



Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council Arrest Warrants and Orders of Protection Subcommittee

MEETING MINUTES

Tuesday, January 23, 2024

ATTENDANCE: William Anselmo, Atty. Phyllis DiCara, Joe DiTunno, Honorable Kevin C. Doyle, CJ Forcier, Atty. Gail P. Hardy, Shauna Harrington, Mary Kozicki, Merit Lajoie, Capt. Heather LaRock, Lt. Ryan Maynard, Rep. Tammy Nuccio, Andrea O'Connor, Geralyn O'Neil-Wild, Adam Richardson (legislative aide for Sen. Mae Flexer), Maurice Reaves, Meghan Scanlon, Atty. Nancy Tyler

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Meghan Scanlon called the meeting to order at 9:05 am.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Meghan Scanlon offered welcoming remarks and Council members introduced themselves.

III. SELECTION OF TWO CHAIRPERSONS

- Motion to nominate Atty. Gail P. Hardy and Geralyn O'Neil-Wild to serve as co-chairs of the Subcommittee made by Merit Lajoie, seconded by Joe DiTunno, and unanimously approved.

IV. REVIEW, DISCUSS, AND PRIORITIZE SUBCOMMITTEE FOCUS

- Chairwoman Hardy reviewed the subcommittee's focus as identified by the larger Council:
 - Arrest, prosecution, penalties, and monitoring for violations of family violence restraining orders issued pursuant to section 46b-15, or criminal orders of protections issued pursuant to section 46b-38c, 54-1k, or 54-82r issued in family violence cases;
 - Processing and execution of arrest warrants for incidents of family violence, and
 - Monitoring compliance, enforcement and victim notification of firearm seizure in family violence cases.
- Chairwoman Hardy opened the discussion asking subcommittee members for recommendations on initial areas of focus.
 - Meghan Scanlon clarified the goal of Council and subcommittee is not solely focused on legislative fixes but also on administrative improvements including communication and procedures.
 - Merit Lajoie raised the first issue for consideration being arrest warrants referring to a recent news article regarding a local law enforcement agency domestic violence warrant sweep and pointing out that the Family Violence Model Policy suggests domestic violence arrest warrants be prioritized and expedited.
 - Members raised several questions mentioning that it would be helpful to have answered related to the sweep and arrest warrants in general including: what happens when law enforcement are first contacted for a domestic violence incident, application and timeline for processing a warrant, when is a warrant signed, how are warrants executed, are there any policies regarding time frames for submitting, reviewing,

- resubmitting, how and who follows-up on warrants, and are there policies regarding warrant prioritization.
- Joe DiTunno suggested before pursuing the answers to the questions raised that it would be important for members of the subcommittee to first understand how the arrest warrant process should work. This could be done with a presentation from law enforcement. Then members could ask their questions.
 - Judge Doyle agreed that a presentation of process would be helpful including from the 9-1-1 call, law enforcement response including, initial onsite arrest, arrest by warrant, followed by prosecutorial, court and advocate response ...
 - Representative Nuccio added this would be helpful in identifying weak spots and opportunities to strengthen the process.
 - Members discussed the importance of also looking at arrest warrant data -the number of warrants issued, pending, and executed.
 - Discussion included additional databases utilized regarding domestic violence offenses and warrants such as the Connecticut Uniform Crimes Report, and local law enforcement agencies' RMS system, CAD, Nexgen.
 - Representative Nuccio requested the process presentation be inclusive of firearm seizure and safety planning.
 - Members discussed additional presentations to include the State Police Special Licensing and Firearms Unit, and Judicial Branch Court Operations Protective Order Registry and PRAWN unit.
- Merit Lajoie suggested a second area of concern for the subcommittee to consider focusing on would be the confidentiality of a victim's residential address on a protective order. She shared previous practices where an alternative address could be used, or the order would state "wherever the victim shall reside." These practices always supported the victim's safety and the defendant's obligation to walk away.
 - Members discussed C.G.S. 54-86e Confidentiality of Identifying Information Pertaining to Victims of Certain Crimes. Availability of Information to the Accused. Protective Order Information to be Entered in the Registry, current practices in other crimes where victim information is kept confidential, safety and protection of victims should be paramount.
 - Discussion regarding having a for members related to orders of protection, victim information and the Protective Order Registry would be helpful.

V. DISCUSS ADDITIONAL SUBCOMMITTEE PARTICIPANTS

- Chairwoman Gerilyn O'Neil-Wild explained that there may be opportunities to have current members invite colleagues with specialized topic specific input to join various conversations and invite various topic specific presenters.

VI. FUTURE SUBCOMMITTEE MEETING DATES

- The subcommittee will meet on the fourth Wednesday of the month from 11:00 am – 12:30 pm before the larger Council meeting.

VII. OTHER BUSINESS

- None.

IX. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn made by Merit Lajoie, seconded by Meghan Scanlon. The meeting adjourned at 10:21 am.