

First Circuit, Family Violence Coordinating Council

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.

Council Chair, the Honorable Judge Mark Clarke, Chief Judge, First Judicial Circuit

Local Coordinator, Kathi Neubert
Williamson County Courthouse Annex – Probation
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Serving: Jackson, Williamson, Saline, Union, Johnson, Pope, Alexander, Pulaski and Massac Counties.

Our Circuit Structure takes advantage of the existing coalitions and collaborative groups networking circuit wide. We collect and disseminate information originating in the circuit as well as materials and information from state and national levels. Meeting with as many existing groups and encouraging the formation of any that are needed while attempting to reduce meeting redundancy, thus maximizing effectiveness and minimizing travel and time commitments that tax schedules and funds.

Our council has traditionally held semiannual meetings open to circuit wide attendance including training on topics related to Family Violence. In the spring we have held an awards breakfast, polling the community for nominations, recommending people who are working in the fields of family violence for special recognition.

Trainings include:

- The Link Between Animal Abuse,
- Child Abuse and Domestic Violence,
- A Law Enforcement Response to Domestic Violence,
- Immigration and Modern Day Slavery As They Relate To Domestic Violence,
- Awareness of the Special Needs of the Elderly,
- Mandated Reporters Training, Emergency Room Departments and DV Screening,
- Dental Professionals as Mandated Reporters, Cut It Out: Hairdressers Identifying Domestic Violence Victims,
- The Potential Use of Mediation.
- Schools Guidebook training for school teaching and support staff.

The Directions Team meets to discuss current trends and needs in the communities and the ways the council may be able to address those needs, as well as critiquing the work of the council in the intervening months. .

Future Direction? To continue to engage, encourage and educate the community on the issues of Family Violence. To support the existing resources while bringing in as many new ideas as possible to continue to address Family Violence in effective, life changing ways.

“...promoting a coordinated response to family domestic violence in our communities.”
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