

Family  
Violence  
Coordinating  
Council

2014

Annual report of the Fourth Judicial District  
Family Violence Coordinating Council serving  
Hennepin County.



**MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

March 2, 2015

Chief Judge Peter A. Cahill  
Fourth Judicial District Court  
300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Dear Judge Cahill:

The Family Violence Coordinating Council (“FVCC” or “Council”) met monthly throughout 2014 and was co-chaired by Judge Elizabeth Cutter and Referee Patricia Moses. Nancy Peters served as the FVCC’s Executive Director throughout 2014. Beginning in 2015, Katie Brey has taken over as Executive Director.

The Council wishes to extend its deep appreciation to Ms. Peters for her dedication and hard work with the Council and on behalf of our mission to address family violence in Hennepin County. Ms. Peters assured timely communication among the co-chairs, committees and members, served as a valuable historian, kept us on track in pursuit of our strategic goals and is largely responsible for the Council’s smooth operation. She will be greatly missed.

The statutorily defined goal and mission of the Fourth Judicial District Family Violence Coordinating Council is to address family violence issues by promoting interdisciplinary programs and initiatives so as to coordinate public and private legal and social services and law enforcement, prosecutorial and judicial activities. Our purpose is to coordinate between agencies, departments, and the courts on the issues of domestic violence and abuse; to promote effective prevention, intervention, and treatment techniques; and to improve the response to domestic violence and abuse in order to reduce incidents of domestic violence and promote victim safety. The Council fulfills these objectives through committees, at council meetings and through the efforts of the FVCC as a whole.

Members of the FVCC represent virtually all justice system players: judges, court administrators, prosecutors, public defenders, police, probation, child protection, public health, and representatives from many community agencies, in particular domestic violence advocacy programs. The Council recognized Carol Arthur, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Project, who retired at the end of 2014, for her many years of devotion to ending domestic violence and for her commitment to the FVCC and its goals since its inception.

As in the past, the FVCC's monthly meetings served as a forum for members to share expertise and ideas to effect improvements in addressing domestic violence. The following represents a sampling of the speakers and subjects presented and discussed at the meetings:

- Presentations by Judge Cutter, Michelle Jacobson, Christy Snow-Kaster, and others on new legislation that impacts the handling of domestic violence, including the new gun surrender laws when an OFP is issued.
- Discussion on the newly updated Domestic Violence Best Practices that was approved in the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District.
- Presentation by Deena Anders, Project Director, on the 2013 Domestic Fatality Review Team report. The report details the work of the DFRT, which reviewed five actual cases of domestic homicide, identified the presence of risk factors in each case and presented areas in the justice system (and outside of the system) that need improvement.
- Presentation on domestic violence issues in Juvenile Court, by Judge David Piper, Jill Bender from Juvenile Probation, Anne Taylor, Senior Assistant County Attorney in Juvenile Prosecution and Todd Fellman, Senior Assistant County Attorney in Child Protection.
- Cheryl Thomas, Women's Human Rights Attorney, presented on "Domestic Violence as a Human Rights Issue."
- Regular updates on the progress in Family Court of the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP) by Referee Moses and Katie Brey. The FCEP is a federally funded grant awarded to the Fourth Judicial District to specifically address gaps and barriers in Family Court's handling of domestic abuse issues. Many of the Council's strategic goals for 2014 were tied to the work of the grant, as discussed below.

In 2013, the Council spent considerable time on the issue of child safety in families experiencing violence. The 2014 strategic goals reflected many of the barriers identified and proposed solutions to implement. The Council was able to achieve some of the rather ambitious 2014 goals and others will continue into 2015. The attached committee reports set forth in more detail many achievements for the year, but especially worthy of note is the several trainings either sponsored by the Council or with substantial member involvement.

- Full-day system-wide training on October 24, 2014, on Coordinated Community Response which was well attended and received.
- Bench retreat on October 31, 2014, in which domestic abuse was the primary topic of the day. Evan Stark presented and judges engaged in an interactive session inviting them to step into the shoes of a victim who is trying to escape violence, with limited and finite resources and major barriers to overcome. The judges also identified areas in which current practices in the 4<sup>th</sup> District can be improved to more effectively handle domestic violence cases.

- The annual Resource Fair and CLE in October, focusing on “Domestic Violence & Partnering with Disenfranchised Communities.” The MCBW’s Clothesline Project was exhibited at the Government Center, highlighting the tragedy of domestic homicide in Minnesota. The Resource Fair and CLE were a joint project by the Juvenile and Criminal committees.
- Sponsored by the Criminal committee, a CLE in July, 2014, on Domestic Violence in the GLBTQ Community, by presenters from Outfront Minnesota with discussion about victims and offenders.
- CLE brown bags trainings sponsored by the Civil committee:
  - The role of the Guardian ad Litem in both Juvenile and Family Court;
  - Guns and OFF’s in light on new firearms restriction legislation;
  - The intersection of Family Court and Juvenile Court.

The Advocates’ Committee made progress on the Council’s goal of improving the use of appropriate risk assessment tools by surveying police departments on current practices. They will continue this goal in 2015 with recommendations for improvement. At the instigation of this committee, the County Board passed a resolution declaring freedom from domestic violence as a human right.

The Criminal Committee, in addition to the trainings mentioned above, updated and redistributed the Quick Reference Guide created by the committee originally in 2008.

The chair and members of the Civil Committee in particular have been involved in the work of the FCEP as well as furthering specific goals of the Council, such as better understanding of the roles of the Guardians ad Litem.

The Child/Juvenile Committee, in addition to the trainings mentioned above, continued to invite speakers and increased knowledge of community resources.

Brynn Rhodes, Family Court Staff Attorney, conducted a survey to determine what outreach efforts were already occurring and the Council discussed the best ways to communicate with the community about its work and the issues of DV. A 2015 goal will be to continue the outreach, through enhancement of the Council’s website and continued communication through a Google calendar as a central location for information on trainings and other opportunities.

Goals related to direct support and involvement in the FCEP were not fully achieved because the grant project focused exclusively on planning during 2014. It is moving into the implementation stage in 2015 and received funding that had not been anticipated when the Court initially received the grant (originally it had been for technical support only). Many members of the Council are also directly involved in the FCEP and the challenge areas identified by the FCEP closely parallel and overlap goals of the Council.

The standing committees of the FVCC accomplish much of the work of the Council. The committee reports are attached and set forth membership, meeting frequency, and achievements for 2014, as well as goals for 2015. The committees are: the Civil Committee, the Criminal Committee, the Advocates Committee and the Child/Juvenile Committee.

The co-chairs thank all of the members of the FVCC, the chairs and members of the committees, for their tireless work and continued optimism that together we can be effective in reducing domestic violence in this district.

We appreciate your continued support for the work of the Council.

Sincerely,

Referee Patricia Moses  
FVCC Co-Chair

Judge Elizabeth Cutter  
FVCC Co-Chair

cc: Assistant Chief Judge Ivy Bernhardson  
FVCC Members

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### Acronym Key

AC	Advocates Committee
BWJP	Battered Women’s Justice Project
BWLAP	Battered Women’s Legal Advocacy Project
CC	Civil Committee
C/JC	Child / Juvenile Committee
CrC	Criminal Committee
DAP	Domestic Abuse Project
DASC	Domestic Abuse Service Center
DV	Domestic Violence
EC	Executive Committee
FCEP	Family Court Enhancement Project
FCS	Family Court Services
FVCC	Family Violence Coordinating Council
GOA	Gone On Arrival
HRO	Harassment Restraining Order
HSPHD	Human Services and Public Health Department (Hennepin County)
MCBW	Minnesota Coalition Battered Women
OC	Community Outreach Committee
OFFP	Order For Protection

## COMMITTEE REPORTS

### Civil Committee

#### I. Committee Membership and Meeting times

The Civil Committee (CC) of the Family Violence Coordinating Council meets on the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. Membership of the committee consists of judicial officers from the Fourth Judicial District Family Court including Judge McKeig, Judge Ranum, Referee Patricia Moses and Referee Timothy Mulrooney, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Cornerstone, Domestic Abuse Project, Home Free, Harriet Tubman, Hennepin County Family Court Services, Hennepin County Child Support Office, Guardian Ad Litem's office, and Family Wise.

#### I. Committee's Goals for the past year and progress towards the year's goals.

The Civil Committee had several goals over the last year that were part of the work of the Family Court Enhancement Project and will remain as goals in the upcoming year. Specifically the goals and accomplishments of the Civil Committee were as follows:

- Work with the Family Enhancement Project to identify gaps in the way domestic violence is addressed by all components of Family Court.

The Civil Committee has several committee members who are part of the Family Court Enhancement Project in different capacities. We have members who are part of the Management Team and members who are part of the Collaborative Work Group. The chair of the civil committee with the assistance of the FCEP staff coordinated focus groups of family law attorneys who practice both in Orders for Protections and in family law matters to identify gaps in how they see courts, guardians and court services addressing domestic violence. Other members of the Committee participated in FCEP focus groups for Guardians, Advocates, Family Court Services and Child Protection.

- Explore options for educating people on the OFP process like a video component of the DASC pilot project to help Petitioners more independently write their own OFPs?

Preliminary conversations have been held between members of the Committee and others about creating a video component that could be shown in both Petitioner's and Respondent's monitor waiting rooms.

- Create a cheat sheet/informational sheet on supervised parenting time and resources to be used by the Bench, FCS, GALs, advocates and the parties themselves.

This is an ongoing goal of the committee. Currently there are only two Supervised Centers in the Fourth Judicial District but there are a fair number of independent consultants who are doing supervised parenting time. Some of this information can be

obtained at [http://www.svnetwork.net/providers\\_results.asp?state=mn](http://www.svnetwork.net/providers_results.asp?state=mn) however this may not be a comprehensive list.

- Create an Issues and Gaps Summary Sheet in order to determine what we as a committee can do in the here and now and what may need to be deferred to the Family Court Enhancement Project.

The committee has monthly conversations about the issues and gaps but did not create a summary sheet. Because the work of the FCEP overlaps so directly the work of the Committee, most of the issues that are brought to the committee have been or are being looked at by the FCEP. For example, the committee has identified that getting child support awarded in an OFP is not consistently handled by the bench. This is something that the FCEP has adopted into its planning phases activities. Because there is overlap in membership, the need to create a summary sheet was less important as making sure the issues were being raised between the FCEP and the Committee work.

- Up to date research and basic information on domestic violence put into a summary or readable form.

The Committee identified that this is occurring currently through listservs and has distributed research and information coming to the chair to the membership.

- Look into what is currently being done for training judges/referees on domestic violence and make recommendations of additional trainings that should occur before a judicial officer is assigned cases that involve DV – not just family court but all judicial officers involved in dv/DA cases.

Through the FCEP and FVCC as a whole there was a fair amount of training offered to judicial officers in the last year. Three hours of the judicial retreat were dedicated to domestic violence issues. Additionally the Civil Committee identified the need to conduct training on the new Firearm statute and how it applied to Orders for Protection. The training was well attended by judicial officers; in fact nine out of the fifteen judicial officers assigned to Family Court attended as well as Guardian Ad Litem, Family Court Services staff, advocates and attorneys.

- Continue with brown bag trainings

The Committee held three brown bag trainings over the year.

- The first was on Guardian Ad Litem and their roles in family court and juvenile court. This training was done in partnership with the Juvenile Committee. This training had over fifty people in attendance.
- The second brown bag was the Guns and OFPs training in which presenters went over the new firearms restrictions legislation. In addition

to the abovementioned judicial officers in attendance, there were many advocates, attorneys, guardians and court services state in attendance.

- The third brown bag was on the intersection of Family Court and Juvenile court where Judge McKeig and a Hennepin County Attorney presented on family court and juvenile court. This training was attended by at least 25 people.
- In addition to the brown bag trainings the committee also had a presentation at the committee about changes in the co-parent court.

## II. Next Year's Goals

In 2014, the Fourth Judicial District Family Court in partnership with White Earth Tribal Court applied for and was awarded a grant from the U.S. Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women to look at how the Court could better address domestic violence in Family Court. Many of the issues that the FCEP has identified are issues that the FVCC Civil Committee has been discussing over the last year or more. As the FCEP moves forward with developing goals and recommendations, it is expected that those may overlap with the goals of the Civil Committee. To the extent that there is overlap, the Civil Committee may be in the position of reevaluating its goals over the next year to compliment but not duplicate the work of the FCEP.

1. The civil committee will continue with brown bag CLE's. **Possible topics include:**
  - a. Legislative Update – topic to be determined depending on legislative outcomes but may include guns and OFP update
  - b. Adolescent battering
  - c. Adult protection and the intersection of Family Court/OFPs
  - d. Child development training
  - e. Scope of services provided by advocacy organizations – day in the life
  - f. Day in the life of the petitioner through the advocate's eyes: what the advocate does and what resources and referrals provided to victims.
2. Continue to work with the FCEP to identify gaps in the way DV is addressed by all components of family court, and work to implement plans arising out of FCEP.
3. Create a cheat sheet on resources for supervised parenting time
4. If approved by the Executive Committee and/or the FVCC as a whole, provide comments on the Gov's Task Force on Child Protection and , assist in providing/drafting the comments.

Respectfully submitted by Christy Snow-Kaster, Chair  
Fourth judicial district: Judge Ann McKeig, District Court; Judge Jane Ranum, District Court;  
Referee Patty Moses, District Court, Referee Timothy Mulrooney,

District Court Admin; Katie Brey, Lynn Fuchs, Mary Dilla, Brynn Rhodes  
Family Court Services, Michal Weinstein  
GAL Program: Jennifer Taylor  
DASC: Vernona Boswell, Lolita Ulloa  
WATCH: Mandy Iverson  
BWLAP: Rana Alexander and Laurel Mohan  
HomeFree: Shanika Alston  
Cornerstone: Cheryl Kolb-Utinen  
Tubman: Shiloh Bute, Cassie Forster  
Hennepin County Child Support: Sarah Lanners  
Metro State University: Roberta Gibbons  
Aurora Center Becky: Redetzke-  
Family Wise: Carl Nordine  
Hennepin County Sheriff's Dept: Sargent Lynn Miller  
DAP : Sharon Brice:  
Central Minnesota Legal Services: Christy Snow-Kaster and Lilo Kaiser

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### **Criminal Committee**

#### **I. Committee Membership and Meeting times.**

The Criminal Committee of the Family Violence Coordinating Council met monthly on the third Monday of each month at 1:30 p.m. and its members consisted of representatives from prosecutor's offices, advocacy agencies, probation, district court administration and community based organizations. The Committee is pleased that this multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional group of professionals continues to hold lively discussions about issues arising in the criminal courts, and that the committee make-up allows for a broader analysis of the impact of changes in the law and to the way that domestic violence criminal cases are handled in Hennepin County because of the many perspectives and jobs of those serving on the Committee.

#### **II. Committee's Goals for the past year**

During 2014, the Criminal Committee focused on these main goals:

- a. Increase outreach and training about domestic violence and domestic violence resources to social workers and others working within the mental health field who may work with victims experiencing domestic violence;
- b. Update and redistribute the Quick Reference Guide created by the Criminal Committee originally in 2008;

- c. Continue to host at least 2 educational programs/seminars regarding domestic violence related topics for criminal justice system personnel;
- d. Continue to support the work of the Gun Surrender Initiative and Pilot in Minneapolis's Domestic Violence Court;
- e. Continue to work on the booklet regarding domestic violence for children who may be attending court as victims, witnesses, or observers.

### III. Committee's Activities over the past year focused on progress against the year's goals.

The criminal committee updated and distributed its Quick Reference Guide in December 2014. This guide, which was first drafted in 2008, provides one spot for criminal justice professionals and others worked on domestic violence related cases to go to see useful phone numbers, email addresses and statutory references related to domestic violence cases.

The Criminal Committee continued its focus on providing training regarding domestic violence, and they sponsored or co-sponsored 2 CLEs in 2014. In July, the committee sponsored a CLE regarding Domestic violence in the GLBTQ community. 2 presenters from Outfront Minnesota led a lively discussion about domestic violence in those communities and increased knowledge of those in attendance about working with GLBTQ victims and offenders.

In October, the Criminal Committee co-sponsored a CLE along with the Child/Juvenile Committee entitled "Bringing out the Best – Domestic Violence & Partnering with Disenfranchised Communities". The CLE included a spoken word performance piece, statistical information about domestic violence in these communities, and a panel presentation with representatives from law enforcement, probation, advocacy, child protection, and legal services.

Members of the Criminal Committee also helped plan the day long CLE on October 24 that focused on a Coordinated Community Response to Domestic Violence in Hennepin County, and 3 criminal committee members presented at the CLE.

As part of its focus on increasing outreach and training about domestic violence and domestic violence resources to social workers and others working within the mental health field who may work with victims experiencing domestic violence, a member of the criminal committee presented about the intersection of mental health and domestic violence at the Minneapolis/Hennepin County Mental Health Roundtable. Over 100 professionals who work with clients with mental illness attended.

A sub-committee continues to work on developing a booklet for children who are coming to court in Hennepin County that explains the court process. The sub-Committee is developing the book after reviewing similar books from Wisconsin and Ramsey County.

A sub-committee of the Criminal Committee also continues to work on gun surrender issues, and along with Judge Elizabeth Cutter and officials from the Minneapolis

Police Department, the sub-committee developed a pilot project for Domestic Violence Court that launched in 2014 and focus on utilizing more fully existing laws relating to gun surrender. The committee was also active in developing updated court forms and protocols in relation to the new firearms laws passed during the 2014 legislative session.

#### IV. Next Year's Goals.

After discussion at the November and December meetings, the Criminal Committee has adopted the following goals for 2015:

- a. Increase training and awareness of stalking for all criminal justice partners, focusing on stalking in intimate partner relationships;
- b. Continue to host at least 2 educational programs/seminars regarding domestic violence related topics for criminal justice system personnel;
- c. Continue to monitor implementation of new firearms laws and provide training when needed regarding the new implementation for all interested partners;
- d. Continue to work on the booklet regarding domestic violence for children who may be attending court as victims, witnesses, or observers;
- e. Provide annual updates to the Quick Reference Guide created by the Criminal Committee distributed in 2014.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Jacobson, Chair

#### Committee Members:

Deena Anders, Domestic Fatality Review Team and DAP;  
Carol Arthur, Domestic Abuse Project;  
Jamie Becker-Finn, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Domestic Abuse Service Center;  
Renee Clemenson, Hennepin County Public Defender's Office;  
Anna Crabb, Minnetonka City Attorney's Office;  
Nancy Halverson, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation;  
Judith Hawley, Hennepin County Attorney's Office;  
Gretchen Hoffman, Hennepin County Public Defender's Office;  
Paula Kruchowski, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office;  
Brenda Langfellow, District Court;  
Lynn Miller, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office;  
Lidia Morales, District Court;  
Bob Olson, Cornerstone;  
Rachel Ratner, Sojourner Project;  
Vicki Riven, District Court;  
Carrie Scardigli, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation;  
Torie Schneider, Bloomington City Attorney's Office;  
John Staloch, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation.

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## **Advocates Committee**

- I. Advocates met most months of 2014. We met 2:30-4pm the last Thursday of the month at DAP, 204 West Franklin. In the coming year the meeting day is changing to the last Tuesday of each month but the location and time will be the same.

Meetings served as places for advocates to review difficulties they encounter, get support and feedback from other advocates, share information, and discuss current topics related to advocacy for battered women. The following people presented to the committee to update and inform advocates on specific issues:

- Ben Pabich, Out Front MN
- Cheryl Thomas, Advocates for Human Rights

- II. Goals for the committee for 2014 were surveying risk assessment practices of local police departments and preparing a resolution declaring freedom from domestic violence as a human right.

- III. Advocates developed a chart to illustrate how risk assessment is currently being done in Hennepin County police departments. Several observations can be made about the status of risk assessment in Hennepin County. While most major communities are collecting some information about risk, the information gathered varies widely. This information is not always available to prosecutors and probation. The most common tool used is based on the Maryland Lethality Assessment Project (LAP) which was designed to connect high risk women to advocacy. This connection was already well established in Hennepin County. The LAP is meant to be used by first responders but this is not the practice in all communities in Hennepin County that use the LAP. Practitioners using the LAP need training on the tool and how to use it. Minneapolis police ask five risk questions and include those questions and answers in their police reports. They also use a tool in follow up based on Jackie Campbell's Danger Assessment. Advocates will meet with other practitioners in 2015 to discuss the current level of risk assessment and make recommendations.

The Advocate committee also focused attention in 2014 on passing a resolution declaring freedom from domestic violence as a human right. Advocates compiled a statement of need and a draft resolution which were submitted to the Hennepin County Board of Commissioners. At the October meeting of the Board a resolution was passed unanimously. Carol Arthur, Executive Director of the Domestic Abuse Project represented advocates at the meeting where the resolution was passed. The statement of need, advocates' draft and final resolution are included at the end of this document.

IV. Next year the advocates will continue to meet and discuss the use of risk assessment and work on recommendations for more consistent risk assessment practices across the county. Advocates will continue to monitor outcomes in Family Court.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Avalon, Chair

Advocates attending the committee meetings in 2014: Stephanie Avalon, Larissa GS, BWJP, Janelle O, Cornerstone, Amy M, DASC/Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Vanessa F, Tubman, Lisa S, FBI, Holly, Rachel, Sojourner, Bronwyn M, Cindy L, DAP, Carol A, DAP, Heidi C, Breaking Free, Amy Kern, Watch

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### **Child / Juvenile Committee**

The Child/Juvenile Committee (C/JC) is composed of systems and advocacy professionals working with children who experience family violence. The members include representatives of child protection, adult and juvenile probation, advocacy agencies, the county attorney, guardian ad litem, and community-based organizations. The CJC meets on the second Tuesday of the month at 12:15 p.m. at the Health Services Building, Suite 1100, 525 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, MN.

Our committee goals for 2014:

1. Work with the other FVCC committees on brown bag presentations, specifically a presentation from family court and juvenile court GALs;
2. Host a domestic violence event in October 2014;
3. Invite presenters to our committee to continue to inform our members about resources in Hennepin County for youth impacted by family violence;
4. Continue to update the membership list, retain current members and recruit new members;

Committee Activities:

In June 2014 the Juvenile/Child Committee and the Civil Committee hosted a seminar/CLE on Hennepin County Guardians Ad Litem. Fourth District GAL staff described their duties in the Family and Juvenile court, the training they receive to do their work and how best to interact with GALs. The event was held in the Family Justice Center and was well attended.

In October 2014 the Juvenile/Child Committee sponsored a Resource Fair at the Government Center titled "Domestic Violence & Partnering with Disenfranchised

Communities.” The purpose of the Resource Fair was to offer advocacy groups access to systems workers and to offer systems workers information about domestic violence services in various diverse communities. Over 20 community nonprofit agencies participated in the Resource Fair. Attendees were able to view the Clothesline Project from the MCBW and listen to a jazz trio while they learned about community resources. The Resource Fair was held in conjunction with the Criminal Committee’s CLE on the same topic. The resource fair and CLE were well attended.

The Juvenile/Child Committee heard a number of presentations in 2014 on community resources including presentations from Cornerstone, Tubman, CornerHouse and DAP. The Committee also increased its membership. New members are Kim Johnson, Juvenile Probation; Tamara Stark, Tubman; Judge Nancy Brasel, Juvenile Court; Ref. Angela Willms, Juvenile Court; Anne Glidden, Adult Probation, Tiara Stevenson, CornerHouse; Liliana Espondaburu, HCAO Victim Advocate, James Rudie, Sheriff’s Office.

#### Next Year’s Goals

- Support the wider goals of the FVCC for 2015;
- Host the Resource Fair in October 2015;
- Invite presenters to our committee to continue to inform our members about resources in Hennepin County for youth impacted by family violence;
- Continue to update the membership list, retain current members and recruit new members.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Taylor and Lori Schwartz, Co-Chairs

Committee Members: Anne Taylor, Co-Chair, HCAO Juvenile Prosecution; Lori Schwartz, Co-Chair, HCAO-Child Protection; Abbie Bolkcom-Smith, CornerHouse; Andrea Flaherty, Headway; Angela Lewis-Dmello, Domestic Abuse Project; Anne Glidden, Adult Probation; Gary Keifenheim, Family Partnership; Jill Enger, Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office; Kim Johnson, Juvenile Probation; Judge Nancy Brasel, Juvenile Court; Judy Nelson, Sojourner Project; Liliana Espondaburu, HCAO, Victim Services; Jill Stricker, Juvenile Probation, SAFE Program; Michelle Meyer, Probation; Ref. Angela Willms, Juvenile Court; Tamara Stark, Tubman; Tiara Stevenson, CornerHouse; Zach Lien, Cornerstone; Martha Swanson, Guardian Ad Litem; Carlein Cloutier, Home Free, James Rudie, Sheriff’s Office.

## APPENDIX A

### FVCC 2014 Voting Membership (36) by Category

#### **Health Care Providers (1)**

Anne Gilmore

#### **Educators (1)**

Roberta Gibbons

#### **Court Administration (2)**

Katie Brey

Vicki Riven

#### **Law Enforcement (3)**

Lynn Miller (Sheriff)

Terrence Keeler (MPD)

Mona Pearson (Suburban)

#### **Community Corrections (3)**

Mike Gephart (Adult Probation)

John Staloch (Adult Probation)

Michael Weinstein (FCS)

#### **Judges & Referees (4)**

Elizabeth Cutter (DV Team)

Patricia Moses (Family)

Joe Klein (Juvenile)

#### **Public Officials & Organizations (5)**

Deena Anders (DFRT)

Amy Arcand (WATCH)

Stephanie Avalon (BWJP)

Deirdre Keys (BWLAP)

Carol Arthur (DAP)

#### **Mental Health Care Providers (1)**

Aaron Milgrom

#### **Child Protection (1)**

Anthony Scott

#### **Community Social Services Agencies (2)**

Rebecca Waggoner (OutFront)

Michelle Thompson (legal aid)

#### **At Large (1)**

Brynn Rhodes

#### **Public Defenders & Legal Aid (3)**

Bob Sorensen (Adult)

Lisa McNaughton (Juvenile)

Christy Snow-Kaster (Cent MN Legal Svcs)

#### **Prosecutors (4)**

Michelle Jacobson (City of Mpls)

Anne Taylor (Juvenile)

Anna Krause Crabb (Suburban)

Judith Hawley (HCAO)

#### **Advocacy/Victim Services Orgs. (5)**

Rachel Ratner (Sojourner Project)

Jamie Becker-Finn

Cheryl Kolb-Untinen (Cornerstone)

Vernona Boswell (DASC)

Anne Taylor (Ch/Juv co-chair)

**APPENDIX B**

**FVCC 2014 Strategic Plan**

<b>FAMILY VOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL</b>	
<b>Minnesota Fourth Judicial District serving Hennepin County</b>	
<b>2014 Strategic Goals – MN § 484.79 Family Violence Coordinating Councils</b>	
<b>Strategic Plan Objectives</b>	<b>Responsible Party</b>
<b>1. Support and Apply the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP) Federal Grant – MN § 484.79.3.2 Plan</b>	
Identification of current weaknesses in the system and areas where additional resources are needed, and ways to improve those components	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FVCC representative attend February 5 webinar and March 10-11, 2014 launch event and report to FVCC</li> <li>b. FVCC representative provide status updates at FVCC meetings</li> <li>c. Following the initial phase of assessment determine what actions FVCC can help with or defer to FCEP grant</li> <li>d. Assure FCEP grant and FVCC are coordinated and communicated</li> </ul>	Referee Moses and Katie Brey
<b>2. Apply FCEP to better address DV in Family Court – MN § 484.79.3.2 Plan</b>	
Identification of current weaknesses in the system and areas where additional resources are needed, and ways to improve those components	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Improve custody and parenting time orders from Family Court (DA and custody) to avoid inappropriate access to children by abusers.                             <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Educate judicial officers, GALs and other system players on whether and under what conditions access to children by abusers is appropriate, considering the circumstances and safety needs of the victim and children in each case. Consider Wingspread conference report and other research or best practice recommendations.</li> <li>2. Assist with education and skill-building for Guardians ad Litem in making recommendations when facing competing interests and pressures from parties, advocates and judges.</li> </ul> </li> <li>b. Review the practices and policies of Family Court Services regarding dv screening and make recommendations where necessary. FCS presentation to FVCC in 2014.</li> </ul>	Referee Moses and Katie Brey  Jennifer Taylor and Laurie Kusek (GAL)  Michael Weinstein

<b>3. Support current family court committee work on improving the interaction between Child Protection and Family Court – MN § 484.79.3.1 Plan</b> Interdisciplinary training and systemic approaches to family violence issues	
a. Provide Periodic updates to FVCC	Referee Moses
<b>4. Provide Latest DV Research for Justice Stakeholders – MN § 484.79.3.1 Plan</b> Interdisciplinary training and systemic approaches to family violence issues	
a. Identify basic and most up-to-date research – identify the foundational or core competency for any professional working with DV families, including bench, GALs, FCP, CP, prosecutors, police.  b. Identify resources: BWJP, MINCAVA (MN Center Against Violence and Abuse), local advocacy agencies, FCEP grant technical advisers.  c. Determine how to disseminate, assure that the research is readable and in summary fashion.	Judge Cutter, Referee Moses
<b>5. Provide and Promote Training – MN § 484.79.3.1 Plan</b> Interdisciplinary training and systemic approaches to family violence issues	
a. Full day systems-wide training in latter half of year to take advantage of FCEP support (maybe national speakers)  b. Explore incorporating DV training in regularly scheduled bench trainings  c. Brown bag topic examples: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ Explore incorporating DV training in regularly scheduled bench trainings Brown bag sessions, topic examples: GAL presentation on their roles in Family and Juvenile Courts and what DV training they receive. C Snow-Kaster, A Taylor</li> <li>○ Risk assessments – training for police, judges, CP, probation officers, FCS, GALs, etc.(with Goal 7)</li> <li>○ Adolescent battering – of siblings and parents as well as dating partners</li> <li>○ CP and Family Court cross-training to each to better understand the other and limitations</li> <li>○ Police training – especially on report writing and risk assessment factors (prosecutors – Michelle Jacobson, CA office, police)</li> <li>○ Latest DV research</li> </ul>	Judge Cutter, FVCC committee chairs  Judge Cutter, Referee Moses, FCEP technical advisors  FVCC Civil, Criminal and Juvenile Committees

<b>6. Improve Information Access in DV Processes – MN § 484.79.3.1 Plan</b>	
Interdisciplinary training and systemic approaches to family violence issues	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Assign a small working group to identify specific barriers and possible solutions such as MOU between County departments, standing orders</li> <li>b. Identify changes in legislation if needed</li> </ul>	P Moses will check with County Attorney (Civil), DASC, name from Margaret Thunder-Solorzano
<b>7. Improve use of appropriate risk assessment tools to provide the Court with reliable information for decision-making – MN § 484.79.3.2 Plan</b>	
Identification of current weaknesses in the system and areas where additional resources are needed, and ways to improve those components	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Survey advocates and police departments regarding current practice</li> <li>b. Ask subject matter experts including Nancy Halverson, Liz Richards, FCEP grant advisers**</li> <li>c. Recommend best practices, identify where risk assessments should be used in system, train, implement, recommend next steps after assessment is completed</li> </ul>	Work Group: (A Crabb/suburban, S Avalon, B Olson, M Pearson, R Ratner, Bob Sorensen or designee, Civil Committee member)
<b>8. Increase Outreach and Visibility of FVCC</b>	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. FVCC Executive Committee appoint Brynn Rhodes to coordinate and centralize FVCC Outreach</li> <li>b. Question to membership of FVCC – so many agencies are already working on this – what are each doing and how can FVCC support?</li> <li>c. Consider a flyer that describes who we are, what we do</li> <li>d. Communication and sharing information about DV: Establish a list serve or group email to keep interested people and agencies informed of CLEs, training opportunities, latest research, etc.</li> </ul>	Brynn Rhodes
<b>9. FVCC Executive Committee Administration – MN § 484.79.4 Evaluation</b>	
FVCC shall develop a system for evaluating the effectiveness of its initiatives and programs in improving the coordination of activities and delivery of services and shall focus on identifiable goals and outcomes. An evaluation must include data components as well as input from individuals involved in family violence activities and services, victims, and perpetrators.	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a. Adhere to bylaws including membership, attendance, committee and annual reports</li> </ul>	Executive Committee

## APPENDIX C

### Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation Resolution

#### Hennepin County Board Action Request

14-0429



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**Item Description:**

Domestic Violence Awareness Month Proclamation - offered by Commissioner Greene

**Resolution:**

Whereas, domestic violence is a coercive violation that occurs within families, betraying our fundamental understanding of home as a safe haven, of the bonds of love and of the conditions of trust; and

Whereas, domestic violence affects individuals and families from every race, gender, age and walk of life; and

Whereas, domestic violence is much more than simple quarreling or routine arguments; rather, it is a cycle of violence spawned by the perpetrator's desire for power and control that can and does escalate to the point of serious injury or death; and

Whereas, children are always negatively impacted by violence in the home, whether they are physically or verbally abused themselves or simply witness the violence; and

Whereas, survivors of domestic violence experience physical injuries, long-term psychological damage, financial instability, and trouble finding safe housing; and

Whereas, police and sheriff's departments, courts, counties, cities, social services agencies, and other local government entities constitute the first line of defense against domestic violence; and

Whereas, U.S. and world leaders recognize that domestic violence is a human rights concern; and

Whereas, considering domestic violence through the lens of human rights heightens its gravity and lends weight to the importance of awareness, education and response in public and private sectors; and

Whereas, Hennepin County has been dedicated for years to confronting domestic violence, to providing coordinated community responses to its victims, and to advocating for peace in our homes and families; therefore

BE IT RESOLVED, the Hennepin County Board declares October to be Domestic Violence Awareness Month, a time to reflect on abuse in area homes, its implications and positive ways to assist victims, and to recognize those members of our community devoted to making homes safe havens; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, these officials join U.S. and world leaders in recognizing domestic violence as a human rights concern and declare that freedom from domestic violence is a human right toward which state and local governments should aspire on behalf of all of the citizens they serve.