SACRAMENTO COUNTY
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL
ANNUAL DVDRT REPORT
OCTOBER 2018

INTRODUCTION

The Sacramento County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC) is presently chaired by District Attorney (DA) Anne Marie Schubert, represented by Assistant Chief Deputy DA Paul Durenberger. The DVCC has three active subcommittees: The Community Subcommittee, also known as the Domestic Violence Prevention Collaboration (DVPC); the Law Enforcement Subcommittee; and the Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT). Each subcommittee is comprised of agency and/or community representatives with expertise in these distinct areas. The subcommittees work independently and are multi-disciplinary in nature.

DVCC SUBCOMMITTEE ACTIVITIES

The DVPC continues to remain very active in addressing the needs of domestic violence victims in Sacramento County and has been a strong supporter of the creation of the Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center (SRFJC).

Last year in, “Phase I”, the SRFJC Legal Help Center, was open and serving clients. “Phase II”, the Collaborative Service Center, is now open across the street from the Sacramento Family Courthouse at 3701 Power Inn Road, suite 3500. The new SRFJC Collaborative Service Center offers free space for community service providers willing to work with clients visiting the SRFJC. The interior space for partners is now ready for occupancy. My Sister’s House and the Lao Family Community Development Programs will be the first nonprofit community-based partners to dedicate a full-time team member in the collaborative space. Child Protective Services (CPS), The Children’s Safe Center, law enforcement and the District Attorney are already operating as in-house partners. Through all the developments and work to become operational at a second site, the SRFJC has continued to provide services for new and existing clients. The breakdown of number of clients served by geographic location of residence and ethnicity are displayed in graphs below. Since opening, over 4,000 new and returning clients have received services at the SRFJC.

Camp Hope America- Sacramento, a SRFJC program, the first evidence-based camp for children who have experienced the trauma of family violence also expanded this year. Camp Hope America- Sacramento was able to send 24 children to Camp Hope this year, up from 12 in prior years.

The SRFJC strategy focuses on two primary goals: reducing systemic barriers for all victims of interpersonal violence, family violence, human trafficking, and elder abuse, and creating a collaborative framework to enhance community partners and relationships which will lead to positive social and systemic change. The SRFJC believes this focus is the most effective approach to reach underserved communities.
The mobile team that provides civil legal services and limited transportation and case worker support for victims at SRFJC and partner agency locations is now enhanced by the new Dignity Health sponsored SRFJC Mobile Therapy Team. This Dignity Mobile Therapy Team now provides group and individual therapy programs and/or art therapy programs at City of Refuge, Community Against Sexual Harm (C.A.S.H.), My Sisters House, A Community for Peace, Chicks in Crisis, The Bridge Network and WEAVE. This will enhance partner agencies, provide more convenient services for victims in underserved communities, promote collaboration and establish positive personal and systemic change for victims in need of therapy services.

Below is a series of charts and graphs obtained through the SRFJC’s client data between July 11, 2016 and August 31, 2018.

![New Clients Served Chart](image1)

![Returning Clients Chart](image2)

The above two charts show that between July 11, 2016 and August 31, 2018, a total of 2,333 new clients sought services at the SRFJC. A total of 1,800 returned at least one more time after the first initial visit.
The above chart reflects that between July 11, 2016 and August 31, 2018, a total of 2,696 victimizations classified as domestic and/or family violence were recorded among clients served by the SRFJC. This number includes both new and returning clients. It is important to note that victims often come in to the SRFJC with multiple victimization types, such as domestic violence and child abuse.

The above chart shows all other victimization types – a total of 1,354 – recorded among clients served by the SRFJC between July 11, 2016 and August 31, 2018.
The above chart shows that of the clients that the SRFJC served, 24 were under the age of 18, 316 were between the ages of 18 and 25, 1,203 were between the ages of 26 and 45, 465 were between the ages of 45 and 65, and 267 were over the age of 65. A total of 58 clients’ ages were classified as “unknown” or were not disclosed. These findings exhibit a wide age range of clients and demonstrates a need for an emphasis on elder abuse services and specialization.

The above chart shows the primary languages spoken by clients served by the SRFJC.
Most clients spoke English or Spanish, though the languages varied to include Russian, Vietnamese, Punjabi, and Arabic, among others. In total, there were 22 different languages spoken by clients. Additionally, several clients’ primary spoken language was classified as “unknown” or was not disclosed. The vast diversity among languages spoken shows a need for access to translator services.
The previous chart shows that the clients served by the SRFJC represent a diverse group of clients. Of the clients who sought services, 839 were white, 549 were Hispanic, 464 were African American, 129 were Asian, 30 were Native American, 39 were Hawaiian or Pacific Islander, and 5 were of Middle Eastern descent. Additionally, 155 clients were comprised of two or more groups, while 58 identified as “other.” There were 65 clients whose ethnicity was unknown or not disclosed.

The above chart displays the gender breakdown of the clients served by the SRFJC, with 1,976 identifying as female, and 351 identifying as male. There were an additional six clients whose gender was unknown or not disclosed.

The above chart displays the gender breakdown of the clients served by the SRFJC, with 1,976 identifying as female, and 351 identifying as male. There were an additional six clients whose gender was unknown or not disclosed.
There was a total of 108 veterans or members of the U.S. military who received services at the SRFJC, as reflected by the above chart. The total reflects both veterans and active military members.

The above two charts show that many SRFJC’s clients were parents to young children. Among the clients’ children, 2,666 were under the age of 18. Of that total, 1,103 were age 5 and younger.
A total of 413 reports were made to Adult Protective Services and Child Protective Services by the SRFJC between July 11, 2016 and August 31, 2018.

The Law Enforcement Subcommittee has met several times during the year to discuss issues they currently face. The DA’s Office has updated its domestic violence training; it is available for all local patrol and detective law enforcement personnel. Law enforcement agencies regularly attend the other subcommittee meetings.

The Domestic Violence Death Review Team (DVDRT) is a subcommittee of the Sacramento County Domestic Violence Coordinating Council (DVCC). The DVDRT is authorized to exist pursuant to Penal Code Section 11163.3. Formed in the spring of 1998, the team meets monthly.

This is the DVDRT’s 19th annual report. The first report was released in the fall of 2000. The reports are released in October, to coincide with Domestic Violence Awareness Month. The team is presently chaired by DA Anne Marie Schubert, and represented by Keith Hill of the DA’s Domestic Violence Unit.

PURPOSE

The purpose of the DVDRT is to bring together a multi-disciplinary team to review domestic violence related homicide cases (including homicide-suicide cases) in Sacramento County. The team meets to develop strategies, policies and procedures to improve regional system responses to domestic violence to reduce and prevent future incidents of domestic violence related homicide-suicides and injuries. Domestic violence continues to be a widespread problem in our county. In the last 12 months, approximately 3,782 fresh arrests were made for domestic violence and 2,236 warrants were requested, for a total of over 6,018 cases reported to law enforcement. The DA filed and prosecuted over 2,177 cases in that same time-period; 78 percent of those cases were fresh arrests and the other 22 percent were warrant arrests. The principal reason a case was handled by warrant rather than fresh arrest was that the perpetrator fled the
crime scene before law enforcement arrived, preventing immediate arrest. This often requires law enforcement to conduct follow-up investigations.

**CONFIDENTIALITY**

Pursuant to Penal Code Section 11163.3, the meetings of the DVDRT are confidential. Every representative of a constituent agency or institution who attends DVDRT meetings signs an agreement of confidentiality.

**MEMBERSHIP**

The DVDRT is a multi-disciplinary, broad based organization which reviews information from law enforcement, public health, social services, coroner, child welfare, public and private medical organizations and domestic violence advocacy organizations. The current participating organizations are:

- Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office
- Sacramento County Coroner’s Office
- Sacramento County Sheriff’s Department
- Sacramento City Police Department
- Sacramento County Probation Department
- Elk Grove Police Department
- Citrus Heights Police Department
- Law Enforcement Chaplaincy- Sacramento
- California Attorney General’s Office
- Sacramento County Department of Health and Human Services
- Sacramento County Counsel
- Kaiser Permanente
- University of California, Davis Medical Center
- Sacramento County Child Protection Services
- Sutter Health
- Sutter Medical Center
- Dignity Health
- Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center
- WEAVE, Inc. (Women Escaping a Violent Environment)
- My Sister’s House
- A Community for Peace
- Child Abuse Prevention Council

**IMPLEMENTATION**

To fulfill its mission, the DVDRT:

- Reviews domestic violence homicides in the county to determine if any systemic improvements should be made;
- Develops and recommends strategies to reduce and prevent domestic violence related homicides and homicide-suicides;
• Develops and recommends strategies to deal with the aftermath of domestic violence and domestic violence deaths;
• Acts as a multi-agency and multi-disciplinary team with regular meetings;
• Operates with the confidentiality principles outlined in Penal Code Section 11163.3 (requiring a signed confidentiality agreement for all team participants).
• Maintains a database of all records reviewed;
• Interacts with agencies and community-based organizations to help achieve its goals, using the Domestic Violence Coordinating Council as a point of contact and interaction.

SELECTION AND REVIEW OF CASES

The process by which the DVDRT selects cases for review has evolved over time. Currently, any member who has knowledge of a domestic violence related death in Sacramento County (that is not currently being prosecuted by the DA) may ask for the case to be reviewed. Most cases are referred by either law enforcement or the DA. The DVDRT chair selects which of the referred cases will be reviewed. If a case is being prosecuted by the DA’s Office, the team waits until the case is sentenced, and the prosecution is completed.

Once a case is selected, the DA’s Office provides identifying information to the other members of the team regarding the victim, the perpetrator, and any biological or custodial children that either party had prior to the homicide. Each committee member is responsible for reviewing the records of their agency to identify relevant information regarding the case and/or parties involved. At the time of review, the DA or law enforcement agency describes details of the homicide and each member agency provides any additional information they may have about the case.

In some cases, the DVDRT may extend an invitation to participate in the review to the prosecutor, law enforcement detective or victim advocate assigned to the case. When necessary, a member of the group may be assigned to contact members of the victim’s or perpetrator’s family to develop a better understanding of the underlying relationship. In some instances, family members and witnesses have been asked to attend DVDRT meetings to give direct input to the team.

With the limitations of the selection process, the time constraint placed on the team to ascertain records and the inability of the DVDRT to gather information from every possible source, the database of cases reviewed cannot be considered exhaustive or statistically representative. Nonetheless, the data collected can reveal significant concerns or insufficiencies which are evaluated by various experts, representatives from local agencies and members of the team, who then make recommendations.

CASES REVIEWED

In 2017-2018, the team reviewed six different cases. Five are homicide cases. There was also one attempted homicide case that nearly caused death that the committee felt should be reviewed as the facts presented opportunities for the Team to review a broad range of lethality issues. Several of the cases were murder-suicide cases. Each case required complex scrutiny by the team to evaluate all the issues. The murder-suicide cases, where no criminal prosecution was
possible, required even more effort to gather essential family history information since police agencies are generally not inclined to investigate the background factors of a case when prosecution is not possible. Below is a chart identifying the number of cases reviewed by the DVDRT for the 2018 annual report by supervisory district. A map is also included depicting the geographical locations of cases reviewed within each district.

### DVDRT Cases Reviewed in 2018 by Supervisory District

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>District 1 Serna</th>
<th>District 2 Kennedy</th>
<th>District 3 Peters</th>
<th>District 4 Frost</th>
<th>District 5 Nottoli</th>
<th>Total</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2018</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>0</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### CASE SUMMARIES

The review of the six cases this year reaffirms the DVDRT conclusions from years past. Domestic violence affects all age ranges, races, religions and economic levels of society. The main truism that can be gleaned from these cases is that a domestic violence homicide victim or perpetrator can be either male or female, and abusers come from all walks of life.

**Age Ranges:**

The victims ranged in age from 17 to 63 years old. The perpetrators ranged in age from 30 to 64 years old.

**Education Levels:**

Education levels of victims and perpetrators ranged from high school dropout to a high school diploma

**Employment:**

In the cases reviewed this year, employment for victims ranged from unemployed to Air Force Reservist. Employment for perpetrators ranged from unemployed to a laborer and a babysitter.

**Murders Witnessed by Family:**

In four of the six cases children were either a victim of the perpetrator, witnessed the family violence or discovered the body of the victim.

**Premeditation and Deliberation:**

In virtually all the cases there was evidence of calculated pre-planning by the perpetrator.

**Prior Domestic Abuse:**
There was evidence of prior abuse in 4 of the 6 cases where the DVDRT was able to get detailed histories of the relationships. Although the prior history showed multiple incidents of less severe conduct, there were multiple incidents of strangulation or the use of a gun preceding the murders.

**Alcohol/Drugs or Prescription Medications:**

Alcohol and/or drug use was a contributing factor in 3 of the 6 cases. In addition to the predominant involvement of alcohol and marijuana, multiple cases involved methamphetamine, pain killers, heroin and prescription medications.

**Gun Use:**

In 5 of the 6 cases, the weapon of choice was a firearm, including the use of shotguns and handguns. Interestingly, in all those cases the perpetrators had criminal histories that could have or should have prevented their possession of the firearm. This is not to say that domestic abusers don’t select alternative weapons such as knives, cars or blunt objects. However, there is a disturbing trend of abusers having access to guns and using those guns in domestic violence homicides. Over the years many cases have played out the factual scenario that friends and family members had knowledge of the abuser’s possession (many times the possession was illegal although we could not determine if friends or family always knew of the illegality) of firearms prior to the ultimate homicides.

The following map and table summarize the location in the County and some of the key factors seen repeatedly in domestic violence homicides. The attempted murder case is number six (6) in the table.
Cases numbered 1 thru 6 in blue drop-point denote case order of review by the DVDRT and corresponds to the subsequent graph with fact information and factor breakdown.
**DVDRT CASES REVIEWED IN 2018**

V = Victim  
P = Perpetrator  
BF = Boyfriend  
GF = Girlfriend  
Unk = Unknown

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
<th>#4</th>
<th>#5</th>
<th>#6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Age of Victim</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>45 and 17</td>
<td>37</td>
<td>31</td>
<td>63</td>
<td>31</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Age of Perpetrator</td>
<td>36</td>
<td>41</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>64</td>
<td>30</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Together?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, one.</td>
<td>Two adult sons 31 and 33.</td>
<td>1 child (not involved in the incident)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children - V</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>Two with estranged husband.</td>
<td>Three children, 1 with P.</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3 children (1 with P)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children - P</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>Possibly 1 Child</td>
<td>None</td>
<td>One child, with V</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Children Witness Violence?</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>One of the victims was V’s child who lived with P and V.</td>
<td>Children did not witness V’s death but had seen P over at V’s apartment. Children, along with husband, discovered victims body.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Son was awoken by a gunshot and went into his father’s room to see his mother on the ground. As he performed CPR on his mother, his father shot himself in the head. Son did not see his father shoot himself but heard gunshot directly behind him in same room.</td>
<td>2 of V’s children witnessed the violence; one child sustained minor injuries as a result.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>#5</td>
<td>#6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Relationship Status</td>
<td>V=Girlfriend/ Fiancée</td>
<td>On and off relationship with V for 3 years.</td>
<td>Dating</td>
<td>Broken up approx. 4 years prior to incident.</td>
<td>Married</td>
<td>On/off dating</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Weapon Used</td>
<td>Baseball Bat With Metal Knife taped to the end.</td>
<td>Gun and fire (burning the bodies).</td>
<td>Shotgun</td>
<td>Shotgun</td>
<td>Handgun</td>
<td>Handgun</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Facts</td>
<td>P and V were arguing. V’s autopsy shows that she died from blunt force trauma to head, face, arms, legs and torso. V has several cuts all over her body. P’s mother had reported the dead body in her home. P had left the home, but later turned himself in for doing something bad to his girlfriend. P was bloody as well when he was arrested.</td>
<td>Fire department responded to the home regarding a CO alarm. When fire arrived, they saw a truck back out of the driveway and drive off. Fire thought it was suspicious, so they called officers. When officers arrived, they went inside. The home was smoky – officers located two bodies in the bathtub. The bodies had been burned and were charred. Both victims had been shot in the head. Gas and bleach was found in the residence. A</td>
<td>V and P got into an argument, P came over to victim’s house and shot and strangled V.</td>
<td>P and V had a prior relationship and a child together but were broken up and both married to other people. P seemed to believe that there was a future rekindling of their relationship possible. P went over to V’s house at 4 in the morning, walked into her bedroom, and shot her while she was lying next to another man.</td>
<td>On 03/30/2018, gunshots were heard at 4:30am. Son went to P’s bedroom and found P standing over V, who was slumped on the floor. P had a gun in his hand. P told son that he thought V was a robber, so he had shot her. P claimed that he had been woken up to someone pushing down on his chest. Son got P to put down the gun and began to administer CPR to V. As son was performing CPR on V he heard another gun shot behind him and turned to see P on the ground.</td>
<td>On 8/28/2017, P was at the home of one of his two children, visiting them. V arrived unannounced in her vehicle and P and V got into an argument. V’s two children ages 8 and 5, were in the car. The argument between P and V escalated and P went back into the residence and obtained a handgun from his backpack. P went back outside and fired three rounds toward the rear window of V car. V son, age</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>#5</td>
<td>#6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
<td>----</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td>few days later officers found the S/V that P was driving and conducted a traffic stop. P got out of car and began shooting at officers. One officer was hit in the thigh and the other officer was hit in the abdomen. Officers returned fire and killed P. The gun P used was linked to the bullet casings used to kill the victims.</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
### DVDRT CASES REVIEWED IN 2018 cont.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Case</th>
<th>#1</th>
<th>#2</th>
<th>#3</th>
<th>#4</th>
<th>#5</th>
<th>#6</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Prior DV History</td>
<td>Neighbors state that arguing from the home was regular. 2006 – P was arrested for PC 243(e)(1) and PC 415(1). Citrus Heights PD had responded to the home several times since Nov. 2014 as follows: -11/22/2014 -12/25/2014 -1/26/2015 -2/24/2015 -3/20/2015 -3/21/2015</td>
<td>1/1/2004 – arrested in Ohio for DV. 6/16/2007 – P would control V and threaten to damage her property. 5/29/2010 – P told V that he usually carries a gun on him. One night they were drinking, and P told V “you don’t know if I’ve killed anyone. “P also said that he was going to put a bullet in her head.</td>
<td>No info found, but P has extensive criminal history.</td>
<td>In 2011 P told V to bring food to a hotel, where he was “staying with one of the girls he punts out.” When V arrived, P punched her multiple times, choked her, and kicked her.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Yes, same V and P had an incident on 5/14/2007 during which P purposefully crashed his car into the car V and her boyfriend were driving in. 8/29/2016-P was convicted of PC 273.5 and PC 69.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>#5</td>
<td>#6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>-----------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>--------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Prior Suicidal Ideation</td>
<td>When asked, P was emotional but did not state that he was suicidal.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>P had suicidal thoughts, had been depressed for a long time.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Yes, P admits having suicidal ideations as early as age 6.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education – V</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>V was in high school</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Education – P</td>
<td>H.S diploma,</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>10th grade only</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Mental Health Diagnosis</td>
<td>Bipolar disorder, mood swings, temper issues, paranoia and agoraphobia (fear of groups). P is prescribed several medications for bipolar disorder and depression. Several calls to police indicate that P was not taking the medication as prescribed.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Witnesses noted that P seemed to have mental health problems, but no diagnosis in record.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>Depression; mental disability- P describes as causing him to not be able to work, read, or understand written words; PTSD</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Employed? P</td>
<td>Laborer/unemployed.</td>
<td>Used to sell things on eBay.</td>
<td>No</td>
<td>Not employed, was babysitting for sister for month leading up to victim’s death.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>None; SSI</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Case</td>
<td>#1</td>
<td>#2</td>
<td>#3</td>
<td>#4</td>
<td>#5</td>
<td>#6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>-------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>---------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Drugs/Alcohol</td>
<td>Alcohol was involved. P stated both P and V were alcoholics. P told police he had used heroin and methamphetamine in the past. P labs show .03% BAC and 22 ng/mL of Clonazepam. Victims labs show .21% BAC and 7.2 ng/mL of Clonazepam. V is also prescribed anti-depressants.</td>
<td>Unk.</td>
<td>No drugs or alcohol noted in victim’s toxicology report.</td>
<td>V did not consume drugs or alcohol.</td>
<td>P was on medications at the time as he was diagnosed with terminal colon cancer.</td>
<td>P-Alcohol; marijuana; meth “eight ball” every day; has abused pain killers in the past.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Race</td>
<td>Both White</td>
<td>Both African American</td>
<td>Both Hispanic</td>
<td>Both African American</td>
<td>Both Asian</td>
<td>Both White</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
FINDINGS

1) Gun Possession and Use by Abusers Previously Barred From Possessing Guns

Perpetrators prohibited from possessing guns have too easily hid their possession of firearms from the judicial system or found access to illegal possession of weapons and have gone on to use the weapons to commit domestic violence homicides.

Perpetrators usually lose their right to gun possession and ownership in one of three ways:
(1) They are arrested and released on bail with a criminal protective order that forbids gun possession;
(2) They have a family court restraining order served on them which bars possession; and,
(3) They have been convicted of crimes previously that bar possession or ownership for a specified amount of time.

When served with a court order not to possess guns, it is up to the perpetrator to follow through with the order to no longer possess and it is up to the perpetrator to provide proof to the court that they have complied with the order. In most cases there is no judicial or law enforcement follow-up to ensure the perpetrator does not have access to guns.

2) Determining which Cases Qualify as DVDRT Reviewable Cases

The DVDRT is often frustrated in trying to locate every domestic violence related homicide in the county. Not every homicide is reported to the District Attorney. Murder-Suicide is often not reported because there is no perpetrator to arrest or prosecute. There are also different definitions of domestic related homicides in different agencies. This frustration has also led to the DVDRT having difficulty presenting an accurate yearly total number of domestic violence related homicides in the county at this annual presentation.

The DVDRT uses a broad definition which includes homicides that are motivated by dating frustrations, interfamily relationships, and interpersonal violence conflicts. This definition can include a murder-suicide of a jealous lover on the person they date or the former or current dating partner. It does not include interfamily violence when a child kills another sibling or a parent or a parent kills a child unless there is parental violence in the home that contributed to the event.

The coroner will know the underlying facts of a homicide, but often do not know the back story of family violence.

3) The Danger of DV Encounters for Law Enforcement and Innocent Citizens

Case #3 emphasizes not only the danger to DV victims and their children, but the danger police officers face when responding to a domestic violence incident or arrest. Most of the perpetrators who discharge firearms at law enforcement officers have documented DV backgrounds. The most dangerous call for a responding officer is a DV call. It is not a coincidence that a majority of mass shooters in America have both a documented DV and strangulation history.
RECOMMENDATIONS

The DVDRT recommends that the Board approve the following implementation plan:

1) **Gun Possession and Use by Abusers Barred from Possessing Guns**

   The DVDRT recommends that a team consisting of members from law enforcement agencies in the county working with county probation review court orders prohibiting gun possession that allow for the search and seizure of weapons. During this review they should prioritize dangerous perpetrators by assessing lethality factors present in the actions of the abuser and conduct security sweeps for illegal gun possession by these abusers. Prior gun use, gun possession at the time of the alleged crime, current or prior strangulation and/or threats to kill should head the list of prioritized lethality factors.

2) **Determining which Cases Qualify as DVDRT Reviewable Cases**

   The DVDRT recommends that all parties with knowledge of homicides that could be defined as connected to family or interpersonal violence be reported to the Supervisor of the Sacramento District Attorney’s Office Domestic Violence Team within 30 days of the end of the calendar year.

   This requirement would apply to every Sacramento County law enforcement agency and the coroner. The District Attorney Domestic Violence Supervisor should review these reported cases, cross check them with the coroner’s number, and then contact the Homicide sergeant of each law enforcement agency to verify the number of reports received is accurate.

   This information will then be included in the annual DVDRT report to the Board of Supervisors each year.

3) **Reducing Danger Through Prevention and Education**

   Children who grow up with abuse in their homes often end up believing that violence is an effective way to resolve conflicts and problems. These children also have higher risks of alcohol/drug abuse, posttraumatic stress disorder, and criminality.

   There are programs that help build collaborations with community organizations that can provide support for these children and help them heal and lead a happier life.

   The DVDRT, the Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office and the SRFJC have started a campaign to open discussions on how to improve system response to reduce childhood and family trauma related to family abuse.
Sacramento County District Attorney’s Office’s Assistant Chief Deputy District Attorney Paul Durenberger met separately with County Health, CPS, and school district leaders to discuss whether collaborative efforts between these groups could help reduce future acts of family abuse. All agreed it is important for them to work with each other and to receive training on methods that have been effective in helping to reduce childhood and family trauma.

The DVPC, the community subcommittee of the DVCC, and the SRFJC scheduled a November 7, 2018 training and discussion on the effects of trauma and collaboration solutions. During the training a documentary will be presented on the work of Dr. Nadine Harris in San Francisco who developed a collaborative trauma response that has helped build hope and resiliency in children in the public schools in Hunter’s Point.

Our current goal is to continue discussions with government agencies, health care providers, and community organizations on how we can enhance programs for children by building their hope for the future, building their resiliency to overcome setbacks and disappointments and reducing rage, trauma and violence in their daily lives.

CONCLUSION

The DVCC is continuing to actively work with our domestic violence partners including law enforcement, community organizations, businesses, educators, faith-based organizations and local governments in trying to better address the issues of domestic violence in Sacramento County. The SRFJC continues to advance the successful collaborative efforts of the Sacramento region and has had a positive impact on addressing issues surrounding domestic violence in the community. The DVDRT looks forward to the Board’s continued support during the next year as it explores more exciting opportunities.