



2024



DOMESTIC VIOLENCE
FATALITY REVIEW

Biennial Report



ILLINOIS COALITION
AGAINST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

ICJIA

ILLINOIS DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW 2024 BIENNIAL REPORT

INTRODUCTION

The Ad Hoc Statewide Domestic Violence Fatality Review Committee (DVFC) was created in 2021 pursuant to the *Domestic Violence Fatality Review Act*, 750 ILCS 62/1, to establish and implement regional domestic violence fatality review teams (regional review teams) in judicial circuits across Illinois. The Illinois Criminal Justice Information Authority is charged with administering the Committee.

Regional review teams are required to submit biennial reports in odd-numbered years, including “specific recommendations for legislative, systemic, policy, and any other changes to reduce domestic violence and domestic violence related fatalities and near-fatalities.” 750 ILCS 62/65(13). The first reports were due to the DVFC on April 1, 2023. *Id.*

The regional review teams’ recommendations inform a biennial report submitted to the Governor and General Assembly by the DVFC in even-numbered years. The biennial report must “include specific recommendations for legislative, systemic, policy, and any other changes to reduce domestic violence and domestic violence-related fatalities and near-fatalities.” 750 ILCS 62/40(a)(13). The DVFC’s first report is due on or before April 1, 2024. *Id.*

Because the DVFC regional review teams were not fully established by April 1, 2023, the reviews were not completed. As a result, the DVFC was unable to submit its first biennial report. The DVFC has worked since its inception to establish regional review teams, but without substantive regional data, the DVFC is unable to provide recommendations to reduce domestic violence and domestic violence-related fatalities and near fatalities.

BACKGROUND

Since established, the DVFRC and staff¹ have worked to build a foundation for the establishment of review teams. The DVFRC created a policies and procedures guidebook, confidentiality agreements for regional team members and guests participating in case review, and a quarterly reporting matrix for regional review teams. It also began developing a training library resource for the Committee. The DVFRC also developed materials to support regional team member recruitment.

The DVFRC and staff are continuing to onboard the first regional review teams, referred to as “pioneer” teams. Tailored to address the specific needs and nuances of their respective regions, each team embodies a collaborative effort guided by DVFRC members.

The newly established regional teams will begin reviewing their first cases in 2024. They will issue their first biennial reports in April 2025.

PIONEER REGIONAL REVIEW TEAMS

- Kankakee County
- Lake County
- Madison/Bond County
- Will County
- Winnebago County

Staff are developing a recruitment plan for the second cohort of regional teams. New regions have expressed interest in joining the next cohort. Efforts to recruit new teams are anticipated to begin after pioneer teams are fully onboarded and have reviewed their first case.

PLAN

It is anticipated pioneer teams will have gathered data and formulated substantive recommendations by late 2024 and that those recommendations will inform the April 2026 biennial DVFRC report.

¹ Per the Domestic Violence Fatality Review Act, the Statewide Committee may hire or assign a “full-time Program Manager to carry out the duties and responsibilities of the Statewide Committee and the purposes of this Act.” 750 ILCS 62/40(a)(1). ICJIA, in consultation with the Committee, procured the services of the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence to ensure the Committee’s statutory duties are met.

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