

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

MINUTES

1. Welcome – Judge Cutter / Referee Moses

2. Approve June 12, 2014 Minutes – Judge Cutter / Referee Moses

Motion to approve minutes passed.

3. Family Court Enhancement Project Update – Referee Moses

The management team has met twice and is finalizing the challenges that will be addressed as part of the grant activities. A work product outline in a logic model format will be submitted by August 6. The four primary challenges are:

- a. Inconsistent handling of cases in Family Court
- b. Pressure on victims to participate in ADR
- c. Identifying and understanding the nature and context of DV and coercive control
- d. Responsiveness to Native American survivors

An ENE/ADR subcommittee will be led by Renee Merkins and a judicial officer to be named. Laurie Kusek and Renee Merkins will convene a meeting of stakeholders to discuss the barriers keeping Native American victims and children from accessing the court for help.

Katie Brey said a meeting is scheduled at the end of July to discuss the logic plan.

The Collaborative Workgroup will be contacted soon with a more detailed summary and plans to move forward.

4. FVCC Outreach Survey – Brynn Rhodes

Brynn worked with the District Court Research Department to develop a brief survey about outreach and training offered by organizations. Identifying existing training is the first step for strategic goal number 8 to increase the usefulness and visibility of FVCC. The survey will be distributed to FVCC voting members and FVCC committee members.

5. FVCC Committee Reports – Committee Chairs

Executive Committee – Judge Cutter reported that an all-day training is scheduled on October 24 at the new Bloomington fire station. Speakers were contacted and commitments are pending. The discussion will include coordinated community response to domestic violence and how domestic violence is affected in civil and criminal cases.

Civil Committee – Christy Snow-Kaster reported members attended training in June about GALs. It well attended and prompted a conversation about the differences between GALs in juvenile and family courts. Discussion included contributing to training about “meet me on the corner of child protection and family court.” Another training idea is new gun legislations and how it impacts OFPs. Continuing conversations about FCEP and how this committee may have something to offer to supplement others’ contributions.

Criminal Committee – Michelle Jacobson reported that a free CLE is planned for GLBT (see below). The editing process continues for a children’s book about the court system. The annual resource fair is October 29, 2014, 11:30 a.m.-1:00 p.m. on the PSL followed by a CLE about immigrants’ special domestic violence challenges, 1:00-4:00 p.m. Criminal and Child/Juvenile Committees are cohosting the resource fair. To reserve a table contact Anne Taylor.

Advocates Committee – Stephanie Avalon reported that OutFront MN provided education on GLBT issues, such as ways to help services to be more GLBT friendly. Cheryl Thomas is helping the committee to prepare a resolution that freedom from domestic violence is a human right. Work continues on the risk assessment in Hennepin County.

6. Announcements / Open Forum

July 18 – Free CLE “Working with GLBT Victims of DV”

Report mentioned at June 12, 2014 meeting by Judge Cutter - **Impact of Differential Sentencing Severity for Domestic Violence Offenses and All Other Offenses Over Abusers' Life Spans** ([pdf, 43 pages](#)) This research assesses the effectiveness of domestic violence (DV) prosecution compared to all prosecutions of the abuser, including non-DV offenses. They found that abusers who were prosecuted and sentenced more severely for DV compared to non-DV crimes during the first years of their adult criminal careers were less likely to be arrested for subsequent DV offenses and had significantly fewer new DV offenses. Abusers who were prosecuted for their DV offenses but not for their non-DV offenses were also significantly less likely to commit new DV offenses.

Meeting adjourned at 12:50 PM.

Future Agenda Items

Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP)

9/11/14 Presentation: Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Issue – Cheryl Thomas
Risk Assessment