

# Family Violence Coordinating Council

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# 2010

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



**MINNESOTA  
JUDICIAL BRANCH**

FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT



FOURTH JUDICIAL DISTRICT

March 10, 2011

Chief Judge James T. Swenson  
Fourth Judicial District Court  
300 South Sixth Street  
Minneapolis, MN 55487

Dear Judge Swenson:

The members of the Hennepin County Family Violence Coordinating Council ("FVCC") are pleased to present you with our 2010 Annual Report.

The FVCC was chaired by co-chair Judges Susan Robiner, Lloyd Zimmerman (January – April), Jeannice Reding (May – November) and Referee Timothy Mulrooney (December – present). The FVCC was greatly assisted by its Executive Director Nancy Peters. Although much of the good work of the FVCC takes place at the committee level, the FVCC had a productive year as illustrated below:

- The FVCC created its own web page on the Fourth Judicial District website. The website contains FVCC's mission statement, membership roster and links to its Annual Reports, by-laws, 2010 strategic plan and enabling statute. It is a valuable communication tool which we expect to expand upon in the future to use as an outreach tool.
- The FVCC created a working group in partnership with the Domestic Violence Steering Committee to create a best practices guide for domestic violence matters to be used in the suburban courts. The Minneapolis DV Court has had a valuable best practices guide for several years. The essence of that guide is being updated and tailored to the unique qualities of the suburban courts' domestic violence cases. The working group also includes representatives from suburban court administration and probation for their invaluable buy-in and assistance.
- Through an ad hoc working group, the FVCC streamlined its own by-laws so that the by-laws could continue to provide structure and direction consistent with the FVCC mission without being unnecessarily ministerial. (See Appendix A.)

- The FVCC continued to focus upon the work outlined in its 2010 FVCC Strategic Work Plan completed in April 2010. (See Appendix B.) While much of that work takes place at the committee level, the FVCC as a whole has tasked itself with increasing its relevancy. The FVCC continues to use its monthly meetings to provide a valuable forum for all of its members to share expertise from their respective fields and identify how or whether the FVCC should become involved to effect positive change in the DV community or regarding issues that impact the DV community.

There were several new appointments and resignations from the FVCC. We thank those who are no longer on the FVCC but who provided valuable service during their appointments; and heartily welcome our new voting members.

Throughout the year, the FVCC welcomed guest speakers during its monthly meetings although our speakers were fewer in number this year. In April 2010, Amy Brown, Steve Frazer, and Alex Henry from the St. Paul Police, Theresa Skarda from the St. Paul City Attorney's Office and Rebecca McLane from the St. Paul Domestic Abuse Intervention Project presented regarding St. Paul's innovative Blueprint for Safety. In August 2010, Sergeant Robert Olson of the Eden Prairie Police Department spoke to the FVCC regarding Eden Prairie Police Department's Domestic Abuse Response Team (DART) and OFP program. In December 2010, Gabby Davis of the Battered Women's Justice Project presented on domestic violence and family court and included the results of a safety audit in a family court in Ohio and in Ramsey County, and a focus group of battered mothers in Hennepin County. Her presentation addressed emerging themes.

The FVCC Executive Committee (EC), comprised of all committee chairs, met regularly through the year crafting agendas for the Council. Additionally, the first half of the year continued the work of 2009 creating a strategic plan for the FVCC. The plan was approved by the council as a whole in April 2010.

The Civil Committee (CC) of the FVCC met regularly in 2010. The committee continued the work of previous years in addressing issues that come up in Order for Protection (OFP) court and Harassment Restraining Order (HRO) court. The committee's aim was to work through the committee to become better educated on the issues pertaining to OFPs and HROs and to explore ways to resolve these issues. The committee also expanded its focus this year to address issues in other civil cases where domestic violence is present.

The Criminal Committee (CrC) met monthly in 2010. Its members consisted of representatives from prosecutor's offices, advocacy agencies, probation, district court administration and community based organizations. The Criminal Committee is pleased that during 2010, this multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional group of professionals continued 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. In 2010 we added new members from the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office and from the Eden Prairie Police Department and the active participation from these agencies continues to enrich our work.

The committee spent time at each meeting discussing current issues, new initiatives and developments in criminal laws regarding domestic violence. Issues discussed included: Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders, implementation of recommendations found in the St. Paul Blueprint for Safety, DV Court Best Practices, revocation procedures and best practices, legislative changes, restraining orders and their differences, and conditional release violation protocols.

The committee updated its “Quick Reference Guide” for Domestic Abuse Cases.

The committee invited Susan Anderson from the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center to present to the group regarding contact issues at the jail, particularly phone calls to victims and visits from victims, and also issues surrounding bail and release.

The committee took direction from the larger Council on goal-setting for 2010 and accepted from the Council the overarching goal of “No Contact Orders-Issue Spotting and Closing of Gaps in Enforcement.” In its review of that goal, many issues arose in discussion which prompted the formation of workgroups tasked to “close” specific gaps.

The Advocates Committee (AC) met most months in 2010. Its goals for 2010 were to continue to share information about ongoing issues in the courts that affect battered women, attend training(s) on The Blueprint for Safety, track/monitor the fax-filing of OFP petitions, develop materials to advise victims about intimidation tactics by batterers that may occur post arrest and preservation of evidence of such tactics, evaluate information available to women regarding Early Neutral Evaluation, and increase participation of advocates in the committee, particularly in informal resource sharing.

In 2010, the AC met with probation, the Hennepin County Sheriff’s Office, GAL staff from Family Court and monitored the use and enforcement of the new DANCO order. It also conducted training on intimate partner violence with military-related victims and Veterans Court in Hennepin County.

The Child/Juvenile Committee (C/JC) met monthly in 2010. The members consisted of representatives of child protection, adult and juvenile probation, advocacy agencies, county attorney, 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 a very well-received Resource Fair and Panel Discussion in October 2010 about Teen Dating Violence. Approximately 20 community organizations staffed booths. The Resource Fair was followed by a panel discussion on the issue of Teen Dating Violence. Barton Erickson, of Cornerstone, gave a brief presentation. The panel included Barton Erickson, Sarah Tjernagle of DAP, and Cordelia Anderson. The panel was moderated by the Honorable Susan Robiner. The event was well attended, and the feedback from the participants was very positive.

The Community Outreach Committee (OC) was productive this year. It had two action steps this year as a direction from the 2010 FVCC Strategic Work Plan:

1. Address internet presence by working with the Executive Director in providing content to include committee contact information, FVCC resolution, links to and from relevant organizations and annual reports; and
2. Enhance media relations by preparing a media kit, including contact information for stories about domestic violence.

The OC accomplished item number 1, above, early in the year with able assistance from Executive Director Nancy Peters. The OC contributed website content and created a “New Member Packet” for those just joining the Council.

The FVCC believes that its efforts reported here are significant. As co-chairs, we extend our appreciation to all of the FVCC and committee members for their dedicated efforts during 2010. As the FVCC continues its work in 2011, its members remain true to its mission of enhancing system accountability and fostering innovative approaches to prevent and address domestic violence as a public policy priority. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

/s/SMRobiner

/s/Timothy Mulrooney

Judge Susan M. Robiner  
FVCC Co-Chair

Referee Timothy Mulrooney  
FVCC Co-Chair

cc: Assistant Chief Peter Cahill  
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
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
OFP	Order For Protection

## **COMMITTEE REPORTS**

### **Civil Committee**

The Civil Subcommittee of the Family Violence Coordinating Council met regularly in 2010. Our regular meeting time was the fourth Thursday of the month at 12:30 p.m.

The committee continued the work of previous years in addressing issues that come up in OFP court and HRO court. The committee's aim was to work through the committee to become better educated on the issues pertaining to OFPs and HROs and to explore ways to resolve these issues. The committee also expanded its focus this year to address issues in other civil cases where domestic violence is present.

Goals for 2010:

1. Trainings:
  - a. Self Help Center DV training;
  - b. Child Support DV training (on consequences to victims of DV when seeking paternity/child support);
  - c. Child Protection training for advocates and attorneys appearing in DA proceedings on how best to help clients in OFP hearings when they have an open Child Protection case.
2. Monitor HROs;
3. Discuss following the OFP statute regarding other forms of relief as applied in Ramsey County;
4. Expand committee to other settings (paternity, divorce, child support, parenting time) and determine how to interact with other parts of the system; and
5. Establishment of paternity and HROs.

#### Trainings

The committee committed to hosting trainings to educate the DV community and its partners on issues victims of domestic violence face when navigating the various court systems.

##### **Self Help Center DV Training**

The committee contacted staff at the Self Help Center and offered to do training on screening for domestic violence for their staff and volunteers. They ultimately did not express an interest in the training.

##### **Child Support DV Training**

On August 17, 2010, the committee hosted training on Paternity and Child Support issues. Lisa Brown, from Hennepin County Child Support discussed how cases come in to child support and services available. Sarah Lanners, also from Hennepin County Child Support discussed the "Good Cause" caseload. Theresa Farrell Strauss, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney discussed Paternity Establishment nuts and bolts. Reggie Wagner, staff attorney with the 4<sup>th</sup> Judicial District Court Self Help Center, discussed visitation and custody, post-paternity adjudication, and Recognition of Parentage. Seventeen (17) people attended the training and provided positive feedback.

### **Child Protection Training**

On April 29, 2010, the committee hosted training on child protection issues in family court. An increasing number of parties seeking Orders for Protection have involvement in the child protection system. The one-hour presentation was intended to answer questions that judicial officers, staff, court administrators, attorneys and advocates may have about the connections between domestic violence and child protection issues and how best to handle family law cases that have involvement with child protection. The presenters (Hennepin County Judge Anne McKeig, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney Lori Whittier, and Hennepin County Child Protection Social Worker Joey Glassman) discussed reporting to child protection, the definition of the Minnesota Maltreatment of Minors Act, the process of a child protection investigation, the legal requirements for a CHIPS petition, what is a case plan, the difference between a voluntary and court-ordered case plan, the content and purpose of a case plan, the legal process of juvenile court and juvenile court versus family court—who has jurisdiction over the children. Sixty-Nine (69) people attended the training and provided positive feedback.

### **Monitor HROs**

The Civil Committee monitored and discussed issues surrounding HROs as they came up. As the HRO filings moved out of DASC to the Self-Help Center, those assisting clients filing HROs screened cases for DV. If it appeared DV was present, then they referred the client to speak to an advocate at DASC. Once the HRO filings moved out of DASC, HRO filings have gone down drastically and OFP filings have gone up.

### **Other Relief Provided by OFP Statute**

We discussed any issues/problems people were having in getting relief other than simply “no contact” in OFP orders. The Hennepin County Family Court bench has recently discussed concerns about setting temporary child support in OFP proceedings without adequate supporting documentation regarding the parties’ finances. One problem facing clients is that they have fled the home and do not have access to the other party’s income information. Advocates and attorneys should do everything possible to assist the clients in getting as much financial documentation as they can to support their child support or spousal maintenance claim. At a minimum, clients should at least fill out a financial affidavit and present it to the court when seeking child support.

We discussed how Ramsey County regularly orders respondents to complete DV classes, anger management, parenting classes etc., but Hennepin County has been reluctant because there is an issue of funding and uncertainty whether or not Respondents actually complete the classes. There are a couple of concerns: payment for the programming as there is no public money available, and how follow-up would occur given the already crowded calendars. We checked with Ramsey County about how it approaches these issues and learned that procedurally they have no follow-up to any such orders. Theoretically they would put a review hearing back on the DV calendar or on the judge’s private calendar.

Hennepin County would not be able to pay for this as many other programs have already been cut. There is a treatment program at Domestic Abuse Program (DAP) for criminal court, which the County pays for, but that is through criminal court, not OFP court.

### Expanding Committee beyond OFPs and HROs

We want to address issues beyond just the OFP court. We would like to encourage people from different parts of the system to come to our meetings. We believe that we should: (i) invite more people to join our meetings on a regular basis; (ii) host more trainings/brown bags to discuss various topics; and (iii) have proposals for presentations to the full council.

As a result, we have expanded our committee. Lynn Fuchs, who does HROs, Gloria Fressia, who does immigration law, and Christy Snow-Kaster, who does family law have began attending meetings the latter part of 2010. We look forward to their continued involvement and input in the civil committee.

### Establishment of Paternity and HROs

In the past, we had noticed that on some occasions, parenting time was being awarded in HROs, even though the statute does not provide for that type of relief in that type of a proceeding. We met with Referee Labine at the end of 2009, and it did not appear to be an issue in 2010.

We wanted to educate the community on paternity and child support issues. So, we hosted the training on August 17<sup>th</sup>, which was very informative and well-attended.

Other Issues Addressed:

### OFP Fax Filing

The OFP Fax Filing Pilot Project started with two agencies—Home Free and Cornerstone. As of February 1, 2010 it is available to all agencies. It came about as a result of the budget cut concerns and decreased staff. Additionally, Judge Belois may not always be the signing judge and eventually all OFPs may move to the Family Justice Center. Also, the project wanted to make technology and the system easier and more effective for the suburban DV agencies.

DV agencies have stated that they are very pleased with the fax filing. It preserves their resources as it cuts down on staff time having to take OFP petitions to the courthouse to be signed. We discussed statistics from fax filing. In 2009 from January through June, 341 OFPs were filed from non-DASC agencies, but in 2010 from January to June, 309 OFPs were filed from non-DASC agencies. However, there has been an eight percent increase in filings from DASC. Therefore, it seems fax filing, which was supposed to help non-DASC agencies be able to write more OFPs, has not actually happened. Some advocates from the non-DASC agencies reported that many clients prefer to have DANCOs instead, so they do not have to go through the OFP process. Advocates have reported that criminal cases seem to be increasing, so there could be an increase in DANCOs which could lead to a decrease in OFPs. This has not yet proven to be the case.

### Pilot Project for ITV Hearings

A pilot project for ITV hearings started February 18<sup>th</sup> so in-custody Respondents will not be transported, but rather attend the hearing via ITV. The Respondent will see a pan of who is speaking in the courtroom, but will not be in the courtroom. If the Respondent requests an evidentiary hearing, he will have to be physically transported for later in the day. The notice language has changed on the ex parte orders and the request for hearing forms stating that if respondent is in custody the hearing may be ITV. For the first several months, for the most part, ITV hearings seemed to be going well. Recently, however, there has been an issue when deputies refuse to transport in-custody respondents at 1:30 for their evidentiary hearings. It was

our understanding that when discussing if we were going to do ITV hearings, the deputies promised they would transport for evidentiary hearings. We will continue to monitor this issue.

#### New “Application for Service by Alternate Means”

There are new “Application for Service by Alternate Means” (SAMS) forms. There are new instructions which are more victim-friendly; based on the Self Help Center forms for dissolutions. The Affidavit of Service will remain the same. A question was raised about filing separate affidavits for each address. This is not necessary as one affidavit with all the addresses listed to where the order was mailed is sufficient. The new SAMS forms do require notarization, which can be done by a clerk or court reporter in the courtroom or by a clerk at the filing desk, but not in the waiting room. Advocates are encouraged to bring their notary stamps to court to assist with notarizations.

#### Co-Parent Court

Judge Bruce Peterson and Christa Anders were guest speakers at one of our meetings and presented an overview of Co-Parent Court. It was developed out of the recognition that more court resources are provided to those going through a divorce, but there are increasingly more couples with children in common that need services as well.

The pilot project has been given \$450,000 each year for three years. Funding has come from foundations and government grants. Each partner organization will be given \$5,000 for technical assistance. 150 cases will be evaluated each year from the Paternity Calendar and will be offered four services:

- Paternity establishment and child support (most cases have no Recognition of Parentage signed and most are on public assistance.);
- Co-Parent education classes—not parenting classes, but co-parenting classes on how to parent with conflict and how to have healthy relationships. There are 6 classes which are 2 hours each and are held at NorthPoint;
- Individualized support—moms have mom support groups through the Gateway Program and dads have dad support groups through the FATHER Project; and
- Customized parenting plans. This can also include mediation with the Legal Rights Center.

The 150 cases will be selected at random from the Paternity Calendar. There will be a control group. No minor parents, no OFPs, and no interpreters will be allowed into the group. The effectiveness will be measured by child support, child protection referrals, and child well being as reported by the parents.

#### OFP Parties Wanting Contact for Mediation through Family Court Services

Family Court Services contacted a member of the FVCC Civil Committee about adding language to OFP orders to allow for contact between the parties for mediation in a family court action.

The committee discussed whether or not to add language to OFPs to allow this exception for no contact or if it would be better to have an order in the family court action that specifically states that it would not be a violation of the OFP for the parties to participate in mediation. Either way, the petitioner should not feel obligated or forced to participate in mediation if s/he does not feel comfortable or does not wish to.

The larger issue is when the court refers a case or when the parties *want* to do mediation even when there is an OFP in place. Court Services has been telling people to have their OFP modified so that they are not in violation, but that takes a lot of time of the parties and the court. The following question was raised: Can a judge make an exception to the OFP for mediation? Yes, if it is at the same time of the other hearing, but it could come later through dissolution for the Early Neutral Evaluation (ENE). We thought it would not be advisable to have OFP order language changed because it could give Respondents the idea to force mediation and contact on clients, and there is a much smaller number of parties that actually want the mediation exception in their orders. Instead, we thought a better solution would be for both parties to state in open court that they waive the right to not do mediation and will allow a mediation provision.

**Goals for 2011:**

1. Understand the DV risk assessment tools currently used in custody evaluations and early neutral evaluations in Hennepin County Family Court, and determine whether to make additional recommendations based upon that review;
2. Trainings:
  - a. Immigration;
  - b. Brown bag lunch ideas:
    - i. Economic assistance;
    - ii. Landlord/tenant; Landlord/tenant in foreclosure; Foreclosure;
3. Determine if it is possible to have HROs show up in NCIS;
4. Examine how OFPs affect respondents (employment, housing, data privacy, etc.);
5. Monitor co-parenting court; and
6. Monitor GAL involvement in OFP cases (with new structuring of GAL Board/court employees).

Respectfully submitted by: Erin Wacker and Sue Fite, Civil Committee Co-Chairs

Committee members: Marna Anderson, WATCH; Beverly Balos, University of MN School of Law; Judge Ivy Bernhardson, District Court, Hennepin County Court bench liaison; Catherine (Katie) Brey, District Court Administration; Sarah Coulter, WATCH; Sue Fite, Domestic Abuse Service Center; Gloria Fressia, BWLAP; Lynn Fuchs, District Court Administration; Rana Fuller, BWLAP; Jennifer Inz, Hennepin County Attorney's Office; Melanie Lowin, Tubman; Brenda Magoba, Tubman; Judge Tanja Manrique, District Court; Judy Mathison, Domestic Abuse Service Center; Laura Mitchell, Home Free Community Programs; Jen Randall, DAP; Heidi Rivkin, Tubman; Judge Susan Robiner, District Court; Christy Snow-Kaster, Central Minnesota Legal Services; Carol Tellett, Family Court Services; Erin Wacker, Tubman; Beth Wolhart, Cornerstone.

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**Criminal Committee**

The Criminal Committee (CrC) of the Family Violence Coordinating Council met monthly in 2010 and its members consisted of representatives from prosecutor's offices, advocacy agencies,

probation, district court administration and community based organizations. A list of members who were active members of the Committee during 2010 is included at the end of the report. The Criminal Committee is pleased that during 2010, this multi-disciplinary and multi-jurisdictional group of professionals continued 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 CrC. In 2010 we added new members from the Hennepin County Public Defender's Office and from the Eden Prairie Police Department and the active participation from these agencies continues to enrich our work.

The CrC spent time at each meeting discussing current issues, new initiatives and developments in criminal laws regarding domestic violence. Issues discussed included: Domestic Abuse No Contact Orders, implementation of recommendations found in the St. Paul Blueprint for Safety, DV Court Best Practices, revocation procedures and best practices, legislative changes, restraining orders and their differences, and conditional release violation protocols.

The CrC updated its "Quick Reference Guide" for Domestic Abuse Cases.

The CrC invited Susan Anderson from the Hennepin County Adult Detention Center to present to the group regarding contact issues at the jail, particularly phone calls to victims and visits from victims, and also issues surrounding bail and release.

The CrC took direction from the larger Council on goal-setting for 2010 and accepted from the Council the overarching goal of "No Contact Orders-Issue Spotting and Closing of Gaps in Enforcement." In its review of that goal, many issues arose in discussion which prompted the formation of workgroups tasked to "close" specific gaps.

The following is a list of workgroups formed from within the CrC:

**A Revocation Issues** workgroup which was formed in 2008 continues to work to identify ways that the revocation process can be improved for each of the committee members' areas of practice and by identifying ways that the processing of revocation matters can be standardized across the different divisions of the court. This workgroup is headed by Nancy Halverson.

**A No Contact Orders** workgroup was formed to prepare a chart analyzing the four main types of No Contact Orders which exist in Minnesota. That workgroup consisted of Jennifer Inz and Gretchen Zettler. They prepared a chart for general use in differentiating these orders.

**A Conditional Release Violations** workgroup was formed and headed by Kim Johnson. That workgroup is preparing documents detailing protocol for presenting conditional release violations to the court.

Additionally, the full council identified as a goal the exportation of Minneapolis Domestic Violence Court Best Practices to the suburban Hennepin County jurisdictions. At the end of

2010, a workgroup was formed in concert with the Domestic Violence Court steering committee to examine the opportunities for export of those procedures and practices.

Last, the CrC reviewed new legislation for 2010 in the area of Domestic Violence, particularly the changes to the Domestic Abuse No Contact Order statute.

**Goals for 2011:**

1. Planning and executing educational events/CLEs;
  - a. March event-Who is a batterer? Distinguishing domestic violence programming from anger management;
  - b. July/August event—presentation on danger assessment. DVSI/SARA risk indicators;
  - c. October event-Effects of DV on children. Jeff Edelson possible presenter. Possible cosponsor opportunity with juvenile committee;
  - d. Presentation on immigrations issues and DV;
2. Enforcement of no contact orders at the HCADC and the HCACF—specifically closing gaps in enforcement of in-person violations and phone call;
3. Project on enforcement of weapons prohibitions and domestic violence. This is potentially a joint project with the Civil Committee of the FVCC;
4. Completion of projects from previous years, specifically:
  - a. Revocations workgroup;
  - b. Conditional release violation workgroup; and
  - c. No contact order chart.

Respectfully Submitted by Jennifer Inz, Chair

Committee Members: Assistant Hennepin County Attorney; Anna Krause Crabb, Vice-Chair, Assistant Minnetonka City Attorney; Marna Anderson, WATCH; Rebecca Arends, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Carol Arthur, Domestic Abuse Project; Janice Blackmon, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Bob Cameron, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Carol Engel, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Dana Feddema, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Nancy Halverson, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Rachel Hawkins, Sojourner Project; Jay Hester, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Michelle Jacobson, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office; Kim Johnson, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Laura Landis, Home Free; Brenda Langfellow, District Court; Aaron Milgrom, Domestic Abuse Project; Sgt. Robert Olson, Eden Prairie Police Department; Rachel Ratner, Sojourner Project; Vicki Riven, District Court; Bob Sorenson, Assistant Hennepin County Public Defender; John Staloch, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Jackie Stordahl, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Lauren Teetzen, Home Free; Betty Turner, Home Free; Rita Weimar, District Court; Gretchen Zettler, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office.

## **Advocates Committee**

The Advocates Committee of the Family Violence Coordinating Council meets the fourth Thursday of most months at 2:30pm at the Domestic Abuse Project, 204 West Franklin Avenue, Minneapolis. Regularly attending members are Cindy Lyons and Jen Randall(DAP), Janelle O'Brian(Cornerstone), Stephanie Avalon(BWJP) Rachel Hawkins and Rachel Radner, (Sojourner) Lisa Smith (FBI) Sue Lantto (Project P.E.A.C.E.) Vanessa Foster, (Tubman).

### **Goals for 2010:**

- Continue to share information about ongoing issues in the courts that affect battered women;
- Attend training(s) on The Blueprint for Safety;
- Track/monitor the fax-filing of OFP petitions;
- Develop materials to advise victims about intimidation tactics by batterers that may occur post arrest and preservation of evidence of such tactics;
- Evaluate information available to women regarding Early Neutral Evaluation; and
- Increase participation of advocates in the committee, particularly in informal resource sharing.

### Goals accomplished in 2010 include:

- Met with Probation staff;
- Met with Hennepin County Sheriff's Office;
- Met with Guardian ad Litem staff from Hennepin County Family Court;
- Met with Shoua and Chanel regarding their involvement in probation and the DROL list;
- Discussed the new DANCO form that is being used in District Court;
- Talked about the enforcement of DANCOs;
- Discussed The Saint Paul blueprint for safety and the signage in the courtroom regarding enforcement of DANCOs and OFPs in the courtroom;
- Updated the list of DV advocacy agencies for probation;
- Discussed the new fax filing process and what impact it has had on service providers and petitioners;
- Received an update on the new OFP process regarding permanent OFPs when the Respondent is in custody for a felony;
- Trained on intimate partner violence with military-related victims and Veteran's Court in Hennepin County; and
- Received an update on Veterans Court from Connie Sponsler-Garcia.

### **Goals for 2011:**

- Follow-up on 'resource sharing' between advocacy agencies;
- Create an informative packet for pro se clients who are involved with family court ("How to prepare pro se clients for family court") a tool to help clients understand the family court process if they do not have an attorney;
- Gather resources for HRO clients who don't meet the domestic criteria;
- Look into the enforcement of OFPs that were served by SAMs (why law enforcement is not enforcing these orders);
- Update and share safety planning worksheets amongst advocates;

- Gather multiple different risk assessment tools and use them to create a tool that can be used by advocates;
- Research the coercive control assessment being used in Phoenix to see if it would be helpful to advocates;
- Gather housing resources from around the metro area that we can refer clients to;
- Possible In-Service Trainings:
  - Liz Richards to talk about family court matters for pro se clients;
  - Inspector Kris Arneson (MPD) to talk about enforcement of OFPs (SAMs order and custody/parenting time provisions of the OFP); and
  - Joint training with civil subcommittee FVCC on economic assistance in Hennepin County.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Avalon, Chair

Committee Members: Carol Arthur, Domestic Abuse Project; Stephanie Avalon, BWJP; Vanessa Foster, Tubman; Rachel Hawkins, Sojourner Project; Holly Jacobson, Sojourner Project; Deirdre Keys, BWLAP; Sue Lantto, Project P.E.A.C.E.; Cindy Lyons, Domestic Abuse Project; Janelle O'Brien, Cornerstone; Jen Randell, Domestic Abuse Project; Rachel Ratner, Sojourner Project; Lisa Smith, FBI Minneapolis.

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### **Child / Juvenile Committee**

The Child/Juvenile Committee (C/JC) met monthly in 2010 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, county attorney, and community based organizations. The committee membership roster is attached. 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.

Goals for 2010:

- Focus on the issue of children who witness domestic violence with the goal to find or suggest the "best" or "promising" practices for response. This would include: focusing on children who come to the attention of authorities through a call to law enforcement; reviewing the practices of law enforcement agencies, child protection, advocacy agencies and the criminal justice system (prosecution, probation); bringing together all the different players to ensure that child witnesses are being noticed and provided resources, either directly, or through parents and families;
- Study the issue of the lack of reporting of juvenile romantic domestic violence cases to law enforcement, including stalking. Work with community and advocacy organizations that provide education to juveniles, to include additional education and information about reporting; and

- Host an expanded resource fair in October, 2010.

#### Progress on Goals

The Child/Juvenile Committee began discussions regarding the first goal, and met with the chair of the Criminal Committee to learn more about the process that committee went through to put together a best practices guide. Our committee brainstormed a plan of action to draft a survey, and worked on putting together a list of agencies to include in such a survey. Ultimately, the committee decided that the project involved a very complex issue, and that our committee does not currently have the resources to complete this goal.

The C/JC successfully met its goal of hosting a Resource Fair and Panel Discussion in October, 2010 about Teen Dating Violence. The resource fair was held on the public service level of the Hennepin County Government Center on October 27, 2010. Approximately 20 community organizations staffed booths. The Resource Fair was followed by a panel discussion on the issue of Teen Dating Violence and was held in the A Auditorium in the Government Center. Barton Erickson, of Cornerstone, gave a brief presentation. The panel included Barton Erickson, Sarah Tjernagle of DAP, and Cordelia Anderson. The panel was moderated by the Honorable Susan Robiner. The event was well attended, and the feedback from the participants was very positive. The resource fair was an opportunity for the community organizations to provide information to the public and domestic violence professionals about their services, as well as to connect with each other.

#### **Goals for 2011:**

- Identify gaps in the area of No Contact Orders as they relate to children and juveniles, either in juvenile, adult or family courts. Talk within our own committee about the gaps, and brainstorm solutions. Bring the gaps to the attention of the FVCC and/or other committees and work together to create and suggest solutions;
- Invite speakers to our committee to discuss specialty areas as they relate to children and juveniles and domestic violence;
- Diversify our membership;
- Host a domestic violence event in October, 2011.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Morgan, Chair

Committee Members: Sharon Alexander, Juvenile Probation; Jessica Belland, and Carlein Cloutier, Home Free; Lisa Eder, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Victim/Witness; Nancy Halverson, Adult Probation; Mohammed Hassan, Somali Community volunteer; Tim Horita, Juvenile Probation; Andrea Jegede, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Victim/Witness; Gary Keifenheim, Family and Children's Service; Dave Mathews, DAP; Michelle Meyer, Adult Probation; Stephanie Morgan, Hennepin County Attorney's Office; Judy Nelson, Sojourner; Mike Poindexter, Cornerstone; Jen Polzin, Tubman; Anthony Scott, Human Services and Public Health Department (HSPHD); Jessica Sonnek, Adult Probation; Tamara Statz, The Storefront Group; Nancy Van Thorre, CornerHouse; Debra Wenlund-Glaser, HSPHD.

## **Community Outreach Committee**

We had two Action Steps this year as a direction from the 2010 FVCC Strategic Work Plan:

1. Address internet presence by working with the Executive Director in providing content to include committee contact information, resolution, links to and from relevant organizations and annual reports; and
2. Enhance media relations by preparing a media kit including contact information for stories about domestic violence.

We accomplished item number 1, above, early in the year. Nancy Peters did most of the work in this task with regard to the web presence. We forwarded the content and created a “New Member Packet” for those just joining the council.

As for item 2 above, just after the 2010 Strategic Plan was decided upon, the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women took on the charge of developing appropriate media responses to reports of domestic abuse and domestic abuse homicide. It was decided that our committee would be then duplicating efforts and felt it was not necessary or a good use of time. With this in mind we decided to develop a FVCC OC page on the web-site that would talk about the council’s approach to terminology used by the media and a list of those who can be contacted for a statement from the council. The latter has been completed.

### **Goals for 2011:**

The media page is still in development at the writing of this report. The committee has spent a good amount of time reviewing media reports of domestic violence to create a page of what the council might want the media to understand about domestic violence. We hope this will be complete early in 2011.

Respectfully submitted by Deirdre Keys, Chair

Committee Members: Deena Anders, Domestic Fatality Review Team; Marna Anderson, Anne Gilmore, Hennepin County Medical Center; WATCH; Deirdre Keys, BWLAP; Cheryl Kolb-Untinen, Cornerstone Advocacy Service; Linda Wold, MSBA, Family Law Section.

## **APPENDIX A**

### **FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL BYLAWS**

**Revised July 8, 2010**

#### **PURPOSE OF THE FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

The Fourth Judicial District has established the Family Violence Coordinating Council for the purpose of dealing with family violence issues. The Council will promote interdisciplinary programs and initiatives to coordinate public and private legal and social services and law enforcement, prosecutorial, and judicial activities. The general purpose of the Council shall be:

- 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 so as to reduce incidents of domestic violence and promote victim safety.

#### **EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE**

Overall, the Executive Committee shall take a directive role, providing leadership for the FVCC, handle emergency issues, and coordinate efforts.

- *Membership:* The committee will be made up of the FVCC co-chairs, and either the chairs or vice-chairs of each committee. Two at-large members voted on by the FVCC may be included but are not required. At-large members may be added at any time upon simple majority of the members of the meeting at which the full Council vote.
- The committee representatives will attend all Executive Committee meetings and provide reports on their committees' activities. In the event of an absence, information and proxy votes, if applicable, will be communicated to the FVCC co-chairs. No designee will be sent to the Executive Committee meeting.
- The committee will meet monthly at a standard time and location.
- The committee sets the agenda for the upcoming FVCC meeting and identifies what issues require a vote of FVCC members.
- The committee identifies and coordinates presentations to the FVCC.
- The committee shall address issues of membership attendance and filling vacancies, and forward recommendations to the Chief Judge for appointment.
- Members shall take minutes of meetings on a rotating basis.

#### **STANDING COMMITTEES**

There will be five standing committees of the Family Violence Coordinating Council:

- (1) Civil Committee
- (2) Criminal Committee
- (3) Advocates Committee
- (4) Child/Juvenile Committee
- (5) Outreach Committee

#### **Committee structure:**

- Each committee will have a chair and vice-chair.
- Each committee will establish goals for the coming year.

- Each committee will submit a written year-end report to the Executive Committee detailing committee activities.
- Each committee can establish temporary workgroups to work on specific, short-term issues.
- Additional standing committees may be established by a vote of the FVCC.

#### **Committee meetings:**

- Committees will have standing meeting times and locations.
- Committees will meet at least 6 times per year.
- Minutes must be taken and distributed to committee members.
- Committee members (listed on committee roster) can vote on issues.

#### **Committees chairs:**

- Chairs serve for term of one year and can be reappointed.
- Chairs are appointed by the FVCC co-chairs.
- Chairs must be voting members of the FVCC.
- Chairs may sit on the Executive Committee.
- Chairs run meetings and set procedure for meetings.
- Chairs maintain their committee rosters—identifying “members” as opposed to guests.
- Chairs report on committee activity at each FVCC meeting, or ask designee to make report.

#### **Committee vice-chair:**

- Takes minutes.
- Appointed by chair of committee.
- Runs committee meeting in absence of committee chair.
- May attend Executive Committee meetings.

### **FVCC FULL COUNCIL MEETINGS**

- Meeting run by the FVCC co-chairs.
- Only FVCC members can vote.
- Name cards provided for all FVCC members.
- Attendance taken at each meeting.
- The FVCC meets monthly.
- The FVCC meetings are open. Anyone who is not a member is a guest. Guests are welcome to participate in the meetings, but only members can vote.

### **FVCC MEETING AGENDA**

- To get on agenda, notify the FVCC chair or other member of executive committee.
- Meeting has regular agenda items:
  - (1) Presentations
  - (2) Committee reports
  - (3) Business requiring votes
  - (4) Issues and other business not requiring votes
  - (5) Announcements and new issues

### **FVCC MEMBERS**

- The Chief Judge appoints all members upon the recommendation of the Executive Committee.
- Members are expected to attend all FVCC meetings.
- Members must sit on at least one committee of the council.

- The FVCC will be made up of up to 35 representatives from governmental and nongovernmental organizations. (*See attached grid for breakdown.*)
- New members should be provided an orientation and given the FVCC bylaws and roster.
- If a member does not attend four consecutive FVCC meetings, the Executive Committee may choose to recommend a different individual for appointment to that particular position.

## **ANNUAL WORKPLAN**

- Each committee makes at least one goal for the year.
- The Executive Committee shall review the goals of each committee, as well as identify overall goals for the FVCC and come up with an annual work plan by the October FVCC meeting to be presented to the entire FVCC at the November meeting. The annual work plan shall be voted upon at the December meeting.

## **YEAR-END REPORT**

- The Executive Committee will prepare a year-end summary of FVCC activities for distribution to the FVCC and the community at large.
- The annual report shall be prepared in December and January, and delivered to the FVCC at the February meeting.

## **OTHER FVCC STAFFING**

- The Executive Committee shall appoint a person or persons who shall have the following duties:
  - (1) Organize and maintain FVCC records.
  - (2) Maintain up-to-date FVCC membership roster.
  - (3) Take minutes of FVCC meetings and committee meetings.
  - (4) Provide orientation and membership roster to new members.

## **BYLAWS**

- Adherence to the Bylaws is recommended.

Bylaws may be amended at any time. Any voting member of the FVCC may present a proposal for change to the Executive Committee. If the Executive Committee approves the change it shall be forwarded to the full FVCC membership who shall vote on the change. A simple majority of members present at the meeting at which the vote is taken is required for approval.

## **FVCC Voting Member Roster (Grid)**

### **JUDGES AND REFEREES (3)**

1. DV judge
2. Juvenile Ct judge
3. Family Ct referee/judge

### **COURT ADMINISTRATION (2)**

### **COMMUNITY CORRECTIONS (3)**

1. Adult Probation
2. Adult Probation
3. Family Court Services

### **ADVOCACY/VICTIM SVC ORGANIZATIONS (5)**

### **COMMUNITY SOCIAL SVCS AGENCIES (2)**

1. Children
2. Defendants

### **HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (1)**

### **MENTAL HEALTH CARE PROVIDERS (1)**

### **LAW ENFORCEMENT (3)**

1. Sheriff
2. MPD
3. Suburban

### **PROSECUTORS (4)**

1. HCAO – adult
2. HCAO – juvenile
3. Minneapolis
4. Suburban

### **PUBLIC DEFENDERS /LEGAL AID (3)**

1. PD adult
2. PD juvenile
3. legal aid

### **EDUCATOR (1)**

### **CHILD PROTECTION (1)**

### **PUBLIC OFFICIALS & ORGANIZATIONS/OTHER (5)**

### **AT LARGE (1)**

## APPENDIX B

### **2010 FVCC Strategic Work Plan**

#### **Goal 1: Increase visibility as a resource of talent regarding domestic violence issues**

Action Step	Baseline	Timeline	Measurement	Responsible Party
1. Address Internet presence	no website	Q1-2	4 <sup>th</sup> Judicial District Website presence at zero expense. Content to include committee contact information, resolution, links to and from relevant organizations and annual reports	Committee Outreach Committee Chair and FVCC Executive Director (ED)
2. Enhance media relations	no media kit	Q1-2	Prepare media kit including contact information for stories about domestic violence	Committee Outreach Committee Chair
3. Utilize October as DV month	1 event-Oct '09	Q3	Expand Resource Fair, other committees may expand representation by hosting a table or booth at other events	Children / Juvenile Committee Chair with others TBD

#### **Goal 2: Increase role in decision making process for domestic violence policy/protocol changes**

Action Step	Baseline	Timeline	Measurement	Responsible Party
1. Identify system gap(s) in Hennepin County government and nongovernment services / agencies to address and facilitate improvements	January 2010 ranking survey	Q1-4	Identify gaps by April FVCC meeting, decide as gaps to pursue as committees and/or all FVCC, reduce gaps in cases/systems improvement plan, use gaps 3,4,5; No Contact Orders selected to be FVCC's gap	Each committee NOTE: Advocates - Blueprint, Ch/Juv - DV on parent or sibling, Criminal - DV BPs in suburbs, Community Outreach - media
2. Increase communication regarding this role at FVCC meetings	"Heard on the Street" added 12/09	Q1-4	FVCC members to increase FVCC meeting participation; including difficult, sensitive and unspoken concerns	Each committee
3. Identify agencies where FVCC's presence could effect change	no list	Q3	Identify and submit list of agencies draft by July 1 and final list by 9/30/10 to ED	Each committee, ED

#### **Goal 3: Adhere to FVCC Bylaws**

Action Step	Baseline	Timeline	Measurement	Responsible Party
1. Actively manage membership and committee cohesion	Membership status report by Community Outreach Committee	Q1	Complete an audit of voting/non-voting members, committee participation, and meeting attendance in accordance with the Bylaws	FVCC co-chairs, FVCC ED, Committees
2. Comply with timelines for planning and reporting	2009 report distributed 11/09	Q1-2	Submit 2009 annual report initial draft by 1/31/10, final draft by 2/28/10, and final report distributed by 3/31/10	Committee chairs, FVCC co-chairs, FVCC ED
3. Review FVCC Bylaws and propose revisions, if needed	04 Bylaws revision re number of voting members	Q4	Review Bylaws to monitor FVCC's compliance; propose any Bylaws changes for approval by the 4th Judicial District Chief Judge	Executive Committee, Bylaws Ad Hoc Committee

## **APPENDIX C**

### **2010 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**

- 1. Judge Susan Robiner (FVCC co-chair)**  
Fourth Judicial District, Family Court
- 2. Judge Lloyd Zimmerman (FVCC co-chair, January – April)**  
Fourth Judicial District, Domestic Violence Court
- 3. Judge Jeannice Reding (FVCC co-chair, May – November)**  
Fourth Judicial District, Family Court
- 4. Referee Timothy Mulrooney (FVCC co-chair, December)**  
Fourth Judicial District, Family Court
- 5. Lieutenant Cliff Ahlgren**  
Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
- 6. Deena Anders**  
Domestic Fatality Review Team Project Coordinator
- 7. Marna Anderson**  
WATCH
- 8. Inspector Kristine Arneson**  
Minneapolis Police Department
- 9. Carol Arthur**  
Domestic Abuse Project, Executive Director
- 10. Stephanie Avalon**  
Battered Women's Justice Project
- 11. Janice Blackmon\***  
Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation
- 12. Katie Brey**  
Fourth Judicial District, Family Court Operations Manager
- 13. Sharon Brice**  
Domestic Abuse Project

**14. Anna Kraus Crabb**

Suburban Prosecutor

**15. Liz Cutter**

Hennepin County Attorney's Office

**16. Rosario de la Torre**

Casa de Esperanza

**17. Lea De Souza\***

Assistant Hennepin County Attorney, Domestic Abuse Service Center

**18. Sue Fite**

Legal Services Specialist Supervisor, Domestic Abuse Service Center

**19. Vanessa Foster**

Tubman

**20. Michelle Fournier**

OutFront

**21. Rana Fuller**

Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project

**22. Mike Gephart**

Adult Probation, Investigations

**23. Anne Gilmore**

Hennepin County Medical Center Sr. Social Worker

**24. Nancy Halverson\***

Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation

**25. Jennifer Inz**

Hennepin County Office of the County Attorney, DASC

**26. Michelle Jacobson**

Minneapolis City Attorney's Office

**27. Judge Fred Karasov**

Fourth Judicial District, Juvenile Court

**28. Deirdre Keys**

Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project

**29. Cheryl Kolb-Untinen**

Cornerstone

**30. Laurie Kusek\***

Fourth Judicial District, Guardian ad Litem

**31. Laura Landis**

Home Free

**32. Jodi Lashley\***

CornerHouse

**33. Kristine Lizzdas**

Battered Women's Justice Project

**34. Melanie Lowin**

Tubman

**35. Brenda Magoba**

Tubman

**36. Judy Mathison\***

Fourth Judicial District, Domestic Abuse Service Center

**37. Lisa McNaughton**

Hennepin County Public Defender, Juvenile

**38. Aaron Milgrom**

Domestic Abuse Project

**39. Judy Miller-Thomas**

Phyllis Wheatley Community Center, Domestic Abuse Manager, DASC Legal Advocate

**40. Stephanie Morgan**

Office of the Hennepin County Attorney, Juvenile

**41. Mary Moriarity\***

Hennepin County Public Defender

**42. Sgt. Bob Olson**

Eden Prairie Police Department

**43. Nancy Peters\***

Fourth Judicial District, FVCC Executive Director

**44. Rachel Ratner**  
Sojourner Project

**45. Vicki Riven**  
Fourth Judicial District, Criminal Court Operations Manager

**46. Heidi Rivkin**  
Tubman

**47. Anthony Scott**  
Human Services and Public Health Department

**48. Jane Sherman\***  
St. Anne's Place

**49. Lisa Smith\***  
Federal Bureau of Investigation, Domestic Violence Unit

**50. Bob Sorensen**  
Hennepin County Public Defender, Adult

**51. John Staloch**  
Adult Probation, Supervision

**52. Carol Tellett\***  
Family Court Services

**53. Lolita Ulloa**  
Asst. Hennepin County Attorney, Domestic Abuse Service Center

**54. Nancy Van Thorre\***  
CornerHouse

**55. Erin Wacker**  
Tubman

**56. Rebecca Waggoner-Kloek**  
OutFront

**57. Linda Wold**  
Minnesota State Bar Association, Family Law Section

**58. Gretchen Zettler\***  
Asst. Minneapolis City Attorney

\* Non-voting member