

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

**Present:** Avalon, Stephanie; Braun-Lewis, Jackie; Brey, Catherine; Bute, Shiloh; Cichowicz, Nick; Eckberg, Deborah; Holton Dimick, Martha; Jacobson, Michelle; Kaul, Ann; Maldonado, Pamela; Milgrom; Aaron; Miller, Adam; Nelson, Melynda; Osborne, Erin; Taylor, Jennifer.

1. **Welcome:** Judge Holton Dimick welcomed the group
2. **Approve July 13, 2017 Minutes:** Minutes were approved.
3. **Family Court Enhancement Project update:** Adam Miller delivered an update on the Family Court Enhancement Project. They have been attending a number of different events recently and they are working on a revised domestic bench book for Family Court that should be done by November 1<sup>st</sup>.
4. **FVCC Member profiles:**

Jennifer Taylor gave an overview of the 4<sup>th</sup> District Family Guardian Ad Litem Program. Between family and juvenile courts, there are currently 2,100 open guardian cases, with 20% of those cases involving orders for protection. There are 252 guardians between the two programs and 200 are community volunteers assigned to child in need of protection (CHIPS) cases. In Family Court, there are 8 guardians representing the best interests of children. An independent board oversees the Guardian Ad Litem program and determines which types of cases should be covered first. Although the board has determined Juvenile CHIPS cases take priority over Family cases, the 4<sup>th</sup> District program continues to accept family related cases.
5. **Committee Reports**
  - a. Civil: Jennifer Taylor reported the committee met in August to talk about the October training and construction at the FJC.
  - b. Advocates: Stephanie Avalon reported the committee met in August. Erin from Central MN Legal Services spoke about the issue of respondent filings where the case is dismissed and re-traumatizing the victims.
  - c. Criminal: Michele Jacobson reported the committee is planning a series of brown bag lunches highlighting different agencies. The FVCC Resource Fair and CLE are Oct. 4. The topic for this year's CLE is sex trafficking.
  - d. Juvenile: Judge Conroy reported judicial caseloads are up due to an increase in CHIPS case filings and Juvenile Court is getting another referee to assist.

## 6. Announcements/Open Forum

- a. Strategic plan updates will be shared at the October meeting.
- b. Judge Martha Holton Dimick announced October will be her last meeting. She is rotating to Criminal Court at the end of the same month. Referee Mike Furnstahl, Family Court, will take her place as co-chair on the Council. Referee Furnstahl has been with the court since last year and has extensive experience as a Hennepin County attorney, prosecuting complicated murder cases. Please welcome Referee Furnstahl at the October meeting.

### **Future presentations/Agenda items**

Strategic Planning – November 9

Final vote on 2018 strategic plan – December 14

### ***Upcoming events***

(Visit our [FVCC Calendar](#) for more information)

Emergency Filings or OFPs? – October 13

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>