



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

Present: Karen Adamson, Stephanie Avalon, Vernona Boswell, Judge Lois Conroy, Melissa Fraser, Lt. Eddie Frizell, Judge Martha Holton Dimick, Michelle Jacobson, Aaron Milgrom, Melynda Nelson, Christy Snow-Kaster, Jennifer Taylor, Michael Weinstein, Sandra White, Shannon Wachter, Ellen Sackrison, Liza Garcia, Melinda Hugdahl, Christina Gibbons, Jackie Braun-Lewis, Subia Beg.

1. **Welcome:** Judge Holton Dimick welcomed the group. New member Judge Lois Conroy was introduced and the committee members introduced themselves as well.
2. **Approve January 12, 2017 Minutes:** Minutes approved.
3. **Approved 2017 FVCC Annual Report:** Continued to a future date to allow Judges Garcia & Holton Dimick to review further.
4. **Legal Service Advocacy Project (LSAP):** Melinda Hugdahl, Staff Attorney at LSAP, presented on legislative agenda items being proposed by LSAP. The main proposal that they are advancing is to add domestic assault by strangulation to the list of offenses in 518.179 and 631.52 that require a case to be referred to family court and shifts the burden in family court following a conviction for that offense. There seems to be bi-partisan support for this addition. They are also following bills relating to the following topics:
 - a. Giving crime victims a right to a civil action;
 - b. Addressing campus sexual assault;
 - c. Adding an affirmative defense to the threats of violence (FKA terroristic threats) statute; and
 - d. Cooperative Private Divorce. The committee further discussed this proposal, which has been made in previous years, and does not have support from LSAP or the Judicial Council.
5. **Family Court Enhancement Project Update:** Shannon Wachter provided an update on the work of the Family Court Enhancement Project. They received additional funding and will continue their work through at least March 2018. They are also applying for a Justice for Families grant and to be named a mentor court. They are planning a day-long training in April on the effects of domestic

violence on children and will be reviewing and revising the family court bench book. The DR pilot is expanding, and work continues in training for advocates and ADR providers.

6. **FVCC Member Profile:** Maggie Vickerman, Staff Attorney, 4th Judicial District Family Court – continued to a future date

7. Committee Reports:

- a. Advocate Committee: Stephanie Avalon reported at their last meeting, the committee talked about documenting matters in a consistent matter.
- b. Civil Committee: Christy Snow-Kaster reported that their committee discussed their brown bag training schedule for 2017.
- c. Criminal Committee: Michelle Jacobson reported that they did not meet in January, but that their January 26th training was well attended and well received.
- d. Juvenile Committee: Anne Taylor reported via email that they will not be meeting in February, but that at their March meeting they will have presentations from Tamara Stark from Tubman and Raj Chaudhary from SEWA-AIFW. They will also start the planning process for the October Resource Fair.

8. **Announcements/Open Forum:** None.

Future presentations/agenda items

Domestic Assault Prosecution in the Hennepin County Attorney's Office – March 9
Minneapolis Police Department Domestic Assault Unit Review – April 13
Fatality Review Board Annual Report – May 11
Sex Trafficking – June 8
MCBW Legislative Update – July 13

Upcoming events

FCEP Family Court: Domestic Violence Revisited – April 14, 2017 (registration info coming soon)

Use this link to find us on the web.

[http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-\(FVCC\).aspx](http://www.mncourts.gov/Find-Courts/Hennepin/Family-Violence-Coordinating-Council-(FVCC).aspx)

Use this link to access our Google Calendar of events.

<https://www.google.com/calendar/embed?src=fvccalendar%40gmail.com&ctz=America/Chicago>

Next meeting: Thursday, March 9, 2017.