

**DuPage County
Eighteenth Judicial Circuit Court
Family Violence Coordinating Council**

Purpose Statement

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

Council Chair

The Honorable Stephen J. Culliton, Chief Judge, 18th Judicial Circuit

Coordinator Contact Information

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Council website: www.dupageco.org/fvcc

Description of Committee Structure & Membership of the Council

The 18th Judicial Circuit's Family Violence Coordinating Council was established in June 2000 and has 5 main Committees: Steering, Court/Law Enforcement, Family Violence Awareness Task Force, Substance Abuse, and Faith.

The Steering Committee is made up of Judges, Assistant States Attorney's, Law Enforcement, Committee Chairs and others in leadership roles who have the ability to make decisions within their respective organizations. This committee meets three times a year and is instrumental in approving goals and overseeing the work of the Council and its committees.

The Court/Law Enforcement Committee meets every other month. The purpose of this committee is to examine and refine, if appropriate, the current justice system response and process related to domestic violence. This committee consists of Judges and representatives from the Circuit Court Administration, Probation, States Attorney's Office, Public Defender's Office, Police Chiefs Association, Sheriff's Department, local Law Enforcement, Clerk's Office, Psychological Services, Legal Aid, Family Shelter Services, the Hamdard Center, the YWCA, the Family Center, Community Services and private attorney's.

The DV Awareness Task Force meets as needed to plan and present the DuPage County Family Violence Coordinating Council Annual Symposium each October during Domestic Violence Awareness Month. This task force will work to raise awareness within the community regarding family violence. This committee includes judges and representatives from the States Attorney's Office, Probation, Family Shelter Services, Prevent Child Abuse Illinois, Police Chiefs Association, Sheriff's Department, Wheaton Youth Outreach and the local council coordinator.

The Substance Abuse Committee meets monthly and provides technical assistance for assessment with domestic violence in the context of substance abuse treatment. Members of this committee represent the Health Department, Psychological Services, Law Enforcement, Hospitals & Behavioral Health and Local Townships.

The Faith Committee also meets monthly and has created a Faith Community Resource booklet on family violence which leads into the main purpose of the committee; making contact with faith communities to share this information.

The Institute Day Task Force meets as needed to prepare and present on family violence and its effects on children during the county wide Institute Day for school personnel held each February.

Accomplishments of the Council

The Council held their Annual Symposium, titled "Best DV Response Practices" in October 2008 which was attended by over 180 people. The Court/Law Enforcement Committee created and distributed a DVD on the DuPage County Domestic Violence Protocol to all police departments. The Faith Committee presented their Faith Community Resource booklet to two Ministerial Associations and continues to create and distribute newsletters via email. The Elder Sensitivity Training was presented to seven different organizations. The Substance Abuse Committee created and distributed screening and referral tools for domestic violence to substance abuse providers throughout the county and has provided on-site trainings. The Council participated in the Regional Office of Education's county Institute Day in February 2009. The title of the presentation was "How Family Violence Affects Learning and Behavior in the Classroom".

Future Direction

The Annual Symposium is being planned for October, 2009. The Court/Law Enforcement Committee continues to evaluate the DuPage County Domestic Violence Protocol and determine what additional DV trainings are needed. The Faith Committee continues to provide information and resources to DuPage County faith communities via e-newsletters and presentations. Council members will continue to utilize the Elder Sensitivity program prepared by the IFVCC. Participation in the Regional Office of Education's County-wide Institute Day in February 2010 will be planned. The OVW Grant Task Force has developed the Collaborative Action for Safety and Empowerment (CASE) program, which the County used for their application for a grant through the Office on Violence Against Women.