconded by Chairwoman Flexer meeting adjourned at 1:30 pm.