



**Fourth Judicial District
Family Violence Coordinating Council
Serving Hennepin County**

Present: Melanie Aleman, Katie Brey, Referee Mike Furnstahl, Grace Henderson, Rachel Kraker, Jacob Kraus, Rachelle Loewenson Stratton, Siri Lokensgard, Lt. Kellance McDaniel, Lisa McNaughton, Adam Miller, Melynda Nelson, John Phung, Hon. Kathryn Quaintance, Rachel Ratner, Jennifer Saunders, Raschon Simmons, Michael Weinstein, Kate Wilson

1. Welcome

Committee Co-Chairs Referee Mike Furnstahl and Judge Kathryn Quaintance welcomed the group.

2. Approve February 13, 2020 Minutes

Minutes approved as submitted.

3. Juvenile Adult Representation Services (ARS) – Rachelle Loewenson Stratton, Supervising Attorney, Hennepin County Adult Representation Services - Parent Representation Division

Rachelle Loewenson, Supervising Attorney with Hennepin County, introduced Adult Representation Services (ARS). ARS was formed in the summer of 2018 and is comprised of an interdisciplinary team of attorneys, disposition advisors, paralegal, support staff, and IT, with a goal to provide holistic representation to parents involved in the Child Protection system. ARS represents custodial and non-custodial parents and guardians. Prior to the establishment of ARS, the Public Defender's Office provided family representation, and Hennepin County has since assumed funding of the new division.

Parents may apply for ARS at their emergency hearing and eligibility criteria is the same as criteria for public defender services. ARS attorneys staff calendars each day and are able to represent parents from their first very hearing.

4. Committee Reports – Chairs

- a. Juvenile Committee:** Lisa McNaughton reported the Juvenile Committee met this week and the committee has a new co-chair, Jacob Kraus. The committee discussed programs for the coming year and identified two to accomplish in 2020. The Juvenile Committee discussed the resource fair and efforts to learn more about fellow committee members' roles and would like to expand its membership. The committee will meet again in two months.
- b. Criminal Committee:** Jennifer Saunders reported the Criminal Committee met on February 24. The committee is working on a flowchart to break down various processes in the life of a case and highlight points of contact for council members. The committee is arranging trainings for 2020; they have three speakers in line and are working out logistics.
- c. Civil Committee:** Michael Weinstein reported the Civil Committee will meet next week.
- d. Advocate Committee:** Rachel Ratner reported the Advocate Committee met recently and discussed challenges with the service of Orders for Protection and Harassment Restraining Orders. A few committee members attended a meeting arranged by the Sexual Violence Center with the Sergeant in charge of civil order service. They discussed where they see the delivery of service breaking down, and Rachel reported there has been extensive cross-collaboration to address service delivery challenges.

5. **Open Forum/Announcements – All**

Jennifer Saunders reported that the training on April 3 at Hamline University, *Peacemaking and Peacekeeping: Restorative Strategies for Communities & Crime in St. Paul*, has been cancelled.

Katie Brey provided an update on District Court's plans to continue operations in light of the recent COVID-19 outbreak. Domestic violence services remain high priority and will be addressed even if staffing is significantly reduced due to the outbreak.

Katie gave an update on the plans to relocate Family Court from the Family Justice Center to the Government Center. She reported that Thrivent is vacating their existing building on June 30, 2020, in which case Hennepin County will begin renovations to the space to prepare for their move into the building. The Thrivent building will assume a new name of "625 Building." The Family Court move to the Government Center is still a number of years out.

Katie reported that the April Family Violence Coordinating Council meeting has been cancelled. Guest speaker Deena Anders will attend the May meeting to share about the Domestic Fatality Review.

FVCC members Jacob Kraus and Rachel Kraker have volunteered to help plan the resource fair.

6. **Small Group Discussion**

No updates were shared.

Meeting adjourned at 1:11 p.m.

Future Meetings and Presentations

Use this link to find us on the web:

[http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-\(FVCC\).aspx](http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-(FVCC).aspx)

Use this link to access our Google Calendar of events:

<https://calendar.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fvcccalendar@gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>