

## COLORADO DOMESTIC VIOLENCE OFFENDER MANAGEMENT BOARD

### MEETING MINUTES

November 14, 2025

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#### ATTENDANCE:

##### Domestic Violence Offender Management Board Members Present:

Yolanda Arredondo, Andrea Bradbury, Erin Gazelka, Jessica Fann, Lori Griffith, Tally Zuckerman, Jeanette Barich, Hon. Kolony Fields, Michelle Hunter, Roshan Kalantar, Karen Morgenthaler, Karen Crabb, Jennifer Parker, Sandra Campanella, Nil Buckley, Christina Bloemen (Proxy for Sara Carty)

##### Domestic Violence Offender Management Board Members Absent:

Chris Chino, Tracey Martinez, Raechel Alderete, Sara Carty

##### Staff Present:

Jesse Hansen, Caroleena Frane, Reggin Palmitesso-Martinez, Brittanie Sandoval, Rachael Collie, Yuanting Zhang, Ellen Creecy, Taylor Kriesel, Paige Brown, Jill Trowbridge, Paige Brown

##### Guests:

Barb Hamilton, Jen Waindle, Judie Kunz, Sade Lee, Annaleah Dow, Melanie Pitkin, Gail Prim

#### INTRODUCTIONS:

The meeting convened at 9:07 AM.

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) introduced herself and welcomed the Board and guests.

Caroleena Frane (DVOMB Program Coordinator) introduced herself and welcomed the Board and guests. She indicated that quorum was present and noted that the meeting was being recorded. She indicated to contact Taylor Kriesel if anyone is experiencing technical issues, and asked that Board members and guests sign in.

The in-person DVOMB members introduced themselves.

Taylor Kriesel introduced the online DVOMB members.

The ODVSOM staff introduced themselves.

Taylor Kriesel introduced the online guests.

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) asked if there was consensus to approve the agenda. There was consensus.

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) then moved to the next agenda item related to reviewing the October Minutes.



**REVIEW AND VOTE ON OCTOBER 2025 DVOMB MEETING MINUTES:** (Attachment #1)

*Jeanette Barich (DVOMB Member) made a motion to approve the October 2025 Minutes as presented. Jessica Fann (DVOMB Member) 2<sup>nd</sup> the motion.*

There was no discussion on the motion.

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) asked staff to prepare the vote.

Session ID: 882590

**Question #1**

The motion passed with 14 votes to approve the October 2025 meeting minutes, 0 votes to object, and 1 vote to abstain.

<b>Question #1</b>		
Yes	93.33%	14
No	0.00%	0
Abstain	6.67%	1
Totals	100.00%	15

*\*Roshan Kalantar voted yes in the chat.*

**ANNOUNCEMENTS:**

**Staff Announcements:**

**Caroleena Frane (DVOMB Program Coordinator):**

- This will be the last Board meeting for Board members Jennifer Parker and Karen Morgenthaler. She shared how both Board members have dedicated themselves to the Board and made significant contributions to the DVOMB and Application Review Committee (ARC).
  - Fellow Board members shared their appreciation for Jennifer and Karen and expressed how much they will be missed.
  - Jennifer and Karen both expressed their gratitude for the kind words expressed by the Board and shared how they learned so much through sitting on the Board and the ARC.
- The applications for Jennifer and Karen's positions on the Board have been sent out and three applications have been received so far. Interviews will be conducted on December 1st. If Board members are interested in sitting on the interview panel they should reach out to Caroleena.
- Chris Chino is leaving the Public Defender's Office and therefore leaving the Board. The Public Defender's Office will be replacing his position on the Board soon, hopefully by the January 2026 meeting.
- The December Board meeting is canceled.
- The Individualized Responsive Care (IRC) Committee is working on updating the LGBT+ section of Appendix B. Dr. Yuanting Zhang (ODVSOM Staff) presented a literature review on LGBTQ+ offenders to the IRC committee. Caroleena recommended that those interested in this topic please consider joining the committee meetings.

**Taylor Krisel (ODVSOM Staff):**

- She thanked everyone for their attendance to the conference, either virtually or in-person. The conference recordings closed on November 1.
- The 2026 ODVSOM Conference will be held from July 14 - July 18. The conference call to papers will be sent out soon, and will be due in early February. The Training Committee will vote on abstracts in March.
- Upcoming Training Events:



- DV101: January 13, 2026

**Reggin Palmitesso-Martinez (ODVSOM Staff)**

- Staff is working on the training calendar for 2026, including round tables and CASCADE training. Core trainings for associate level applicants are being transitioned to an online, on-demand format. Technical assistance hours will also be required as part of the online training completion.
- The PDMS has a speciality category for Approved Providers (Providers) to include various specializations and competencies. Two new categories are being added: civil evaluations and civil treatment. Staff does not oversee this aspect of the PDMS, but encourages Providers to include specialities so it can be included in their listing.

**Brittinie Sandoval (ODVSOM Staff)**

- The deadline for the ARC to review submitted materials at the December meeting is November 24.

**Board Announcements:**

None.

**Public Announcements:**

None.

**Future Agenda Items:**

None.

**RESTORATIVE JUSTICE WHITE PAPER (PRESENTATION & CONSENSUS): (Attachment #2) - Dr. Rachael Collie, ODVSOM Staff**

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) introduced this as a presentation item and referred to Dr. Rachael Collie (ODVSOM Staff). Dr. Collie introduced herself and explained that the Restorative Justice White Paper has been reviewed by the Victim Advocacy Committee and received positive feedback, and is now being brought before the Board for their feedback. The Victim Advocacy Committee made some updates to strengthen the main points of the paper, and those updates can be seen in red text in the document that was sent out (Attachment #2).

Dr. Collie's presentation is summarized below:

- The core premise of the White Paper is to examine whether structured, restorative justice (RJ)-informed practices can responsibly complement our existing system. Any exploration must be anchored in an unwavering commitment to victim safety and autonomy.
- Colorado's DV Model is based on the foundation of the risk-need-responsivity model and individualized treatment based on criminogenic needs, which is recognized by experts for strictly adhering to the Principles of Effective Intervention.
- Colorado's DV Model is a very regulated system, and there is a clear statutory framework that limits direct victim participation to focus on offender accountability.
- RJ is a philosophy focused on healing, community engagement, and direct accountability. It requires voluntary participation, skilled and neutral facilitation, and victim safety and autonomy as paramount.
- The evidence for RJ is promising but mixed, constrained by significant methodological limitations.
- The Sex Offender Management Board's Victim Clarification model is a viable case study for integrating RJ-aligned principles within a regulated system.
- Transferable lessons from the Victim Clarification model include rigorous gatekeeping, not all cases including face-to-face dialogue, and victim agency.
- RJ is not a replacement for the DV model, but may serve a complementary role. Victim Clarification is the most viable, responsible, and safest entry point for integrating RJ principles.



- The policy recommendations include expanding and formalizing the clarification interventions within the DV treatment framework, piloting and establishing clarification-based protocols, and monitoring outcomes.

#### **Board Discussion:**

Reggin Palmitesso-Martinez (ODVSOM Staff) noted that during her time as a probation officer, she had a client who took full accountability and was very remorseful of their actions, and how a framework like this could be useful in those situations if the victim was willing.

Dr. Collie noted that there is often an ongoing relationship between the victim and offender in domestic violence cases, and this framework may provide an avenue for later stages of treatment and incorporating a practical mediated session.

A Board member shared that they are thankful for this discussion and noted that they have seen successful RJ practices in other contexts outside of domestic violence, and how these practices can be very healing for offenders and victims.

Paige Brown (ODVSOM Staff) thanked Dr. Collie and the Victim Advocacy Committee for taking on this subject and providing great feedback. She highlighted the use between survivor and victim in the White Paper and was appreciative of the footnote explaining the difference between the terms.

A Board member shared they have also been heavily involved in RJ-practices, and in their experience victims often wanted to have one more conversation to express their feelings. They are in favor of these changes and are glad that the Board can formulate safe steps forward that could be used as a final step in treatment.

Jesse Hansen (ODVSOM Program Manager) highlighted that there has been work to expand how Treatment Victim Advocates (TVAs) are regarded within the MTT, and he hopes that this will give even further justification and agency to the necessity of TVAs and their incredibly important role. He also noted that Colorado's DV Model is unique in that it is not limited by time, and incorporating RJ principles further elevates the concept that completion of treatment is based on the change process of a client.

A Board member expressed their gratitude for Dr. Collie's work and shared that if people are in favor of building the clarification process they are welcome to join the Victim Advocacy Committee to share their opinions. The Victim Advocacy Committee meets on the fourth Friday of each month.

Caroleena Frane (DVOMB Program Coordinator) thanked Dr. Collie for her work and noted that she is able to eloquently and simply convey information that readers can digest and understand. She also noted her appreciation for the SOMB already having a blueprint for clarification so the DVOMB does not have to start from scratch.

#### **Audience Discussion:**

None.

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) asked if there was consensus to approve the Restorative Justice White Paper. There was consensus.

#### **DIVERSION WHITE PAPER (PRESENTATION & CONSENSUS): (Attachment #3) - Jesse Hansen, ODVSOM Program Manager**

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) introduced this as a presentation item and referred to Jesse Hansen (ODVSOM Program Manager). Jesse discussed that a few months ago there was a presentation on the Diversion White Paper, with the purpose being to highlight some emerging trends that are being seen from District Attorney's offices creating pre-trial diversion programs for domestic violence cases. The motivation for creating this white paper was to help answer questions from Providers and prosecutors about establishing these programs.



The DVOMB does not have purview in matters that are pre-plea. However, in the statute allowing prosecutors to create diversionary programs for domestic violence cases, there is reference to the requirement of a DV Provider needing to conduct an evaluation. While the statute names and identifies the DVOMB, the DVOMB does not have purview over such cases. The white paper is intended to provide clarity on the Board's role, the statutory mechanisms driving the process, and outline some observations from post-conviction settings and how that might relate to diversionary cases.

Jesse noted that the first draft of the paper relied too heavily on anecdotal information, and the revised version is focused on the data for low-risk, Level A offenders. He noted that only 2-3% of the total offender population are categorized as Level A. The paper identifies that there may be a limited number of offenders referred to diversion who are actually low risk.

The revised white paper also includes recommendations for prosecutors and Providers. At the beginning of the document, there are recommendations that state that diversion is appropriate for low and lower-moderate risk clients who are stable in the community, but assessing risk is complex and requires specialized training. While Providers may use the DVOMB Standards as best practice for diversion cases, they are not required to, which creates a lack of uniformity across programs. Since the DVOMB does not have purview, the Board cannot say what should or should not happen, but the Board can contextualize from the post-conviction context and provide considerations for prosecutors and Providers.

#### **Board Discussion:**

A Board member noted that the paper was much improved, and shared that this paper would also be helpful for public defenders and criminal defense attorneys. Another Board member also noted that the white paper was greatly improved, and asked if there was any guidance included for victim specialists. Caroleena Frane (DVOMB Program Coordinator) noted that there is a bullet point discussing the process of notifying the victim for the rationale of diversion and putting them in contact with the TVA, but that more information regarding specialized training for victim specialists would be beneficial.

Caroleena shared that this white paper is hopefully meeting the need for communication and clarity among all the stakeholder groups involved in diversion cases. A Board member shared that this white paper would also be useful for district attorneys to provide more context about domestic violence diversion cases. Jesse agreed that sharing this information to prosecutors is highly important for training and contextualizing information.

#### **Audience Discussion:**

None.

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) asked if there was consensus to approve the Diversion White Paper with additions for victim specialist considerations. There was consensus.

***Break: 10:32 am - 10:47 am***

#### **CASCADE UPDATES (PRESENTATION AND Q&A): Dr. Rachael Collie, ODVSOM Staff, and Jesse Hansen, ODVSOM Program Manager**

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) introduced this as a presentation and Q&A item and referred to Jesse Hansen (ODVSOM Program Manager). Jesse explained they will be providing updates to the CASCADE (Colorado Assessment Scale for Coercion and Abuse Desistance). In 2010, Colorado created the Domestic Violence Risk and Needs Assessment (DVRNA) to identify an individual's placement into a treatment level that corresponds to their level of risk. There have been a lot of efforts to implement and train on the DVRNA, and more recently, efforts to validate the tool. Once staff validated the DVRNA, efforts shifted to making changes to improve the tool. The CASCADE is the new and improved DVRNA.

Jesse noted that in a past Board meeting, there was a presentation on the CASCADE scoring manual and pilot study. The pilot study helped give insights into how the tool would perform and the utility from a Provider and



probation officer perspective. Today's presentation will be discussing some of the final updates to the CASCADE before its deployment and implementation in 2026.

Jesse explained that one of the underlying goals in creating the CASCADE, particularly the static side of the tool, was an opportunity to have supervising officers or case managers score the static portion and become involved in the risk assessment process in a more collaborative format than is currently structured. Sade Lee discussed that on the probation side, they are hoping the creation of the CASCADE static portion will create more consistent DV supervision levels and replace the DVSI.

Dr. Rachael Collie (ODVSOM Staff) discussed that the research team has been analyzing the psychometrics of the tool to ensure that the scales are reliable. There were 150 fully completed CASCADE assessments used in this data analysis. For the static portion, the analysis focused on how often an item was marked as yes or no, and how the items relate to one another. The analysis also examined the Danger Assessment items that are within the CASCADE to determine the risk level of clients who have Danger Assessment items.

For the dynamic side of the scale, the same type of analysis was performed. There is a good distribution between scores on the dynamic scale. The analysis also examined how well the tool distributes across risk levels and how well do those risk levels match up to recidivism rates. As part of the DVRNA validation study, there were 800 cases with the original DVNRA score and known recidivism for domestic violence, violence that is not domestic, and general reoffending. These cases were rescored using the CASCADE static scale to examine the effects of changing the risk cutoff scores.

There are three critical risk factors that were carried over from the DVRNA to the CASCADE static scale, including non-fatal strangulation in the index or past offense, use of weapons or threat of weapons in the index or past offense, and assault committed knowing the victim was pregnant in the index or past offense.

Analysis was performed to understand if a client could be positive for one of these risk factors, but still be recommended for low supervision from the static scale. While this does not happen very often, it is possible. To prevent this, there are stopgaps in consideration for both the static and dynamic scales to automatically place a client in medium risk supervision levels if they present one of these critical risk factors. When validating these stopgaps with previous data, there are some challenges in terms of separating between males and females, with improvements to the predictability of the scale being more prevalent in males. There are a few options to consider when better calibrating the scale for females, such as slightly different weighting scales, adjusting threshold scores, or a combination of both.

There are nonscored items in both the static and dynamic scales that are also being analyzed to determine if they are adding useful and unique information.

Jesse explained that in conversations with Erin Gazelka (DVOMB Vice Chair), staff received feedback that there were a few unique cases in the CASCADE pilot study where if the client was assessed with the DVRNA, they would have been placed in Level C, but under the CASCADE, there were designated as low static risk. This issue is what led to the analyses and examining different weighting scales.

### **Board Discussion:**

A Board member asked Dr. Collie if she had come across any statistics in her research about how many female offenders strangle. Dr. Collie said she had not come across this information, but believes it would be fairly low and come up more often in male perpetrated violence, but there could be differences in same sex relationships. Dr. Collie noted that there is a real deficit of research and studies regarding female domestic violence offenders. Another Board member noted their interest in the research about female offenders and strangulation, and discussed other risk factors they have noted among female offenders such as mental health and children being present during the offense.

A Board member asked for clarity regarding if there would be a situation where non-fatal strangulation is present but the client is being scored as low risk. The Board member noted their severe concerns from a



victim standpoint if that were the case. Erin Gazelka (DVOMB Vice Chair) explained that she does not think that a Provider would choose to put a strangulation case into a low risk group, and that is why Dr. Collie is performing this analysis to prevent this situation from happening. Jesse Hansen (ODVSOM Program Manager) reaffirmed this stance that the Board does not want these individuals to be scored as low risk, and the pilot study provided useful insights to adjust the CASCADE before implementation. There is also the possibility of including an override checklist, where if a client scores positive on certain items, the Provider can increase their treatment level and intensity. Dr. Collie also reaffirmed that it is unacceptable to have these behaviors present in an index or past offense and score the client as low risk, which is why the staff have been doing extra analysis and work to improve the CASCADE.

**Audience Discussion:**

None.

**HELP STOP GUNS FROM GETTING BACK INTO ABUSER'S HANDS (PRESENTATION AND Q&A): Jennifer Waindle, Battered Women's Justice Project (BWJP)**

Michelle Hunter (DVOMB Chair) introduced this as a presentation and Q&A item and referred to Jennifer Waindle. Jennifer introduced herself and shared her background in law enforcement and providing technical assistance for domestic violence related topics.

Jennifer's presentation is summarized below:

- BWJP is involved in advocacy, children, defense for criminalized survivors, gun violence, legal approaches, protection orders, and reimagining coordinated community response.
- Federal Law - 18 U.S.C.992(g): Persons with statuses including intimate partner/domestic partner protection order and having been convicted of a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence are prohibited under federal law from shipping, transporting, possessing, or receiving firearms or ammunition.
- U.S. vs Rahimi: The U.S. supreme court upheld the federal domestic violence protection order firearm prohibition.
- Types of relationships covered under federal law: current or former spouse, parent, guardian of the victim; current or former cohabitant as spouse, parent, guardian to the victim; child in common; similarly situated to a spouse, parent, guardian of the victim; current or recent former dating relationship.
- Implementation and enforcement includes relinquishment/seizure, NICS background checks, and prosecution for violations. Firearms prohibitions are not self-executing.
- Barriers to implementation include lack of communication among agencies, lack of clarity about authority to confiscate, and concerns regarding disarming individuals.
- There is an intersection between domestic violence and firearms in the U.S. The presence of a firearm makes it 5x more likely a woman will be killed by her abusive male partner.
- There is a murder-suicide connection, with 65% of all murder-suicides involving an intimate partner, and children witnessing 40% of intimate partner violence murder-suicides in a recent study.
- Common forms of non-fatal firearm abuse include verbal threats to use a gun to harm, leaving a gun out to create feelings of fear, pointing a gun at a partner or others, waiving a gun around, shooting at/near others, threats of suicide, and cleaning a gun to create feelings of fear.
- Front line law enforcement, courts, community supervision, and defendants all play a role in firearm and ammunition and surrender.
- For community supervision, it is important to consider: who qualifies; do defendants own firearms or have they in the past; will the defendant live in a home with firearms; and what does compliance/surrender look like.

Jennifer encouraged those in need of more specific technical assistance or training to reach out to the National Resource Center on Domestic Violence and Firearms.



**Board Discussion:**

Caroleena Frane (DVOMB Program Coordinator) thanked Jennifer for her time and sharing this information with the Board. A Board member thanked Jennifer for the work her organization is doing and that it is inspiring to hear what other states are able to accomplish. Another Board member agreed and thanked Jennifer for her presentation and that she found the information very valuable, particularly the information about non-fatal firearm abuse and survivor experiences.

Jesse Hansen (ODVSOM Program Manager) also appreciated the information and detail from Jennifer's presentation, and he asked if there has ever been consideration at the federal level for a tax credit for federal firearm licenses to help aid in storing these surrendered firearms. Jennifer had not heard of this idea before and explained that it would be good to consider in the future.

**Audience Discussion:**

None.

**ADJOURN**

The meeting adjourned at 12:45 pm.

**BOARD LUNCH AND APPRECIATION**

No Board business conducted.

Respectfully submitted by,

Ellen Creecy, Program Assistant



Name	Q1
Andrea Bradbury	1
Erin Gazelka	1
Jeanette Barich	1
Jennifer Parker	1
Jessica Fann	1
Karen Morgenthaler	1
Lori Griffith	1
Michelle Hunter	1
Chris Chino	NP
Nil Buckley	3
Sandra Campanella	1
Sara Carty	NP
Tally Zuckerman	1
Yolanda Arredondo	1
Roshan Kalantar	1
Raechel Alderete	NP
Kolony Fields	1
Tracey Martinez	NP
Karen Crabb	1
Total	Yes = No = 0 Abstain = Total Present =

Q1 Motion to approve the October 2025 Minutes.

