

## COLORADO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

October 11, 2024

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#### **Attendance:**

##### **Domestic Violence Board Members Present:**

Andrea Bradbury, Hon. Bradley Burbach, Erin Gazelka, Jennifer Parker, Jessica Fann, Karen Morgenthaler, Nil Buckley, Raechel Alderete, Stephanie Fritts, Tally Zuckerman, Tracey Martinez, Yolanda Arredondo

##### **Domestic Violence Board Members Absent:**

Glory McDaniel, Lori Griffith, Jeanette Barich, Nicole Collins, Michelle Hunter, Sandra Campanella

##### **Staff Present:**

Brittinie Sandoval, Caroline Frane, Jill Trowbridge, Rachael Collie, and Yuanting Zhang

##### **Guests:**

Amy Strasser-Garcia, Dawn Garcia, Janine Jiron, Lee Herrera, Nicholas Millard, Sandy Eriksen, Theresa Ortega, Becky Mahonee, Doug Carrigan

#### **Introductions:**

The meeting convened at 9:11 AM

Stephanie Fritts (DVOMB Chair) introduced herself as the Chair and welcomed the Board and guests.

Jesse Hansen (Board Staff) introduced himself and noted the meeting is being recorded. He shared the goal of the traveling Board meeting, how Alamosa was identified, and why connecting with communities is important in the work of addressing domestic violence. Jesse briefly described the role of the DVOMB and highlighted its purview and regulatory role. He noted that this month was also Domestic Violence Awareness Month (DVAM) and that the agenda has some presentations to honor DVAM. Jesse announced that if anyone is experiencing any technical difficulties, they should contact Caroleena Frane for assistance.

Stephanie Fritts (DVOMB Chair) indicated that a quorum was present. She asked if there was consensus to approve the agenda? There was consensus to approve the agenda.

#### **ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

##### **Staff Announcements:**

Jesse Hansen (Board Staff) announced the following:

- Updates regarding the vacant ODVSOM Program Manager position
- Board meeting and committee meetings are open for the public to attend. He noted that there are options for in-person and virtual attendance. He also shared each of the different committees of the Board.
- The Colorado Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) was featured in a podcast titled "Assessing Risk in Abusive Partner Intervention Programs" and both he and Caroleena Frane spoke about how the instrument is used to guides treatment and how it was created.
- The University of Colorado is conducting a study examining inflammation and health with intimate partner violence. He shared that the recruitment flyer would be shared.

- Summarized the upcoming training events and also shared important updates related to the DVSOB Conference.

Caroleena Frane (DVOMB Staff) announced the following:

- The Provider Data Management System (PDMS) will now publish specialties on the Approved Provider List for better treatment matching with domestic violence offenders. The PDMS allows for Approved Providers to indicate if they have other specialties which are not regulated by the DVOMB. These can include specific treatment modalities or adjunctive therapies. The intent is to share this information with referral sources and those seeking services so they can understand what other services may be integrated by that program or agency.

Brittanie Sandoval announced the following:

- She and Dr. Rachael Collie presented at the DV Summit in Colorado Springs. She indicated that their presentation on updates related to the DVRNA and the offender competencies was well-received.

Rachael Collie announced the following:

- The upcoming training by Dr. Karl Hanson titled Desistance from Sexual Offending and Estimating Lifetime and Residual Risk of Sexual Offending: Practical Approaches. She encouraged people to consider attending this training to learn more about risk classification of sexual offenses and how time in the community offense-free can be factored into evaluating risk for sexual reoffending.
- The upcoming deadlines for the Application Review Committee (ARC) to receive and have materials made ready for review for Committee members.

Yuanting Zhang

- Appreciation and thanks to the DVOMB Approved Providers for submitting treatment data.

**Board Announcements:**

None

**Public Announcements:**

None

**Future Agenda Items:**

None

**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE AWARENESS MONTH - DOMESTIC VIOLENCE VICTIM SERVICES THROUGH THE YEARS PRESENTATION (ATTACHMENT 1)**

Stephanie Fritts (DVOMB Chair) introduced this item as a presentation and discussion item. She referred this to Jesse Hansen (Board Staff) and Jessica Fann (Board Member). In honor of DVAM, Jessica shared the journey of a survivor and her own story of domestic violence and abuse. She contextualized how the field has made progress in creating resources for victims in the post-conviction setting. She shared where there are still barriers and a lack of funding to support victim services statewide. Specifically, Jessica spoke to the challenges victims experience when trying to navigate through multiple systems. Jesse spoke about how changes to domestic violence offender treatment has moved away from a time-based model to one that emphasizes the Core Treatment Competencies. He also noted that the role of the Treatment Victim Advocate on the Multi-Disciplinary Treatment Team was modified to align and identify as a Community Based Advocate. Jesse summarized some of the research on offender treatment, but noted that the work of the Board continues to need to prioritize victims and survivors.

Stephanie asked if there is any discussion from Board member or members of the public. Board members and members of the audience asked question of the presenters.

- A question was asked as to where the funding cuts were occurring. Jessica indicated that much of it was from the federal level and reductions in fees. She indicated she would pass along more information about those funding shortages.
- A question was asked what would be a starting point for helping Treatment Victim Advocates on accessing more resources. Jessica shared that the Domestic Violence Program (DVP) is a great resource as well as Violence Free Colorado both holds information about service availability by county on their websites.
- A Board member spoke about the shame and stigma that victims experience and that it is something that still needs to be addressed in supporting victims and survivors.
- It was noted that in child welfare cases, that the non-offending parent has multiple services occurring all at once and systems should strive to reduce or combine services to help survivors not feel overwhelmed.
- A public member asked about funding for offender services related to Medicaid as she has experienced instances where Providers have struggled to collect payment and offenders have struggled to make payment. Caroleena responded indicating that insurance typically does not assume policies for a person's involvement in the legal system. She also noted that Medicaid also requires a diagnostic code which there isn't one specific to domestic violence and there are questions as to what that would look like and how it would be assessed at a national level.
- Several individuals thanked Jessica for her presentation and sharing her story.

## BOARD UPDATES AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS ATTACHMENT 2)

Stephanie Fritts (DVOMB Chair) indicated that this is a presentation and discussion item and referred it to Jesse Hansen (DVOMB Staff). Jesse described the background of the Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management. Jesse indicated that this presentation would focus on recent updates concerning the Office, the DVOMB, the Standards and Guidelines, and efforts to recruit and retain Approved Providers. Jesse reviewed the following:

- Staffing Structure for the Office of Domestic Violence and Sex Offender Management - The Office went through a major restructuring in 2022 of which involved realigning and reclassifying the support staff to the DVOMB and the Sex Offender Management Board (SOMB). This was done to clarify staff roles and responsibilities and to optimize the use of staff skills, knowledge, and abilities under a "Shared Services Model".
- Core Treatment Competencies - The Core Treatment Competencies in the DVOMB Standards and Guidelines were recently revised to improve the clarity and function of the competencies in measuring how a domestic violence offender is progressing in treatment. There are now 11 competencies and several potential competencies that can be added as a requirement based on the offender evaluation.
- Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment - Revised - The DVRNA was recently validated through an empirical study assessing how well it classified domestic violence offenders into different levels based on their relative risk to recidivate. Recidivism in the validation study was based on new filings involving a domestic violence offense, a protection order violation, or some form of child abuse. He indicated that the findings of the validation study promoted the development of a revised version of the DVRNA which separates static versus dynamic risk factors in a way that is easier to score and interpret as someone is going through treatment.
- Section 7.0 and Treatment Victim Advocates - The Victim Advocacy Committee recently recommended changes to Section 7.0 which speaks to Treatment Victim Advocacy under the DVOMB Standards and Guidelines. These changes were approved by the Board and Jesse reviewed some of the major areas impacted. Notably, he indicated that Treatment Victim Advocates are now identified as community-based advocates carrying the same level of confidentiality and privilege.
- Provider Recruitment and Retention - Jesse indicated that the Office has been working with a consultant group on how to create a formal way of recruiting new mental health professionals to enter the field. He indicated that this was a multi-year effort and involved first studying the motivations of those who choose and continue to work in this field. Jesse shared some of the insights from that research and indicated that a more formal recruitment campaign would begin in mid-2025.

Stephanie asked if there is any discussion from Board member or members of the public. There were no questions from Board members or members of the public.

LUNCH BREAK: 11:30 - 12:00AM

## OPEN FORUM AND DISCUSSION

Stephanie Fritts (DVOMB Chair) indicated that this is a presentation and discussion item and intended to invite community and local representatives from Alamosa the opportunity to speak to the Board and share information. Stephanie invited Anne Kelly, District Attorney of the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District to speak first.

- District Attorney Anne Kelly spoke about her journey to assume the role of District Attorney after the resignation of her predecessor. She described the prior policy and circumstances involving reports of domestic violence being dismissed, leading to a lack of attention, understanding, and safety concerns for victims. DA Kelly noted that the community came together to address these issues and continue to work together collaboratively in the district attorney's office. She noted that positive changes have been made due to rebuild relationships with domestic violence shelters and revised policies that prioritize victim safety. She noted that there is still a need for more resources and education in the San Luis Valley to address domestic violence cases effectively.
- Tu Casa, Inc.: Jenine Huron spoke to the Board. She is a confidential, community-based victim advocate with Tu Casa, Inc. She spoke about Tu Casa and their goals to support providing crisis intervention, shelter services, and advocacy to victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence, and their non-offending family members/caregivers. They also have several programs that aim to empower the community to affect sustainable social change through awareness building and prevention education with healthy relationships and offers various resources. Jenine noted that their program has to coordinate services across the San Luis Valley which can be difficult, but they have found ways to be efficient. She shared some of her perspective as a Treatment Victim Advocate with the Board.
- Nick Millard, 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Probation Supervisor: Nick spoke to the Board and expressed his appreciation for the recent support with finding an Approved Provider to refer to. He noted that the 12<sup>th</sup> Judicial District is currently without an Approved Providers, but that there were plans underway to help the community while a long-term solution was being explored. Nick noted that Judges and probation officers may need more training on domestic violence, including understanding language barriers and the importance of firearms removal. He expressed gratitude for his current probation officers and that they are part of what makes their work effective and genuine.
- Amy Strasser-Garcia, Domestic Violence Clinical Supervisor: Amy spoke to the Board about her experiences as a clinical supervisor and her prior experiences delivering treatment. She noted that the San Luis Valley Behavioral Group provides many wrap-around services and discontinued their domestic violence program several years ago. She expressed appreciation for the Board traveling to Alamosa and shared that the community in the San Luis Valley was very supportive and connected with each other.

Stephanie Fritts (DVOMB Chair) thanked all of the people who attended the traveling Board meeting and indicated that this was one of the best and most informative traveling Board meetings in her tenure. Program staff facilitated a trivia game with members of the public.

### Adjourn

The meeting adjourned at 1:32PM.

Respectfully submitted by,

Jesse Hansen, DVOMB Program Manager

APPROVED

