

Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

313 N.E. 21st Street, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73005

(405) 522-1984 | FAX (405) 557-1770

MEETING MINUTES

April 28, 2021

Meeting Venue: *The Virtual Meeting was hosted on the WebEx Platform*

MEMBERS

Bardin, Tania (NAAV) [P]	Harrison, Shelly (NAAV) [A]	Wilson, Janet (ONA) [P]
Beatty, Angela (OCADVSA) [P]	Hawkins, Scott (OSA) [P]	Warren, Mike (OSC) [A]
Blanton, Melissa (OAG) [P]	Jelley, Martina (OSMA) [A]	Woods-Littlejohn, Brandi (OSDH- IPS) [P]
Coffey, Sara (OOA) [A]	Kuester, Laura (OCADVSA) [A]	
Combs, Brandie (OSDH) [A]	Mueller, Karen (OBA) [P]	
Edstedt, Marissa (DHS) [P]	Pasley, Brandon (OCADVSA) [P]	
Garder, Lauren (ODMHSAS) [P]	Sharif, Asma (OCME) [P]	
Glandon, Donna (OJA) [P]	Smith, Jeff (DAC) [P]	
Green, Beth (OSBI) [A]	Sweger, Don, (OACP) [A]	

I. Call to Order and Confirmation of Compliance with Open Meeting Act

Vice Chair Scott Hawkins presided over the regularly scheduled meeting of the Oklahoma Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board, held virtually hosted on the WebEx virtual platform on April 28, 2021. Notice of the meeting was posted with the Oklahoma Secretary of State and the date, time, place and agenda for the meeting in addition to meeting handout was posted on the web site of the Office of the Attorney General more than twenty-four (24) hours in advance, on April 26, 2021 at 3:17 p.m. Vice Chair Scott Hawkins called the meeting to order at 9:04 a.m.

II. Roll Call, Establishment of Quorum, and Introduction of Members

Katy Fortune, Board Program Manager, called the roll. Quorum was achieved at Roll Call with twelve (12) members present. Others present included Stephanie McCabe, Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Coordinator for the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration; and Anthony Hernandez-Rivera, OAG Research Assistant, who joined the meeting at 9:07 a.m. Angela Beatty was not present for Roll Call or Agenda Item III. but joined the meeting at 9:11 a.m. as the alternate representative for OCADVSA and brought the quorum to thirteen (13) members. Call-in User 3 was identified as Board Program Manager Katy Fortune and Call-in User 4 was identified as Lauren Garder. Jeff Smith left Quorum was maintained throughout the meeting.

III. Discussion and Possible Action on Approval of Minutes from March 24, 2021 regular meeting*

Jeff Smith moved to approve the minutes of the March 24, 2021 regular meeting. Brandi Woods-Littlejohn seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote (11 Aye, 1 Abstain, 0 Nay).

IV. Program Manager Update: Record and Report Collection Procedures

Board Program Manager Katy Fortune reported she was able to obtain additional records from DHS's Adult and Family Services Division for this review and would be following up with DHS's Legal Division to obtain additional records from their Disability Determination Services, Adult Protective Services, and AIDS Coordination and Information Services Divisions. Ms. Fortune explained the reason behind obtaining the records from these additional divisions within DHS is to allow the Board to further assess the communication,

collaboration, and coordination between systems when victims interact with them, especially within a system as large as DHS. Ms. Fortune explained that these three divisions in particular interact with populations that are especially vulnerable to domestic and intimate partner violence. Ms. Fortune reported she and Research Assistant Anthony Hernandez-Rivera have also been looking into the number of victims and perpetrators who are veterans and noted it is difficult to ascertain if a victim or perpetrator is a veteran with the records currently collected. Ms. Fortune advised they may be able to access limited information from the Department of Veteran Affairs through the Freedom of Information Act if they know the victim or perpetrator is a veteran and they have certain demographic information, but a perpetrator's status in particular is not always known. Ms. Fortune stated they are working on making contacts within the VA and armed services in general to get that information. Scott Hawkins advised there is a website where veteran status can be checked and offered to provide it for Ms. Fortune and the Board members. Ms. Fortune advised there is a limited amount of information that can be collected through FOIA but if permission can be obtained from the next of kin then there is more information that can be accessed. Ms. Fortune stated that in addition to inviting survivors, family members and friends of victims to meetings, she would like to also interview those individuals when collecting case information if there was no objection from the Board. Scott Hawkins stated he thought it was a great idea. There was no objection raised by any Board members. Janet Wilson asked if there was a way to partner with the VA because they don't do mock reviews. Ms. Fortune advised that was a timely question because the guest speaker was from the VA. Ms. Fortune stated since there were no objections she would start reaching out to survivors, family members and friends of victims with the assistance of Board member Lauren Garder to gather that additional information when cases warranted it.

V. Presentation by Stephanie McCabe, MSW, LCSW – Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program Coordinator, Oklahoma City VA Medical Center *

Program Manager Katy Fortune introduced Stephanie McCabe, the Intimate Partner Violence Assistance Program (IPVAP) Coordinator for the Oklahoma City Veterans Administration Health Care System who provides services within the main VA along with the 14 outpatient clinics in Ada, Altus, Ardmore, Blackwell, Enid, Clinton, 14th Street OKC, Lawton, Norman, North May, South OKC, Stillwater, Wichita Falls, Yukon, North OKC and Tinker AFB. Ms. McCabe presented information on the VA IPVAP, including the History and Development of the IPVAP; rates of IPV within the veteran community; and the VA IPVAP vision and mission statements. Ms. McCabe shared specific details regarding the VA's IPVAP veteran-centric, person-first, trauma-informed and recovery-oriented, model being designed with a no-wrong-door. Ms. McCabe talked about the 'SAFER' Approach developed by IPVAP pilot project team that the VA was working on implementing in Oklahoma City within the next 3-4 weeks with all female veterans between the ages of 18-99 years. Ms. McCabe shared she receives 10-15 referrals a week before the implementation of the SAFER Approach and indicated this will increase once the process is implemented. Ms. McCabe shared the SAFER a protocol included screening with their HITS (Hurt, Insult, Threaten, Scream) Screener Tool; Acknowledge and validate; Focus on safety using danger assessment items; Educate; and Referral and documentation options. Ms. McCabe shared some information on the VA's trauma-informed documentation procedures to ensure victim safety.

Ms. McCabe showed the HITS Screening Tool and shared anecdotal data about results of the screening with the Board. Ms. McCabe also explained the danger assessment portion of the HITS and the warm hand-off process if an individual answers yes to any of the three questions. Marissa Edstedt clarified Ms.

McCabe administers the screener anytime she comes in contact with an individual but the screener is being implemented system-wide anytime a female veteran comes in for their annual appointment and she hopes to implement it for all veterans in early 2022 after the initial data is analyzed. Lauren Garder clarified if the program focused on reducing physical forms of violence or other forms of coercive control and why the screener didn't ask questions about severe forms of coercive control like morbid jealousy. Ms. McCabe stated the program focused on all forms of violence and the HITS was the basic screener; she stated the VA used a secondary screener called the Relationship Health and Safety Assessment that asked about all the elements of control that is administered by a clinician once they are passed off by the front-facing nurse. Ms. McCabe clarified for Ms. Garder that someone is only passed on to a clinician for the more in-depth assessment if they answer yes to a question on the HITS screener. Ms. Garder stated oftentimes higher resourced families like those with higher social status or higher socioeconomic classes or high intelligence batterers utilize more coercive control tactics, gaslighting and mental health manipulation and was wondering how they captured that data since they were less likely to experience the types of violence on the HITS screener. Ms. McCabe stated she knew the national team was working on a second version of the HITS screener and would reach out to them to ask if they would be including additional questions. Ms. McCabe states she often asks additional questions to capture this kind of information, including questions about financial exploitation, and would like to talk to Ms. Garder offline. Ms. McCabe answered Marissa Edstedt's chat question about whether or not the tool was used only for those experiencing violence and Ms. McCabe answered it was but national was working on a screener for those using violence, although she currently used it to screen for those using violence.

Ms. McCabe also discussed the current referral options available for veterans at the Oklahoma City VA, including safety planning and advocacy; group sessions; individual sessions on a case-by-case and short-term basis, with those needing long-term services referred to other appropriate programs, including through the community at Palomar and the YWCA; A Hero's Journey, a partnership with the VA chaplaincy; Strength at Home; and psychoeducation. Ms. McCabe also shared she has seen an increase in Vietnam veterans seeking services, disclosing coercive control and forced sex especially and the challenges it has presented to safety planning as many of them do not want to leave due to being married so long. Ms. McCabe answered a chat question about how VA programs coordinate with Family Advocacy Programming through the Air Force Bases and how COVID has been a barrier to building those relationships and knowledge through training. Angela Beatty asked how they hold perpetrators accountable while they are in the Strength at Home (SAH) program. Ms. McCabe stated that is one area that is not their role; they provide education, but they can only write a report reflecting what participants say. Ms. McCabe stated that's part of the reason why they say SAH doesn't replace Batterer's Intervention. Ms. Beatty asked who the report would go to. Ms. McCabe stated the report is a certificate that goes to the veteran and indicates they have completed SAH by participating, answering questions, and not missing more than 3 sessions in the 12 weeks. Ms. Garder asked what the measured outcomes for the people completing the program. Ms. McCabe stated it does measure a reduction in violence but not the same way BIP does because the intake questions are different and don't assess for deceit like BIP intake. Ms. McCabe stated they do ask both sides to more accurately measure outcomes. Ms. Beatty asked about the group curriculums and whether or not the victim curriculum was evidence-based and focused on veterans. Ms. McCabe stated there is evidence-based individual program called RISE coming out soon and she is hoping Oklahoma City will be a pilot site, and she would clarify with national for Ms. Beatty if it was just for veterans.

Ms. McCabe shared that they provide services to the VA staff as well. She then shared the Veterans

Reporting System and showed what the Relationship Health and Safety Screen looked like and the procedure for administering it. Scott Hawkins clarified if the IPVAP would receive referrals for services as well. Mr. Hawkins stated he has always been impressed by the military's response any time there was any type of criminal behavior involving an intimate partner, and they have always cooperated with investigations. Mr. Hawkins shared concerns about there not being enough authority behind lethality assessment when it comes to connecting veterans to mental health and appropriate services to address domestic violence appropriately. Ms. McCabe agreed that there are veterans who use violence with their use of violence rooted in PTSD and they are working with national on the best ways to refer and treat them. Ms. McCabe thanked the Board and concluded her presentation to attend her 10:00 a.m. group.

VI. Consideration of Motion to Adjourn to Executive Session*

Pursuant to 25 O.S. § 307B for the purpose of case review

- a. Jeff Smith moved that the Board go into Executive Session to review cases. Brandi Woods-Littlejohn seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote (13 Aye, 0 Abstain, 0 Nay). The Board adjourned to executive session at 10:04 a.m.
- b. Update and follow-up for case #190078.
- c. Review and discussion of cases #190002 and 190038
- d. The Board came out of the executive session at 11:21 a.m.
- e. Vice Chair Scott Hawkins called for Board action as a result of Executive Session.
- f. No action was taken.

VII. New Business in Accordance with 25 O.S. § 311(9)

There was no new business.

VIII. Announcements

There were no announcements.

IX. Adjournment

Jeff Smith made a motion to adjourn. Lauren Garder seconded the motion. The motion was approved by roll call vote (13 Aye, 0 Abstain, 0 Nay). Vice Chair Scott Hawkins declared the meeting adjourned at 11:24 a.m.