

Family
Violence
Coordinating
Council

2013

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



**MINNESOTA
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

February 19, 2014

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”) was co-chaired in 2013 by Judge Fred Karasov, and first by Referee Timothy Mulrooney and later by Referee Patricia Moses. Judge Elizabeth Cutter will replace Judge Karasov as a co-chair in 2014.

The FVCC’s Executive Director is Nancy Peters. Ms. Peters’ work and wisdom are tremendous assets to the Council, and she is a major reason the Council operates smoothly and effectively.

The goal and mission of the Fourth Judicial District Family Violence Coordinating Council is to deal with 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. The purpose of the FVCC 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.

In 2013, the FVCC’s monthly meetings served as a forum for its members to share expertise and ideas to effect positive change in dealing with domestic violence. Also at the meetings, each of the FVCC’s committees gave reports on their activities and progress throughout the year.

In addition, as in the past, the FVCC as a whole hosted a series of speakers at its meetings on topics related to domestic violence, including:

- Angela Lewis-Dmello, an attorney from the Domestic Abuse Project, who presented on meeting the needs of children impacted by domestic violence,
- Christy Snow-Kaster, managing attorney at Central Minnesota Legal Services, who presented on her organization’s mission, “To provide in a highly professional manner for

the basic legal needs of families and children vulnerable to abuse, violence, neglect, homelessness or major economic disruptions in their lives,” and on her organization’s work with domestic violence cases,

- Penny Robertson and Sandra Slowiak, who presented on child protection, and focused on reporting criteria for domestic violence,
- Ann Gasch, Executive Director, Mary Black, Interim Program Director, and Carl Nordine, Manager of Supervised Parenting Time Services, from Family Wise, the largest provider of supervised parenting time in Minnesota, who presented about their organization, which was awarded a Save Havens Federal grant to provide safe visitation and exchange services for victims of domestic violence,
- Rebekah Moses, from the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, who presented on recent statutory changes to criminal laws regarding domestic violence,
- Kristine Kienlen, 4th District Psychological Services, and Sgt. Randy McAlister, Cottage Grove Police Department, who presented on a proposed new Threat Advisory Group and related proposed legislation to preventatively target cases with a high degree of certain patterns of conduct (stalking, domestic violence, workplace violence, school violence, threats to government officials or public figures, etc.), which will emphasize threat management, and
- Referee Patricia Moses, who presented on a grant that was awarded to the Hennepin County Family Court, one of only four such grants in the nation, for training related to domestic violence in 2014.

Each FVCC Committee also hosted numerous speakers and presenters on topics, in addition to the speakers at the full FVCC meetings.

Besides the monthly FVCC meetings and the Committee meetings, the Council broke into small groups to tackle gaps in services for domestic violence issues. For three months, the small groups met to discuss problems and propose solutions about issues such as the interaction of parenting time disputes and domestic violence, Orders For Protection on behalf of children, the relationship of OFPs and child custody decisions, the roles of Guardians ad Litem, and public awareness of domestic violence issues. After the small groups had finished their work, Referee Moses and Judge Karasov created a document that summarized the gaps and solutions identified by the small groups. The report was reviewed by the FVCC to decide whether all of the small group gaps and solutions were adequately captured and whether any issue was missed.

The importance of the FVCC committees cannot be understated. The standing committees do the great weight of the important work of the FVCC. Their activities in 2013 to further the FVCC’s goals are summarized below.

The **Executive Committee** (EC) met most months of 2013. It focused on developing and implementing the FVCC’s strategic plan, drafting and updating the annual report, managing membership of the FVCC according to its bylaws, and scheduling speakers and setting agendas

for Council meetings. Brynn Rhodes, Family Court Staff Attorney, was unanimously approved as the member-at-large to serve as the education liaison with the FVCC committees and serve as a member of the FVCC Executive Committee.

The **Civil Committee** (CC) met most months of 2013. At the beginning of 2013, their membership included staff from District Court, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, WATCH, and the Hennepin County Attorney's Office, and from agencies for battered women, including Cornerstone, Domestic Abuse Project, Home Free, Project P.E.A.C.E. and Harriet Tubman. During the year, they added staff members from Family Court Services, Family Wise, the Guardian ad Litem's office and Child Support Services, and lost participation from WATCH due to loss of their staff. The Committee's activities included hosting a brown bag lunch presentation on how Family Court Services screens for domestic violence, discussing the modification of court forms for custody and dissolution to include information about domestic violence, participating in an advisory committee to a Safe Havens Project that is part of Family Wise, forming a subgroup to explore avenues for financial relief for petitioners in Order For Protection cases, and discussing civil service issues.

The **Criminal Committee** (CrC) met monthly in 2013. The Committee is comprised of representatives from prosecutor's offices, advocacy agencies, probation, district court administration and community-based organizations. In 2013, the Committee focused on supporting the FVCC in exploring the impact of domestic violence on children and identifying gaps in the system's response to those families, continuing to work on gun surrender issues, and continuing to provide CLEs for criminal justice professionals and allied professionals who work on domestic violence issues. The Committee heard presentations from the SEWA-Asian Indian Family Wellness organization about Asian Indian culture and their response to domestic violence, from Criminal Committee member Maya Sheikh-Salah on the Somali Community, on Teen Dating Violence as part of the Resource Fair co-sponsored by the Juvenile Committee, and from David Adams from Emerge in Boston about his work with men who have killed their intimate partner.

The **Advocates Committee** (AC) met most months of 2013. The Committee is largely comprised of domestic abuse advocates, and its 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. Presentations at meetings were made by Lori Swanson on the Mental Health Court, Veterans Court, and Probation, by Deirdre Keys from Safe at Home, and by Charisma Smith and Artika Roller from PRIDE. The Advocate Committee focused attention in 2013 on the impact of domestic violence on children and how well they are being protected by the Order for Protection process. In addition, following a meeting in late 2012 with Vickie Goulette of the Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem office, advocates decided to collect formal observations of the hearings they attended involving OFPs on behalf of or involving children. Over several months, advocates filled out forms created to learn more about the impact of Guardians ad Litem on case outcomes and how they process was perceived.

The **Child/Juvenile Committee** (C/JC) met monthly in 2013. The Committee gained two new co-chairs in 2013, Anne Taylor and Lori Schwartz. The members consisted of representatives

from Child Protection, adult and juvenile probation, advocacy agencies, the County Attorney, Guardians ad Litem, and community based organizations. During the monthly meetings, the diverse group of members focused on the issues affecting children and juveniles whose lives are touched by domestic violence. The Committee discussed current issues, shared information about participating members' organizations and programming, and worked toward the goals established through group agreement. The Committee hosted numerous speakers, including Nancy Van Thorne from Cornerhouse, Helen Martin from the Human Services and Public Health Department, Probation Officer Sadie Facion, Gary Keifenheim on the Adolescent Domestic Abuse Program at The Family Partnership, Aaron Milgrom on the Adolescent Domestic Abuse Program at the Domestic Abuse Project, Barry Nienstadt on the Teen Parenting Program, Stephanie Avalon from the FVCC Advocacy Committee on issues in Family Court, and Vernona Boswell from the Domestic Abuse Service Center. In October the Juvenile Committee sponsored a resource fair at the Government Center on Teen Dating Violence in conjunction with the Criminal Committee's CLE on Teen Dating Violence.

As co-chairs, we extend our appreciation to all of the FVCC and Committee members for their dedicated efforts during 2013. As the FVCC continues its work in 2014, we remain committed to improving our County's response to family violence. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

/s/Patricia Moses

/s/Fred Karasov

Referee Patricia Moses
FVCC Co-Chair

Judge Fred Karasov
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

The Civil Committee (CC) of the Family Violence Coordinating Council met every month except July. Our meetings were the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. At the beginning of 2013, our membership included staff from District Court, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, WATCH, Hennepin County Attorney's Office and agencies for battered women, including: Cornerstone, Domestic Abuse Project, Home Free, Project P.E.A.C.E. and Harriet Tubman. During the year, we added staff members from Family Court Services, Family Wise, the Guardian Ad Litem's office and Child Support Services. We did lose participation from WATCH as they saw the loss of staff. We are hopeful that in 2014, with the new Director, that WATCH will rejoin the Civil Committee.

Goals for 2013 were ambitious:

1. The Committee will do an in-service for a broad audience regarding Family Court Services and how their staff members address DV issues in their cases.

The Committee hosted a brown bag on November 11, 2013 on how Family Court Services screens for domestic violence. We had over 50 people in attendance and included judicial officers, clerks, guardians, Family Court Services staff, family law attorneys, and advocates.

2. Review and make recommendations for revision of court forms for custody and dissolution cases to have a more complete picture of whether domestic violence is an issue in those families.

This was an ongoing discussion during the course of the year with respect to how to let the court know that domestic violence is an integral part of the case in front of the court. It was discovered by Committee members that revisions to the court forms must go through a statewide process. The Committee has acquired the contact for State Court Administration to start this process. While exploring how to modify statewide court forms, the Committee had several lengthy discussions about other ways to get the issue of domestic violence in front of the judicial officers, without the judicial officers asking at an ICMC in a family law matter where the victim may not disclose because the abuser is sitting next to her at counsel table. One solution proposed was to try to identify DV issues through an additional question or questions to the ICMC Data Sheet, similar to what the Second Judicial District has done. Advocates did have concerns about whether that would put a victim more at risk because the other side receives a copy of the data sheet. The Committee decided to continue to discuss this in the upcoming year in conjunction with the Family Court Enhancement Project (FCEP).

3. Facility Improvement at Family Justice Center – explore establishing a staffed childcare area and a room designated for nursing mothers.

This was discussed, however, because of safety concerns and liability, a staffed childcare area does not seem feasible at this time.

4. Explore Safe Exchange / Supervised Parenting Time Locations.

Members of the CC have been participating on an advisory committee to a Safe Havens Project that is part of Family Wise. Committee members have been actively participating in the planning process of a Safe Havens supervised parenting time program that will be free to participants. As part of the planning, members provided input on policies that the Safe Havens will implement with respect to prioritizing cases, and on how orders for Safe Havens would work in both OFP and family court matters. FVCC invited Safe Havens to present at the large group, and the Civil Committee included a presentation by Safe Havens at both the Brown Bag and at the November Civil Committee meeting.

5. Provide training regarding “additional relief” (child support, spousal maintenance, counseling, etc.), which impacts women and children, to ensure victims of domestic abuse can afford to leave the abuser.

Over the course of the year, we had extensive conversations about the additional relief that could be ordered for petitioners in OFPs. The CC formed a subgroup to actually try to put together a model for getting relief in OFPs, similar to what is done in Anoka County with the OFP calendar rather than just trainings. Members of the subgroup included Referee Moses, Referee Mulrooney, Christy Snow-Kaster, Sarah Lanners, Katie Brey and Lolita Ulloa. The Committee recognized that the model used in Anoka County would not likely work in Hennepin because of the volume of cases on the OFP calendar in Hennepin County, but the group is exploring other avenues for addressing additional financial relief in OFPs.

6. Review the results of a research report on Early Neutral Evaluations, and evaluate whether the Committee should make recommendations for change based on its findings.

The Research Report on ENEs was not presented to the group by Family Court Services (FCS). It is the CC’s hope that, in conjunction with the Family Court Enhancement Project, the Committee will revisit this goal as the FCEP moves forward.

Other exciting issues:

As mentioned previously, the Fourth Judicial District applied for and was awarded a Family Court Enhancement Project to look at how the court addresses domestic violence and what areas can be improved upon. The application was completed over the summer, with Referee Madden taking the lead. The project includes an advisory group of 25 members, including members of the CC.

As part of planning the Brown Bag for family court services, CC created a workgroup to look at hosting an all-day training that would focus on the impact of DV on children. This process became unwieldy, and after several meetings it was decided to focus on just the screening that Family Court Services does for DV. The CC would be happy to assist the FCEP if an all-day training is identified as a need.

Over the course of the year several other issues and concerns were raised and discussed at CC meetings. Of those, service issues continue to be a problem. Advocates reported that they had difficulty getting individuals in custody served with the new configuration of civil service. Both Civil and other Committees reported that guardians were negotiating settlements in OFP court.

The CC and subgroups had many conversations about how the courts should proceed in OFPs when there were children and parenting time issues – determine whether abuse occurred, appoint a GAL, then decide what if any parenting time the respondent gets. This will continue to be an ongoing discussion, as there is no simple answer and lots of differing opinions.

Goals for 2014:

- Work with the Family Court Enhancement Project to identify gaps in the way domestic violence is addressed by all components of Family Court;
- Explore options for educating people on the OFP process, such as a video component of the DASC pilot project to help Petitioners more independently write their own OFPs;
- 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;
- 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;
- Up-to-date research and basic information on domestic violence put into a summary or readable form;
- 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; and
- Continue with Brown Bag trainings.
 - GAL presentation on their roles in different courts and the DV training they get;
 - Adolescent battering; and
 - CP/family court cross training.

Christy Snow-Kaster, Central Minnesota Legal Services and Cheryl Kolb-Utinen will co-chair the Committee in 2014.

Respectfully submitted,

Christy Snow-Kaster, managing attorney, Central Minnesota Legal Services.

Committee Members: Judge Ann McKeig, District Court; Judge Jane Ranum, District Court; Referee Patty Moses, District Court, Referee Timothy Mulrooney, District Court; Katie Brey, District Court; Vernona , Domestic Abuse Project; Mandy Iverson, WATCH; Gloria Fressia, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project; Lynn Fuchs, District Court; Rana Fuller, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project; Laurie Kusek, District Court; Sue Lantto, Project P.E.A.C.E.; Judy Mathison, District Court; Shanika Alston, HomeFree; Christy Snow-Kaster, Central Minnesota Legal Services; Debra Swaden, District Court; Michael Weinstein, Family Court Services; Allyson Kerr, Harriet Tubman; Michelle Thompson, Harriet Tubman; Cheryl Kolb-Utinen, Cornerstone; Roberta Gibbons, Metro State University; Vicki Goulette, Guardian ad Litem Program; Sarah Lanners, Child Support; and Becky Redetzke-Field, Aurora Center

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Criminal Committee

The Criminal Committee (CrC) 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. A list of people who were active members of the Committee during 2013 is included at the end of this Committee's report.

During 2013, the Criminal Committee focused on 3 main goals:

1. Exploring how to support the full council in exploring the impact of domestic violence on children and identifying gaps in the system's response to those families;
2. Continuing to work on gun surrender issues; and
3. Continuing to provide educations CLE for criminal justice professionals and allied professionals who work on domestic violence issues.

The Committee's activities over the past year focused on progress against the year's goals. At each Criminal Committee meeting in 2013, the Committee spent time discussing the effects of domestic violence on children and gaps in the system. The Committee reviewed model policies for law enforcement in responding to children in domestic violence situations and a sub-committee is working on developing a booklet for children who are coming to court in Hennepin County. 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 is developing a pilot project for Domestic Violence Court which will launch in 2014 and focus on more fully utilizing existing laws relating to gun surrender.

The Criminal Committee also focused on educating its members on issues related to domestic violence. The Committee had a presentation during its monthly meeting in March from SEWA-Asian Indian Family Wellness organization about their culture and their response to domestic violence. The team also sponsored three CLEs focusing on the Somali Community, including a presentation by Criminal Committee member, Maya Sheikh-Salah; Teen Dating Violence, as part of the Resource Fair co-sponsored by the Juvenile Committee; and a presentation by David Adams from Emerge in Boston about his work with men who have killed their intimate partner.

After discussion at the November and December meetings, the Criminal Committee has adopted the following goals for 2014:

1. 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;
2. Update and redistribute the Quick Reference Guide created by the Criminal Committee originally in 2008;
3. Continue to host at least two educational programs/seminars regarding topics related to domestic violence for criminal justice system personnel;
4. Continue to support the work of the Gun Surrender Initiative and Pilot in Minneapolis's Domestic Violence Court; and
5. Continue to work on the booklet regarding domestic violence for children who may be attending court as victims, witnesses, or observers.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Jacobson, Chair, and Anna Krause Crabb, Vice-Chair.

Committee Members during 2013 included:

Deena Anders, Domestic Fatality Review Team and DAP; Amy Arcand, WATCH; Carol Arthur, Domestic Abuse Project; Jamie Becker-Finn, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Domestic Abuse Service Center; Carol Engel, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Nancy Halverson, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Judith Hawley, Hennepin County Attorney's Office; Rachel Heinen, Sojourner Project; Kate Hovde, WATCH; Brenda Langfellow, District Court; Aaron Milgrom, Domestic Abuse Project; Lynn Miller, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office; Bob Olson, Cornerstone; Helen Paille, Homefree; Vicki Riven, District Court; Torrie Schneider, Bloomington City Attorney's Office; Maya Sheikh-Salah, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Domestic Abuse Service Center; Bob Sorenson, Hennepin County Public Defender's Office; John Staloch, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Rita Weimar, District Court; Gretchen Zettler, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office.

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Advocates Committee

Advocates (AC) met most months of 2013. Meetings served as places for advocates to review difficulties they encountered, 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:

- Lori Swanson from Mental Health Court, Veterans Court and Probation;
- Deirdre Keys from Safe at Home; and
- Charisma Smith and Artika Roller from PRIDE.

The Advocate Committee focused attention in 2013 on the impact of DV on children and how well they are being protected by the Order for Protection process. When OFPs are requested on behalf of children, Guardians ad Litem (GALs) are present and often speak with the parties before any determination has been made regarding safety. Advocates agreed that the following are typical statements made by Guardians ad Litem when they approach the victims:

- “I’m not here to discuss whether abuse happened.”
- “This doesn’t belong in OFP court.”
- “He’s getting parenting time regardless.”

These statements concerned advocates. The OFP hearing is clearly concerned with whether abuse happened and whether or not access to the child or children poses any safety risks for either the victim or the children or both. Safety and protection are in fact the goals of OFP court, where safety is the primary basis for custody decisions rather than the best interests factors.

Advocates agreed that GALs stating that a respondent will get parenting time “regardless” is very intimidating to victims.

Following a meeting in late 2012 with Vickie Goulette of the Hennepin County Guardian ad Litem office, advocates decided to collect formal observations of the hearings they attended involving OFPs on behalf of or involving children. Over several months, advocates filled out forms created to learn more about the impact of GALs on case outcomes and how that process was perceived.

The process used by GALs is overwhelmingly perceived by petitioners as mediation. This perception is troubling because Court Rule 903.04 (see Appendix A) clearly says that mediation is something Guardians must not do.

Also, advocates cited recent cases where GALs proposed shorter lengths of time (3-6 months) for the OFP as a proposed settlement, “to allow the Respondent to file in custody court.”

Advocates hope that these issues, as well as the impact of trauma on domestic violence victims and children, will be addressed in the efforts to enhance family court practices.

Some observations that confirmed concerns advocates had expressed at the meeting with Vickie Goulette:

- Very few GALs supported victim’s requests for either supervised visitation or batterer intervention programming;
- GALs were perceived to be acting as mediators in two thirds of the cases;
- GALs were seen as acting with a “settlement mission” in many cases; and
- About a third of the time, petitioners were pressured by the GAL to agreements.

While these were predicted responses, it is also worth noting that supervised visitation was requested in only half the cases. Batterer intervention was requested in about a fourth of the cases.

Advocates observing and collecting data on OFPs on behalf of children entered comments regarding how the GAL addressed safety. These fell into several categories.

A review of statutes regarding appointment of Guardians ad Litem showed that the appointment of a GAL was to be made once domestic child abuse or neglect was identified. Current practice, however, has been for GALs to talk with parties prior to a finding of abuse or neglect. This is being done in the interest of “settlement” and to set up a parenting plan. Advocates believe the

more appropriate procedure would be to first determine if abuse has occurred and if the OFP should issue on behalf of the child. Then, if a finding that abuse has occurred is made, the GAL would be appointed and would take the necessary time to conduct an investigation and write a report.

Advocates attending the Committee meetings in 2013:

Stephanie Avalon, BWJP; Janelle O, Cornerstone; Shanika A., Homefree; Amy M, DASC/Hennepin County Attorney's Office; Vanessa F, Tubman; Brenda G, DASC/Phillis Wheatley; Lisa S, FBI; Holly, Rachel, Sojourner; Bronwyn M; Cindy L, DAP; Sue, Project Peace; Carol A, DAP; Rana A, BWLAP.

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Child / Juvenile Committee

The Child/Juvenile Committee (C/JC) met monthly in 2013 and currently meets on the third Tuesday of the month at 12:15 p.m. at the Health Services Building, Suite 1100, 525 Portland Ave. S. The members consisted of representatives of child protection, adult and juvenile probation, advocacy agencies, the County Attorney, Guardian ad Litem, and community-based organizations. During the monthly meetings, the diverse group of members focused on the issues affecting children and juveniles whose lives are touched by domestic violence. The Committee discussed current issues, shared information about participating members' organizations and programming, and worked toward the goals established through group agreement.

Child/Juvenile Committee Goals for 2013:

- Work to promote the FVCC Strategic Goal of Improving Response to Children in Domestic Violence situations;
- Invite speakers to our Committee to discuss specialty areas as they relate to the Council's goal of improving the response to children;
- Have discussions in Committee meetings to identify gaps in the area of responding to children who witness or are present during instances of domestic violence;
- Work to promote the FVCC Strategic Goal of Establishing Best Practices in DV cases in the suburban courts;
- Continue to update the membership list, retain current members and recruit new members; and
- Host a domestic violence event in October of 2013.

Work on these goals involved presentations from members of the Committee and other professionals on the effects of family violence on children. In February, Nancy Van Thorne from Cornerhouse gave a presentation on providing services to children who experience or witness DV. The Committee discussed gaps in services, including programming for youth and parenting groups for men. In March, Helen Martin from HSPHD presented to the Committee about child protection intake and the process for child welfare and child protection investigations. In April, Probation Officer Sadie Facion presented on gaps in services for children who witness DV. Gary Keifenheim presented on the Adolescent Domestic Abuse

Program at The Family Partnership, and Aaron Milgrom presented on the Adolescent Domestic Abuse Program at the Domestic Abuse Project. In June, Barry Nienstadt, a social worker with the Teen Parenting Program, presented about his program. In August, Stephanie Avalon from the FVCC Advocacy Committee presented on issues in Family Court with custody and visitation for children who witness DV. In September, Vernona Boswell from the Domestic Abuse Service Center presented on issues with OFPs filed on behalf of children.

In October, the C/JC sponsored a resource fair at the Government Center on Teen Dating Violence, in conjunction with the Criminal Committee's CLE on Teen Dating Violence. The resource fair was well attended both by nonprofit organizations and members of the public. Also in October, Committee member Aaron Milgrom invited the Committee to the Domestic Abuse Project annual luncheon. Several members of the Committee attended the luncheon and learned about the services DAP provides as well as the people it serves.

In November and December, the Committee reviewed goals for 2014 based on the work of the small FVCC groups. The Committee identified as goals working with the Civil Committee on a presentation by juvenile and family court GALs to the entire FVCC, and working on the judge's domestic violence training that is being planned for 2014. The Committee also identified as a goal working on the interface between child protection and family court/OFPs.

Goals for 2014:

- Work with the other FVCC committees on Brown Bag presentations, specifically a presentation from family court and juvenile court GALs;
- Participate in the training for judges that the FVCC is planning for later this year;
- Support the Family Court Enhancement Project federal grant as it is implemented this year in the Fourth Judicial District;
- Participate in discussions/trainings on the interface between child protection and family court/OFPs;
- Support the wider goals of the FVCC for 2014;
- Host a domestic violence event in October 2014;
- Attend the DAP luncheon in October;
- Invite presenters to our Committee to continue to inform our members about resources in Hennepin County for youth impacted by family violence; and
- Continue to update the membership list, retain current members and recruit new members.

Respectfully submitted by Anne Taylor and Lori Schwartz, Co-Chairs on behalf of the Hennepin County Family Violence Coordinating Council Child/Juvenile Committee.

Committee Members: Laura Floistad, County Attorney Victim/Witness; Anthony Scott, HSPHD; Aaron Milgrom, DAP; Debra Wenlund-Glaser, HSPHD; Gary Keifenheim, Family & Children's Service; Jen Polzin, Tubman Family Alliance; Carlein Cloutier, Home Free; Judy Nelson, Sojourner; Lisa Eder; County Attorney Victim/Witness; Abbie Bolcom-Smith, Cornerhouse; Michelle Meyer, Adult Probation; Nancy Halverson, Adult Probation; Jennifer Anderson, Cornerhouse; Anne Taylor, County Attorney Juvenile Prosecution Division; Andrea

Flaherty, Headway Emotion Health Services; Jill Stricker, SAFE Program; Zach Lien, Cornerstone; Martha Swanson, District Court GAL Program; Lori Schwartz, County Attorney Child Protection Division; Jill Enger, Sheriff's Department, Youa Yang, Cornerstone.

APPENDIX A

FVCC Voting Membership (36) by Category

Health Care Providers (1)

Anne Gilmore

Educators (1)

Roberta Gibbons

Court Administration (2)

Katie Brey

Rebecca Wagner (OutFront)

Law Enforcement (3)

Sgt Felicia Chesmer (Sheriff)

Terrence Keeler (MPD)

Bob Olson (Suburban)

Community Corrections (3)

Mike Gephart (Adult Probation)

John Staloch (Adult Probation)

Michael Weinstein (FCS)

Judges & Referees (4)

Fred Karasov (DV Team)

Tim Mulrooney (Family)

Joe Klein (Juvenile)

Patricia Moses (Family)

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)

Vicki Riven

Christy Snow-Kaster (Central MN Legal Services)

At Large (1)

Brynn Rhodes

Public Defenders & Legal Aid (3)

Bob Sorensen (Adult)

Lisa McNaughton (Juvenile)

Michelle Thompson (legal aid)

Prosecutors (4)

Michelle Jacobson (City of Mpls)

Anne Taylor (Juvenile)

Maya Sheikh-Salah (Adult)

Anna Krause Crabb (Suburban)

Advocacy/Victim Services Orgs. (5)

Rachel Ratner (Sojourner Project)

Rosario de la Torre (Casa de Esperanza)

Cheryl Kolb-Untinen (Cornerstone)

Vernona Boswell (DASC)