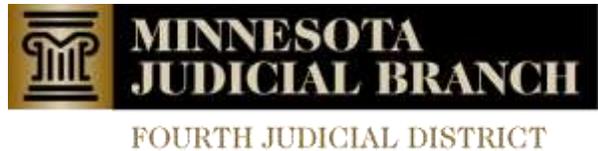


Family Violence Coordinating Council

2012

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





March 7, 2013

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 by Judge Fred Karasov and Referee Timothy Mulrooney.

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

As established by statute and reflected in the bylaws, the Fourth Judicial District Family Violence Coordinating Council is charged with dealing 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 bylaws state that the purposes of the Council are:

- 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.

The Council works to fulfill these objectives both at the committee level (where a majority of the work of the FVCC takes place), at Council meetings and through efforts of the Council as a whole.

The FVCC as a whole had a productive year as illustrated below:

- As has long been the case, the FVCC used its monthly meetings to provide a 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 dealing with domestic violence.
- The Council also used its monthly meetings as a platform to present a robust series of speakers, including:
 - Michelle Jacobson and Gretchen Zettler, attorneys with the Minneapolis City Attorney’s Office, presented on their office’s “knock and talk” program for checking on DANCO (domestic abuse no contact order) compliance or violations so as to make DANCOs more meaningful and to generate greater community faith in the value of such orders.
 - Rana Alexander, attorney and managing partner of the Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, spoke to the FVCC about the Minnesota Supreme Court’s 2012 decision in State v. Fleck, 810 N.W.2d 303 regarding criminal intent and voluntary intoxication in assault cases.
 - Liz Cutter, then an attorney with the Hennepin County Attorney’s Office (and now a judge) spoke to the FVCC about the status of DANCO issues and challenges.
 - Deena Anders, project director of the Fourth Judicial District Domestic Fatality Review Team (“DFRT”), presented the DFRT’s 2011 annual report and findings and opportunities for intervention.
 - Liz Richards, attorney and executive director of the Minnesota Coalition for Battered Women, presented MCBW’s annual femicide report and discussed its findings.
 - Members of an organization called Bikers Against Child Abuse spoke about their unique mission and work in support of victims of child abuse.
 - Judge Bruce Peterson and Co-Parent Court Navigators Maisha Giles and John Jackson gave the FVCC a presentation on the Co-Parent Court initiative.
 - Professor Roberta Gibbons, Metropolitan State University, presented on the National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Report.
 - Deirdre Keys, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, spoke to the Council about the intersection of identity theft and domestic violence and stalking.

- Gabrielle Davis, of the Battered Women’s Justice Project, presented on an ongoing study of custody evaluations and decisions in cases involving allegations of domestic violence.
- The Council continued to update its membership roster in order to achieve full compliance with its bylaws which require that there be council representation across our community including the courts, prosecutors, public defenders, the advocacy community, educators, the medical community, law enforcement, and corrections.
- The FVCC created a work group, co-chaired by Rebecca Waggoner of OutFront Minnesota and attorney Tracy Reid of the law firm of Cooper & Reid, LLC, to examine family violence issues in the context of lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender (LGBTQ) relationships and to identify and respond to barriers to system access in this context.

The forgoing is a summary of some of the efforts of the FVCC in 2012 to coordinate and share information between agencies and disciplines so as to improve the systemic response to the issue of family violence. Meanwhile, the standing committees of the FVCC do the great weight of the important work of FVCC to further its goals and mandate.

The **Executive Committee** (EC), comprised of all committee chairs, FVCC Executive Director and the FVCC co-chairs, met regularly through the year crafting agendas for the Council, identifying speakers for the full council meetings and overseeing adherence to the by-laws and the FVCC strategic plan. The EC held an extended (half-day) planning session in September, 2012 to re-examine the FVCC’s purpose and to stimulate and inform the process of developing the strategic plan for 2013.

The **Civil Committee** (CC) met monthly in 2012. Membership included staff from District Court, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Battered Women’s Legal Advocacy Project, WATCH, Hennepin County Attorney’s Office Domestic Abuse Service Center and agencies for battered women, including: Cornerstone, Domestic Abuse Project, Home Free, Project P.E.A.C.E., Harriet Tubman, staff members from Family Court Services, the University of Minnesota’s Aurora Center, Hennepin County Sheriff’s Department, Metro State University, and Child Support Services. In 2012, the CC continued in-service trainings and brown bag meetings on topics including child protection screening, resources available through Hennepin County “eligibility supports,” and services provided by Hennepin County Family Court Services. The CC responded to service issues that developed relative to Orders for Protection. The CC also learned about a pilot project which provided a resource person to OFP respondents before and after OFP hearings. The CC also had discussions and placed focus on children in family violence cases and the BWJP’s study of custody issues in cases involving domestic abuse. Finally, on an ongoing basis, the CC operated as a problem-solving group addressing system issues as they arose or were identified.

The **Criminal Committee** (CrC) met monthly in 2012. Its members include representatives from prosecutor’s offices, advocacy agencies, probation, district court administration and community based organizations. The committee spent time at each meeting discussing current issues, new initiatives and developments in criminal laws regarding domestic violence. Issues discussed included: legal challenges to the DANCO statute; changes in the court’s calendaring

and the blocking system; and changes in the probation department. The committee sponsored two continued legal education presentations on issues related to domestic violence, one on domestic violence and sexual assault and the other focused on parenting after domestic violence. The committee's "revocation issues" workgroup finalized a report and review of the probation revocation process in Hennepin County. The "gun surrender" workgroup continued to work on application of existing statutes and firearm possession prohibitions, including making a presentation to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee and providing training for 911 operators and dispatchers. The "best practices" workgroup finalized an update of the existing domestic violence court best practices document.

The **Advocates Committee** (AC) met monthly in 2012. The committee is largely comprised of domestic abuse advocates. Meetings served as a forum 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 addressed various topics including the development of a smartphone Safety Plan "App," the Post-Separation Wheel developed in Duluth, and the role and work of Guardians ad Litem in OFP court. Extensive committee discussions were held on many topics, including "paperless court," effects of victimization, trauma informed advocacy, DANCO enforcement, and updating lists of community support groups. Particular focus was placed on victim input in court hearings and best practices for facilitating such input.

The **Child/Juvenile Committee** (C/JC) met monthly in 2012. Members consisted of representatives of child protection, adult and juvenile probation, advocacy agencies, county attorney, guardian ad litem, and community based organizations. Monthly meetings 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 heard from numerous speakers, including the project director of the Domestic Fatality Review Team, a representative of Cornerstone speaking about a grant to develop a Blueprint for the suburban cities in Cornerstone's service area, a judge with experience in juvenile and criminal court, and a juvenile probation representative addressing available risk assessment tools for assessing children entering delinquency or CHIPS systems. The committee again co-hosted a resource fair with the criminal committee in October, held on the public service level of the Hennepin County Government Center and involving approximately 20 community organizations and followed by a presentation entitled "Men and Women: Parenting After Abuse."

The **Outreach Committee** (OC) dissolved in 2012. The committee's primary work in 2012 related to its finalization of a media document focused on domestic abuse terminology and language reflecting the serious nature of family violence. Given the nature of the FVCC, it was decided that the document would not be formally published by the FVCC but the Outreach Committee forwarded the document to other agencies that may utilize or act on the document. As a result of the FVCC planning session in September and a subsequent bylaws amendment in late 2012, the Outreach Committee was dissolved as a standing committee of the FVCC. In its place, the other standing committees will include outreach in their functions and, additionally, the Executive Committee intends to add an at-large member to focus on outreach projects.

The FVCC committees saw some significant transition in 2012. Sue Fite, longtime chair of the Civil Committee, resigned that position (though she remains a committed presence on FVCC). Likewise, Stephanie Morgan, longtime chair of the Child/Juvenile Committee, has transitioned out of her leadership of this committee. Finally, the Outreach Committee, which was chaired by Deirdre Keys and included in its last year Deena Anders, Cheryl Kolb-Untinen and Anne Gilmore, was dissolved. All of these individuals have years of committed service to the goals of the FVCC, and we recognize and thank them for their hard work.

As co-chairs, we extend our appreciation to all of the FVCC and committee members for their dedicated efforts during 2012. As the FVCC continues its work in 2013, we remain committed to improving our County's response to family violence. Thank you for your continued support.

Sincerely,

/s/Timothy Mulrooney

Referee Timothy Mulrooney
FVCC Co-Chair

/s/Fred Karasov

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
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 Committee (CC) of the Family Violence Coordinating Council met every month except December in 2012. Our meetings were the fourth Thursday of each month at 12:30 p.m. At the beginning of 2012, our membership included staff from District Court, Central Minnesota Legal Services, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project, WATCH, Hennepin County Attorney's Office Domestic Abuse Service Center 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, the University of Minnesota's Aurora Center, Hennepin County Sheriff's Department, Metro State University, and Child Support Services.

This year, one of the first orders of business was to find a new Vice Chair. Aleisha Kruck from Project P.E.A.C.E. volunteered to be the Vice Chair and took on the position in February.

Goals for 2012 were:

1. Continue in-services for committee members and brown bag trainings for larger audiences. Topics may include:
 - a. Economic assistance
 - b. Child Protection
 - c. Child Support
 - d. Co-Parenting Court
 - e. How does having an OFP against you impact your life (housing, employment, data privacy, etc.)?
2. Examine common service issues and problem solve.

Goal 1. Continue in-services for committee members and brown bag trainings for larger audiences.

Our first in-service was a presentation by Child Protection Supervisors Penny Robertson and Kevin McTigue on the screening process used by Child Protection. This occurred at our regular meeting in May and had the highest attendance of any meeting this year. There was much concern expressed by committee members regarding cases that are not deemed to meet the criteria for investigation as well as a lack of follow up on cases when it was recommended that a family use other resources. Following this meeting, an informal task force was established by Judge McKeig to deal with issues regarding child protection screening as they occur. At our June meeting, Gail Anderson, a supervisor from Eligibility Supports, gave us a thorough picture of resources available to our clients through their programs. In July, committee member Michael Weinstein of Family Court Services gave a presentation to our committee about all the services his staff provides. We had several discussions at subsequent meetings regarding how we intend to get his information out to a wider group including attorneys, judges, GALs and advocates and

include other perspectives, such as those of Referee Moses and Attorney Christy Snow-Kaster. This will be a committee goal for 2013.

We decided to postpone in-services on Child Support and Immigration, possibly until next year. We invited Sarah Lanners from the Child Support Unit to join our committee this year, which will give us insight into their program in the meantime. After much discussion, we decided against providing training on the impact of OFPs. We determined a better way to gain information on Respondents would be to invite Walter Burke from the Father's Project to come to a meeting and share his perspective in the future. We did not provide training to a larger audience this year.

Goal 2. Examine common service issues and problem solve.

At the April meeting, Sgt. Jacox from the Hennepin County Sheriff's Office (HCSO) presented information on OFP service issues and upcoming changes in his office. Sgt Jacox told us the HCSO is combining units and this will result in more deputies serving OFP papers to respondents and that service would be done seven days a week starting in October. He said that officers try to find an address for a respondent when the petitioner does not supply one. He said it is helpful to put a last known address on the information sheet because then deputies can go to that address and see if they can find someone who knows where the respondent lives now. When a respondent is in custody, it may be a problem serving him if the papers arrive after 3:00 P.M.

Another service issue that we addressed this year has to do with Service by Alternate Means (SAMS) Orders. To obtain a SAMS Order, a petitioner is required to describe what efforts s/he made to locate the respondent and a judge may not grant a SAMS Order when the petitioner has not made an effort. This may present a problem since some petitioners either do not want to make an effort to locate the respondent for safety reasons or cannot figure out how to make an effort to do so. We agreed that petitioners or their advocates could do a Google or other internet search and list that as an effort to locate respondent. We also plan to enlist the help of probation officers when possible. Another service issue we addressed is when service is to take place in another state or another country and we know personal service will be an impossible. We will now do a SAMS application "up front" (at the time of getting the Ex Parte OFP), rather than waiting for the first court appearance. In this case, the affidavit and application for SAMS must contain a thorough explanation of the petitioner's reasons for doing it this way.

There were many times when there was no attempt at service of an OFP prior to the court hearing the following week. Katie Brey dealt with the Civil Unit of the Sheriff's Office to ask them to remedy this. Finally, a problem was identified when respondents are in another county. The HCSO faxes orders to other counties, but the faxes were either not going through or not being accepted. Family Court Operations Supervisor, Judy Mathison, will be the point person for these problems.

Other items of interest in 2012:

A member of our committee, Katie Brey, conducted a pilot project during the month of September in which a resource person was placed in the Respondents' Waiting Room to explain

the OFP court process and answer non-legal questions. Katie kept the committee informed of her project and asked for evaluations from advocates at the end of it.

Gabrielle Davis from the Battered Women's Justice Project gave a presentation to the full FVCC on child custody and domestic violence. As a follow-up, Referee Mulrooney came to our meeting in September and summarized her information. Referee Mulrooney suggested the CC form a work group to review the report and make recommendations to our Family Court that stem from the research. Other suggestions from committee members were:

- Talk to Ms. Davis about having the results of this research presented at a state judge's conference
- Sponsor a brown bag training/ CLE on this research and invite both the Juvenile and Family Court benches, as well as GALs
- Evaluate and make recommendations to redesign dissolution and custody motion templates to ensure that if domestic violence is occurring within a family, it becomes clear to the professionals involved at the outset
- Make training available to child support officers
- Ask Gabrielle Davis to present to the work group.

The CC has discussed issues involving children frequently over the year. Concerns are that there are times when custody evaluators and/or GALs do not understand DV issues in dissolution cases. Other concerns are that children's voices are not being heard, being discounted or not given enough weight in court proceedings. At times, there seems to be a goal of making things equal for the parents, rather than making things safe or optimum for the victim and her children. Training on the effects of domestic abuse on children when they are exposed to this violence would be in order.

Throughout the year, the CC was a problem-solving group for issues which arose in the OFP arena. Sometimes the way to solve the problem was to write better petitions in which the statute was quoted so that the judge would have a basis for ruling in the petitioner's favor. Other times a member of our committee would talk to a supervisor in another office to ask that their staff do things differently in order to keep domestic abuse victims safer while in our system. Another solution to having better communication with other participants in the system was to invite people from various departments to become members of our committee. Another positive outcome of this group is that we get answers to questions immediately from members who have similar experiences.

Christy Snow-Kaster will be the committee chair starting in January 2013.

Goals for 2013:

1. As stated above, we will do an in-service for a broad audience regarding Family Court Services and how their staff members address DV issues in their cases
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

3. Facility Improvement at Family Justice Center – explore establishing a staffed childcare area and a room designated for nursing mothers
4. Explore Safe Exchange /Supervised Parenting Time Locations
 - a. Identify current locations
 - b. Brainstorm about ways to make these services more widely available
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
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.
7. Form a work group to identify best practices which have emerged from research done by Gabrielle Davis of the Battered Women’s Justice Project on child custody when domestic abuse is present. The work group will:
 - a. Review current practices in Hennepin County Family Court custody and OFP cases in which there is domestic abuse;
 - b. Make recommendations to FVCC if changes need to be made to adopt best practices; and
 - c. Sponsor training for Juvenile and Family Courts Bench on issues highlighted in the report.

Respectfully submitted by Sue Fite, Hennepin County Attorney's Office/DASC and Aleisha Kruck, Project P.E.A.C.E., Civil Committee Co-Chairs

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

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Criminal Committee

The Criminal Committee of the Family Violence Coordinating Council met monthly in 2012 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 person who were active members of the committee during 2012 is included at the end of the report.

The Committee spent time at each meeting discussing current issues, new initiatives and developments in criminal laws regarding domestic violence. Issues discussed included: the challenge to the DANCO statute in the Courts by defense attorneys, changes in the court's calendaring and the blocking system, and changes in the probation department. These discussions allowed for the sharing of information about these issues or new initiatives and provided a forum for discussion regarding their impacts on the work of all committee members.

In 2012, the committee sponsored two continued legal education presentations on issues related to domestic violence. The first presentation focused on domestic violence and sexual assault, and the second focused on parenting after domestic violence. Both presentations were well attended and well received, and provided those working in the criminal justice system the opportunity to learn more about issues that are very prominent in many domestic violence cases.

The **Revocation Issues** workgroup finalized its report and review of the probation revocation process in Hennepin County. The report identified ways that the revocation process could be improved for each of the committee members' areas of practice and identified ways that the processing of revocation matters can be standardized across the different divisions of the court. This workgroup was headed by Nancy Halverson.

A **Gun Surrender** workgroup has been meeting to discuss ways to better utilize existing statutes and prohibitions for domestic violence defendants in possessing firearms. The group is hoping to develop a new pilot project which will gather more information about firearms up-front rather than at the time of the conviction, as the earlier pilot in Hennepin County did. The workgroup did a presentation to the Criminal Justice Coordinating Committee about the new proposed pilot. They also did training for 911 operators and dispatchers in Minneapolis about the importance of asking about access to weapons as part of the 911 call and about domestic dynamics. This workgroup was headed by Liz Cutter and Marna Anderson.

The **Best Practices** workgroup finalized an update of the existing domestic violence court best practices document. As they updated the document, they rewrote it so that the document could be used by the suburban courts as well as the downtown domestic violence court. This document will be reviewed by the Domestic Violence Court Steering committee in January 2013 and hopefully implemented county wide in early 2013. This workgroup was headed by Michelle Jacobson.

Respectfully submitted by Michelle Jacobson, Chair, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office and Anna Krause Crabb, Vice-Chair, Minnetonka City Attorney's Office.

Committee Members: Deena Anders, Domestic Fatality Review Team and DAP; Marna Anderson, WATCH; Amy Arcand, WATCH; Carol Arthur, Domestic Abuse Project; Howard Edwards, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office; Carol Engel, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; Nancy Halverson, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation; 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;

Maya Sheikh-Salah, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Domestic Abuse Service Center; 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 met most months of 2012. Meetings served as places for advocates to review difficulties they encounter, get support and feedback from other advocates, share information, and discuss current topics related to advocacy for battered women. The following people presented to the committee to update and inform advocates on specific issues:

- Maribeth Antl consulted with the committee at the February meeting on development of a Safety Planning App. She returned in July to demo the Safety Plan App. BWJP and the Advocate Committee provided the text for the Safety Planning App.
- Stephanie Avalon presented on the Post-Separation Wheel developed in Duluth, MN
- Vickie Goulette, Hennepin County Guardian Ad Litem, answered advocate questions and discussed the need for better collaboration with advocates in OFP court.

Extended discussions included the following topics:

- “Paperless court”
- Effects of victimization
- Trauma informed advocacy
- DANCO enforcement
- Updating list of Community Support Groups
- Discussion of victim input in court, specifically how victims have responded to being asked opinions in open court. The Best Practices document says
 - Judges should not ordinarily ask victims to speak or direct any inquiries to them in the Courtroom at arraignment or at pre-trial hearings. If a judge wishes to hear from a victim, the suggested practice would be to have an advocate or a victim/witness assistance speak on behalf of the victim.
 - Judges should not ordinarily hear directly from victims until the time of the sentencing. If victims wish to address the Court before the time of sentencing, Judges should inquire about whether the victims have spoken with a domestic abuse advocate and should advise them that the Court will receive any input they wish to offer through the advocate or through the prosecutor's office.

The advocates shared numerous experiences with battered women who have been in courts where judges deviated from these practices. Advocates agreed that the best practices document should stand. The discussion is summarized below:

Having prosecutors and advocates speak on behalf of women:

- Ensures that women are informed of the process and possible consequences of anything they say;
- Ensures that women are given an opportunity to connect with advocates and learn of community based services as well as their rights as victims;
- Underscores the statutory validity that they are not “pressing charges” and have not the authority to dismiss them, they are not a “party” in the case; and
- Helps to ensure that victims are not pressured by abusers to speak in court when they may not want to.

When judges deviate from this best practice they may be:

- Colluding with batterers who have pressured their victims to make statements in open court;
- Giving batterers another excuse to berate victims who did not speak out in court;
- Undermining the statutory reality of who is in control of the case; and
- Creating inequalities due to some victims’ lack of English proficiency.

Goals for 2013:

In addition to continuing to act as a local resource and support network for Hennepin County Advocates, the Committee wishes to concentrate efforts this coming year to address the importance of prioritizing safety, utilizing supervised visitation, and using batterer intervention to reduce risks to mothers and children. Advocates are concerned that the safety of victims and their children are not being given the priority statute provides. Advocates agreed to continue meetings with GALs and to document their requests for supervised visitation and /or batterer intervention along with the response of the GAL. Additionally the advocates will explore research on recommended contacts with abusive fathers and make recommendations to the Family Court Bench.

Active members in 2012:

Stephanie Avalon, Battered Women’s Justice Project; Tracy Becker and Sue Lantto, Project P.E.A.C.E.; Taylor Budensiek, Domestic Abuse Project; Vanessa Foster, Tubman; Rachel Heinen, Sojourner Project; Laura Landis, Home Free; Janelle O, Cornerstone

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Child / Juvenile Committee

The Child/Juvenile Committee met monthly in 2012 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, 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.

II. Child/Juvenile Committee Goals for 2012.

- Promote changes in the juvenile court to address gaps in the area of No Contact Orders by advocating for the use of a DANCO form in juvenile court domestic violence cases;
- Invite speakers to our committee to discuss specialty areas as they relate to children and juveniles and domestic violence;
- Meet with other committees in the Fourth Judicial District FVCC to learn about their work;
- Investigate whether there is a role for the Child/Juvenile committee to give input in the Cornerstone Blueprint project;
- Clean up the membership roster, continue to recruit new members;
- Host a domestic violence event in October, 2012.

III. Child/Juvenile Committee Activities, Focusing on Progress Toward Goals.

The Child/Juvenile Committee brought to the attention of the FVCC co-chairs the lack of use in Juvenile Court of DANCOs, specifically in cases involving a juvenile charged with domestic violence against a dating partner. To date, no changes have been made in juvenile court.

During 2012, the committee heard from numerous speakers, including: Deena Anders, the Domestic Fatality Review Team to talk about the annual report and the opportunities for intervention specific to children and juveniles; Bob Olson, from Cornerstone to talk about his grant to develop a Blueprint for the suburban cities in Cornerstone's service area; the Honorable Fred Karasov spoke to the committee about his role, and answered questions from the group; and Tim Horita from Juvenile Probation talked about the various risk assessments that are available to probation and HSPHD in assessing children and juveniles who enter either the delinquency or CHIPS systems.

The committee did not have an opportunity to meet with another committee, but did co-host a dual event in October with the Criminal Committee.

With respect to the fourth goal, the presentation by Bob Olson of Cornerstone gave the committee members an opportunity to talk about the ability to have input into the Blueprint. Mr. Olson suggested that the committee could write a model policy that could be implemented by

law enforcement agencies regarding how law enforcement responds to children who are present at the scene of a crime involving domestic violence. The committee did not have the resources to take on this project in 2012.

The committee worked to clean up its membership, and added several new members to its roster this year, including: Sadie Facion of Hennepin County Adult Probation; Marti Swanson from the Guardian Ad Litem Program and Lori Schwartz, Hennepin County Attorney's Office, Child Protection Division, who will also serve as vice-chair to the committee. The Committee said goodbye to member Tamara Statz of Headway, and welcomed Andrea Flaherty, also of Headway. Andrea Jegede of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office Victim Advocacy Program left the committee, and her spot was filled by Laura Floistad, also of the Hennepin County Attorney's Office Victim Advocacy Program.

The committee successfully met its goal of hosting a Resource Fair in October, 2012. This year, the Child/Juvenile committee again teamed up with the Criminal committee to host a CLE following the resource fair. The resource fair was held on the public service level of the Hennepin County Government Center on October 24, 2012. Approximately 20 community organizations staffed booths. The Resource Fair was followed by a presentation in the Auditorium in the Government Center. The event was titled "Men and Women: Parenting After Abuse" and included four presenters: Donna Benz, Cornerstone; Dave Mathews, One T Consulting & C.L.U.E.S.; Aaron Milgrom, DAP; and Anne Archbold, DAP. Both events were well attended, and the feedback from the participants was very positive. The resource fair was an opportunity for the community organizations to provide information both to the public and domestic violence professionals about their services, as well as to connect with each other.

IV. 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;
- Host a domestic violence event in October, 2013.

Respectfully submitted by Stephanie Morgan, Chair 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; Jessica Belland, Home Free; Carlein

Cloutier, Home Free; Judy Nelson, Sojourner; Lisa Eder; County Attorney Victim/Witness; Michelle Meyer, Adult Probation; Amy Kondziolka, Cornerstone; Nancy Halverson, Adult Probation; Nancy Van Thorre; Cornerhouse; Stephanie Morgan, County Attorney Juvenile Prosecution Division; Andrea Flaherty, Headway Emotion Health Services; Tim Horita, Juvenile Probation; Jill Stricker, SAFE Program; Zach Lien, Cornerstone; Martha Swanson, District Court GAL Program; Sadie Facion, Adult Probation; and Lori Schwartz, Hennepin County Attorney Child Protection Division.

APPENDIX A

Proposed 2013 Strategic Goals – MN § 484.79 Family Violence Coordinating Councils	
Strategic Plan Objectives	Responsible Party
1. Improve response to kids in DV – MN § 484.79.3.2 Plan Identification of current weaknesses in the system and areas where additional resources are needed, and ways to improve those components	
a. Full Council will select action steps	EC and full Council
2. Review and implement DFRT recommendations – MN § 484.79.3.2 Plan Identification of current weaknesses in the system and areas where additional resources are needed, and ways to improve those components	
a. FRT present annual report, opportunities at April FVCC	D Anders & T Mulrooney
b. Assign Opportunities to committees at May FVCC EC	Executive Committee
c. Report on assignments, discuss at May FVCC meeting	D Anders & T Mulrooney
d. Committees report back to FVCC, written summary	Committees
3. Establish best practices in DV cases in suburbs - MN § 484.79.3.6 Plan Coordination of city and county prosecutorial efforts, including standards for referral of cases, coordinated prosecutions, and cross-deputization of prosecutors	
a. Review DV case data for all 4 divisions	Judge Karasov/Nancy to request from Research Department
b. Review WATCH Report, implement appropriate recommendations	FVCC, chairs to bring to committees
c. Calendar management best practices	Criminal Committee
d. Distribute BPs and talk to DV judges	Judge F Karasov
4. Identify ideas for future study/focus – MN § 484.79.3.2 Plan Identification of current weaknesses in the system and areas where additional resources are needed, and ways to improve those components	
a. Brown bag CLEs 1/yr/committee	Committees, EC at-large member
b. Standing agenda item in April – round table for new focus areas	FVCC
5. FVCC agenda – MN § 484.79.3.1 Plan Interdisciplinary training and systemic approaches to family violence issues	
a. Agency highlights replaces member highlights standing agenda item	EC co-chairs
b. Legislative update annually	TBD – Rana Alexander or Carol Arthur
c. Reform agendas for large FVCC meetings	EC co-chairs
d. Expand Committee Reports at meetings	EC co-chairs & committee chairs
e. Standing agenda item (Oct)—discuss strategic work plan, finalize (Nov), approve (Dec)	Executive Committee
6. FVCC Executive Committee Administration - MN § 484.79.4 Evaluation FVCC shall develop a system for evaluating the effectiveness of its initiatives and programs in improving the coordination of activities and delivery of services and shall focus on identifiable goals and outcomes. An evaluation must include data components as well as input from individuals involved in family violence activities and services, victims, and perpetrators.	
a. Coordinate themes/topics/series—6 speakers/year	Executive Committee
b. Need new co-chair for Child/Juvenile Committee	Executive Committee
c. Request & receive all committee minutes	EC co-chairs
d. Review attendance at the October EC meeting	Executive Committee
e. Review and adhere to bylaws	Executive Committee
f. Added EC member at large	EC co-chairs
g. Gather and review relevant prior to or during course of goal setting	Executive Committee
h. Committees meet per Bylaws, provide minutes	Committees

APPENDIX B

2012 MEMBERSHIP ROSTER FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL

1. **Judge Fred Karasov (FVCC co-chair)**, 4th Judicial District, Domestic Violence Court
2. **Referee Timothy Mulrooney (FVCC co-chair)**, 4th Judicial District, Family Court
3. **Lieutenant Cliff Ahlgren**, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
4. **Deena Anders**, Domestic Fatality Review Team Project Coordinator
5. **Marna Anderson**, WATCH
6. **Andow, Anna***, MidMN Legal
7. **Amy Arcand***, 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. **Chere Bergeron**, OutFront
12. **Janice Blackmon***, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation
13. **Katie Brey**, Fourth Judicial District, Family Court Operations Manager
14. **Susan Carstens**, Crystal Police Department
15. **Anna Kraus Crabb**, Suburban Prosecutor
16. **Lt. Ken Crouch**, Hennepin County Sheriff's Office
17. **Liz Cutter***, Hennepin County Attorney's Office
18. **Rosario de la Torre**, Casa de Esperanza
19. **Lea De Souza***, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney, Domestic Abuse Service Center
20. **Sue Fite**, Legal Services Specialist Supervisor, Domestic Abuse Service Center
21. **Vanessa Foster***, Tubman
22. **Michelle Fournier**, OutFront
23. **Rana Fuller***, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project
24. **Mike Gephart**, Adult Probation, Investigations
25. **Roberta Gibbons**, Metropolitan State University
26. **Anne Gilmore**, Hennepin County Medical Center Sr. Social Worker
27. **Gonsalves, Sara***, Minnesota State Court
28. **Vicki Goulette***, GAL
29. **Nancy Halverson***, Hennepin County Community Corrections & Rehabilitation
30. **Kate Hovde***, WATCH
31. **Jennifer Inz**, Hennepin County Office of the County Attorney, DASC
32. **Michelle Jacobson**, Minneapolis City Attorney's Office
33. **Judge Fred Karasov**, Fourth Judicial District, Juvenile Court
34. **Deirdre Keys**, Battered Women's Legal Advocacy Project
35. **Joseph Klein***, 4th Judicial District, Juvenile Court
36. **Cheryl Kolb-Untinen**, Cornerstone
37. **Laurie Kusek***, Fourth Judicial District, Guardian ad Litem
38. **Laura Landis**, Home Free
39. **Sue Lantto***, Project P.E.A.C.E.
40. **Judy Mathison***, Fourth Judicial District, Domestic Abuse Service Center
41. **Lisa McNaughton**, Hennepin County Public Defender, Juvenile

42. **Aaron Milgrom**, Domestic Abuse Project
43. **Stephanie Morgan**, Office of the Hennepin County Attorney, Juvenile
44. **Mary Moriarity***, Hennepin County Public Defender
45. **Bob Olson***, Cornerstone
46. **Nancy Peters***, Fourth Judicial District, FVCC Executive Director
47. **Rachel Ratner**, Sojourner Project
48. **Tracy Reid**, Cooper & Reid
49. **Vicki Riven**, Fourth Judicial District, Criminal Court Operations Manager
50. **Lori Schwartz***, Hennepin County
51. **Anthony Scott**, Human Services and Public Health Department
52. **Nancy Seger***, CornerHouse
53. **Maya Sheikh-Salah***, Assistant Hennepin County Attorney
54. **Jane Sherman***, St. Anne's Place
55. **Lisa Smith***, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Domestic Violence Unit
56. **Christy Snow-Kaster***, Central Minnesota Legal Services
57. **Bob Sorensen**, Hennepin County Public Defender, Adult
58. **John Staloch**, Adult Probation, Supervision
59. **Thompson, Michelle**, Tubman
60. **Lolita Ulloa**, Asst. Hennepin County Attorney, Domestic Abuse Service Center
61. **Nancy Van Thorre***, CornerHouse
62. **Erin Wacker***, Tubman
63. **Rebecca Waggoner***, OutFront Minnesota
64. **Michael Weinstein**, Family Court Services
65. **Tsippi Wray***, Fourth Judicial District, Family Court
66. **Gretchen Zettler***, Asst. Minneapolis City Attorney

* Non-voting member