

MINUTES OF JANUARY 11, 2022
VIRTUAL DOMESTIC VIOLENCE TASK FORCE

The Domestic Violence Task Force met virtually on Tuesday, January 11, 2022 with the meeting called to order by Justice Hantz Marconi at 4:01 p.m.

The following members participated:

Justice Anna Barbara Hantz Marconi
Mary Barton
Merrill Beauchamp
Kathy Beebe
Hon. Susan Carbon
Pam Dodge
Steven Endres
Sarah Freeman
Dr. Scott Hampton
Chief David Hobbs
Marcia Hornick
Erin Jasina
Jean Kilham
Mary Krueger

Patricia LaFrance
Betsy Paine
Lynda Ruel
Lyn Schollett
Amanda Grady Sexton
Jon Strasburger
Michael Strauss
David Vicinanza
Susan Warner
Hon. John Yazinski
Anne Zinkin

Lisa Merrill, Recording Secretary

Justice Hantz Marconi called the meeting to order and welcomed members to the meeting thanking them for their participation. She noted that the meeting is being recorded and the proceedings are being livestreamed.

Justice Hantz Marconi reviewed the focus of the meeting under Charge 1, Review of Existing Court Practices and Procedures. She explained the use of and access to the Dropbox and reviewed the documents and materials currently posted in it. She thanked Ms. Bernier for a survey about process issues.

Justice Hantz Marconi referenced the agenda noting that it is a guidepost to meeting flow and invited members for comment, feedback, or hurdles. The following topics were discussed under charge 1:

- D.V. Petition Process
 - Protocols
 - Inconsistent application of protocols throughout the court system.
 - Gap between court protocols and attorney general protocols.
 - How do we bridge the gap?
 - Use of a checklist.
 - Judge training.
 - Annually
 - Importance of an advocate for petitioner.
 - Resources and expansion.
 - Review protocols and seek areas of improvement.
 - Formalize feedback and open communication with stakeholders.
 - Form review and change which falls under Charge 4.
 - Guided interview for form completion.

- Service
 - Screening tools, such as the lethality assessment.
 - Resources in small departments.
 - Use of various stakeholders to serve.
 - Do VAWA protocols include electronic service?
 - Ms. Freeman offered to review VAWA protocols in this area.
- Review of New England States' protocols for serving.
- Justice Hantz Marconi noted that e filing for domestic violence cases is well into the future.

There was much agreement about improving consistent application of protocols.

Justice Hantz Marconi thanked members for their time and attention and asked them to review Court Practice and Procedures in anticipation of the next meeting.

Next Meeting

The next meeting of the Domestic Violence Task Force will occur on Wednesday, January 12, 2022 at 4:00 p.m. via WebEx and will be live streamed for the public.

With no further business to come before the Task Force, the meeting adjourned at 5:00 p.m.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa Merrill, Recording Secretary