

**7th Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordination Council**

*Serving Sangamon, Morgan, Macoupin, Jersey, Greene and Scott Counties*

**Council Chair:** Hon. Ken Deihl, Chief Judge, 7th Judicial Circuit

**Council Co-Chair:** Hon. April G. Troemper, Circuit Judge, 7th Judicial Circuit

**Coordinator:** Rebecca Leatherwood, ICDVP

528 South 5th Street, Suite 200

 Springfield, IL 62704

 (309) 255-6585

 (217) 558-2636

 Rleatherwood\_FVCC7th@yahoo.com

 Lwood1922@yahoo.com

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.

The Council consists of County Committees with each county in the circuit having a

distinct committee and a Steering/Planning Committee. Members of the County

Committees include Victim Witness Coordinators, State’s Attorneys, Attorneys, Clergy,

Judges, Probation, Medical Professionals, School personnel, Law Enforcement, Social

Workers, Community and County members.

The Council has successfully presented programs in some of the schools in the circuit,

developed guidelines and trained clergy on responding to family violence, developed

checklists and information packets for law enforcement, medical professionals and

Dentists for assistance in responding to family violence situations.

In addition to many community awareness events, the council has hosted several

Trainings on:

1. Internet Stalking and Child Solicitation
2. The Correlation Between Domestic Violence and Animal Abuse
3. Break the Cycle of Violence
4. Human Trafficking and Prostitution
5. Elder Abuse Prevention
6. Domestic Violence Through the Eyes of A Child
7. Firearms and Domestic Violence
8. Child Sexual Abuse-How To Identify and Respond
9. Animal Abuse & Domestic Violence
10. The Developmental Impact on Children From Exposure to Domestic Violence
11. Domestic Violence Comes to Work

The direction for the future is to continue to educate and raise awareness throughout

the community, schools, and to train professionals who respond to family violence.