20th Judicial Circuit: Monroe, Perry, Randolph, St. Clair, Washington

Purpose: The purpose of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Council, 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, elder abuse, and abuse against people with disabilities; 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 Chairs:**

Honorable John Baricevic, Chief Judge

Honorable Stephen Rice

**Coordinator Contact Information:**

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**Committee Structure and Membership of Council:** The 20th circuit of the FVCC is made up of local decision makers that have contact with family violence victims and perpetrators. These include judges, probation officers, state’s attorneys, law enforcement officers, victim advocates, clergy, elder assistance, center for independent living, hospitals and health care providers, social services, DCFS, educators, victim service providers, and other key players in leadership roles who have the ability to make decisions within their respective organizations.

We have a Schools/Community Education committee, Law Enforcement committee, DV Court Review Board committee, Faith committee, and Steering committee. The council meets regularly to address issues of family violence in the 5 counties in the 20th circuit. The council works with education and prevention and a community coordinated response for victims and perpetrators of child abuse, teen dating violence, domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse and abuse against people with disabilities.

Our Steering committee meets 4 times per year to help guide the council in the right direction as far as issues that need to be addressed by the council and help determine topics for the Annual Fall Symposium.

The DV Court Review Board meeting also meets 4 times per year. The presiding judge in the DV Courtroom is the Committee Chair.

**Accomplishments:** Some of our accomplishments include: Annual symposium every fall with nationally known speakers such as Michelle Garcia, Terri Lilley, and Mark Wynn. Topics have included stalking; the link between animal abuse, child abuse, and domestic violence; Teen Dating Violence workshops; childhood trauma; Child sexual predators; Elder Abuse; DV and PWD with Blue Tower Training; and Strangulation to name a few.

Our council has participated in Coordinated Community Response (CCR) training at the state level in 2011 to help with the OVW Grant to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Orders of Protection. The first year of this grant project targeted DV protocol development and training for law enforcement and prosecutors. The second year has focused on elder abuse and abuse of persons with disabilities protocol development and training. The Arrest grant will continue in 2015 to train first responders, 911 Response, Fire Fighters, and court personnel on the new protocols that have been developed at the state level. We will use these next three years to adopt a statewide implementation of DV, EA, and PWD protocols for law enforcement and prosecution which include pro-arrest policies and policies for protection order violations. If the criminal justice and court systems are going to achieve victim safety and perpetrator accountability, the system members cannot work in isolation.