Minutes were approved with the amendment:

Dana Harrington Conner was available by phone to discuss the definition of a Perpetrator of Domestic Violence and the rebuttable presumption statute.

Dana mentioned it is not triggered very often. Assault 3rd is often plead down to offensive touching. Family Court Judge to make the judgment which would also capture 7A – all evidence of domestic violence. 722 best interest factors – DV weighed more heavily than the 7 other factors.

Jurisdictions are doing protection orders A3 Felon level offense

7A or 722A

Linda Shannon mentioned that it would be best to tweek the “Sex offenders” portion of the statute as well. Few people favor adding offensive touching to the statute. Another option is to weigh a history of domestic violence more heavily.

Mariann brought up the issue of shifting the focus from domestic violence to child safety. Dana mentioned if you focus on child safety you may loss safety of the adult DV survivor.

Dana mentioned that we should differentiate between Legal Custody – and do an overhaul of 722, legal residential and visitation (3 separate issues).

Other jurisdictions are doing assessments before best interest factors. It gets complicated.

Ellen Cooper stated that this is one of the issue that is being discussed with the Family Court Enhancement Project. Dana suggested that we reach out to Family Court about their position and Family Court’s position regarding 703A b or 722 – 7. Dana is open to continue the conversation and is available on Thursday or Friday.

***Dana willing to work on this issue outside of this meeting***

Family Court Enhancement Project (Ellen Cooper)

-Gave an overview of Family Court Enhancement Project through the eyes of the litigant. She discussed the walk through of the resource center and looking at the materials that are available to the public. What do you do when you are under a PFA order,

Access to Justice Committee

1) What do you do to file for Custody. Looking at Custody and PFA materials.

2) Look at requirement to bypass mediation if PFA is in place.

-Screening/Triage

-Regular course of business

Or enhanced mediation process

3) PFA Day – Ending the Cattle Call

- What does it mean to consent?

Differentiation Committee

Case review of about 180 Family Court cases were done in July 2015

-How is dv being used in custody decisions ?

-when is DV being alleged in the custody process?

-Doing an impact Study making sure DV is evident if it is present in a DV case.

-Does the statute need to be tweeked? When additional resources should be shared when appropriate for victim/perpetrator.

-Both will be giving recommendations to the Management Team in June 2016 (which includes CJ Newell).

\*Rosie raised the issue of substantiation in a related file (an example given was a father and mother have a child and either of those parents were suspected of child abuse and may not result in any criminal charges, if either of those parent has other children and filing in family court, the suspected child abuse information does not make it to the related files for either of the parties other children that they don’t have in common. Ellen said that they could look at that and will continue the discussion of developing a best practice court w/ the Family Court Enhancement Project.”

Safe & Together Model

-Due to the major transition and change in leadership there has been no further contact with David Mandel regarding the implementation of this model. Secretary Benson-Green stated that she would like to still continue communicate with DV Partners to work on implementing a more DV informed approach because DFS does not currently have the capacity to implement the Safe & Together model.

Alana raised the issue of Officers calling to make the report to the hotline and when Alan calls back to find out who the worker is they have been told they were advised of the incident and a report was not made. Linda Shannon said that hotline workers should not be acknowledging whether or not something was reported and that they should be taking a message and providing the contact information to the DFS case manager if there is an open report. Also, Linda mentioned that someone should be calling the reporting person back to let them know whether or not a report is screened in. Linda Shannon also said that a Case manager should be calling her back within about 24 hours and that if Alana continues to have problems she should give Michael Sullivan a call about the issue.

Marianne stated the there will be an RFP for VOCA funds in the amount of $2.5 million and $5/$6 million for 2017. Perhaps there is a possibility for a Pilot of the Safe & Together model and look at doing creative partnerships.

Marcey stated that Peoples place was still very interested in the Model.

CDRC – Mom was kicked in the head in front of kids. Power Point slides were distributed and Linda Shannon read the SDM definition. (***Mariann & Linda Shannon are willing to work on the draft for the Power Point slides).***

Mariann also discussed that need to look at that statute regarding mental health services for teens and them accessing mental health services without parental consent. Secretary Benson Green is willing to discuss this issue with Mariann. I also mentioned that Ellie was looking into this issue and would loop her in along with Susan Cycyk to discuss this issue.

Timothy Collins provided brief public comment at this meeting.

Next meeting date: to be determined