

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

MINUTES

1. **Welcome**
2. **February 12, 2015 Minutes:** Approved.
3. **FCEP Update** – Tawnie Langenfeld, FCEP Project Coordinator
Tawnie summarized the recent work of the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP), which is a federal grant from the Office of Violence Against Women for the purpose of improving court processes around the issue of domestic violence.
 - So far, there have been 11 roundtables with providers (private and public attorneys, Child Protection, victims, and intervention programs involving Native American communities, with a total of 90 participants. Results show that there is a need for education about court processes, the effect on children of court processes and the resources available for participants. Providers talked about the role of the courts from each participant's perspective.
 - A survey for Judicial Officers was drafted and sent out, which focused on OFPs and signing Ex Parte Orders. There was a 75% response rate that identified additional areas for training. A second survey will be going out soon about other Family Court cases and how they are screened for domestic violence and how the decision making process is affected.
 - The FCEP has been addressing some safety concerns that arose during survivor roundtables. Specifically, window and door coverings have been added in the Monitored Waiting Room (MWR) in the Family Justice Center to reduce interaction between Petitioners and Respondents. More improvements, such as brochures for the MWR for both parties, are being discussed.
 - The FCEP has been working with White Earth Tribal Court and will visit in May. The goal is to build a relationship, with a long term goal to share information and cross deputize Judges. Division of Indian work and serve as a liaison to work between family court and tribal court, hiring in April.
 - The FCEP is working on creating intensive trainings on domestic violence for providers and increasing consistency on the bench; training for batterers; and investigating the idea of piloting a specialized sub area court in Family Court focusing on (non-criminal) cases involving domestic abuse.
4. **Governor's Task Force on Child Protection – Approval on comment letter**-Referee Moses and Christy Snow-Kaster

The group discussed the recommendations received from the Juvenile Committee in response to the comment letter. As the timeline for submission is short, Christy Snow-Kaster and Referee Moses will draft language incorporating the items discussed and inform the group when completed. They will be finishing by March 13, 2015.

5. 2015 Strategic Plan - proposed additional goal (tentative) - Referee Moses

This goal, to explore a Public Health approach to prevention of domestic violence, was suggested at the last meeting by Aaron Milgrom. A Public Health approach is a community based approach—general information is offered to everyone rather than targeted at a specific group. Everyone agreed that it was a good approach and that it should be added to 2015 goals.

6. Webpage redesign and communication – Referee Moses

In an effort to streamline communications, emails from the FVCC will be sent to voting members only in the future. The FVCC website will be redesigned and will contain more information, including information that was previously emailed, such as meeting agendas and minutes. Website users can sign up for email updates when new information is posted on the website. The email list will not change until the redesigned website is implemented.

7. Future speakers and training – Referee Moses

Please suggest ideas for speakers and training for the rest of the year. Stephanie Avalon suggested that Rhonda Martinson speak in April and will contact her. Agenda items for the next meeting will be to discuss other ideas for speakers and for Karen to report on what she found out about public health resources.

Adjourned.

Next Meeting: Thursday April 9, 2015

Future Agenda Items

Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP)
Overview of access to court documents through MGA
Public Health Resources--Karen Adamson
Speakers for the rest of the year