**22nd Judicial Circuit Family Violence Coordinating Council**

# Purpose Statement

The purpose of the Family Violence Coordinating Councils (FVCC), 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; 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 Coordinator Contact Information

The Honorable Michael J. Sullivan, Chief Judge Bev Thomas bthomas@mchenry.edu

22nd Judicial Circuit McHenry County College, Shah Center

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# Description of Committee Structure and Membership of the Council

The 22nd Judicial Circuit’s FVCC is made up of 2 standing committees: Steering and Court/Law Enforcement and Education. The Steering Committee, meeting quarterly, is chaired by Chief Judge Michael Sullivan, and is made up of Executive Directors, Committee Chairs, Judges, the States’ Attorney, elected officials and others in leadership roles who have the ability to make decisions within their respective organizations.

The Court/Law Enforcement and Education Committee, has its own chair-person and meets monthly. Membership is drawn from domestic violence, sexual assault, partner abuse and elder abuse agencies, law enforcement, the State’s Attorney’s office, schools, hospitals, DCFS, the Child Advocacy Center, CASA, probation, ministers, social service agencies, McHenry County Crisis Services and McHenry County College.

# Accomplishments of the Council

The 22nd Judicial Circuit was formed in December 2006 and successfully began operations within the judicial circuit in April of 2007 with the hiring of the first Local Coordinator. All committees were initiated from that point and are all actively meeting and working on goals for the Council. In addition, the Council hosts an annual Fall Symposium on topics including Elder Abuse, Child Abuse, Substance Abuse and Family Violence, Stalking, Domestic Violence and Bullying, and Sexual Assault. On October 23, 2015, national and regional experts presented critical information on “CYBER SAFETY IN THE HOME, SCHOOL AND COMMUNITY.” We are pleased to report that our partnerships have included Child Advocacy Center, Turning Point, Senior Service Associates, Family Alliance, local law enforcement including the Sheriff’s Office, McHenry County State's Attorney's Office, Court Services, the Mental Health Board, Centegra Health System, Rosecrance, Gateway Foundation, Regional Office of Education, Substance Abuse Coalition and Illinois Attorney General Lisa Madigan. Our cooperative efforts have resulted in well-attended and informative training opportunities serving as many as 200 participants at each annual symposium.

The Court/Law Enforcement and Education Committee has worked in cooperation with the ARREST Grant Training Team and has presented more than 40 hours of trainings on the newly adopted Updated Domestic Violence Protocol for Law Enforcement and Prosecution. The 22nd FVCC is hard at work on this Grant to Encourage Arrest and Enforcement of Orders of Protection (ARREST Grant) awarded by the Department of Justice, Office of Violence against Women. Through this opportunity we will also work on updating and implementing protocols for law enforcement and prosecutors on elder abuse and abuse against persons with disabilities, as well as Emergency Medical Services personnel, Probation, Court Personnel, 9-1-1 Dispatchers, and members of the military.

 **http://www.co.mchenry.il.us/county-government/departments-a-i/family-violence-council**