



## **8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council serving Adams, Pike and Menard Counties**

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.

### **Contact Information for 8<sup>th</sup> Judicial Circuit:**

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### **Committee Structure and Membership:**

#### **Adams County Family Violence Council:**

Steering Committee Chair – Marilena Frier, Quanada  
Education Committee Chair – Chief Rob Copley, Quincy Police Department  
Clergy Committee – Reverend Wally Carlson, Melrose Chapel  
Visitation Exchange Center Committee – No Chair  
Regional Summit on Violence Committee – Brooke Baldwin, Children’s Action Network, Valetta Franks and Jen Hoffman, Adams County Probation

All committees meet on a monthly basis and consist of representatives from Children’s Action Network, Quanada, Quincy Police Department, Probation, Adams County Health Department, Quincy University, John Wood Community College, Transitions, DCFS, Faith-Based Groups, States Attorneys office and Community Volunteers.

#### **Pike County Family Violence Council:**

The committee consists of representatives from Quanada, Children’s Action Network, Victim Witness Office, Pike County Community Health Partnership, Pike County Health Department, Counseling Center and Community Volunteers.

#### **Menard County Family Violence Council:**

The committee consists of representatives from Sojourn Shelter Services, Housing Authority, Judges Office, Probation, Menard County Health Department, States Attorneys office, Men’s Group, and Prevent Child Abuse Illinois.

### **Accomplishments:**

The councils have successfully completed projects such as The Schools Respond to Family Violence Project, and the Cut It Out Project. The Adams County Regional Summit on Violence takes place yearly to bring education and prevention and violence issues to the community. The Councils have also provided educational opportunities to the faith-based community on issues such as Child Abuse, Sexual Predators and Making our churches Safe and Liable. The Adams County Family Violence Council has continued to update their website and organize the annual Men’s Rally Against All Abuse, called the: “100 Men Project”.

### **Future Direction:**

Some future projects include working with teens to establish training needs on bullying and teen dating violence. This work will be done through focus groups in conjunction with the local Drug Free community’s grant. We will also be collaborating with local agencies to hold Elder Abuse Sensitivity trainings in all three counties. We will continue to hold Schools Respond to Family Violence Projects in the counties. We will target summer programming and after school programming groups. A law enforcement needs assessment on domestic violence was distributed to all officers in Adams, Pike and Menard counties. The results were tallied and each county is looking at a plan for a law enforcement training targeting the needs determined by the officers. Adams County is preparing for a training on domestic violence for attorneys in the winter of 2009.