



Orange County Domestic Violence Commission | Draft Meeting Notes

December 6, 2019 | 2:00 p.m.

Committee Chairs

- Honorable Alice Blackwell, Ninth Judicial Circuit Judge, Co-Chair
- Dick Batchelor, President, Dick Batchelor Management Group, Inc., Co-Chair

Members in Attendance:

- Lisa Alexander , Founder, Stand Up Survivor Inc.
- Honorable Aramis Ayala, State Attorney, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
- Jay Corzine, Ph.D., Graduate Director & Professor, University of Central Florida
- Lui Damiani, Executive Director, Victim Service Center of Central Florida, Inc.
- Gerry Glynn , Chief Legal Officer, Embrace Families
- Jana Jasinski, Ph.D., Pegasus Professor of Sociology, Vice Provost for Faculty Excellence, University of Central Florida
- Honorable Alicia Latimore, Circuit Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
- Marie Martinez, CEO/Executive Director, The Howard Phillips Center for Children & Families - Orlando Health
- Diana Mejia, Founder & President, Nuevo Sendero, Inc.
- John Mina, Orange County Sherriff, Orange County Sheriff's Office
- Honorable Donald Myers, Chief Judge, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida
- Louis Quinones, Chief of Corrections, Orange County Corrections Department
- Monica Rodríguez, Survivor represented by Atty. Yanira Sierra
- Orlando Rolon, City of Orlando Chief of Police, Orlando Police Department represented by Deputy Chief Jose Velez
- Michelle Sperzel , Chief Executive Officer, Harbor House of Central Florida
- Sharron Washington , Regional Director, Florida Department of Children and Families represented by Ms. Christi Gray
- Honorable Robert Wesley , Public Defender, Ninth Judicial Circuit Court of Florida represented by Atty. Lydia Labar
- Heather Wilkie, Executive Director, Zebra Coalition

Welcome, Pledge and Introductions

Judge Blackwell and Dick Batchelor welcomed everyone and thanked the members for their commitment to serving on the Domestic Violence Commission.

Public Comment:

Emma Hart and Jeanette Copler spoke about their experiences with domestic violence..



Approval of Minutes:

The minutes from the meeting held on October 21, 2019 were approved.

Update on Proposed Legislation:

Sheriff Mina updated the commission on the proposed legislation addressing domestic violence fugitives. There is a period of time after the commission of the crime when a fugitive could lawfully purchase a firearm and there are three Florida Statutes that could be changed to address the gap.

DV Commission Focus Areas:

Judge Blackwell said that as a result of the ideas from the commission members at the last DV Commission meeting, four subcommittees were developed: Court Process, Systems Process, Community Services & Resources and Public Awareness & Communication Education. Each subcommittee has a committee chair and members tentatively assigned. Judge Blackwell asked that each subcommittee break out into their groups and identify the mission of their subcommittee, people that the subcommittee may want to invite to participate and to set a meeting schedule.

There was a motion to accept the committee chairs. The motion was seconded and approved.

Judge Latimore - Court Process Chair. Michelle Sperzel - Systems Process Chair. Gerry Glynn - Community Services and Resources Chair. Heather Wilkie- Public awareness & Community Education Chair.

Subcommittee Breakout Meetings:

The subcommittees met from 2:45 – 3:45 p.m.

Subcommittee Updates:

Each subcommittee chair reported on the progress made during the breakout session.

Judge Latimore reported that the court process subcommittee will be looking at both the civil and criminal process, access to justice, co-parenting issues, law enforcement orders, immigration issues, and mental health issues, bringing in court personnel to share Baker Act and Marchman information. Meetings have been set for December 20, 2019 from Noon – 1:30 and January 3, 2020 from 3:30 – 5:00 p.m.

Michelle Sperzel said that meetings for the systems process subcommittee have been scheduled for January 16, February 20, March 19, and April 16. Put together a mission statement – “Because Orange County leads the state in domestic violence cases and has recently seen a 17% increase in domestic violence related homicides, this committee formed with the mission of looking at the systems where we can be better coordinated and reduce incidents of domestic violence related homicides.”



Gerry Glynn said that the community services meeting is scheduled for January 15, 2020 at 3:30 p.m. They are going to reach out to community members to participate, review prior reports and pull in historical information. The committee is going to look at gaps in education, and the LGBTQ population.

Heather Wilkie reported that the next public awareness meeting is January 16, 2020. The subcommittee will be identifying what the community needs, what we currently have as a community and how we are communicating the information. The subcommittee will look at previous recommendations, identify community members and public relations individuals.

Closing remarks

Judge Blackwell said that the next Domestic Violence Commission Meeting is set for February 24, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. The commission will be looking at reports from the subcommittees and what progress has been made. Judge Blackwell asked that the subcommittee chairs send the meeting minutes and dates to Ilia Torres next week.

Dick Batchelor thanked everyone for their dedication to the Domestic Violence Commission.

The Domestic Violence Commission meeting concluded at 3:57 p.m.