

Lethality Assessment Workgroup Meeting

December 5, 2024, 2:00 pm EST (start time)

Roll Call:

Brett Kirkland roll call of Executive Board.

Name	Agency	Attendance
Amanda Price (Vice Chair)	Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence	Not Present
Tanisha McDonald	Florida Partnership to End Domestic Violence	Present
Jenna White	Peaceful Paths Domestic Abuse Network	Present
Joe Petito (Chair)	Gabby Petito Foundation	Present
Tammy Taylor	Hubbard House	Not Present
Jennifer Rodriguez	Department of Children and Families	Present
Chief Todd Garrison	North Port PD	Present
Deputy Chief Ruth Cate	Tampa PD	Present
Chief Antoine Sheppard	High Springs PD	Present
Chief Robert Bage	Ft Walton PD	Not Present
Chief Richard Jones	Gulf Stream PD	Not Present
Sheriff Bob Gaultieri	Pinellas County Sheriff's Office	Present
Sheriff Vent Crawford	Hardee County Sheriff's Office	Present
Sheriff Bill Prummell	Charlotte County Sheriff's Office	Not Present
Sheriff Mike Adkinson	Walton County Sheriff's Office	Not Present

FDLE Staff Present:

Deputy Commissioner David Binder, Director Chad Brown, Deputy Director Melissa Bujeda, Bureau Chief of Policy and Special Programs Brett Kirkland, Research and Statistics Consultant Zachary Durrett, Research and Statistics Consultant Matthew Sharp, Post Basic Curriculum Manager Rob Bates, Bureau Chief of Training Ashley Pennington.

Deputy Director Bujeda stated that members of the public are invited to attend the Workgroup meeting, and public members will be allowed to comment on the Workgroup with a three-minute time limit.

Old Business:

Old Business opened with a discussion about Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment options that FDLE emailed to the Workgroup.

Option A uses the term 'aggressor' whereas Option B provides 'aggressor (name/he/she).'

Examples:

- Question 1 Option A: Did the aggressor ever use a weapon against you or threaten you with a weapon?

- Question 1 Option B: Did the aggressor (name/he/she) ever use a weapon against you or threaten you with a weapon?

A motion was proposed to accept Option B of the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment with the following two modifications: (1) add a text field to include the offender's name in the information box atop the form and (2) change the word 'aggressor' to 'they'. Deputy Chief Ruth Cate 1st, Joe Petito 2nd. The motion carries forward (Yay = 9, Nay = 0).

New Business:

Rob Bates, Post Basic Curriculum Manager at FDLE, shared his screen to showcase the online training module titled *Lethality Assessment Training for Law Enforcement Officers*.

Sheriff Gaultieri offered a constructive comment to add the Introduction section that lethality assessment is administered in *intimate partner* domestic violence cases, not general domestic violence.

The Workgroup discussed possible options to create a clear distinction to signify intimate partner domestic. A common option discussed was to supply a definition for 'intimate partner'. Jennifer Rodriguez shared that the Office of Violence Against Women defines intimate partners as individuals who are married, living together, dating, or share a child. Rob Bates says that he can add this definition to the training for the Workgroup to review before the next meeting.

FDLE will supply the Workgroup with the updated versions of the Domestic Violence Lethality Assessment (Option B changing 'aggressor' to 'they' and adding offender's name) and online training module (signifying intimate partner domestic violence).

The next meeting is scheduled for Dec 18th at 1 pm EST.

Public Comment:

Ben Crawford believes a clear definition of intimate partner relationship would help officers investigating the case.

Motion to adjourn: Joe Petito 1st, Jenna White 2nd.