

## **THE ILLINOIS FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCILS**

### **Annual Report FY 2004**

#### **The Purpose:**

The purpose of the IFVCC's local family violence coordinating councils and its state council is to establish a forum to share and discuss information in order to promote a coordinated response to family violence in our communities. The Councils work to improve the institutional and professional response to family violence issues. The Councils engage in prevention, education, and the coordination of intervention and services for victims and perpetrators of child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse. A goal of the Councils is to contribute to the improvement of the legal system and the administration of justice.

#### **The Background and Development:**

The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils (IFVCC) is the only judicially led family violence organization in the country that operates statewide at both the local and state levels. IFVCC was initiated under the auspices of the Illinois Supreme Court in 1990. Judges convene and chair the local councils and the state council, which accounts for the organization's ability to bring leaders of all professions to the table, provide greater access to services, and to inspire others with the possibility for improvements and changes. Local councils emphasize prevention through strengthened services, comprehensive systems, coordination, protocol development, public education, professional training, data analysis, and information exchange.

The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils (IFVCC) was convened by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Illinois in 1993 and transferred to the Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA) in 2000. The IFVCC's funding comes through the IVPA from an annual appropriation of the State General Assembly. The IFVCC is an organization composed of a state-level Steering Committee; 27 local family violence coordinating councils, with jurisdictions covering the entire state; and statewide projects that address systems improvements through collaborations of partners, professional and community education, and integrated-systems protocols.

Since 1990, twenty-seven (27) local coordinating councils have been formed in 22 judicial circuits, covering 102 counties, which includes Cook County that has 6 councils formed on the basis of its judicial municipal districts. As of 1997, the IFVCC has received funding from the Illinois state legislature, which provides for the allocations, staffing and operations of the IFVCC. Each local council is typically staffed by a part-time coordinator, hired by the chief judge, and funded through an IFVCC allocation of \$19,500, which is managed through the IVPA's grant program.

Local council membership is comprised of policy level and practitioner decision makers, representing the many systems that interact with family violence victims and perpetrators. Professions involved include judges, defense attorneys, prosecutors, law enforcement, probation, circuit clerks, victim advocates, nurses, doctors, social services professionals, coroners, animal control officers, clergy, school personnel, businesses, and housing authorities.

#### **Statewide Projects:**

The Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council administers a range of statewide projects designed to address various issues related to family violence. The projects bring professionals together from judicial, law enforcement, prosecution, defense, circuit clerks, probation, victim advocates, mental health and social service agencies working at the local, state, and federal levels. These are the projects:

- **Domestic Violence Court Systems Project** is for developing a statewide learning network for sharing information, procedures and practices;
- **Schools Respond to Family Violence Project** is for training school based faculty, administration, janitors, cafeteria staff, and bus drivers and developing integrated protocols with community partners;
- **Firearm Laws and Order of Protection Project** is for identifying all relevant state and federal laws, their meaning and application issues, as well as strategies for implementation; and
- **Child Visitation Exchange Centers Project** is for encouraging the establishment of safe and orderly centers and develop suggested procedures, funding approaches, and facilitate networking and training.

### **Summary of Local Councils Activities:**

The past year's work of the Councils with schools, churches, hospitals, social services, businesses, criminal justice agencies, and courts is divided into issue related categories, within each category a summary of numbers attending trainings for professionals and events for multi-disciplinary and community audiences; and of educational materials distributed. Systems improvements are enumerated because they could not be quantified. The areas of activity are domestic violence, law enforcement and prosecution, court improvement, faith community, schools projects, elder abuse prevention, child abuse prevention, teen dating violence, health/medical systems projects, community education projects, and building collaboration.

#### **Domestic Violence**

##### **– Systems Improvement:**

- Completed the revision of protocols for law enforcement, mental health clinicians, hospitals, and clergy, compiling them into booklet format to be used in upcoming trainings in municipal district
- Collection and distribution of 911 cell phones for victims of violence;
- County's DAIN Project (Domestic Abuse Information Network) in domestic violence court tracks progress of defendants and monitors new offenses through police reports

**–Trainings for 180 participants**

**–Events for 2,175 participants**

**–Educational materials for 3,100**

#### **Law Enforcement and Prosecution Projects**

##### **–Systems Improvement:**

- Circuit wide in 9 counties developed and distributed law enforcement domestic violence protocols, including protocol on Domestic Violence Where Abuser is Law Enforcement Officer, to all law enforcement agencies;
- A county sheriff and city police department in large city continuing domestic violence units based on request from the Council

**–Trainings for 770 participants**

**–Educational materials for 700**

#### **Court Improvement Projects**

##### **– Systems improvement:**

- Participated in domestic violence court systems roundtable with complete teams from all the municipal districts coming together for the first time to receive training on developing ongoing court committees in each of the municipal districts to address the processing of domestic violence cases;
- Increased domestic violence court call to the entire week in municipal district
- Security measures improved inside Order of Protection Court;
- Improved and speedy processing of domestic violence cases and orders of protection accomplished through collaborative meetings;
- New protocol developed for reporting qualifying orders of protection and FOID card to Illinois State Police through collaboration of circuit clerk, sheriff, state's attorney, domestic violence advocates
- Determine circuit wide status of Orders of Protection, numbers and access;
- Implemented DAIN (Domestic Abuse Information Network) for tracking cases;
- Circuit wide collaborative review of *nolle prosequi* vs. prosecuted cases;
- Order of Protection Information Sheet, project of Council and county bar association;
- Implemented new procedures and expanded court victim advocacy program in civil order of protection courtroom in municipal district;
- Developed a procedure for identifying high risk offenders

**–Trainings for 185 participants**

#### **Faith Community Projects**

**–System Improvement:** Hosted bi-monthly Clergy Court Observations to educate them on municipal district court proceedings in domestic violence, child custody, and drug courts with opportunity to talk with presiding judge and

others parties involved in the cases  
–Trainings for 105 participants  
–Educational materials for 1,800

### Schools Projects

#### –Systems Improvement:

- District wide training and protocol programs implemented with initial survey of teachers in southern Illinois school district;
- Completed all the district wide trainings and protocols in the rural central Illinois school district;
- Marketed the training and protocol program to 12 ROE superintendents

–Trainings for 760 participants

–Events for 4,850 participants

### Elder Abuse Prevention

#### –Systems Improvement:

- Collaborated with local domestic violence shelter to create a “senior friendly” bedroom;
- Collaborating member in rural city’s Elder Consortia, for improving response

–Trainings for 660 participants

–Educational materials for 1,670

### Child Abuse Prevention

–Systems Improvement: Collaborative effort to open Child Advocacy Center in rural area

–Trainings for 100 participants

–Events for 885 participants

–Educational materials for 700

### Teen Dating Violence Projects

–Trainings for 1,845 participants

–Educational materials for 780

### Health/Medical Systems Projects

#### –Systems Improvement:

- Continued progress in adoption of Health Care Responds to Domestic Violence Protocol in 4 area hospitals;
- Establishing cooperative network of mid level medical providers, e.g. nurse practitioners and midwives

–Trainings for 390 participants

–Event for 75 participants

–Educational materials for 2,100

### Community Education Projects

–Events for 1,430 participants

### Building Collaborations

#### – Systems Improvement:

- Countywide collaboration committees addressing family violence issues in counties of eight circuits;
- Multi-county systems inquiries for community wide approach to family violence in three rural circuits;
- Council member of Leadership Teams of Illinois Health Cares and Safe from the Start; of Health Communities Coalitions; and of newly established county wide violence prevention council;
- Council updates website of 625 agencies providing services in circuit and trainers users on access;
- Work with National Center for Victims of Crime to develop sexual assault protocols;
- Collaborated with Orland Park Youth Township to co-sponsor youth retreat and host speakers for parents on issue of bullying

For more specific information about the IFVCC, go to [www.IFVCC.org](http://www.IFVCC.org).