



22nd Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council

Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Family Violence Coordinating Council (FVCC), at both the state and local/circuit level, is to establish a forum to improve the institutional, professional and community response to family violence including child abuse, domestic abuse, and elder abuse; to engage in education and prevention; coordination of intervention and services for victims and perpetrators; and, to contribute to the improvement of the legal system and the administration of justice.

Council Chair

The Honorable Michael J. Sullivan, Chief Judge. 22nd Judicial Circuit

Coordinator Contact Information

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Description of Committee Structure and Membership of the Council

The 22nd Judicial Circuit's FVCC is made up of four committees: Steering, Education, Court/Law Enforcement and Faith Committees. The Steering committee, meeting quarterly, is chaired by Chief Judge Sullivan, and is made up of Executive Directors, Committee Chairs, Ministers, Judges, the States' Attorney, elected officials and others in leadership roles who have the ability to make decisions within their respective organizations.

The Education, Court/Law Enforcement and Faith Committees, each with their own chair-person, meet monthly. Membership is drawn from domestic violence, sexual assault, partner abuse and elder abuse agencies, law enforcement, the State's Attorney's office, schools, hospitals, DCFS, the Child Advocacy Center, CASA, probation, ministers, social service agencies, McHenry County Crisis Services and McHenry County College.

Accomplishments of the Council

The 22nd Judicial Circuit was formed in December 2006 and the FVCC successfully began operations within the judicial circuit in April of 2007 with the hiring of the first Local Coordinator. All committees were initiated from that point and are all actively meeting and working on goals for the Council. In addition, the Council hosts an annual Fall Symposium on topics including Elder Abuse, Child Abuse, and Stalking. On October 19, 2012, national experts presented timely information on a "Community Response to Sexual Assault". We are pleased to report that our partnerships have included Child Advocacy Center, Turning Point, Senior Service Associates, VOICE Sexual Assault, McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, the Mental Health Board, Centegra Health System and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Our cooperative efforts have resulted in well-attended and informative training opportunities serving more than 200 participants.

The Education Committee has developed and distributed a Key Indicators Sheet, in English and Spanish that will be used by emergency response and medical personnel, schools, social workers and others in identifying abuse and providing emergency referrals. The FVCC has presented more extensive training in partnership with McHenry County schools with the Schools Respond to Family Violence Program. The Faith Committee has held faith-based presentations on recognizing family violence for clergy, church personnel and lay leaders. This includes "In Her Shoes", an exercise that allows participants to experience the life and challenges of a victim of domestic violence, and "In Their Shoes" which focuses on Teen Dating Violence. The Court/Law Enforcement Committee has already streamlined the procedures regarding Orders of Protection between the States' Attorney's Office, Probation and the domestic violence agency in the county. Protocol trainings have been well-received at Law Enforcement and Fire Department roll calls and will continue as requested, along with a Mock Trial presenting a strangulation case. The 22nd FVCC is hard at work on the Grant to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Orders of Protection (ARREST Grant) awarded by the Department of Justice, Office of Violence Against Women. Through this opportunity we will work on updating and implementing protocols for law enforcement and prosecutors on domestic violence, elder abuse, and abuse against people with disabilities.

The FVCC for the 22nd Judicial Circuit has an active and frequently updated website which can be found at <http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/familyviolencecouncil/Pages/index.aspx>