

The Connecticut General Assembly



Domestic Violence Criminal Justice Response and Enhancement Advisory Council

MEETING MINUTES

Wednesday, November 29, 2023

ATTENDANCE: Senator Mae Flexer, Johanna Canning, William Anselmo, Atty. Nancy Tyler, Chief Alaric Fox, Lt. Ryan Maynard, TFC. Daniel Richman, Honorable Kevin C. Doyle, Senator John Kissel, Atty. Gail Hardy, Marc Pelka, Joe DiTunno, Charles Forcier, Mary Kozicki, Merit Lajoie, Karen O'Connor, Andrea O'Connor, Representative Tammy Nuccio, Att. Phyllis DiCara, Eulalia Garcia, Capt. Heather LaRock.

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairwoman Flexer called the meeting to order at 12:35 pm. and recognized Under Secretary Marc Pelka.
- A motion was made to add a new number two to the agenda to include the review and approval of minutes from the October 25, 2023, council meeting by Marc Pelka, seconded by Karen O'Connor, and unanimously approved.

II. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion was made to approve the October 25 meeting minutes by Marc Pelka, and seconded by Att. Gail Hardy, and unanimously approved.

III. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Chairwoman Flexer offered welcoming remarks and Council members introduced themselves.

IV. PRESENTATION FROM JUDICIAL BRANCH CSSD ON GPS PROGRAM AND EXPANSION

- Director Joseph DiTunno provided an overview of the Domestic Violence Alert Notification/GPS Program and its expansion which is mandated per Public Act 23-106. The current pilot program has operated in Hartford, Bridgeport, and Danielson Courts over the last 10 years.
- The GPS Program targets high-risk domestic violence offenders charged with violating protective orders or restraining orders. Domestic violence survivor

participation is voluntary and can enhance safety with direct notifications and law enforcement response to their location.

- The statewide expansion of the electronic monitoring pilot program must be finished by October 1, 2025, starting in the Southwest courts of Connecticut this fall. The expansion will continue to the Northwest and then the central part of the state, concluding in the Southeastern courts and Stamford.
- Expansion has been completed this fall for the Milford and Derby courts, with New Haven having a proposed start date of January 24, 2024. Waterbury, Torrington, and Danbury courts are scheduled for a start date during the first half of 2024. Middletown, Meriden, and New Britain are scheduled for the second half of 2024. Manchester, Rockville, Norwich, New London, and Stamford will complete the expansion in 2025.
- Member discussion:
 - The order of program rollout in courts in the West and recommended a staggered approach to include Central and Eastern courts before completing most of the Western courts.
 - Are statistics available for the number of survivors who participate in the GPS Notification program? Due to the COVID pandemic statistics are skewed but the current percentage is approximately 50% -to 55%.
 - Zone violations when highways and main thoroughfares are within the exclusion zones. Zones can be modified in individual cases to minimize unnecessary notifications.
 - CCADV's Safe Connect is part of the support plan for survivors who receive any notifications. Safe Connect Advocates will follow up after a notification to offer services and support.
 - Would zone violations result in an onsite arrest? An investigation would have to be conducted to identify the circumstances of the zone violation as well as if probable cause could be established.
 - Safety planning and the response process of the court-based Family Violence Victim Advocates and Safe Connect help prepare a protected party who has engaged in the GPS Program.
 - A safety planning presentation would be beneficial for the council during a future meeting.
 - The protected party may use the dedicated cellular phone provided by judicial which would only receive notifications at that number. If they were using their personal phone, there is a system in place that lets them identify as a notification call.

V. DISCUSS COUNCIL SUBCOMMITTEES AND PARTICIPATION

- Chairwoman Flexer reviewed the three subcommittees identified by the council and requested members of the council to sign up for participation in subcommittees of their interest. Virtual attendees will receive an email with the description of subcommittees and should respond with their selections.

VI. UPDATE ON LAW ENFORCEMENT MODEL POLICY

- Connecticut Coalition Against Domestic Violence Director of Law Enforcement Services, Daniel Cargill reviewed the history and contents of the statewide Police Response to Family Violence Model Policy.
- Future updates will be discussed in the Model Policy Subcommittee and reviewed and approved by the council at a future meeting.
- Discussion on common factors of concern in intimate partner family violence highlighted by Connecticut's Lethality Assessment Program, Judicial Branch Court Support Services, and Domestic Violence Program Intake processes.

VII. UPDATE ON DV OFFENDER STANDARDS

- Director Joseph DiTunno discussed the 2022 focus on the standards, which consisted of reviewing modifications to ensure Connecticut is meeting national standards and quality assurance.
- A PowerPoint presentation detailing the review process and the modifications made to the standards can be discussed within the Offender Standards Subcommittee to provide context.

VIII. OTHER BUSINESS

- None

IX. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- The council will meet on Wednesday, January 31st at 12:30 pm.
- Subcommittees will meet before the next council meeting on January 31.

X. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn made by Senator Kissel, seconded by Karen O'Connor adjourned at 1:52 pm.

Please Click the Following Link to Access the Meeting on the Judiciary Committee YouTube Channel:

[Click Here](#)