



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

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 28, 2024

ATTENDANCE: William Anselmo, Atty. Phyllis DiCara, Joe DiTunno, Atty. Gail P. Hardy, Shauna Harrington, Merit Lajoie, Capt. Heather LaRock, Lt. Ryan Maynard, Andrea O'Connor, GERALYN O'Neil-Wild, Marc Pelka, Atty. Nancy Tyler

I. CALL TO ORDER

- Chairwoman O'Neil-Wild called the meeting to order at 11:05 am.

II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF COUNCIL MEMBERS

- Chairwoman O'Neil-Wild offered welcoming remarks and members introduced themselves.

III. APPROVAL OF MINUTES

- A motion was made to approve the January 23rd meeting minutes from Merit Lajoie, seconded by Phyllis DiCara, and unanimously approved.

IV. PRESENTATION FROM LT. RYAN RYAN MAYNARD AND KAREN O'CONNOR FOLEY ON POLICE RESPONSE TO FAMILY VIOLENCE INCIDENTS

- Karen O'Connor Foley and Lt. Ryan Maynard provided an overview of P.A. 18-5 Mandated Arrest, statutory definition of Family or Household Member, exemptions from domestic violence, officer discretion, and responsibilities of an officer when responding to a family violence incident including to provide immediate assistance to the victim.
- The Connecticut Statewide Model Policy Police Response to Crimes of Family Violence represents the model policy minimum for all law enforcement to follow when responding to incidents of family violence.
- Roles and responsibilities of Telecommunication personnel were reviewed including obtaining initial information regarding caller's, victim's and offender's name and relationship, nature of the abuse, injuries, weapons, previous history, any current order of protection, whether children were present/involved, presence of alcohol or drugs or mental illness.
- Responding officer responsibilities were discussed: assessing the nature of the incident, speaking to both parties, determining status of any dangerous weapons at the scene, determining if the offender is subject to any order of protection involving the victim, if children are present determining if they are safe, unhurt and file child abuse/neglect report if suspected. If abuse of abuse or neglect of elderly person or person with an intellectual disability is suspected complete and file appropriate report.
- The officer obtains a statement from the victim, documents the condition of the scene, photographs the scene and any visible victim injuries. Provides assistance to the victim including providing the victim with a "Victim of Crime Card." Initiate a Lethality Assessment (LAP) when an intimate relationship is involved.
- Responding officers should assist with short term safety planning and explain to the victim the process of arrest, arraignment, and bond.
- Karen O'Connor Foley and Lt. Ryan Maynard provided information regarding weapon seizure vs. surrender, logging surrendered firearms/ammunition, obtaining a firearm and ammunition

compliance statement. Seizure applies when use or threatened use exists in a family violence crime, if the weapon is in plain view or in the possession of an offender who is a suspect or arrested, illegal possession, or evidence of any crime. Surrender applies with the consent of a part – victim (marital property) or offender to remove a weapon.

- Member Discussion

- There currently not a statutory definition of “dangerous weapon.” It would be helpful to clarify/define.
- Current C.G.S. 46b-38b(f)(2) language states it is the responsibility of the officer responding to the scene of a family violence crime to “notify the victim of the right to file an affidavit for a warrant for an arrest.” This language is confusing and should be rephrased for victim clarity.
- If an offender fled the scene officer should consider remaining on the scene to stress safety planning. However, officers cannot stay on scene indefinitely, so it is important that they connect victim(s) with accessing resources.
- Officers are encouraged to prioritize warrants – compiling information by end of shift and submitting warrant to court ASAP. Officers can walk a warrant through. If the warrant is not signed it is sent back, there is not a uniform process for follow-up. Warrant can be sent back with a request for additional information and officers are encouraged to resubmit as quickly as possible.
- State of Connecticut is working to allow for communication electronically where warrants can be submitted, revised and resubmitted electronically.
- Concerns regarding police department policies regarding the handling of domestic violence warrants are not uniform. How arrest warrants are handled should not depend on where someone is victimized.
- Questions were raised as to whether family violence arrest warrants are considered a priority when submitting, revising, serving and is there any system in place to track the status of an arrest warrant with law enforcement or the State?
- Additional discussion topics included how are law enforcement locating individuals subject to an arrest warrant if they live in another location? Are there any specific tools or resources including technology that law enforcement currently uses or could benefit from using to help with arrest warrant process?
- Chairwoman Hardy will poll State Attorneys at their next monthly meeting to inquire about current process/procedure for handling arrest warrants.

V. UPDATES AND OTHER BUSINESS

- Marc Pelk reported Office of Victim Services (OVS) CT SAVIN Victim Notification program is a resource available for victims who register, and they can then receive offender custody status and criminal case information. OVS is always interested in strengthening partnerships so CT SAVIN information can be shared with victims.

VI. NEXT MEETING

- To Be Determined. Due to session may need to be flexible with date, time, and location. The Chairs will send the next meeting date, time, and agenda once identified.

VII. ADJOURNMENT

- Motion to adjourn made by Chairwoman Hardy, and seconded by Joe DiTunno, and unanimously approved. The meeting was adjourned at 12:34 pm.