



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

MEETING MINUTES
Wednesday, February 19, 2025

ATTENDANCE: Gail Hardy, Shauna Harrington, Chief Rob Rosado, Nancy Tyler, Phyllis DiCara, Joe DiTunno, Nancy Turner, Merit Lajoie, Andréa Deyo, Brittany Broberg, Capt. Heather LaRock, Andrea O'Connor, Marc Pelka

- I. CALL TO ORDER
 - Chairwoman Gail Hardy called the meeting to order at 11:00 AM.
- II. WELCOME AND INTRODUCTION OF SUBCOMMITTEE MEMBERS
 - All members introduced themselves.
- III. SUBCOMMITTEE VOTE ON NEW CO-CHAIR
 - Chairwoman Hardy nominated Shauna Harrington as co-chair. Merit Lajoie seconded the nomination.
- IV. REVIEW AND APPROVAL OF PREVIOUS MEETING MINUTES
 - Phyllis DiCara motioned to approve the minutes; seconded by Capt. Heather LaRock. The minutes were unanimously approved.
- V. RECAP OF LARGER COUNCIL RECOMMENDATIONS & NEXT STEPS
 - Shauna Harrington spoke about the next larger council meeting, taking place next Wednesday 2/26/25 from 12:30-2 PM which may offer more information about next steps with our recommendations.

Invite Darren Mitchell (National Council of Juvenile & Family Court Judges) to work with the subcommittee on improving Connecticut's response to domestic violence as it relates to orders of protection and an abusers' access to firearms.

- Chairwoman Hardy discussed her and Shauna's meeting with Darren Mitchell on 2/18/25 around his assistance in helping us develop a protocol around firearm seizure and compliance. During this meeting, Darren suggested creating a team, choosing a pilot location, and developing a mentorship program. They decided on a time in late April to bring him back for further assistance.

- Marc Pelka mentioned it might be beneficial for the full advisory council to develop research agenda and timeline in order to maximize our time with Darren.
- Nancy Tyler asked if we could get input from Darren as to what he might need from us prior to the larger council meeting.
- Chairwoman Hardy informed the group that Darren would be getting back to us with the services he offers, the work he has done in other states, and some ideas for us to consider moving forward, such as appointing an investigator from the prosecutor's office to ensure compliance. She also encouraged others to forward questions to us in the meantime.
- Nancy Turner suggested we invite him to the March subcommittee meeting.

Establish a protocol within each Judicial District for the review, execution and tracking of domestic violence arrest warrants.

- Chairwoman Hardy notified the group that the Division of Criminal Justice (DCJ) is moving quickly to get their case management system to include domestic violence arrest warrants so that they can be more easily tracked, including: when they are received, who is reviewing them, the date it came in, the date it was forwarded to a judge, and the date it went back to the police department.
- Capt. LaRock and Chief Rosado stated that, in Windsor and Meriden, domestic violence warrants are priority warrants. If it is a serious case, they will ask for additional expedition. The officer also needs to document their attempts to serve the warrant in their case management system.
- Andrea O'Connor notified the group that one of her courts has been dealing with quite a backlog and that sometimes they receive arraignments from 1-2 up to a year ago at times. She also discussed the safety planning that goes into discussions with victims around the execution of warrants.

Establish a consistent practice statewide for domestic violence victims to request that their addresses be protected from defendants in criminal cases.

- Joe DiTunno informed the group that he met with Judge Gold this morning regarding a statutory change to seal the file to keep this information confidential.

VI. OTHER BUSINESS

- Joe DiTunno informed the group that a new Regional Manager will be replacing CJ Forcier, who may be taking his place on the council.

VII. ANNOUNCEMENT OF TIME AND DATE OF NEXT MEETING

- Chairwoman Hardy announced that our next meeting will be 3/19/25 virtual only.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

- Merit Lajoie moved to adjourn the meeting at 11:48 AM; seconded by Andréa Deyo.