



## Family Violence Coordinating Council

October 13, 2016 Minutes  
Hennepin County Government Center  
Hennepin County Government Center – C1291  
Full Council Meeting  
12:15 – 1:30 PM

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

Present: Adamson, Karen; Avalon, Stephanie; Black, Mary; Braun-Lewis, Jackie; Brey, Katie; Chowdhury, Rumna; Clyne, Sarah; Garcia, Liza; Holton Dimick, Judge Martha; Jacobson, Michelle; Lewis-Dmello, Angela; Milgrom, Aaron; Moldonado, Pam; Morales, Lidia; Nelson, Melynda; Ratner, Rachel; Margaret; Snow-Kaster, Christy; Taylor, Jennifer; Thunder-Solorzano, Margaret; Vickerman, Maggie; Wachter, Shannon; Weinstein, Michael; White, Sandra; Willms, Angela.

- 1. Welcome:** Judge Holton Dimick.
- 2. Approve September 8, 2016 Minutes:** Minutes approved.
- 3. Family Court Enhancement Project updates on funding, data collection and all sites visit** – Shannon Wachter, FCEP Coordinator

The FCEP grant ended on September 30. New grant money has been obtained for 2017. An all sites meeting for the four national enhancement project grant recipients was held in New York at the end of September to discuss how grant-holders would sustain their work; challenges; and accomplishments. The 4<sup>th</sup> District project presented information on the Family Court child related domestic abuse calendar and project success with Native outreach. The other three FCEP sites reported on their mediation program (Cook County, Illinois), stakeholder training (Multnomah County, Oregon) and data collection (State of Delaware).

The FCEP is sponsoring a full day stakeholder training with key note speaker Dr. Peter Jaffe on April 14, 2017. The location and other specifics are in the planning stages and will be announced when available. The FCEP is also sponsoring a Youth Law Day presentation for Native American community youth at a date still to be determined in October.

#### **4. FVCC Committee Reports: Committee Chairs**

Advocates:	Stephanie Avalon reported the committee did not meet.
Child/Juvenile:	Referee Wilms reported the committee supported the resource fair on October 5.
Civil:	Christy Snow-Kaster reported the group is still working out the details for two trainings: one for advocates on emergency relief available through non-OFD family case filings; a second one on the admissibility of statements made by children.
Criminal:	Michelle Jacobson reported there is a meeting on Monday. She reported the CLE and resource fair had a great turnout with lots of positive comments. Angela Lewis-Dmello and Dr. Michael Thomas presented on trauma informed care. Michelle encouraged members to consider a similar presentation for their agency

#### **5. Announcements / Open Forum: All**

- Karen Adamson reported her agency has received grant funding for the next two years to assist DAP with developing their services for infants.
- Liza Garcia, Native outreach liaison with the FCEP, shared her observations as a vendor providing information at the recent resource fair. She observed that many non-Native American visitors were picking up her table information and she asked that FVCC members consider how outreach can impact other people in the community.

#### **Future Agenda Items**

Strategic planning – November 10, 2016

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>

# Family Court Enhancement Project

*FVCC Quarterly Update  
October 13, 2016*

This project was supported by Grant No. 2014-X1096-NV-1A awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, US Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, conclusions, and recommendations expressed in this program are those of the author(s) and do not necessarily reflect the views of the Department of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women.

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## Challenge Areas

<p><b>Challenge 1</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Inconsistencies in identification of domestic violence, assessment of nature, context &amp; implications for parenting time &amp; accounting for abuse in custody &amp; parenting time decisions.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Challenge 3</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Survivors of DV often don't have representation, advocacy or information necessary to access needed relief from Family Court.</li> </ul>
<p><b>Challenge 2</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Parties often encouraged to participate in ADR in Family Court proceedings - may feel pressured to participate in ADR processes &amp;/or settle custody &amp; parenting time disputes.</li> </ul>	<p><b>Challenge 4</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Native American survivors of DV do not access Family Court to protect their own or their children's safety or to address custody &amp; parenting time issues.</li> </ul>

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## All Sites Meeting

New York, NY  
September 27- September 30

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## All Sites

- Jay Otto, The Center for Health and Safety Cultures
- Presentation to OVW and other three sites
- Summary

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      A[Values] --> B[Attitudes and Beliefs]
      B --> C[Willingness and Intention]
      C --> D[Behavior]
  
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## Pilot Calendar

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## Updates

- 3 new Judicial Officers on DR calendar
  - Assistant Presiding Judge Wink
  - Judge Foster
  - Referee Furstahl
- New staggering calendar scheduling
  - Monday, Tuesday, Thursday
  - 2 calendars—1 beginning at 8:45 and 1 beginning at 9:00
  - 5 cases per calendar (3 in first session and 2 in last session)
- Central Minnesota Legal Services (CMLS)
  - Onsite legal consultations & representation
  - Currently no income requirements
  - Advocates assist in determining case plan
  - May also represent in family case
- Advocates (DASC)
  - Ongoing trainings
- Program referrals
  - Domestic abuse programming
  - Mental and physical evaluations
  - Therapy
  - Supervised parenting time centers

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## Central Minnesota Legal Services

- CMLS (1/7/16 to 8/31/16)
  - Total number of individuals that received advice: 140
  - Total number of full representation cases: 95
    - 85 represented the petitioner
    - 7 represented both petitioner and respondent (reciprocal cases)
    - 3 represented respondents only
  - 15 cases represented both domestic abuse matter and in family matter

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## Pilot Calendar Results

- OFP petitions (1/7/16 through 8/26/16)
  - 2,007 total petitions
  - Approximately 522 on Pilot Calendar
  - 165 dismissals of 372 petitions
  - 158 orders for protection issued after hearing
  - Guardians ad Litem have appeared in approximately 132 out of 522
  - 55 review hearings

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## Lessons Learned & Continued Challenges

- Inconsistent appointment practices
- Length of appointments on domestic abuse cases
- Another day – another Judicial Officer
- Related family court cases
- Assignment/re-opening cases
- Representation
- Statistics

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## Lessons Learned & Continued Challenges

- Resources – availability, types & coordination
  - Supervised parenting time centers
  - Domestic abuse programming for respondents
  - Culturally appropriate resources
  - Accountability
- Sustainability
- Judicial Officer training

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## Data Collection

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## Race Data

- Judicial Council approved request to collect race data. Collection reveals realistic amount of self-identified Native American/Alaskan Native community members actually accessing family court for protection.
- Race categories were chosen and implemented as defined by the US Census Bureau.
  - Options: **DASC Form** → Asian, Black, Indian, Multiracial, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Other, White. **MNCIS** → Asian, Black, Indian, Multiracial, Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander, Other, Refused, Unavailable, White
  - Challenges: Self-Identified on petitions and DASC forms
  - Challenges: Race data collection form filled out by customers notes American Indian. Individuals who note they are American Indian are updated in MNCIS as "Indian."

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## Other Notable Updates

- April 14, 2017 Stakeholder Training with Dr. Peter Jaffe
- Challenge Areas 1 and 2
- Challenge Area 3
  - Ongoing trainings
  - CMLS
- Challenge Area 4
  - Liza Garcia is full time
  - Addressing identified barriers and drafting recommendations for the Management Team
  - Youth Law Day

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## Questions

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