



**Collaborative Commission  
on Domestic Violence**

**2022:**  
Second Year  
Report

# Introduction

The Second Year Report provides an overview of the efforts made by the Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence (CCDV) from October 2020 through September 2021. Each of the six committees that make up the CCDV met monthly or bi-monthly to achieve their Year 2 goals, based on the strategies identified in the City of San Antonio Comprehensive Domestic Violence Plan.

Individual reports detail the successes and challenges that the committees faced. The sections under Individual Committee Reports also include a table identifying each committee’s Year 3 Goals and Progress Indicators. The indicators were added to capture additional data and assess the committee’s progress throughout the year. A comprehensive table of the progress indicators can be found in Appendix A (page 10).

The table below summarizes the previous year’s goals per committee and the final result for each goal.

## CCDV STRATEGY SUMMARY

Committee	Year 2 Goals	Year 2 Goal Outcome
<b>Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Pilot referral line with BCSO and STRAC. Implement a targeted communications strategy.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCSO and STRAC established a pilot referral line in July 2021.</li> <li>UH launched Purple Porch SA Campaign in October 2021.</li> <li>UH continued Love Is... Campaign PSA in December 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Judiciary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue to enforce existing laws prohibiting firearm possession with a protective order or conviction of domestic violence.</li> <li>Expand support to families experiencing domestic violence in civil court.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Secured funding for a civil court compliance officer to aid with firearm transfer compliance and finalized the firearm transfer process and forms.</li> <li>Secured funding for legal services to include 2 additional attorneys and 1 paralegal.</li> </ul>
<b>Law Enforcement</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand high-risk victim identification pilot beyond the BCFJC to include SAPD CRT and BCSO.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>BCSO and STRAC established a pilot referral line in July 2021.</li> </ul>
<b>Non-Profit</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue facilitating the adoption of an evidence-based violence prevention curriculum for implementation in local schools.</li> <li>Expand the pro-bono protective order project to serve more survivors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>FVPS trained 210 medical students on the dynamics of domestic violence and the resources available to victims.</li> <li>TRLA partnered with SALSA to recruit and train 97 attorneys to participate in the pro-bono protective order project.</li> </ul>

## CCDV STRATEGY SUMMARY (continued)

Committee	Year 2 Goals	Year 2 Goal Outcome
<b>Prosecution</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Host community-based events to educate the public on domestic and family violence prosecutions and survivor services</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The DAO participated in numerous community events to inform the public of its role and available services.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Nonprofit Committee to ensure that evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Developed a rubric that compares four evidence-based curricula on teen dating violence prevention.</li> </ul>
<b>Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Produce quarterly data reports.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Published data reports for two quarters.</li> </ul>





# Individual Workgroup Reports

## HEALTHCARE COMMITTEE

*George Hernandez (University Health System) and Jelynn Burley (Center for Healthcare Services), Co-Chairs*

Despite the ongoing strains caused by Covid19, the Healthcare Committee was able to accomplish three goals, including:

- Implemented the pilot MEDCOM Hotline, which allows the Bexar County Sheriff’s Office to work with STRAC to administer a lethality screening to victims of domestic violence and connect them with valuable referral resources.
- Launched the Purple Porch SA Campaign, a month-long campaign dedicated to showcasing the importance of maintaining healthy relationships in San Antonio that garnered support from approximately 10 major organizations, such as City Hall, Alamodome, and San Antonio International Airport.
- Continued the Love Is Digital Campaign by airing PSAs during December, resulting in a total of 8.9K views on the CCDV website, an increase of 394% over the previous month.

Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bring awareness to domestic violence in pregnant and lactating women by collaborating with the Bexar County Medical Society to train doctors.</li> <li>• Participate in a community-wide PSA campaign across various media outlets during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Develop media plan to raise awareness regarding domestic violence by March 2022.</li> <li>• Identify media partners for the Domestic Violence (DV) awareness campaign and enter into PSA agreements by May 2022.</li> <li>• Produce and launch a minimum of one DV PSA in Spanish and English by October 2022.</li> <li>• Track the number of medical providers who have been trained on domestic violence in pregnant and lactating women per quarter.</li> </ul>





# Individual Workgroup Reports

## JUDICIARY COMMITTEE

*Judge Mary Lou Alvarez and Judge Ron Rangel, Co-Chairs*

The Judiciary Committee worked collaboratively to help the community access information regarding the protective order system and raise awareness in the courts about removing firearms in domestic violence cases. More specifically, the Judiciary Committee secured funding for a civil court compliance officer to aid with firearm transfer compliance and finalized the firearm transfer process and forms. Aside from the obvious challenges posed by the pandemic, the Judiciary Committee has identified other needs, including securing funding opportunities, re-engaging members who have dropped off or filled their slots, and improving internal organization across the committee and the CCDV. Efficient and effective service of protective orders to respondents is a persistent concern for those in the committee.

Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue implementation of firearm transfer process.</li> <li>• Develop outreach services to LGBTQ+, homeless people, people with disabilities, and the immigrant community.</li> <li>• Promote opportunities for cross-sector partnerships and coordination to support the implementation of best practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Continue development of policies and procedures.</li> <li>• Refine and implement transfer process.</li> <li>• Conduct needs assessment of existing services through provider survey.</li> <li>• Develop specialized materials for outreach and provide them to Domestic Violence Courts.</li> <li>• Coordinate quarterly meetings to discuss service referral and streamlined client entry.</li> </ul>

## LAW ENFORCEMENT COMMITTEE

*Chief William McManus (COSA) and Sheriff Javier Salazar (Bexar County), Co-Chairs*

As a result of the many challenges COVID19 presented in the past year, law enforcement adjusted to ensure public safety was at the forefront of all community interactions and victims still received quality services. Although there were delays within the judicial system and training was scarce, Bexar County hosted all its planned community outreach events for National Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Law enforcement agencies have also seen a significant statistical increase in advocacy outreach and the usage of family violence services.

Year 3 Goal	Year 3 Progress Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• To enforce the laws of the state of Texas in the county of Bexar while utilizing a comprehensive victim-centered approach to the community in which we serve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• SAPD will implement the MEDCOM hotline for domestic violence victims by October 2022.</li> <li>• SAPD will implement the DALE (Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement) to screen all victims of family violence by October 2022.</li> <li>• BCSO will institute updated time guidelines for advocacy outreach based on the risk level of victims by October 2022.</li> <li>• BCSO will collaborate with MEDCOM and Metro Health for victim screening and services by October 2022.</li> </ul>



# Individual Workgroup Reports



## NONPROFIT COMMITTEE

*Patricia Castillo (PEACE Initiative), Marta Pelaez (Family Violence Prevention Services), Julia Raney Rodriguez (Texas Rio Grande Legal Aid), Co-chairs*

Despite many difficulties, namely those presented by COVID, adjustments were made to ensure that the identified strategies were addressed and met by the Non-Profit Committee. For example, 210 medical students were trained on the dynamics of domestic violence and the resources available to the community. Additionally, 97 attorneys were trained, and 17 provided support for the pro-bono protective order project. Some of the challenges include those beyond the committee's control, such as the delay by the Texas legislature to approve the implementation of programs to educate students in the schools on teen dating violence prevention.

Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Progress Indicators
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the adoption of evidence-based curricula in schools.</li> <li>Facilitate domestic violence training in medical schools.</li> <li>Expand the pro-bono protective order project to serve more survivors.</li> <li>Provide science-based, survivor-specific parenting training.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate conversation regarding implementing evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum through virtual or in-person meetings with school officials (principal, counselor, teacher, or coach), student organizations, or parent organizations at 10 schools every quarter.</li> <li>Train 300 medical students on the dynamics of domestic violence and available resources by September 2022.</li> <li>Train 30 attorneys each quarter for participation in the pro bono PO project protective order project every quarter.</li> <li>Register 120 parents in survivor-specific, science-based parenting training by October 2022.</li> </ul>



# Individual Workgroup Reports

## PROSECUTION COMMITTEE

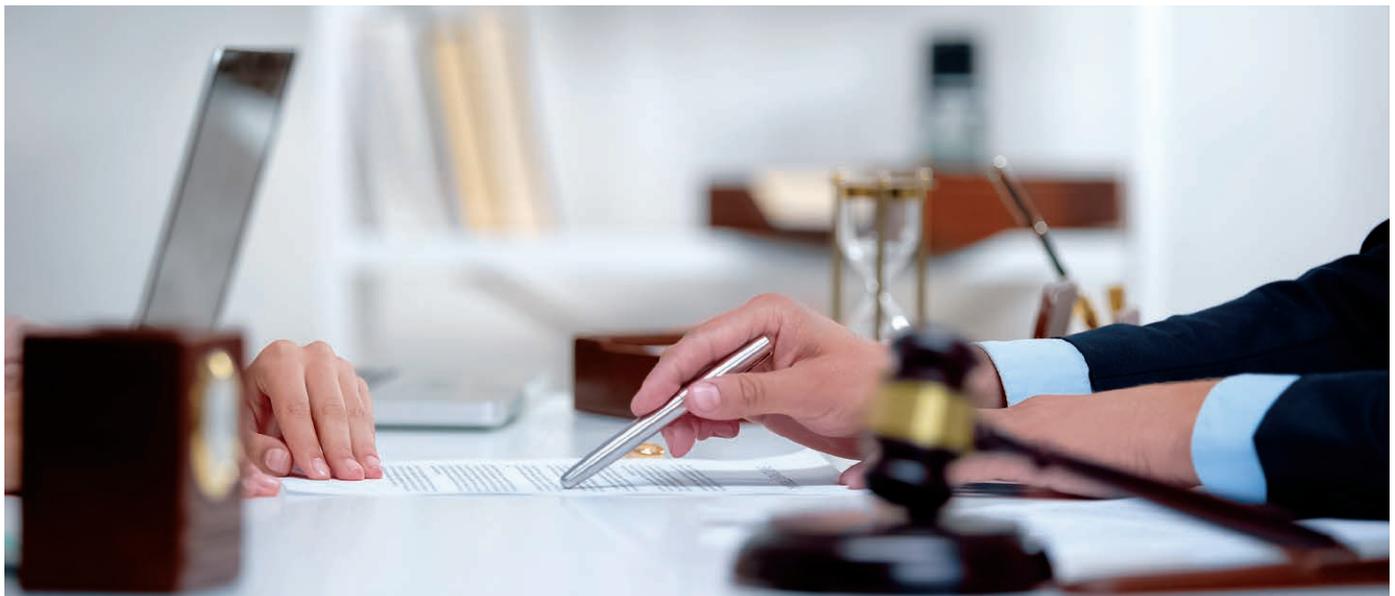
*Joe D. Gonzales (Bexar County Criminal District Attorney) and Joe Nino (Deputy City Attorney, Prosecution Division, City of San Antonio), Co-Chairs*

In 2021, the Prosecution Committee focused on hosting community-based events to educate the public on domestic and family violence prosecutions and survivor services.

Throughout the year, the Prosecution Committee participated in multiple community-based events and discussed important topics such as each person’s role on a prosecution team, the expanded personnel in the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office, and wrap-around services offered to victims throughout the prosecution process. In addition, the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office and the City Attorney’s Office Prosecution Division continued to work together for better coordination of services and programs offered to victims.

The Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office implemented an internal Family Violence Division workgroup. This group comprises Family Violence prosecutors, advocates, and staff who meet bi-monthly and identify issues from training to changes in process or policy. This group has already implemented solutions to overcome obstacles prosecutors face when working on these critical and challenging cases.

Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Expedite the process for serving high-risk protective orders and increase the number of high-risk protective orders served by the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office Criminal Investigative Division (in conjunction with the Bexar County Constables).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Serve 65 high-risk protective orders served per quarter.</li> <li>• Track the number of hours dedicated to locating respondents per quarter.</li> <li>• Track the number of warrants cleared when serving a high-risk protective order per quarter.</li> </ul>





# Individual Workgroup Reports

## EDUCATION COMMITTEE

*Dr. Cynthia Teniente-Matson (Texas A&M University-San Antonio), Dr. Mike Flores (Alamo Colleges District), Co-chairs*

In Year 2, the Education Committee developed a rubric that compares four evidence-based curricula on teen dating violence prevention, including Safe Dates, Fourth R, Dating Matters, and Coaching Boys into Men. The rubric serves as a tool to inform school officials on the different options available to them and how they address various educational criteria.

One of the biggest challenges faced by the committee in achieving success is the school districts' competing priorities when implementing new programming. Another difficulty has emerged due to a new state law, which requires parents to opt-in to teen dating violence prevention instruction at their child's school.

Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Nonprofit Committee to ensure that evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October – January: Identify and acquire partnerships with K-12 stakeholders (superintendents, principals, teachers, counselors, or coaches) who can help create a plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> <li>February – April: Develop an action plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> <li>May – July: Execute action plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> <li>August – October: Obtain verbal or written commitment from 30 Bexar County schools to implement an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum.</li> </ul>

## DATA COMMITTEE

In Year 2, the CCDV Data Committee released the first Domestic Violence Data report in July 2021. The Data Report includes:

Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand data sources included in CCDV Quarterly Data Report to include healthcare data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely development and release of the CCDV Quarterly Data Reports</li> </ul>



# CCDV Community Events

The CCDV hosted monthly Facebook Lives with guests to address topics related to domestic violence. A complete list of the date and topic for each Facebook Live has been included in the table below.

The 2021 CCDV Domestic Violence Awareness Symposium was held virtually on October 28 and 29 at no cost to the community, thanks to a generous gift from University Health. A total of 18 sessions were offered and divided among three tracks, including Family, Community, and Public Safety. Presenters joined from all over the United States and represented organizations, such as the Harvard Lab, Center for Court Innovation, Texas Council on Family Violence, Training Institute on Strangulation Prevention, and many more.

Date	Topic
<b>February 25</b>	Teen Dating Violence
<b>March 15</b>	CCDV Year 1 Report
<b>April 19</b>	Domestic Violence During Pregnancy
<b>May 17</b>	Impact of Domestic Violence on Children
<b>June 21</b>	Domestic Violence in the LGBTQ+ Community
<b>July 19</b>	The Link Between Animal Abuse and Domestic Violence
<b>August 16</b>	Protective Orders 101
<b>September 20</b>	The Intersection of Immigration Policy and Domestic Violence

Out of 414 individuals who registered for the symposium, slightly more than 50% were community advocates or domestic violence/allied professionals. The City Council Districts with the greatest participation were District 7 (7%), District 8 (6.52%), and Districts 1 (6%) and 2 (6%), while almost 34% of attendees did not live in San Antonio. The majority of those who registered for the symposium (70%) heard about the event from their employer or received an email from the CCDV. The CCDV Symposium Planning Committee will increase participation, diversify outreach to ensure greater inclusiveness, and maintain a no-cost registration for the next symposium.

## RETREAT REPORT SUMMARY

The CCDV held its first Annual Retreat on July 14, convening the committee co-chairs and support staff to discuss strategies and reinforce the collective commitment to prevent and address domestic violence using a public health approach. A facilitator led the group through several exercises, including a mapping system activity that helped identify focus areas in the criminal and protective order processes for domestic violence cases. As a result of the mapping activity, challenges were identified in several areas, including but not limited to arraignment, bond, magistrate emergency protective order, law enforcement filing of the report, providing information to victims, applications for protective orders (Pos), enforcement of POs, service of POs, and firearms in PO cases. The full Retreat Report can be found in Attachment B.

## CONCLUSION

CCDV Data Reports demonstrate that domestic and intimate partner violence continue to be intractable problems in San Antonio. The CCDV continues our commitment to move forward initiatives to change the direction of domestic violence and prevent the next generation of survivors from experiencing violence. Significant progress has been made over the last three years, but substantial challenges remain. The CCDV continues to move forward with a collaborative vision of a safer, healthier, whole community free from violence.

# Appendix A

## CCDV STRATEGY SUMMARY – YEAR 3

Committee	Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<b>Data</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expand data sources included in CCDV Quarterly Data Report to include healthcare data.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Timely development and release of the CCDV Quarterly Data Reports.</li> </ul>
<b>Education</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Work with the Nonprofit Committee to ensure that evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>October – January: Identify and acquire partnerships with K-12 stakeholders (superintendents, principals, teachers, counselors, or coaches) who can help create a plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> <li>February – April: Develop an action plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</li> <li>May – July: Execute action plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum is used in schools.</li> <li>August – October: Obtain verbal or written commitment from 30 Bexar County schools to implement an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum.</li> </ul>
<b>Healthcare</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Bring awareness to domestic violence in pregnant and lactating women by collaborating with the Bexar County Medical Society to train doctors.</li> <li>Participate in a community-wide PSA campaign across various media outlets during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Develop media plan to raise awareness regarding domestic violence by March 2022.</li> <li>Identify media partners for the Domestic Violence (DV) awareness campaign and enter into PSA agreements by May 2022.</li> <li>Produce and launch a minimum of one DV PSA in Spanish and English by October 2022.</li> <li>Track the number of medical providers who have been trained on domestic violence in pregnant and lactating women per quarter.</li> </ul>
<b>Judiciary</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of firearm transfer process.</li> <li>Develop outreach services to LGBTQ+, homeless people, people with disabilities, and the immigrant community.</li> <li>Promote opportunities for cross-sector partnerships and coordination to support the implementation of best practices.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Continue implementation of firearm transfer process.</li> <li>Continue development of policies and procedures.</li> <li>Refine and implement transfer process.</li> <li>Conduct needs assessment of existing services through provider survey.</li> <li>Develop specialized materials for outreach and provide to Domestic Violence Courts.</li> <li>Coordinate quarterly meetings to discuss service referral and streamlined client entry.</li> </ul>

# Appendix A

## CCDV STRATEGY SUMMARY – YEAR 3 (continued)

Committee	Year 3 Goals	Year 3 Quarterly Objectives
<p><b>Law Enforcement</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>To enforce the laws of the state of Texas in the county of Bexar while utilizing a comprehensive victim-centered approach to the community in which we serve.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>SAPD will implement the MEDCOM hotline for domestic violence victims by October 2022.</li> <li>SAPD will implement the DALE (Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement) to screen all victims of family violence by October 2022.</li> <li>BCSO will institute updated time guidelines for advocacy outreach based on the risk level of victims by October 2022.</li> <li>BCSO will collaborate with MEDCOM and Metro Health for victim screening and services by October 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Nonprofit</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Facilitate the adoption of evidence-based curricula in schools.</li> <li>Facilitate domestic violence training in medical schools.</li> <li>Expand the pro-bono protective order project to serve more survivors.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Initiate conversation regarding implementing evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum through virtual or in-person meetings with school officials (principal, counselor, teacher, or coach), student organizations, or parent organizations at 10 schools every quarter.</li> <li>Train 300 medical students on the dynamics of domestic violence and available resources by September 2022.</li> <li>Train 30 attorneys each quarter for participation in the pro bono PO project.</li> <li>Register 120 parents in survivor-specific, science-based parenting training by October 2022.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Prosecution</b></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Expedite the process for serving high-risk protective orders and increase the number of high-risk protective orders served by the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney’s Office Criminal Investigative Division (<i>in conjunction with the Bexar County Constables</i>).</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Serve 65 high-risk protective orders served per quarter.</li> <li>Track the number of hours dedicated to locating respondents per quarter.</li> <li>Track the number of warrants cleared when serving a high-risk protective order per quarter.</li> </ul>

# Appendix B

## CCDV YEAR 3 WORK PLAN

	Task	Measured By	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Data	<b>Expand sources of data included in Quarterly Data Report</b>					
	Release quarterly data session	CCDV Quarterly Data Report	X	X	X	X
Education	<b>Work with the Nonprofit Committee to ensure that evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.</b>					
	Identify and acquire partnerships with K-12 stakeholders (superintendents, principals, teachers, counselors, or coaches) who can help create a plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.	# of partnerships created	X			
	Develop an action plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.	Action Plan created		X		
	Execute action plan to ensure evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curricula are used in schools.	# of curricula implemented			X	
	Obtain verbal or written commitment from 30 Bexar County schools to implement an evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum.	# of agreements obtained				X
Healthcare	<b>Bring awareness to domestic violence in pregnant and lactating women by collaborating with the Bexar County Medical Society to train doctors.</b>					
	Track the number of medical providers who have been trained on domestic violence in pregnant and lactating women per quarter.	# of trainings completed by quarter	X	X	X	X
	<b>Participate in a community-wide PSA campaign across various media outlets during National Domestic Violence Awareness Month.</b>					
	Develop media plan to raise awareness regarding domestic violence by March 2022.	Media Plan		X		
	Identify media partners for the Domestic Violence (DV) awareness campaign and enter into PSA agreements by May 2022.	List of media partners and PSAs executed			X	
	Produce and launch a minimum of one DV PSA in Spanish and English by October 2022.	# of PSAs developed				X
Judiciary	<b>Continue implementation of firearm transfer process.</b>					
	Continue development of policies and procedures.	Finalize policy development		X	X	
	Refine and implement transfer process.	# of courts trained in process				X
	<b>Develop outreach services to LGBTQ+, homeless people, people with disabilities, and the immigrant community.</b>					
	Conduct needs assessment of existing services through provider survey # of survey respondents.	# of survey respondents		X	X	
	Develop specialized materials for outreach and provide to Domestic Violence Courts.	Materials developed				X
	<b>Promote opportunities for cross-sector partnerships and coordination to support the implementation of best practices.</b>					
Coordinate quarterly meetings to discuss service referral and streamlined client entry.	# of meetings		X	X	X	

# Appendix C

## CCDV YEAR 1 WORK PLAN

Task		Measured By	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Law Enforcement	<b>Enforce the laws of the state of Texas in the county of Bexar while utilizing a comprehensive victim-centered approach to the community in which we serve.</b>					
	SAPD will implement the MEDCOM hotline for domestic violence victims by October 2022.	# of calls to MEDCOM				X
	SAPD will implement the DALE (Danger Assessment for Law Enforcement) to screen all victims of family violence by October 2022.	# victims screen using DALE				X
	BCSO will institute updated time guidelines for advocacy outreach based on the risk level of victims by October 2022.	# of Law Enforcement Officers trained on guidelines			X	X
	BCSO will collaborate with MEDCOM and Metro Health for victim screening and services by October 2022.	# of victims referred				X
Non-Profit	<b>Facilitate the adoption of evidence-based curricula in schools.</b>					
	Initiate conversation regarding implementing evidence-based teen dating violence prevention curriculum through virtual or in-person meetings with school officials (principal, counselor, teacher, or coach), student organizations, or parent organizations at 10 schools every quarter.	# of school meetings	X	X	X	X
	<b>Facilitate domestic violence training in medical schools.</b>					
	Train 300 medical students on the dynamics of domestic violence and available resources by September 2022.	# medical students trained in domestic violence	X	X	X	X
	<b>Expand the pro-bono protective order project to serve more survivors.</b>					
	Train 30 attorneys each quarter for participation in the pro bono PO project	# of attorneys trained in protective order process	X	X	X	X
<b>Provide science-based, survivor-specific parenting training.</b>						
	Register 120 parents in survivor-specific, science-based parenting training by October 2022.	# of parents in parent training	X	X	X	X
Prosecution	<b>Expedite the process for serving high-risk protective orders and increase the number of high-risk protective orders served by the Bexar County Criminal District Attorney's Office Criminal Investigative Division (in conjunction with the Bexar County Constables).</b>					
	Serve 65 high-risk protective orders served per quarter.	# of protective orders served	X	X	X	X
	Track the number of hours dedicated to locating respondents per quarter.	# of hours spent locating respondents	X	X	X	X
	Track the number of warrants cleared when serving a high-risk protective order per quarter.	# of high-risk warrants cleared	X	X	X	X

# Appendix D

## San Antonio Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence

### First Annual Retreat (July 24, 2021): Report and Notes on Identified Challenge Focus Areas

Prepared by: Darren Mitchell, Consultant

San Antonio's Collaborative Commission on Domestic Violence (CCDV) convened its First Annual Retreat on July 24, 2021. The retreat brought together CCDV Committee co-chairs and key staff at the Phil Hardberger Urban Ecological Center for a productive re-evaluation of Commission strategies and activities and a re-commitment to the original objective of reducing domestic violence in San Antonio through a public-health approach.

The retreat began with an introduction exercise in which CCDV leaders and staff shared how the Commission's collaborative approach strengthened their own and their agency's work to better prevent and respond to domestic violence in the community. Next, Jenny Hixon, Public Health Administrator for Violence Prevention, San Antonio Metropolitan Health District, provided participants with a refresher on the on the CCDV's public health approach to domestic violence prevention. Ms. Hixon also presented data from a case study of traffic fatalities to help participants recognize the power of collaborative, evidence-based approaches to reduce public health challenges.

Ms. Hixon next presented the CCDV's July 2021 Quarterly Data Report, which provides key quantitative information regarding the occurrence of family violence across San Antonio and the response by key CCDV partner agencies. Compiled data include 2-1-1 calls; cases, calls, and reports from the Bexar County Sheriff's Office and the San Antonio Police Department; cases supervised by the Bexar County Community Supervision and Corrections Department; intakes and cases from Texas RioGrande Legal Aid; and bookings, indictments, and rejections from the Bexar County District Attorney's Office.

Next, Mr. Mitchell led participants through a system mapping exercise in which they: (1) created maps of the protective order and criminal domestic violence case processes in San Antonio; (2) developed consensus maps of each process for identification of challenge focus areas for further work by the CCDV committees and other workgroups; and (3) identified and prioritized the challenge focus areas, as well as how funding could assist in addressing the prioritized challenges. The results of that collaborative, interactive process are presented below, as organized challenge focus areas, with explanatory notes. This information will form the basis for future work by the CCDV and its committees, as they incorporate the perspectives shared by the retreat participants into their re-assessment of workgroup objectives and activities.

# Appendix D

## Notes on challenge focus areas from 1<sup>st</sup> Annual Retreat

### Criminal process challenge focus areas

#### Arraignment:

- Identified as a challenge is the issuance of blanket no-contact orders (NCOs). This is especially problematic when young children are involved (can be long periods of no contact with defendant parent)
- It appears that although non-injurious NCOs are available and sometimes requested, they are not used enough; volume of cases is an issue
- Coordinate with Magistrates to understand current training regarding domestic violence dynamics. Areas of interest include how training incorporates understanding the victim's perspective, reasons for recantation, and need to avoid revictimization; trauma-informed practices
- Opportunity to collaborate with prosecutors to further inform why victims recant "reasons for recantation", and in turn prosecutors could educate jurors during voir dire.

#### Bond:

- Bond is often too low, or defendants are released on their own recognizance in cases where it is not appropriate based on the risk/danger
- Issue is complicated by bail reform issues and the pandemic
- May be possible to use a risk-based (not money-based) assessment at the bond-setting stage, as other communities are starting to do; instruments exist and are being studied
- Newer GPS monitoring technologies may be helpful; however, defendants can defeat these
- Community education regarding the bond-setting process is important to clarify the roles of the District Attorney's Office and the Magistrates.
- Magistrate education on bond-related issues may be helpful
- It is recommended to invite Magistrates to be part of conversations to hear stakeholders' concerns and suggestions.
- Suggestions include providing the magistrate with risk assessment information to inform bond setting

#### Magistrate Emergency Protective Orders (MEPOs):

- There are challenges ensuring that MEPOs are provided to victims and/or their attorneys (including TRLA)
- The defendant learns about MEPOs immediately, before the victim, which can endanger the victim, who cannot safety plan, etc.
- Issues related to the children: support, access, etc. remain unaddressed in MEPOs
- Magistrate education on these issues may be helpful

# Appendix D

## **Law enforcement filing of report:**

- Coordinate with the San Antonio Police Department (SAPD) and Sheriff's Office (BCSO) an information session to understand what information is included in Police offense reports. Areas of interest include:
  - Understanding how prior incidents and patterns of violence are incorporated in a police report and what information is provided as part of the case file as the domestic violence case moves through the legal system. Specifically incident and history of abuse.
- Sharing perspective that Officers through their reports are in effect the victim's spokesperson. The importance of magistrates/judges incorporating information about risk and other information from offense reports was noted
- It was also noted that it is important to understand how law enforcement handles information gathering and sharing with the court
- It was noted that it would be important to be informed on what information magistrates and judges are currently getting from police reports and criminal history; to include defendants' use and/or access to firearms
- Can explore creating a family violence-specific offense report (examples from other communities are available)
- Promising opportunity: BCSO has begun a process in which officers administer the Danger Assessment-Law Enforcement (DALE) and take appropriate steps to connect victims with shelter, advocacy and other services
- SAPD has been doing danger assessments for many years and is currently working with Metro Health to implement the Jackie Campbell Danger Assessment form which is widely accepted as the most comprehensive form to date.
- DA's office offered to do training for law enforcement regarding DV police reports

## **Crisis Response Teams:**

- Resources are needed: currently only 20 people are available for the entire city of San Antonio

## **Shelter advocates:**

- For some victims the interaction with a shelter advocate is the first contact with an individual who could assist them understand the journey through the legal process. Explore if there are opportunities to strengthen that first interaction to assist victims.

## **Additional criminal process challenge areas:**

- Issuance and enforcement of firearms removal orders during the criminal DV process
- Explore early intervention with people who use violence to prevent additional/escalated violence

# Appendix D

## Civil protective order process challenge focus areas

### Providing information to victims:

- Need concise information (including schematic info) regarding:
  - What a PO is
  - PO components/relief available
  - How to obtain a PO
  - The PO process
- This is being developed in the form of short, text-able videos by Metro Health
- Information is lacking regarding what the victim is doing/receiving at each stage
  - For instance, applying for services is not a PO application; a PO application is not itself the PO; etc.
- It would be beneficial to engage private attorneys in conversations regarding the PO process and how to connect with the nonprofit service providers

### Applications for POs:

- Although improvement has been noted by judiciary, there remains room for improvement in the information provided by petitioners about firearms use and access and regarding child-related issues
- May wish to discuss with nonprofits their intake process and the questions asked about firearms and children

### Service of POs:

- Service of some POs continues to take exceptionally long periods of time (although communication between the FJC and BCSO on service issues has improved)
- Communication between serving officers and advocates/victims still needs further improvement
- The use of an investigator for the purpose should continue to be explored
- Promising opportunity: the DA's Office has been using a risk-based approach to prioritize certain cases for increased service attention

### Enforcement of POs/Compliance monitoring:

- Expectation has long been that once a PO has been issued the legal representation of victim would end and not be available to assist with post-issuance issues, including enforcement
  - Shifting perspectives on this is a possible focus area
- Use of court-set compliance review hearings as a way of shifting the onus for enforcement away from victims is a current topic for the judiciary
  - Among other things, the question of who should participate in the hearings needs to be discussed; effort now is to focus the hearings on the respondent and their compliance with orders, not on the victim

# Appendix D

- Training on the need and efficacy of compliance hearings for the judiciary, as well as on how to make them work administratively, would be helpful
- Promising opportunity: new county-funded court staff positions can facilitate compliance monitoring and support compliance review hearings

## **Firearms in PO cases:**

- The group shared three challenge areas of concern to be provided to the firearms workgroup:
  - Conveying to the judiciary the importance of including firearms transfer provisions in POs and ensuring compliance
  - Education of judges regarding this issue to ensure more uniform practice
  - Exploring opportunities for an early response to firearms: asking questions about firearms use/access at every opportunity, especially in initial contacts with victims (e.g., law enforcement response to incident)

## **Other civil processes (child access, support, etc.) challenge focus areas**

- May wish to begin by addressing child-related relief in POs
  - Focus on how to prepare victims to request such relief and substantiate the need for it
- Need to consider what the parent-child relationship should look like beyond falling back on a two-year no contact order
- The relevant nonprofit organizations should be part of these conversations: regarding referrals to them and how they can increase the scope of their services to support the needs of families with children

## **Cross-cutting issues/follow-up conversations:**

- Need for training on DV dynamics/victim perspective and avoiding revictimization
  - Training for stakeholders to recognize that the “choices” victims make involve very limited options, often with no adequate choices to keep themselves and children safe
- Need for training and systems-wide focus on trauma-informed response/care
- Opportunity: Metro Health, working with SAPD, on a systematic approach to trauma-informed practice; focused on overall system, not on individual behavior
- Convene a larger conversation regarding what a reconceptualized system of justice and safety that is based with the victims, defendants, and stakeholders in mind
  - Explore alternatives to the existing systems
  - Part of this conversation is achieving that ideal while incorporating the legal system and judiciary’s responsibility to provide neutrality and due process
- Convene a larger conversation on the effective deployment of resources in support of victims in the civil process:
  - At the initial phase/filing of a PO
  - Post-issuance of a PO: enforcement, modification
  - Other civil matters: support, custody, divorce, etc.