

**Legal Process Committee of the San Mateo County Domestic Violence Council**

**Meeting Minutes**

**July 11<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

**11:45 a.m. – 1:15 p.m.**

**Location: Hall of Justice, 7<sup>th</sup> Floor Conference Room, Redwood City**

**Present:** Jeniffer Alcantara (Superior Court/Sr. Managing Attorney), Tanya Both (Superior Court/ADR), Charles Cavallino, Co-Chair (CORA), Theresa Dah (Probation), Jessica Dayton (ADZ Law LLP), Melissa Gibbs (CORA), Mitri Hanania (SMCBA Private Defender Program), Jenny Horne (Legal Aid Society), Lindsay Marum (Justice at Last), Irene Maxwell (Superior Court), Alessandra Robleto (Superior Court/FL Clerks), Paula Vielman-Reeves (ADZ Law LLP), Maggie Woods (Bay Area Legal Aid), Brooke Murphy (ADZ Law LLP), Kelly Keene (Probation)

**Also Present:** Robert Spencer (San Mateo Medical Center/DV Council), Kathryn Anderson (DV Council), Martin Fox, Rhonda Reyna

<b>ISSUES</b>	<b>DISCUSSION</b>	<b>ACTION</b>
Adopt/Approve Agenda	Jenny Horne moved to adopt the agenda. Jessica Dayton seconded the motion. No opposition, Lindsay Marum abstained, rest in favor.	<b>Approved</b>
Introductions and Updates	<p><u>CORA</u>: Co-Response model project is currently hiring for bilingual advocates. Job posting details are available on CORA’s website.</p> <p><u>Family Court Services</u>: Lisa Bergman retired, an internal job listing will be posted for her position.</p> <p><u>Family Law Facilitator</u>: The Monday restraining order clinic will be extended through September. Further extension cannot be promised due to assessing impact of new budget.</p> <p><u>Probation</u>: Becky Powers is moving assignments, Kelly Keene will be transferring in and assuming her role.</p> <p><u>Courts</u>: Family law bench is now four officers, Judge Sarah Burdick has been appointed in the interim until her term begins at the end of the year. Commissioner Jennifer Frost has the DVPA assignment. Cases have already been reassigned to be distributed across the four family law judges.</p> <p><u>BALA</u>: The Daly City DVRO clinic has re-opened and has the same hours, it is located on the third floor of the Community Center.</p>	
Review/Adopt Minutes from 4/11/24 meeting	Brooke Murphy moved to adopt the minutes from the April 11, 2024 meeting. Melissa Gibbs seconded. No opposition, Lindsay Marum abstained, rest in favor.	<b>Approved</b>
Carry Over Items	a) DV Training for Judges (Elisa Kuhl/Charles Cavallino): Jeniffer A. reported that judges have to do area specific trainings for their assignments. Strangulation training is available but not required and there has been tech abuse training for court staff and judicial officers. Two years ago Family Court Services spoke with the bench about tech abuse as well. There is also a CCE training update that covers strangulation and tech abuse and that information can be shared.	

<p>New Business</p>	<p>a) Barbara Hammerman Award Nomination (Charles Cavallino): Charles C. brought up nominating Negeen Abrishamcar as suggested by Melissa G. at previous meeting. Charles C. circulated language for nomination application to members for review. Discussed how Negeen Abrishamcar is an excellent attorney and advocate and has worked with the defense bar to remedy issues as well.</p> <p>Tanya Both moved for the Committee to nominate Negeen Abrishamcar. Jenny Horne seconded. No opposition, Lindsay Marum abstained, rest in favor.</p>	<p><b>Approved. Charles C will submit nomination.</b></p>
<p>Work Plan Reports</p>	<p>a) Civil-Criminal Crossover (Melissa Gibbs/Morris Maya): The DA/CORA trainings and presentations at briefings are continuing to occur. There has been good feedback from both survivors and police departments regarding the information presented and improved experiences. CORA and the DA continue to collaborate closely and will be scheduling the next cross over meeting soon.</p> <p>b) DV Firearms Compliance Unit (District Attorney’s Office): From July 2023 to June of 2024 there were 94 firearm findings and 227 firearms seized. San Mateo continues to be a model court for this project. Robert S. brought up the Surgeon General’s findings that firearms are a public health emergency and are the leading cause of domestic violence deaths for children.</p> <p>c) Judicial Bench Card (Jenny Horne/Jessica Dayton): Plan is to wait until the end of the year for updates.</p> <p>d) Law Enforcement DV Protocol Update (Jeffrey Carr/Morris Maya/Elisa Kuhl/Paula Vielman-Reeves): Discussed collaborating with law enforcement from the onset instead of the current two step process. A clean version has been prepared by Paula V. to use for the update. Kathryn A. will join the group to bring her expertise. Working group meeting set for September 26, 2024 from 12-2 PM and the chiefs will be invited.</p> <p>e) Protective Orders: No updates.</p> <p>f) Allocation of Court Resources: There is a 97 million dollar statewide budget cut and will be a deficit for this year. As a result resources will be reduced. The court is looking at a 1.5~2.5 million dollar deficit. A hiring freeze will be implemented. A new CCRC cannot be hired so Family Court Services will have increased turnaround times by four weeks or so. Clerk’s office hours may be cut as well.</p> <p>g) Courtroom Safety: No update</p>	<p><b>Meeting to be held on 9/26, coordinated by Melissa G. Will reach out to the Chiefs’ Association to invite their input/attendance.</b></p>

Public Comment	<p>Martin Fox provided public comment, thanked the court for launching the CARE court initiative. There are still those in need without the SB43 expansion to include substance abuse. Mr. Fox raised the issue of the Board of Supervisors voting on this without discussion and discussed the interplay of substance abuse and mental health. He requested advocate on this issue through member organizations and brought up the impact on the county.</p> <p>Rhonda Reyna provided public comment, raised concerns about Legal Process Committee not having a hybrid setup/Zoom access. Ms. Reyna brought up concerns about restraining orders being done through civil courts instead of a jury trial, discussed concerns about DVROs being weaponized, child access concerns, and how some parties will race to the courthouse to obtain ROs to get an advantage in family court.</p>	
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**Next Meeting:**

October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2024

11:45am-1:15pm

Hall of Justice, Conference Room 2A

400 County Center, Redwood City, CA 94063