



Illinois Family Violence
Coordinating Councils (IFVCC)

2007 PROGRAM SUMMARY

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The Purpose of this Document:

The purpose of this document is to capture the breadth and depth of the involvement of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils, at the state and local/circuit levels, in bringing together professionals from criminal justice, education, faith, health, advocacy, and services. Only by working together can these groups provide the surest hope for saving lives where family violence is a reality or a even a possibility.

I. IFVCC Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Family Violence Coordinating Councils, 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; the coordination of intervention and services for victims and perpetrators; and, to contribute to the improvement of the legal system and the administration of justice.

II. State Council Activities

Professional Development

In September 2007, IFVCC received accreditation as a provider of general Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for attorneys in Illinois. MCLEs are available at applicable state and local council trainings. IFVCC has also partnered with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide continuing education units for Illinois Domestic Violence Professionals at state level trainings.

IFVCC holds semi-annual Statewide Full Council Meetings, conducted as a seminar to discuss an emerging topic. In September 2007, over 221 multi-disciplinary professionals from around the state attended the Full Council Meeting, ***Frequency and Severity of Strangulation in Relationships with Domestic Violence***,” held in Springfield. Presentations by Lt. Mark Wynn (retired), on investigation of strangulation in domestic violence cases, and Bridget Healy Ryan, the Director of Public Affairs and Violence Against Women Policy Advisor for the Cook County State’s Attorney’s Office on prosecution of strangulation in domestic violence cases. Lt. Wynn and Ms. Healy Ryan joined together to discuss building the relationship between advocacy, law enforcement and prosecutors.

At lunch Illinois Supreme Court Justice Rita Garman presented the Justice Benjamin K. Miller Recognition Award to Honorable Gloria G. Coco, Associate Judge, Circuit Court of Cook Count, Honorable Rosemary Collins, Circuit Court Judge, 17th Judicial Circuit, and Honorable Donald C. Hudson, Chief Judge, 16th Judicial Circuit for their leadership in each of their local coordinating councils.

Law Enforcement and Prosecution Projects

The Illinois and Federal Firearms Laws as They Relate to Orders of Protection Project is assisting the courts and criminal justice system in clarifying, implementing, and enforcing federal and state firearms laws as they relate to the order of protection. Statewide committee includes judges, probation, law enforcement, prosecution, defense, and victim advocates, as well as representatives of various state agencies. Much of the project has consisted of educating ourselves on the inner workings of the systems response to firearms and domestic violence related cases.

The following documents have been created:

- The Firearms Services Bureau developed a flow chart for the Order of Protection Process. The flowchart outlines how and when a Firearms Owner Identification (FOID) Card is revoked. It also describes the process for those attempting to purchase firearms and the Firearms Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP).
- A letter was sent by Larry G. Trent, Director of the Illinois State Police to all Sheriffs asking that when they enter an Order of Protection into LEADS they also check for a valid FOID card and forward the names of all respondents with a valid FOID card to the Firearms Bureau.
- Illinois and Federal Firearm Laws and Issues matrix. The matrix was developed in order to have all of the Illinois and Federal firearm related laws in one document as well as identify the issues raised with each of the laws.
- Supplemental Order on Conditions of Bond: Firearms form. The bond form was created to give a defendant specific information about when and where to turn over firearms as well as provide more tracking of the defendant's compliance with the order. The form has been distributed to the Chief Judges and will be distributed to Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and Circuit Clerks.
- Supplemental Order Regarding Firearms form. The order was created to give a respondent specific information about when and where to turn over firearms and create a tracking system for compliance. The form will be distributed to the Chief Judges, Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and Circuit Clerks.

IFVCC held regional meetings in Southern, Central, Northern Illinois and Cook County, with over 350 attendees. The purpose of the regional meetings was to give the participants a detailed description of the entire system (FOID, LEADS, Circuit Clerk, Law Enforcement, etc.) relating to firearms related cases, and to identify issues with implementation of firearms laws. In addition, a component will be added with Federal representation to begin forging a better working relationship with the federal prosecutors. Development of additional materials and a training of trainers are planned for 2008.

Court Improvement Projects

The Domestic Violence Court Systems Project has conducted interviews and written reports on all of the nearly 20 domestic violence courts in Illinois; conducted downstate and Cook County Round Tables for systems teams; developed a self-assessment guide, and a resource manual. Reports and materials are available on the IFVCC website, www.ifvcc.org.

Faith Community Projects

IFVCC provides technical support by assisting local councils with establishing faith committees and projects, as well as educational resources—videos and booklets. A subcommittee of the Responding to Elder Abuse Committee is developing a Faith Tool Kit for addressing the issue of elder abuse that will be distributed to local councils in 2008.

Schools Projects

IFVCC's "Schools Respond to Family Violence Initiative," focuses on training for all school personnel on how to recognize and respond to child witnesses of domestic violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and teen dating violence. The initiative provides a team of local specialists to a local school site, conducts training for school personnel, and assists with the development of an integrated protocol. IFVCC's "Schools Respond to Family Violence: A Guidebook for Educators," developed by family violence experts and schools professionals, is the cornerstone of the initiative: the 66-page resource was developed to introduce all school personnel to family violence as it affects children and ideas for how to respond.

Initially this program was pilot tested in three school districts, which were funded by the IVPA Safe to Learn grants. The following quote describing the value of the program was made by a social worker from one of the pilot sites: "This program has been like a bolt of lightning for us and our school—shedding light on the issue and creating waves of change for many people, from the students to the teachers to the parents to the staff."

The primary goal of this project is building schools' capacity to respond to family violence through enhanced relationships between schools, criminal justice, and social service systems. Safety and protection for children is provided best by knowledgeable people who are working together as a responsive and coordinated multi-disciplinary network. The following have participated in the Schools Respond to Family Violence project: 20 K-12 districts, 30 elementary/middle/high schools, daycare providers in 3 counties, Headstart teachers in 3 counties, 1 Park District Preschool, counselors/social workers in 1 county, 2 County Institutes, 1 County District held a Training of Trainers.

Responding to Elder Abuse

In February 2006 the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils convened a statewide Responding to Elder Abuse Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to identify and develop resources to assist the courts, criminal justice systems and the community in responding to the needs of abused seniors. The committee divided into subcommittees and is developing the following:

Faith Response

A Tool Kit on Elder Abuse to work with and educate the faith community

Law Enforcement/Courts Response

A protocol for law enforcement on Elder Abuse

Training Subcommittee

- Completed 7 train the trainer courses on Awareness of the Special Needs of the Elderly with 260 participants
- Distributed training kits to 23 local Family Violence Coordinating Councils
- Awareness of the Special Needs of the Elder trainings occurring throughout the state

Visitation Exchange Center Project

The safe exchange of children affects many domains of the court, including domestic relations, parentage courts, child support courts, domestic violence courts, probate, mental health, and child protection. Issues of safety, child development, and positive family relationships require a unified approach. This project is based on a fundamental understanding and respect for the needs and rights of children and parents to interact with each other in an appropriate and sensitive environment, and consideration for the need of the courts.

IFVCC completed site visits and individual reports on the seven functioning visitation exchange sites in Illinois, outside of Cook County. The sites visited included: Peoria, McLean, Rock Island, St. Clair, Madison, DuPage and Will counties.

In addition, a summary report was compiled that included a comparison of services and policies of the current sites; commonly accepted principles for safety; courts requirements for services; and offered illustrations of emerging trends and unique characteristics of the centers. The summary report is available at www.ifvcc.org

IFVCC held a round table to share the results of the project with communities that currently have or are interested in establishing a visitation exchange site. As a result of the Round Table, an advisory committee was formed of current programs and communities interested in developing a visitation exchange center program, to develop resources, guidelines and trainings for the centers.

Child Abuse Prevention/Bullying Prevention

IFVCC staff has provided technical support to local councils for child abuse and bullying prevention projects and programs through the identification of resources and good practices. IFVCC works collaboratively with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois both at the state and local level.

Teen Dating/Youth Violence Projects

IFVCC staff has provided technical support to local councils for teen dating violence projects and programs through the identification of resources and good practices.

Health/Medical Systems Projects

Utilizing the expertise of the Illinois Health Cares Project, of which IFVCC is a collaborative partner, and the IFVCC Health Systems Committee's members, IFVCC staff continues to provide programmatic and organizational support to the local councils in their involvement with health systems and development of local health systems committees.

Community Education Projects

IFVCC staff has provided technical support to local councils for community awareness/education and prevention projects and programs through the identification of resources and good practices.

Building Collaborations

IFVCC staff works collaboratively with numerous state organizations, including:

- IL Department on Aging
- IL Department of Children and Family Services
- IL Department of Human Services
- IL Department of Public Health
- IL State Police
- Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
- Office of the Attorney General
- Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence
- IL Center for Violence Prevention
- IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- IL Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- IL Criminal Justice Information Authority
- Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
- Regional Office of Community Policing

III. Local Council Activities

The activities of the Local Councils focus on four major goals: Professional Training, Community Education, Systems Change, and Building Collaborations. The activities in each of the categories, along with number of participants involved are listed below.

Professional Training: (6,015 total)

- Multidisciplinary Training (various topics related to family violence)– 860
- Faith Community - 134
- Schools Respond to Family Violence - 576
- Elder Abuse - 308
- Health/Medical Systems - 146
- Criminal Justice/Courts System (Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Probation, Judicial) – 723
- Human Trafficking - 375
- Animal Abuse and Family Violence - 227
- Suicide – 119
- Mandated Reporting – 30
- Methamphetamine and Family Violence – 165
- Immigration Issues – 35
- Men Endorsing Non-Violence – 488
- Firearms and Domestic Violence – 120
- Mediation – 12
- Childhood Trauma/Children Exposed to Violence – 259
- Domestic Violence/Mental Health/Trauma – 371
- Schools/Youth/Drugs – 157
- Domestic Homicide – 62
- Child Visitation Exchange Centers – 216
- Teen Dating Violence/Bullying/Internet Safety – 662

Community Education/Prevention/Awareness: (2,742 adults; 4,117 youth)

- Child Abuse – 134
- Hands Around the Courthouse – 610
- Youth/Teen Dating Violence – 4,117 youth, 200 adults
- Domestic Violence – 998
- Violence Prevention/Safety/Healthy Lifestyles & Relationships – 1,415

Systems Change:

- Court Improvement Projects
- Visitation Exchange Centers
- Protocol Development
- Dedicated Domestic Violence or Elder Units (State’s Attorney’s Offices, Probation, Law Enforcement)
- Domestic Violence Court Systems
- Fatality Review Teams

Materials Produced and Distributed through Local Councils: 25,120

Number of attendances at County Meetings: 2,602

Number of attendances at Committee Meetings: 3,502

Number of attendances at Steering/Planning Meetings: 653

Number of Local Topic or Discipline-based Committees: 116

Collaborative Trainings, Events and Activities:

Working with other local organizations, the local Family Violence Coordinating Councils across the state collaborated to provide trainings and community awareness events:

Number of adults attending collaborative trainings/events: 6,825

Number of youth attending collaborative events: 2,565

Building Collaborations:

Illinois Health Cares

Safe to Live

Safe From the Start

Healthy Communities

Prevent Child Abuse Illinois

Project Success

Safe Schools

Healthy Kids Program

Regional Offices of Education

McKinney Vento Homeless Grant

Voices for Illinois Children

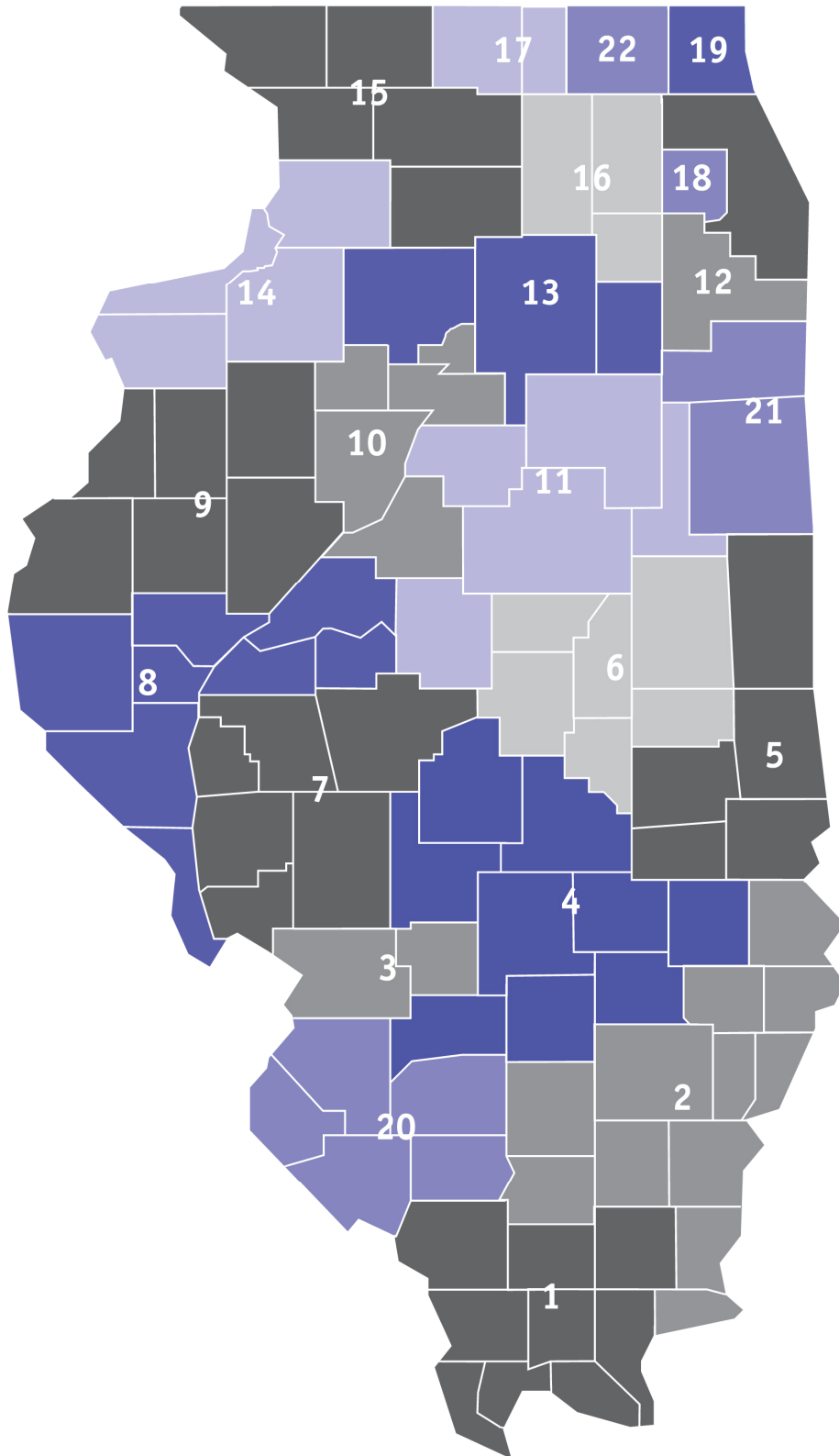
Corporate Alliance to End Partner

Violence

Local/Regional Hospitals

Colleges/Universities

Departments of Public Health



ILLINOIS FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCILS MAP