

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

Present: Brandon Alkire, Joan Blace, Katie Brey, Deb Eckberg, Beth Hoag, Rachel Kraker, Jacob Kraus, Abby Langhenry, Siri Lokensgard, Lisa McNaughton, Penny McTigue, Aaron Milgrom, Melynda Nelson, John Phung, Judge Kathryn Quaintance, Rachel Ratner, Jennifer Saunders, Lilo Schluender, Elsa Swenson, Kari Torberg, Anna VonRueden, Sonya Voss, Michael Weinstein, Kate Wilson.

1. **Welcome:** Judge Quaintance welcomed the group to the Zoom meeting.
2. **Minutes:** September minutes were approved as submitted.
3. **Domestic Violence Process Flowchart:** Jennifer Saunders, FVCC Criminal Committee Chair, reviewed the flowchart (attached) developed by the Criminal committee to help stakeholders and victims navigate the criminal justice system. The flowchart is broken down into two sections: Charging Process (Felony Domestic Abuse Cases, and Misdemeanor and Gross Misdemeanor Domestic Abuse Cases) and Court Process (Open Domestic Abuse Cases, and Domestic Abuse Probationary Cases). Ms. Saunders also provided contact information for prosecuting authorities and victim advocacy agencies (attached). Please let her know if you have updates for that list.
4. **Fatality Review Board opportunities updates:**
 - Legislation: At the next Criminal Committee, chair Jennifer Saunders reported she will have the group discuss the suggestion to request a legislative change that will support a mandatory order for pre-sentence investigation and programming in all domestic cases, including DANCO violations.
 - Family/Family Court Services: Civil Committee chair Michael Weinstein reported the recommendations were reviewed and many are currently in place. The suggestions for the use of specially trained therapists and the use of discretionary guardian appointments are not feasible due to budget restrictions. He is pursuing the judicial training recommendation thru the Justice for Family grant program.
 - Law Enforcement: Advocate Committee chair Rachel reported her group will be meeting with law enforcement representatives to discuss some of themes. Her full report is contained in the attachment Committee Reports.
 - Court Admin/Criminal Court and Medical: Katie Brey report the FVCC Executive Committee is reviewing these recommendations at their November meeting.
5. **Committee reports (see handout with agenda):** There were no questions about the contents of the committee reports.

6. Agency updates:

- Jennifer Saunders report Jim Rowader has been appointed Minneapolis City Attorney. She will invite him to a future FVCC meeting.
- Rachel Kraker reported:
 - HCAO Criminal Division Manager Al Harris retired and Dominick Mathews has been appointed his replacement.
 - Samantha Hermesen has been hired as the new County Attorney located in the Domestic Abuse Service Center.
- Lilo Schluender reported that Central MN Legal Services (CLMS) is working remotely but attending in-person hearings at the courthouse.
- Elsa Swanson reported Homefree is attending court in person, and working remotely.
- Sonya Voss reporter Cornerstone staff are on site, and also available virtually or by phone.

Judge Quiantance requested observations from the group regarding the effects of the pandemic. Comments included:

- A positive observation is that victims in criminal cases can attend hearings over phone.
- The case back log is impacting victims, with older cases contributing to “victim fatigue”.
- HCAO is demanding speedy trial on behalf of the victims.
- Long term it seems that there is some difficulty attaining positive outcomes for victims.
- The inability to seek relief beyond emergency relief in protective orders in Hennepin is a real burden for clients.

7. Open Forum

- On October 23, 2020 the Criminal Committee is hosting a CLE on the intersection between animal abuse and domestic violence.
RSVP to jennifer.guzman@minneapolismn.gov.
- On October 14, 2020, the YMCA Equity and Justice Conversation Series is sponsoring a conversation on domestic violence. Register in advance using the link below or see Katie Brey's email from October 8 for more information.
<https://us02web.zoom.us/meeting/register/tZwvdumvrDIjE9P20nAljHQfQ6aK2Z023gN>

Next Meeting

November 12, 2020

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://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fvcccalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

Family Violence Coordinating Council

Committee Updates – October 8, 2020

Advocate Committee: Advocate Committee chair Rachel Ratner reported the Committee met in September and covered a lot of topics.

Various agencies will be contacting the police departments with which they partner to obtain current copies of the domestic assault arrest policies. The committee will then review and compare them, and assess if there are departments who might address the suggestions of the 2019 Fatality Review Team's report.

The committee also discussed possible training offerings that are being organized, to present to advocates, and any other interested members of the FVCC and beyond. One training that a member of the committee is creating with a colleague has to do with stalking in the age of dating apps and the cyber world. Other possible trainings are also being investigated.

The committee compared notes from the three Family Court Judicial listening sessions that were held in August. There is some confusion about where a Petitioner should get directions to the proper courtroom for OFPs once they arrive at Family Court, now that the Petitioner's waiting room is closed. Apparently, some Petitioners have been told to ask the deputy where their hearing is held, but some deputies do not know and are not helpful. One advocate was told, in error, that there was no hearing scheduled that day for the client she was planning to meet, but with persistence, the courtroom was located.

Further discussion ensued regarding the Sheriff's Civil department not serving restraining orders on Respondents in time for the hearings that are scheduled, and Orders not arriving at other County's Sheriff's Offices when they need to be served elsewhere. Also, discussed was a lack of consistent response by Family Court deputies, when OFP violations which occur in the court building. There was interest in inviting Hennepin County Sheriff deputies from both civil and court security to attend a future Advocate meeting.

The committee also plans to invite staff members from Hennepin County civil court administration to attend the Advocate Committee to answer questions about assisting Petitioners with e-filing. There are varying experiences with Petitioners receiving signed Harassment Restraining Orders back after e-filing.

Finally, a discussion was held about the gap in protections for "revenge porn"-type behavior for victims of domestic violence who seek OFPs, and a discussion of whether an individual can or should have to obtain both an OFP and an HRO, to protect themselves from different abusive behaviors, especially since the "revenge porn" statute has been struck down.

The next Advocate Committee meeting will be held in late October, date to be determined. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Rachel Ratner at rachelr@sojournerproject.org.

Criminal Committee: Criminal Committee chair Jennifer Saunders reported the Committee did not meet in September. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Jennifer Saunders at: jennifer.saunders@minneapolis.gov.

Civil Committee: Civil Committee chair Michael Weinstein reported the Civil Committee met on September 24.

The Committee reviewed opportunities for FCS/Family Court outlined in the Fatality Review 2019 annual report.

Members feel the FCS Resource Coordinator performs many of the opportunities directed at outreach.

Opportunities surrounding judicial education will be addressed thru the Justice for Families grant education subcommittee. Some noted opportunities are already in place (annual domestic violence training for FCS staff and Rule 114 providers, and DV screening methods/protocols). Other opportunities will not be pursued because of limitations surrounding: funding (discretionary guardian appointments), conflicts of interest (recommending specific providers/programming); and hiring practices or job class (use of psychologists with dv training).

The Committee reviewed Advocate/Judicial listening sessions: Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive and important issues are been raised along with judicial officer heightened awareness. Once sessions have conclude the topics/results will be compiled into a report presented to the FVCC and especially to JO DV round tables to ensure court-wide discussion.

During open form there was good discussion around expectations of court ordered programming and what is expected of providers to divulge about clients. Some consensus that consistent, clear, and specific court orders could clarify these matters, i.e. expectations for supervised parenting time, safety and intervention, providing documentation; other examples regarding information included in orders for specific DV programming, context for why something is ordered, expectations of what is hoped to be accomplished

Members updated each other about their agencies during open forum. Of note:

- Family Court Services, currently under Community Corrections, will move to Health and Human Services sometime in 2021.
- Perspectives reopened in renovated space and they are phasing back in supervised parenting time and other services by end of October.
- DAP has 6 groups running, continuing services virtually, and exploring possible in-person.
- Janelle reported uptick in hearings and use of guide and file—confronting access and help limitations—exploring if video conferencing could be added tool to assist public navigating process
- Case de Esparanza is now fully staffed.
- CMLS—MFIP suspended the 6 month limit, they are operating 4 remote court rooms for clients/attorneys to safely appear remotely; and, they have two new legal fellows

Next meeting: The November meeting will be rescheduled to avoid Thanksgiving. The email distribution group will be updated before that meeting is scheduled. Anyone interested in joining the committee should contact Michael Weinstein at Michale.Weinstein@hennepin.us.

Juvenile Committee: Committee co-chair Jacob Kraus reported the Committee met on September 8.

The group discussed the current Committee membership list, how agencies have been working through the pandemic, and potential topics for future meetings (once the group is at a planning point). The group will me again in November (date TBD). Those interested in joining the committee should contact Jacob at Jacob.Kraus@hennepin.us or Lisa McNaughton at Lisa.McNaughton@hennepin.us.