



State of Kansas

Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board 2010 Report

Published January 2011

2010 FRB REPORT

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GOVERNOR'S DOMESTIC VIOLENCE FATALITY REVIEW BOARD

Mark Parkinson, Governor

*The Honorable Robert T. Stephan, Chair
Former Kansas Attorney General*

January 4, 2011

The Honorable Mark Parkinson
Governor, State of Kansas
Capitol Building
Topeka, Kansas 66612-1590

Dear Governor Parkinson:

I am submitting the 2010 Report of the Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (FRB). The FRB had a legislative victory in 2010 for domestic violence as the result of the passage of Substitute for House Bill 2517. This new law will track all crimes involving domestic violence by identifying all domestic violence offenders who commit any criminal actions. We had been working for four years to see such a bill become law. Your support in that effort was invaluable.

The Domestic Violence Bill provides for a domestic violence designation to be placed on an individual's conviction record no matter the offense and the court will require a domestic violence offender assessment. This is a tremendous step in identifying these offenders early and tracking all offenses committed by domestic violence offenders.

We continue to raise public awareness about the horror of domestic violence and to seek remedies to assist victims of domestic violence.

It has been a privilege to work with individuals on the FRB who want to make our state less violent. The Board could not have made progress without the efforts of Board Members; Judge Harold Flaigle, Dave Warry, Timothy Tompkins, Dr. Marilyn Ray, Steven Halley, Joyce Grover, Vicki Meyer, Debby Moody, Janice Norlin, Libby Scott, Carol Rood, Susan Moran, Leigh Reaves, Mark Malick, Debi Holcomb and Matthew Ade.

The FRB could not have functioned effectively without the assistance of your staff: Juliene Maska, JaLynn Copp, Erica Haas and Tracy Khounsavanh. Matthew Ade and Debi Holcomb, who were formerly on the FRB, have assumed the full time responsibilities of being FRB analysts.

Please be assured that we will continue to carry out our responsibilities to recommend improvements to prevent future fatalities, and determining if adequate resources and training are in place for those who respond to domestic violence crimes.

Sincerely,

Robert T. Stephan

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2010 Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board Members

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Former Attorney General
Johnson County

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Court Services Officer
Sedgwick County

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Dedication

The Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board reviewed domestic violence-related fatalities from 2005. This report is dedicated to women, men, their children, friends and family members who have lost their lives to domestic violence and to the domestic violence survivors who struggle to stay alive every day.

Introduction

The Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board (FRB) was established on October 11, 2004 by Executive Order 04-11. The mandate set out in the order is to "recommend improvements to prevent future fatalities and determine if adequate resources and training are in place for those who respond to domestic violence crimes."

The FRB has had the opportunity to make a difference by reviewing 30 cases of homicides/suicides and all other deaths related to domestic violence. The FRB has been reviewing the tragic homicides occurring in intimate relationships for more than six years. The FRB sees the work as more than "cases to be reviewed," and recognizes the people involved are loved ones from our communities. Real people who once had a future are now gone, leaving a rippling impact on families and communities. Valuable recommendations have resulted from the reviews in an effort to address the realities of intimate partner violence.

Through funding from the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, two FRB analysts were hired in 2010 to assist the FRB in its mission. With the opportunity to begin to review these tragedies even more thoroughly, we can learn more about who the people involved really were, who knew about the abuse/violence and what the response was to the abuse. Learning from the point of view of family members, employers/co-workers, schools, medical and others who knew the families will provide insight to influence future recommendations to directly benefit all Kansans.

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Goals and Objectives

The FRB's work and its examination of domestic violence cases are based on the following goals and objectives established by the FRB.

GOALS OF THE BOARD

The FRB examines domestic violence homicides with two principal goals:

1. To continue informing the public about the insidious nature of domestic violence and motivating the public to find solutions to end domestic violence; and
2. To identify systemic changes within all the organizations and agencies that work with domestic violence victims, offenders and families to learn new ways of reducing the number of fatalities by better identification of risk factors and improvement in the coordination of services that our State provides.

OBJECTIVES

1. To describe trends and patterns of domestic violence-related fatalities in Kansas.
2. To identify high risk factors, current practices, gaps in systemic responses and barriers to safety in domestic violence situations.
3. To educate members of the health care system, social services, law enforcement, judicial system (judges, court services officers, probation officers, prosecutors, lawyers, etc.), policy makers and any public or private entity about fatalities due to domestic violence and about strategies for intervention.
4. To recommend policies, practices and services that will encourage collaboration and reduce fatalities due to domestic violence.
5. To improve the sources of domestic violence data collection by developing systems to share information between agencies and offices that work with domestic violence victims.
6. To more effectively facilitate the prevention of domestic violence fatalities through multi-disciplinary collaboration.
7. To organize a public awareness campaign.

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FRB 2010 Activities

One of the FRB's goals is to continue informing the public about the insidious nature of domestic violence and motivating the public to find solutions to end domestic violence. FRB members take the opportunity to inform the public throughout the year.

Robert Stephan, FRB Chair, and Judge Harold Flaigle, FRB member both testified before the House Committee on Corrections and Juvenile Justice and the Senate Judiciary Committee in support of Substitute for House Bill 2517 on behalf of the FRB. Mr. Stephan also made a presentation on domestic violence at an Elder Abuse Seminar in El Dorado and to a Political Science class at Wichita State University. In December, he was the featured speaker at the Major Case Squad meeting in Holton.

Janice Norlin, attorney and FRB member from Salina arranged a presentation from the Domestic Violence Association of Central Kansas and Matt Ade, FRB Analyst, for the League of Women Voters in November.

In an effort to gather more information and to be respectful and as consistent as possible when reviewing fatalities, protocols for interviewing surviving family members and offenders were developed and adopted by the FRB in 2010.

Both FRB Analysts have been involved in facilitating domestic violence training for community supervision officers to include Community Corrections Intensive Supervision Officers, Court Services Probation Officers, and Kansas Department of Corrections Parole Officers in Junction City and Newton. Matt Ade is a board member of the Kansas Attorney General Batterer's Intervention Program Advisory Board and the Saline County Domestic Violence Task Force. Debi Holcomb participates in both the Geary and Riley County Domestic Violence Task Force and is a member of the Crime Victim's Compensation Board Advisory Council.

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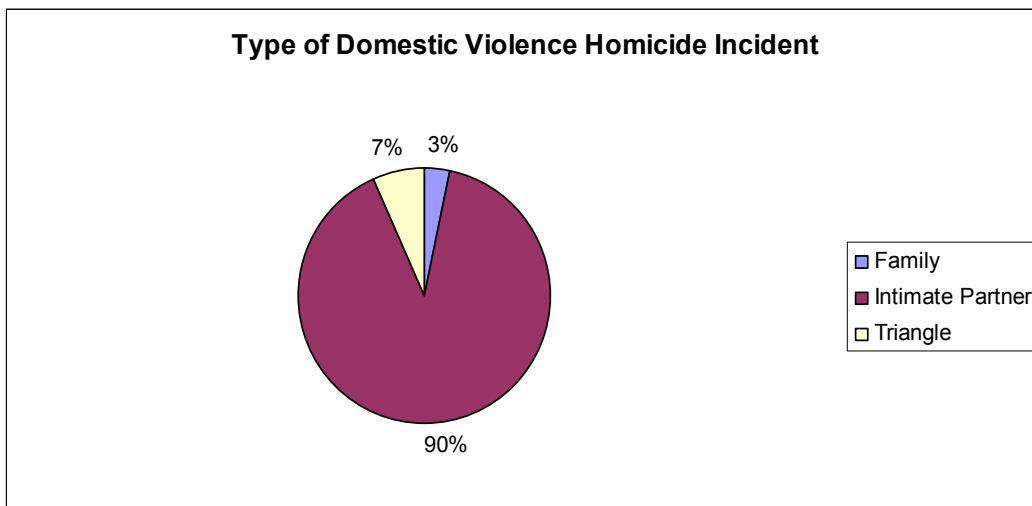
Case Review Findings

Since the FRB's inception in 2004, it has reviewed 30 domestic violence related fatalities. The FRB meets quarterly to review the cases.

Characteristics	Victims		Perpetrators	
	Female (N=23)	Male (N=7)	Female (N=7)	Male (N=23)
Average Age	40.22	40.43	44.8	38.4

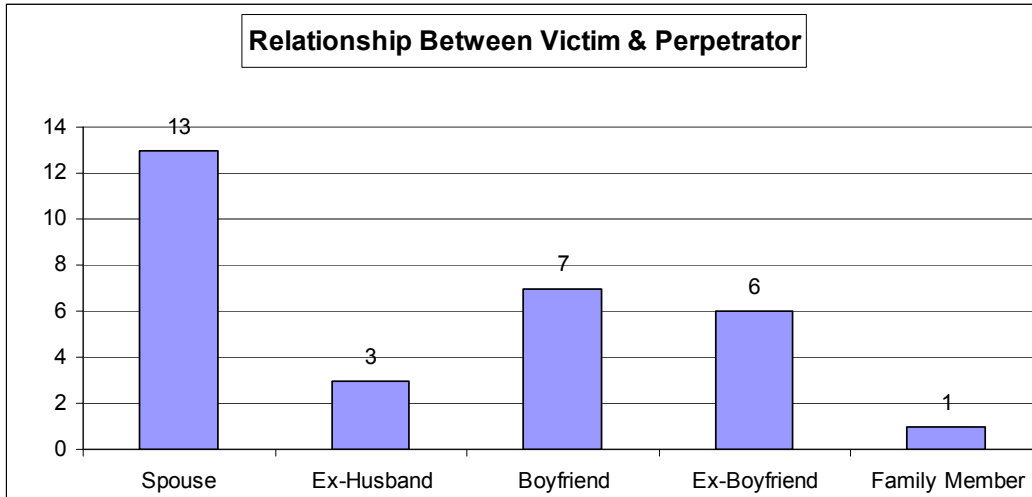
Race	Victims	Perpetrators
White	0.77	0.71
Black	0.2	0.23
Asian	0.03	0.03
Of Hispanic or Latin Origin	0	0.03

Intimate partner homicides accounted for the majority of domestic violence incidents (90 percent). Triangle homicides which include a woman's ex-husband killing her new boyfriend/husband or vice versa represented seven percent of the cases and the remaining three percent were family member homicides.

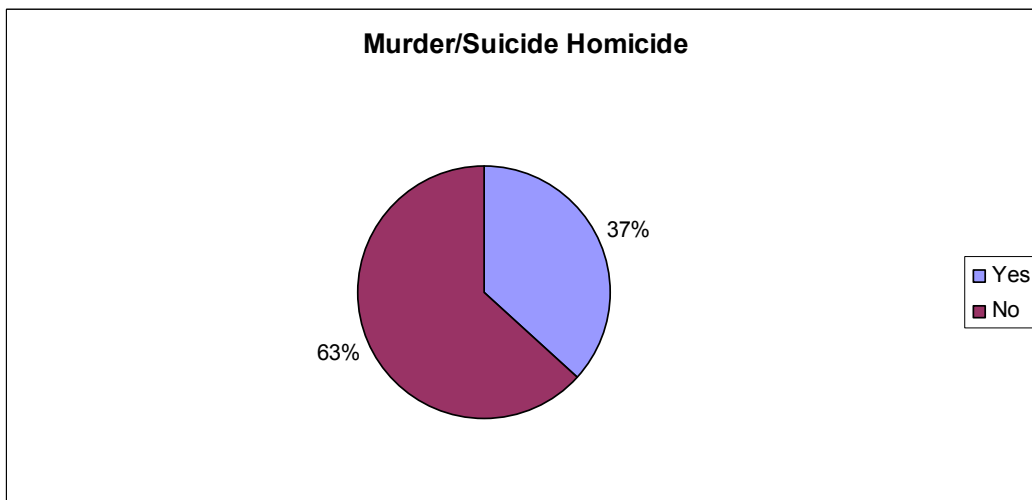


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Of the intimate partner homicides, the perpetrator was most commonly the victim's current spouse, followed by ex-boyfriend, boyfriend, and ex-husband.

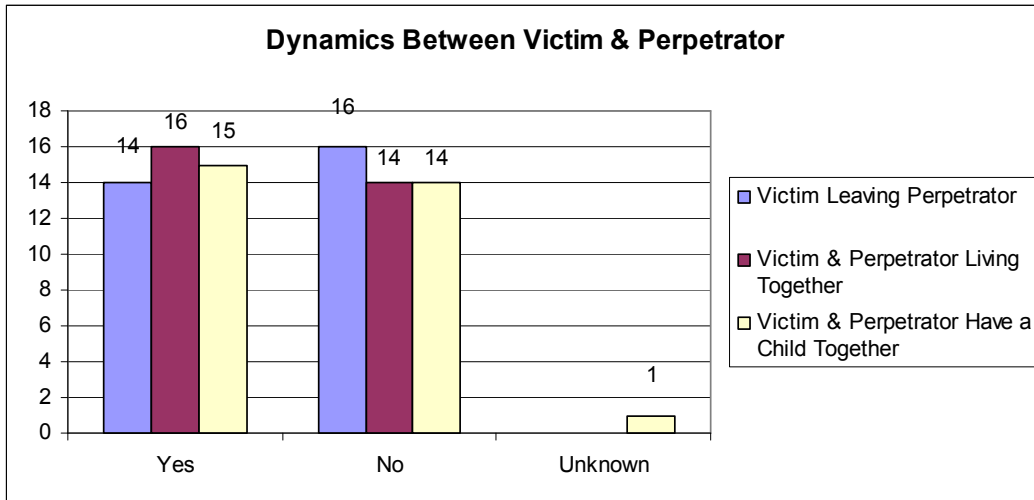


Thirty-seven percent of the cases involved a murder/suicide homicide. Of the 30 cases reviewed 11 perpetrators committed suicide after killing the victim. In one case the perpetrator attempted suicide but survived the attempt. In another case, the perpetrator was then killed by his ex-wife's current husband in self-defense

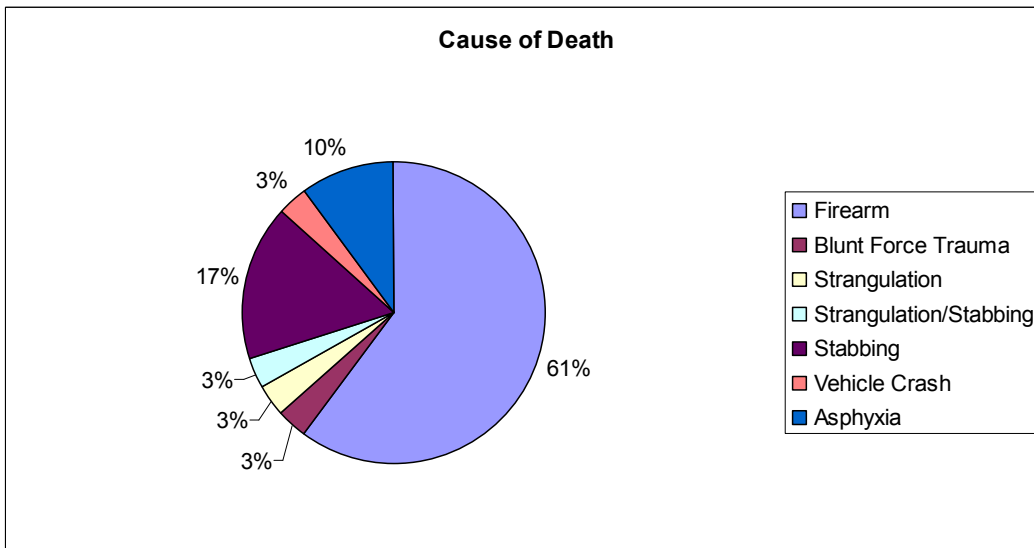


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In 46 percent of the cases the victim was in the process of leaving the perpetrator. In 53 percent of the cases the victim and the perpetrator were living together. And, in 50 percent of the cases the victim and the perpetrator had a

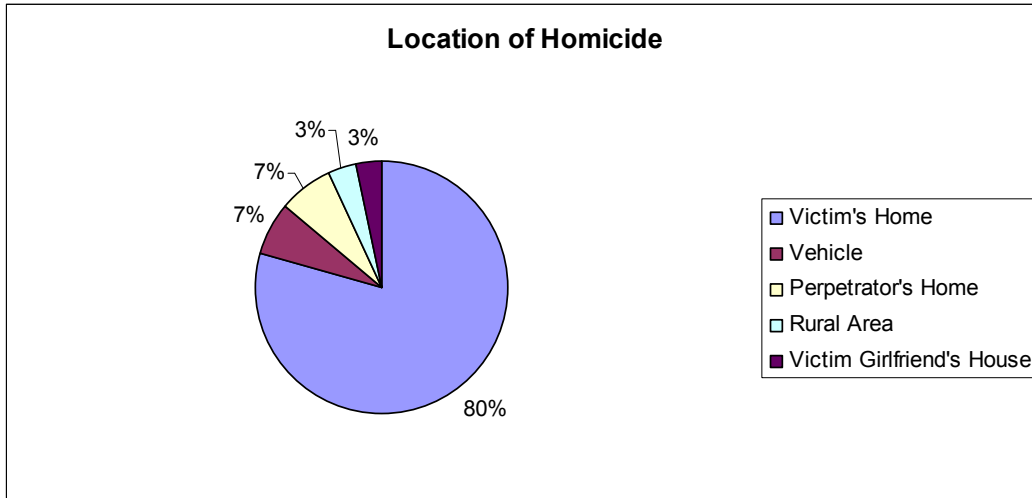


Of the cases reviewed, firearm shootings were the main cause of death (61 percent). Stabbing was the second leading cause of death (17 percent), followed by asphyxia (10 percent), blunt force trauma, strangulation, strangulation and stabbing and vehicle crash each of which represented three percent of the cases.

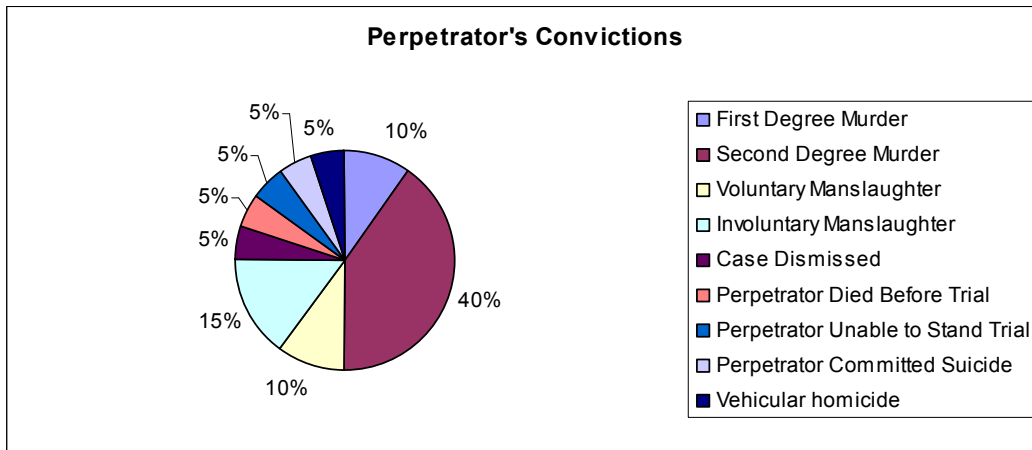


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The majority of the homicides occurred at the victim's home (80 percent), followed by in a vehicle or perpetrators home (seven percent each) and in a rural area or house of the victim's girlfriend (three percent each).

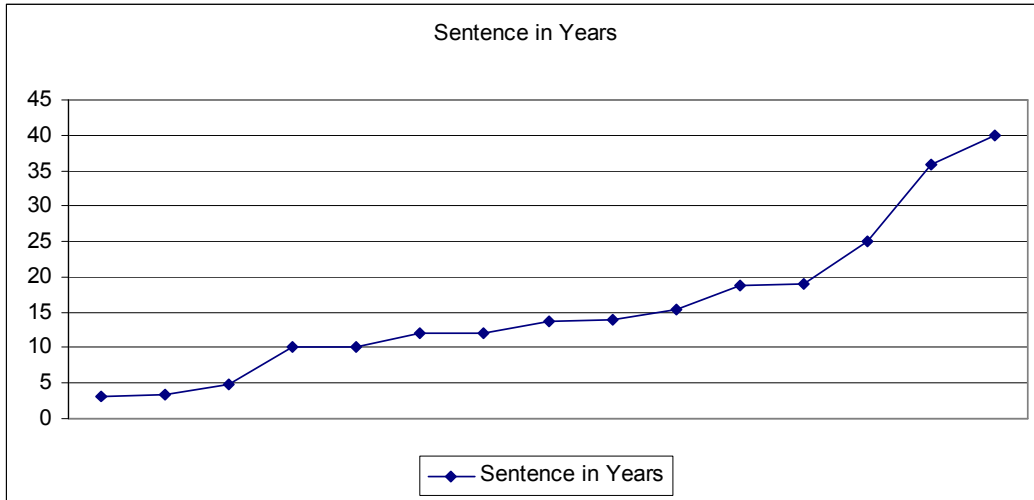


Charges were filed in all of the cases except those where the perpetrator committed suicide. And all perpetrators were convicted of committing the homicide for which they were charged. The majority of the perpetrators were convicted of second degree murder (40 percent), followed by involuntary manslaughter (15 percent), voluntary manslaughter (10 percent) and first degree murder (10 percent).



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As the figure below illustrates, the perpetrators' sentences ranged from 10 years to 40 years.



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Case Reviews

The FRB only reviews closed cases of spouse and intimate partner homicide/ suicide and any other deaths related to domestic violence. This ensures all appeals have expired and the FRB will not affect the ongoing investigation of an active case. In addition, the review and discussions of individual cases are conducted in a confidential manner in executive session.

Following are summaries of the eight fatalities from 2005 that were reviewed in 2010.

Beverly

78 years

Wyandotte County

On April 10, 2005, Beverly's husband of 53 years, Eugene, strangled her to death with a computer cord after, according to Eugene, the couple had argued about which vehicle to take to church that morning. Beverly suffered from Parkinson's disease and Eugene was her primary caretaker.

Eugene attempted suicide after he killed Beverly but was unsuccessful. He was convicted of voluntary manslaughter and sentenced to 59 months in the Kansas Department of Corrections, with his earliest possible release date of June 14, 2009. However he died while in prison on December 11, 2008.

Corey

26 years

Wyandotte County

Corey and his live-in girlfriend, Alexis, argued in the early morning hours of May 14, 2005 and Alexis stabbed Corey causing him to die. Alexis and Corey met while Corey was in prison and Corey moved in with Alexis upon his release.

Alexis was convicted of second degree murder and was sentenced to three years with credit given for time served in jail. She currently is on parole through Interstate Compact in Missouri.

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Richard

23 years

Wyandotte County

On May 1, 2005 Richard was stabbed by his girlfriend of four years, Misti, after they argued in the kitchen while she was cooking dinner. Misti argued with Richard to leave her alone when he then grabbed her by the neck. She was able to get him away from her, but he came back toward her and she stabbed him with a knife in the chest. Richard died soon afterward while sitting in the living room.

That same morning, Misti and Richard had argued and Misti told Richard to move out of the apartment before she returned from work. She let him use her car while she was at work to move his belongings. When Richard picked her up from work, they continued to argue. They both returned to the apartment and Richard slapped her two more times, and she slapped him back at one point.

Misti was originally charged with second degree murder and plead guilty to involuntary manslaughter. She was sentenced to 38 months in prison and was paroled in 2008 to Wyandotte County. She is scheduled to be discharged from parole in 2011 and will be required to register as a violent offender with the Kansas Bureau of Investigation until 2018.

Sheri

38 years

Sedgwick County

Matt and Sheri had been married for 13 years when Sheri filed for divorce on December 22, 2004. Matt came to the house for visitation with his children February 7, 2005 and got into an argument with Sheri. Their son ran to a neighbor when he saw his dad throw his mom on the ground and start kicking and hitting her. He heard two shots while he was running. Their daughter also saw her dad hitting and kicking their mom and watched him shoot Sheri in the head.

When their son returned to the home, he saw that his mother had been murdered and his father had killed himself.

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Glen
42 years
Osage County

On October 6, 2005 Glen was stabbed in the chest by his common-law wife of 17 years, Melanie. He then died in their front yard. Melanie had been sleeping when Glen came home intoxicated and they began arguing. Glen began to strangle Melanie with his hands and she grabbed a knife in an effort to get him away from her.

Melanie was arrested and originally charged with second degree intentional homicide. The prosecutor declined prosecution stating that Melanie was justified in using deadly force to protect herself.

Elizabeth
22 years
Sedgwick County

During a family barbeque on May 28, 2005, Calvin shot his girlfriend Elizabeth in the chest in front of several of his family members. Elizabeth and Calvin had a one year old son and she was pregnant with her third child when she was killed.

Calvin had been arrested in 2003 for the attempted murder of Elizabeth and was convicted of aggravated battery and aggravated burglary as a plea agreement. He was granted a downward departure from a presumptive prison sentence of 50 months and received six months at Labette Corrections Conservation Camp, followed by three years probation with Community Corrections.

Calvin was found guilty of Involuntary Manslaughter for the death of Elizabeth and received an upward departure of 128 months with the Kansas Department of Corrections. He is currently incarcerated in the Hutchinson Correctional Facility and his earliest possible release date is July 23, 2017.

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Eileen

34 years

Osage County

Eileen's husband Mark shot Eileen and then himself on June 16, 2005 while Eileen's five children were all at home. Eileen died immediately and Mark survived and remains incapacitated in a nursing home. The children reported that they heard the couple arguing before they heard the shots and several of the children saw their mom lying on the floor after she had been killed.

Kristyn

30 years

Reno County

On June 19, 2005, Kristyn was taken to the hospital after being shot in the side with a .22 gun by her live-in boyfriend, Steven. The couple had been arguing about their relationship when he shot Kristyn. They originally had met through the Internet and had been living together for the past several months. Kristyn died 23 days later from the gunshot wound.

Steven told police he fired a shot to get Kristyn's attention but a second shot accidentally went off. A passer-by found Kristyn outside the home several hours after the shooting. Steven died in jail from pneumonia on October 26, 2005 while awaiting trial for first degree murder.

2010 FRB Recommendations

LAW ENFORCEMENT

Recommendation: All Kansas law enforcement agencies should adopt policies which promote the sharing of critical information regarding individuals on supervision with Community Corrections, Court Services and Parole Officers. Likewise, Community Corrections, Court Services and Parole should adopt policies to make sure law enforcement is aware of individuals currently on supervision.

During the fatality review process it is common to find perpetrators and victims who have had multiple contacts with a number of governmental agencies, from local law enforcement, to Court Services, Community Corrections, Parole, Social and Rehabilitation Services, municipal and district courts. Unfortunately, it is very common to find a lack of open and consistent communication among agencies. Law enforcement may respond to a domestic violence offense, but may not notify Community Corrections because they were unaware the perpetrator was on probation. Opportunities for interventions are missed when communication does not occur among agencies.

Recommendation: Law enforcement agencies should be encouraged to adopt the model domestic violence policy developed by the Governor's Advisory Council on Domestic Violence Training and approved by the Attorney General in an effort to increase victim safety and offender accountability.

Abuser accountability is a vitally important component of victim safety. The criminal justice system often is in the best position to hold abusers accountable for their violence, and to help support victim safety efforts. Therefore, it is extremely important for law enforcement agencies and courts to have policies and procedure in place which take a strong stand against perpetrators of domestic violence, while at the same time enhancing victim safety.

Recommendation: Courts should be encouraged to designate cases of criminal intimate partner violence with a unique identifying case number as suggested in Substitute for HB 2517.

Frequently individuals who batter their partner have criminal histories that do not accurately reflect original charges, severity of charges, or the context of the incidents in which the charges were filed. For various reasons, plea agreements

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are made that may prevent the criminal justice system from identifying individuals who have a pattern of abusing their partners. Implementation of specific unique identifying case numbers will assist members along the continuum of the criminal justice system, from local law enforcement to jails and prisons and community supervision agencies, to hold domestic violence offenders accountable and increase victim safety.

Recommendation: Courts should be encouraged to discontinue the practice of dismissing temporary protection orders and restraining orders and merging them into the interlocutory orders associated with divorce cases.

When combining the two orders, the level of protection is lost and law enforcement is less likely or has less ability to enforce such protections. Violations of Protection from Abuse and Protection from Stalking Orders are criminal violations and the orders can be enforced by law enforcement. Because restraining orders included in divorce proceedings are usually mutual orders, it also is difficult for law enforcement to recognize the presence of domestic violence, which can substantially decrease victim safety.

CHILDREN

Of the eight cases reviewed in 2010, five of the families had minor children and they were in the home when the fatalities occurred.

Recommendation: Promote the development of safe/secure child visitation and exchange centers in communities across Kansas reflecting a clear understanding of the dynamics of domestic violence; the impact of domestic violence on children and families; and the importance of holding batterers accountable for their actions.

In the cases reviewed where separation had occurred and visitation or exchange of the children was ordered, a safe center for visitation and exchange could have protected the children. Studies have consistently shown that the risk of violence is often greater for domestic violence victims and their children after separation from an abusive situation. Additionally, batterers often use the visitation and exchange of children as an opportunity to inflict additional abuse and violence against victims and their children. To further promote the use of child visitation and exchange centers in cases involving domestic violence, Kansas received funds through the Federal Safe Havens Supervised Visitation and Safe Exchange Grant Program. These funds are used to assist

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with the development and implementation of model child visitation and exchange centers for domestic violence victims.

Recommendation: School districts should develop and adopt policies and trainings designed to aid children who live in homes where domestic violence is occurring, while at the same time support and strengthen the relationship between the child and the non-abusing parent.

Children often witness domestic violence in the home but school personnel are not usually aware of the violence. Therefore, it is important for systems who have a great deal of contact with children to be able to recognize possible warning signs that domestic violence may be occurring in the home, and be prepared to respond appropriately in the event children disclose they are living in a home where a parent is being abused. School districts, in cooperation with the D.A.R.E. and/or school resource officers, counselors and social workers along with their local domestic violence advocacy program, should work together to develop and adopt policies and trainings to address domestic violence. Safety planning and interventions designed to aid children who live in homes where domestic violence is occurring, while at the same time supporting and strengthening the relationship between the child and the non-abusing parent, are crucial when creating policies. Adequate resources should be made available and expanded to assist with this process.

Recommendation: The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence should work with the Kansas Association of School Boards to develop educational campaigns about domestic violence which should be implemented across the state beginning with pre-school children.

Domestic violence is about power, domination, control and coercion. Children begin to learn about relationships, both healthy and unhealthy, and gender roles at a very young age. When children move to the age of being involved in their own intimate relationships, they need to be aware of what a healthy and equal relationship is and know that being coercive and controlling is abusive and unhealthy. According to a recent study published in *Archives of Pediatrics and Adolescent Medicine*, one in five teens reported engaging in physical violence against someone they were dating.¹ Teen dating violence is becoming an ever increasing problem, one that must be addressed in order to prevent possible future domestic violence homicides from occurring. Statewide primary prevention efforts, involving educational campaigns and curricula, should be established to address domestic violence beginning with preschool children.

¹ Emily F. Rothman; Renee M. Johnson; Deborah Azrael; Diane M. Hall; Janice Weinberg Perpetration of Physical Assault Against Dating Partners, Peers, and Siblings Among a Locally Representative Sample of High School Students in Boston, Massachusetts *Arch Pediatric Adolescent Medicine*. 2010; 164(12):1118-1124.

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CRIME VICTIM'S COMPENSATION

Recommendation: The Crime Victim's Compensation Board should educate law enforcement, funeral homes, and the Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services to increase awareness of compensation benefits for child survivors of domestic violence fatalities.

Children who have had one parent murdered by another or children who survive when there has been a murder/suicide between their parents are often placed with family members or in foster care. The impact of the loss of both parents is unimaginable and the children need to have access to grief counseling to decrease the long term impact of the trauma. Law enforcement is required to provide information about Crime Victim's Compensation when responding to domestic violence incidents, however refresher trainings would be beneficial. Funeral homes have contact with adult surviving family members and also need to be aware of Crime Victim's Compensation, which can assist with funeral costs as well as grief counseling. The Kansas Department of Social and Rehabilitation Services (SRS) may have contact with the children if they are not placed with family members immediately by law enforcement. Not all children have contact with SRS, however the social workers who are involved with the child survivors need to know of this resource as well.

EMPLOYERS

Recommendation: The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) should develop and implement a plan to collaborate with employers in Kansas to develop and implement policies to address domestic violence in the work place.

Domestic violence's impact extends beyond the boundaries of the home environment. Employers have both victims and abusers in the workplace, which requires policies for responding to both. The KCSDV should provide information, education and technical assistance to employers to assist with the development of policies and work with local domestic violence programs to promote the education of employees on the dynamics of domestic violence and resources available in each community.

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Progress on Prior Recommendations

LEGISLATION

One of the FRB's recommendations for the last few years has been the passage of a domestic violence bill which will identify all domestic violence offenders who commit any criminal action. During the 2010 Legislative Session, the Kansas Legislature passed Substitute for House Bill 2517 unanimously. The bill was signed by Governor Mark Parkinson on April 12, 2010.

The bill makes substantial changes to the process for tracking domestic violence. It creates a standard definition of domestic violence, requires the trier of fact to determine if a domestic violence offense was committed and to place a domestic violence designation on the criminal case. In addition, it requires assessments of domestic violence offenders and those who enter into a domestic violence offense diversion agreement, the attorney general to adopt rules and regulations regarding the assessment process and law enforcement to make changes to its domestic violence policies. Finally, the KBI must provide domestic violence crime data to the FRB.

TRAINING

Another recommendation from the FRB was to train all professionals involved with domestic violence cases. The Governor's Office in conjunction with the Kansas Attorney General, Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence, Kansas Law Enforcement Training Center, Kansas Office of Judicial Administration, Kansas Department of Corrections and Kansas County & District Attorneys Association received a federal grant from the U. S. Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women. The purpose of the project is to develop a comprehensive training program including trainer curricula and materials and develop model policies for all professions involved in the criminal justice system. Policy development and training continues and is on going for law enforcement, judges, prosecutors, community supervision officers and advocates across Kansas.

ASSESSMENT

Developing an assessment tool to ascertain the level of protection needed for victims seeking protection from abuse and protection from stalking orders was another FRB recommendation.

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The Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) Protection Order Project procured funding with a Federal S.T.O.P. VAWA grant administered by the Kansas Governor's Grant Program. The publication "Frequently Asked Questions about Protection from Abuse and Protection from Stalking Orders: A Guide for Victims of Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, and Stalking" is being distributed by district court clerks, law enforcement officers, attorneys, advocates, victim-witness coordinators, and other professionals. It also has been translated and published in Spanish. A KCSDV "Guided Interview on Protection Orders" is an on-line interview designed to help victims, who do not have an advocate assisting them, learn about safety and procedural issues of Kansas protection orders. The interview can be found at: <http://www.kcsdv.org/pfa.html>

Community-based training events focused on issues a community identifies as most important in the areas of protection order issuance, advocacy and enforcement have been conducted across the state. The KCSDV Advocate Guide on Mutual Orders of Protection has been published and distributed around the state in conjunction with advocate training. A Law Enforcement Pocket Card on Kansas protection orders and enforcement has been reprinted and distributed at law enforcement trainings.

BATTERERS INTERVENTION

Per the recommendations of the FRB, the Attorney General's Office has developed the oversight and approval process for those who provide services to batterers in Kansas. The focus of the Batterer Intervention Program (BIP) unit has been to improve the system's response to domestic violence by implementing and increasing the number of approved batterer intervention programs in Kansas. By adopting state standards for this specific intervention, the BIP unit is working to ensure that program providers are incorporating practices of offender accountability and victim safety.

The BIP Unit also has been engaged in several activities to fulfill the Office's requirements as detailed in Substitute for HB 2517. The unit staff and a multi-disciplinary committee currently are creating the content for the rules and regulations regarding the assessment process.

The Attorney General's office is required to promulgate the rules and regulations with regard to an assessment to be used when an offender's case is designated as domestic violence. The initial design of the Kansas Domestic

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Violence Assessment is complete and will be adopted as the standardized assessment to be used statewide. The assessment currently is in the process of being piloted by existing BIP providers. Eight programs were certified in 2010 and 21 new BIP programs currently are in development.

CORRECTIONS

A prior FRB recommendation was to have the Kansas Department of Corrections (KDOC) screen inmates for domestic violence at the RDU (Reception and Diagnostic Unit) and upon release from a correctional facility. Planning for safety with victims and family members should be provided prior to the release of an inmate identified with a history of domestic violence. The KDOC is planning to initiate a screening process at RDU once Substitute for HB 2517 is implemented.

The KDOC Office of Victim Services (OVS) currently is working to develop and implement an imminent threat screening process in all offender release plans, which will screen for serious safety issues to automatically trigger involvement of the OVS for victims who currently are not working with OVS. The Office of Victim Services can assist with safety planning and serves as liaison between victims and parole officers who supervise offenders upon release from prison which will increase both victim safety and offender accountability.

PUBLIC AWARENESS

The FRB has recommended that public awareness initiatives be increased. The FRB partnered with the Kansas Coalition Against Sexual and Domestic Violence (KCSDV) to implement the public awareness campaign, Believe It. Help Change It. The campaign has consisted of video and radio PSAs, billboards, newspaper ads, online ads, and establishing a website, www.HelpChangeKansas.com. Many of the ads and billboards were displayed across Kansas and had a tremendous impact on drawing attention to the domestic violence issue. The FRB hopes to continue this initiative and appreciates the work of the KCSDV on providing this important service.

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Conclusion

The recommendations in this report are based on the domestic-violence related fatalities reviewed by the FRB. Although there are always limited resources available, it is vital that these recommendations be implemented. Kansas women, men and children are dying and many more are injured and emotionally scarred from the domestic violence in their lives. We can improve domestic violence prevention efforts with a coordinated community response. This response includes safety and support for domestic violence victims and holding perpetrators of domestic violence accountable for their conduct. Early identification, appropriate intervention and preventative education can make the difference. By working together and implementing the recommendations outlined in this report, we can work towards saving lives.

Acknowledgments

For the families and friends of the victims, the FRB respectfully acknowledges your loss and in submitting this report it is their hope to increase the awareness of domestic violence victims and continue to be committed to eradicating this social problem. We want to especially thank the families, co-workers and friends of the victims who communicated with the FRB in honor of their loved ones.

This report is the product of the combined expertise of the Kansas Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board. FRB members brought their interest, years of experience, expertise, case information and commitment to board meetings. Additionally, this report would not be possible without the cooperation of the officials and their staffs of local law enforcement agencies, prosecutor offices, Kansas Bureau of Investigation, and the many other agencies contacted to assist the FRB in gathering case information.



Governor's Domestic Violence Fatality Review Board

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