

Legal Process Committee of the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council
Meeting Minutes
July 8, 2021
11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.
Location: Zoom Video Conference

Present: Charles Cavallino, Co-Chair (CORA), Elisa Kuhl, Co-Chair (Victim Services), Lauren De La Rosa-Koury (BayLegal), Jordan Maxwell (Superior Court/Ops.), Karla Pena (Rally), Lisa Bergman (Superior Court/Family Court Services), Melissa Gibbs (CORA), Joe Cang (Sheriff's Office), Jenny Horne (Legal Aid Society of SMC), Paula Vielman-Reeves (ADZ Law), Stephanie Bilinsky (Legal Aid Society of SMC), Tanya Both (Superior Court/ADR), Jeniffer Alcantara (Superior Court), Jessica Dayton (ADZ Law), Martin Fox

ISSUES	DISCUSSION	ACTION
Adopt/Approve Agenda	Melissa Gibbs moved to approve the agenda. Jessica Dayton seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.	Approved
Introductions and Updates	<p><u>CORA</u>: CORA has hired a new staff attorney, Lauren Brachman. CORA offices are reopening for in person services and walk in clients at this time. Legal advocate Veronica Navarro has left the agency and CORA is hiring for a new advocate.</p> <p><u>BALA</u>: BALA's office is open on Mondays and Wednesdays for review and filing of DVTRO applications. The legal advice line is still active and open for calls as well.</p> <p><u>FCS</u>: FCS is still in the process of hiring new CCRCs and they plan to have someone onboard in the next few months. FCS continues to hold remote sessions and has received a lot of positive feedback regarding them. The office should be slowly reopening over the next six months.</p> <p><u>LASSMC</u>: Legal Aid of SMC will be slowly reopening over the next six months.</p> <p><u>Court</u>: Clerk's office is maintaining same hours – 8:30 AM to 12:30 PM for filing of DVTROs and other ex partes, Monday thru Friday. Funding has been restored and hiring process is ongoing. Early next year is the goal for a full reopening, but it is unknown if there will be a scale up to full reopening. Staff shortages are leading to some delays.</p> <p><u>FLF</u>: Family Law Facilitator's Office is aiming for early September for reopening in person services. FLF and FCS will be switching places, FLF will now be on 6th floor and FCS on 2nd floor. This will provide a larger space to permit social distancing while reopening. Staffing issues continue due to COVID-19's impact on budget. The court's mask policy from July 6 onwards will be that vaccinated individuals don't need to wear a mask in hallways but do need to inside the courtroom.</p> <p><u>Rally</u>: Rally has fully reopened for in person services, Tuesday through Sunday, same hours as pre-COVID. Rally is still offering remote visitation as well.</p>	
Review/Adopt Minutes from 1/14/21 meeting	Jessica Dayton moved to adopt the minutes. Melissa Gibbs seconded the motion. Passed unanimously.	Approved

Carry Over Items	<p>a) DV Trainings for Judges: For funding applications a proposal will be necessary to apply for funding for the training. Charles and Elisa will reach out to Kathryn Anderson, Adam Dodge, and Chief Monahan regarding possible providers for the strangulation and tech safety training proposals.</p> <p>b) Civil Standby Protocol: Melissa followed up with CORA's Emergency Response Manager, hiring for the ERP Liaison is ongoing. The quarterly meetings held with law enforcement would be a good opportunity to bring the Lexipol standards forward for other departments to adopt as a baseline procedural guide. Lauren will check to see if the civil standby language has been implemented in the DVRO clinic.</p>	<p>Charles and Elisa to reach out to training providers for proposals to bring next meeting.</p> <p>Lauren to check that civil standby language has been implemented in DVRO clinic.</p>
New Business	<p>a) DV and Tech Safety Resources: Lisa Bergman discussed resources regarding domestic violence and technology abuse from a recent training. Two resources in particular were NNEDV's Tech Safety page at www.techsafety.org and they are holding a virtual conference later in July. Another resource was Chayn, located at https://chayn.co/tools, offers tech safety resources for survivors of domestic violence. There are also parenting apps such as Our Family Wizard, Talking Parents, Co-Parentor, App Close, and Parentship. Lisa will share out document with information regarding these resources.</p>	<p>Lisa to e-mail out list of various tech safety resources.</p>
Work Plan Reports	<p>a) Civil-Criminal Crossover: CORA and the DAO meeting was able to go forward. Met with the new misdemeanor and felony DDAs, discussed coordination of services. Co-operation is going well in ongoing cases. Paula raised possible need for training on impact of DVROs/etc. on child custody issues. Melissa will connect with Morris about this and Jessica will look through older e-mails for what she had previously provided to Al Serrato regarding this and no contest pleas.</p> <p>b) DV Firearms Compliance Unit: No update.</p> <p>c) Judicial Bench Card: Jessica will connect with Jenny regarding a new draft to update the bench card. Jessica also asked for feedback from the court, Jeniffer will pass along feedback as it is received.</p> <p>d) Law Enforcement DV Protocol Update: No update.</p>	<p>Melissa to discuss possible training with Morris Maya. Jessica to provide information to Melissa as well.</p> <p>Jessica and Jenny to connect regarding updates to bench card.</p>

	<p>e) Protective Orders: Discussed possible issue with continuances for unfiled “pending” dissolutions leading to the court granting continuances in DVPA matters.</p> <p>f) Allocation of Court Resources: As noted previously, staffing issues are ongoing due to funding shortfall and layoffs. Challenge is ensuring that all departments are adequately staffed when reopened. Records requests are only via mail at this time, parties can place a check in the clerk dropbox for copies of documents with an return addressed envelope. Attorney of record can also retrieve documents via Odyssey portal. Discussed language access concerns when receiving FCS referrals – Tanya will follow up with interpreter coordinator to ensure interpreters are ready to interpret for FCS sign ups and to staff regarding ensuring information is received. There is an ongoing interpreter shortage for languages that are not Spanish, Tagalog, and Portuguese.</p> <p>g) Courtroom Safety: No updates.</p>	<p>Tanya to follow up with staff and interpreter coordinator regarding language access.</p>
<p>Public Comment</p>	<p>Martin Fox discussed how Behavioral Health Commission is preparing for Suicide Prevention Month in September, there will be multiple (likely online) events. Also discussed ongoing issues with shortage of beds at state hospitals for those declared incompetent to stand trial, with all beds for misdemeanor defendants to be eliminated and return those patients to county jails.</p> <p>There is ongoing litigation involving Alameda County and the delays in bed enrollment. The matter is still being negotiated but the proposal is for the entire population to be returned over the next three years. This will lead to movement with DV defendants not charged with felonies. The system will be even further backed up, given there are already lengthy waitlists for treatment.</p>	

Next Meeting: Thursday, October 21, 2021
11:45am-1:15pm
Zoom Video Conference