



Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils (IFVCC)

2008 PROGRAM SUMMARY

IFVCC, an Organizational Partner and Funded Program of the
Illinois Violence Prevention Authority (IVPA)

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The Purpose of this Document:

The purpose of this document is to capture the breadth and depth of the involvement of the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils, at the state and local/circuit levels, in bringing together professionals from criminal justice, education, faith, health, advocacy, and services. Only by working together can these groups provide the surest hope for saving lives where family violence is a reality or a even a possibility.

I. IFVCC Purpose Statement

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.

II. State Council Activities

Professional Development

In January 2008 IFVCC received renewal of accreditation as a provider of general Mandatory Continuing Legal Education (MCLE) for attorneys in Illinois. MCLEs are available at applicable state and local council trainings. IFVCC has also partnered with the Illinois Coalition Against Domestic Violence to provide continuing education units for Illinois Domestic Violence Professionals at state level trainings.

IFVCC holds semi-annual Statewide Full Council Meetings, conducted as a seminar to discuss an emerging topic. In September 2008, 225 multi-disciplinary professionals from around the state attended the Full Council Meeting, "*Issues of Intimate Partner Violence In LGBTQ Relationships,*" held in Springfield. Presentations by Lara Brooks, Drop-In Coordinator, Broadway Youth Center, Howard Brown Health Center, who gave an overview of the issue, Ramona Oswald, PhD. from the University of Illinois talked about GLBT issues downstate and this was followed by a panel on Interpersonal Violence in LGBTQ Relationships Across the Lifespan.

At lunch the Justice Benjamin K. Miller Recognition Award were presented to William Warnell, 13th Circuit, Law Enforcement/Courts Core Team, 9th Judicial FVCC and Master Sergeant Mark Atchison, Illinois State Police.

Law Enforcement and Prosecution Projects

The Illinois and Federal Firearms Laws as They Relate to Orders of Protection Project is assisting the courts and criminal justice system in clarifying, implementing, and enforcing federal and state firearms laws as they relate to the order of protection. Statewide committee includes judges, probation, law enforcement, prosecution, defense, and victim advocates, as well as representatives of various state agencies. Much of the project has consisted of educating ourselves on the inner workings of the systems response to firearms and domestic violence related cases.

The following documents have been created:

- The Firearms Services Bureau developed a flow chart for the Order of Protection Process. The flowchart outlines how and when a Firearms Owner Identification (FOID) Card is revoked. It also describes the process for those attempting to purchase firearms and the Firearms Transfer Inquiry Program (FTIP).
- A letter was sent by Larry G. Trent, Director of the Illinois State Police to all Sheriffs asking that when they enter an Order of Protection into LEADS they also check for a valid FOID card and forward the names of all respondents with a valid FOID card to the Firearms Bureau.
- Illinois and Federal Firearm Laws and Issues matrix. The matrix was developed in order to have all of the Illinois and Federal firearm related laws in one document as well as identify the issues raised with each of the laws.
- Supplemental Order on Conditions of Bond: Firearms form. The bond form was created to give a defendant specific information about when and where to turn over firearms as well as provide more tracking of the defendant's compliance with the order. The form has been distributed to the Chief Judges and will be distributed to Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and Circuit Clerks.
- Supplemental Order Regarding Firearms form. The order was created to give a respondent specific information about when and where to turn over firearms and create a tracking system for compliance. The form will be distributed to the Chief Judges, Chiefs of Police, Sheriffs, and Circuit Clerks.

Two Training of Trainer sessions were held to continue to disseminate the work of this committee. A Springfield session on June 26-27 was attended by teams from 19 circuits with 140 attendees. The Cook County session was September 25-26 with 70 attendees at the courthouse in Rolling Meadows. The local coordinators will work with their teams to plan next steps for addressing the issue in each circuit. All of the documents developed and the Guides for each discipline are now posted on our website.

Court Improvement Projects

The Domestic Violence Court Systems Project has conducted interviews and written reports on all of the nearly 20 domestic violence courts in Illinois; conducted downstate and Cook County Round Tables for systems teams; developed a self-assessment guide, and a resource manual. Reports and materials are available on the IFVCC website, www.ifvcc.org.

Faith Community Projects

IFVCC provides technical support by assisting local councils with establishing faith committees and projects, as well as educational resources—videos and booklets. A subcommittee of the Responding to Elder Abuse Committee has developed an Elder Abuse Toolkit for Faith Communities to help address the issue of elder abuse that will be distributed to local councils in 2008.

Schools Projects

IFVCC's "Schools Respond to Family Violence Initiative," focuses on training for all school personnel on how to recognize and respond to child witnesses of domestic violence, child abuse, child sexual abuse, and teen dating violence. The initiative provides a team of local specialists to a local school site, conducts training for school personnel, and assists with the development of an integrated protocol. IFVCC's "Schools Respond to Family Violence: A Guidebook for Educators," developed by family violence experts and schools professionals, is the cornerstone of the initiative: the 66-page resource was developed to introduce all school personnel to family violence as it affects children and ideas for how to respond.

Initially this program was pilot tested in three school districts, which were funded by the IVPA Safe to Learn grants. The following quote describing the value of the program was made by a social worker from one of the pilot sites: "This program has been like a bolt of lightning for us and our school—shedding light on the issue and creating waves of change for many people, from the students to the teachers to the parents to the staff."

The primary goal of this project is building schools' capacity to respond to family violence through enhanced relationships between schools, criminal justice, and social service systems. Safety and protection for children is provided best by knowledgeable people who are working together as a responsive and coordinated multi-disciplinary network. The following have participated in the Schools Respond to Family Violence project: 20 K-12 districts, 30 elementary/middle/high schools, daycare providers in 3 counties, Headstart teachers in 3 counties, 1 Park District Preschool, counselors/social workers in 1 county, 2 County Institutes, 1 County District held a Training of Trainers.

Responding to Elder Abuse

In February 2006 the Illinois Family Violence Coordinating Councils convened a statewide Responding to Elder Abuse Committee. The purpose of the Committee is to identify and develop resources to assist the courts, criminal justice systems and the community in responding to the needs of abused seniors. The committee divided into subcommittees and has completed development and distribution of the following:

Faith Response

An Elder Abuse Toolkit for Faith Communities to assist local councils to work with and educate the faith community

Law Enforcement/Courts Response

A protocol for law enforcement on Elder Abuse

Training Subcommittee

Awareness of the Special Needs of the Elder trainings occurring throughout the state

Visitation Exchange Center Project

The safe exchange of children affects many domains of the court, including domestic relations, parentage courts, child support courts, domestic violence courts, probate, mental health, and child protection. Issues of safety, child development, and positive family relationships require a unified approach. This project is based on a fundamental understanding and respect for the needs and rights of children and parents to interact with each other in an appropriate and sensitive environment, and consideration for the need of the courts.

A summary report was compiled from site visits, at the seven functioning visitation exchange sites, which includes a comparison of services and policies of the current sites; commonly accepted principles for safety; courts requirements for services; and offered illustrations of emerging trends and unique characteristics of the centers. The summary report is available at www.ifvcc.org

IFVCC staffs an advisory committee of current programs and communities interested in developing a visitation exchange center program, to develop resources, guidelines and trainings for the centers.

Child Abuse Prevention/Bullying Prevention

IFVCC staff has provided technical support to local councils for child abuse and bullying prevention projects and programs through the identification of resources and good practices. IFVCC works collaboratively with Prevent Child Abuse Illinois both at the state and local level.

Teen Dating/Youth Violence Projects

IFVCC staff has provided technical support to local councils for teen dating violence projects and programs through the identification of resources and good practices.

Health/Medical Systems Projects

Utilizing the expertise of the Illinois Health Cares Project, of which IFVCC is a collaborative partner, and the IFVCC Health Systems Committee's members, IFVCC staff continues to provide programmatic and organizational support to the local councils in their involvement with health systems and development of local health systems committees.

Community Education Projects

IFVCC staff has provided technical support to local councils for community awareness/education and prevention projects and programs through the identification of resources and good practices.

Building Collaborations

IFVCC staff works collaboratively with numerous state organizations, including:

- IL Department on Aging
- IL Department of Children and Family Services
- IL Department of Human Services
- IL Department of Public Health
- IL State Police
- IL State's Attorney's Appellate Prosecutor's Office
- Illinois Violence Prevention Authority
- Office of the Attorney General
- Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence
- IL Center for Violence Prevention
- IL Coalition Against Domestic Violence
- IL Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- IL Criminal Justice Information Authority
- Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
- Regional Institute of Community Policing

III. Local Council Activities

The activities of the Local Councils focus on four major goals: Professional Training, Community Education, Systems Change, and Building Collaborations. The activities in each of the categories, along with number of participants involved are listed below.

Professional Training: (4,090 total)

- Multidisciplinary Training (various topics related to family violence) – 224
- Faith Community - 230
- Schools Respond to Family Violence - 475
- Elder Abuse – 206
- Elder Sensitivity - 143
- Health/Medical Systems – 206
- DV/Workplace - 149
- Criminal Justice/Courts System (Law Enforcement, Prosecution, Probation, Judicial) – 433
- First Responders - 84
- Animal Abuse and Family Violence - 75
- Suicide – 9
- Mandated Reporting – 92
- Methamphetamine and Family Violence – 31
- Firearms and Domestic Violence – 71
- Childhood Trauma/Children Exposed to Violence – 67
- Domestic Violence/Mental Health/Trauma – 36
- Teen Dating Violence/Bullying/Internet Safety – 55
- DV/Homelessness – 68
- Internet Crimes – 137
- Strangulation – 24
- Marital Rape – 398
- Child Abuse – 115
- Bullying – 144
- Orders of Protection – 30
- Conflict Resolution – 16
- Cindy Bischoff law – 73
- Safety at School – 115
- Child Sexual Abuse/Predators – 192
- Stalking – 38
- The Adolescent Brain – 125
- Immigration & DV - 30

Community Education/Prevention/Awareness: (3,980)

- Child Abuse – 831
- Hands Around the Courthouse – 300
- Youth/Teen Dating Violence – 780 youth, 106 adults
- Domestic Violence – 738
- Violence Prevention/Safety/Healthy Lifestyles & Relationships – 251

Suicide Prevention - 22
Bullying – 288
Presentations to School-Aged Youth - 534
Presentations to College Classes – 130

Systems Change:

Court Improvement Projects
Visitation Exchange Centers
Protocol Development
Dedicated Domestic Violence or Elder Units (State’s Attorney’s Offices,
Probation, Law Enforcement)
Domestic Violence Court Systems
Fatality Review Teams

Materials Produced and Distributed through Local Councils: 25,120

Number of attendances at County Meetings: 2,602

Number of attendances at Committee Meetings: 3,502

Number of attendances at Steering/Planning Meetings: 653

Number of Local Topic or Discipline-based Committees: 116

Collaborative Trainings, Events and Activities:

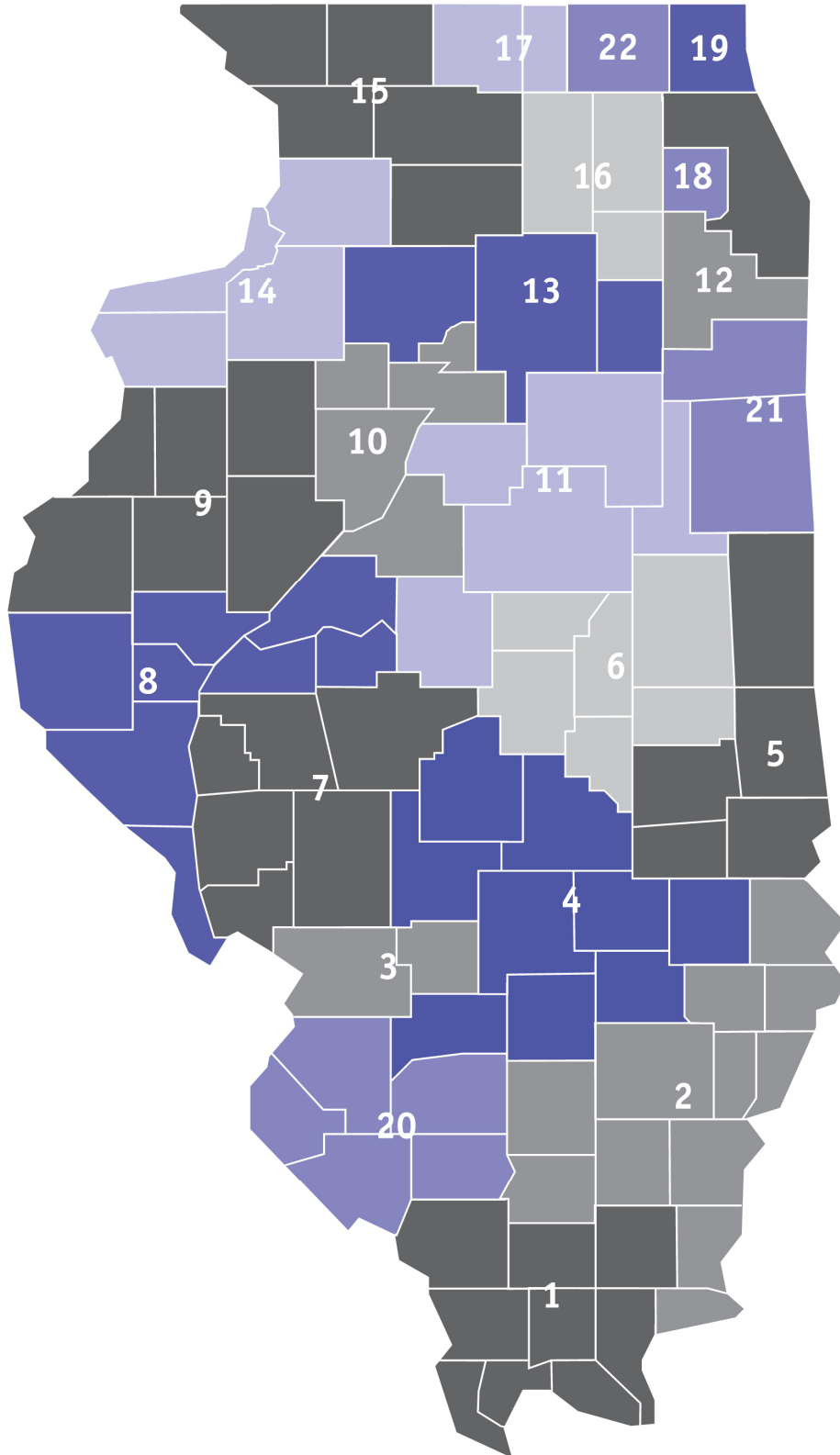
Working with other local organizations, the local Family Violence Coordinating Councils across the state collaborated to provide trainings and community awareness events:

Number of adults attending collaborative trainings/events: 5,218

Number of youth attending collaborative events: 1,610

Building Collaborations:

Illinois Health Cares	Regional Offices of Education
Safe to Live	McKinney Vento Homeless Grant
Safe From the Start	Voices for Illinois Children
Healthy Communities	Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence
Prevent Child Abuse Illinois	Local/Regional Hospitals
Project Success	Colleges/Universities
Safe Schools	Departments of Public Health
Healthy Kids Program	



ILLINOIS FAMILY VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCILS MAP