

**Domestic Violence Coordinating Council**  
**Children and Domestic Violence Committee**

**September 26, 2016**

The Children and Domestic Violence Committee met on September 26, 2016 at 10 at the Department of Services for Children, Youth and their Families in New Castle County. In attendance Secretary Carla Benson-Green (DSCYF), Marcey Rezac (Peoples Place), Blanche Creech (People's Place), Shirley Roberts (DFS), Linda Shannon (DFS), Sonya Tull (Child Inc.), Susanne Miller (Child Inc.), Addie Asay (Family Court), Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV), Ellie Torres (Family Court), Jennifer Ranji (Family Court). Jen Donahue (OCA) by phone and Natasha Smith DVCC staff.

**Called to order:** Secretary Benson-Green called the meeting to order.

**Introductions:** Introductions were made by those in attendance.

**Minutes from May 23, 2016:** Minutes were approved with the following amendments under the CDNDSC Recommendations section: *Linda Shannon (DFS) stated that the slides currently used by CPAC are accurate based upon the Structured Decision Making Model used by DFS. Linda believed that the scenarios used in the CPAC training could be improved. Linda had an upcoming meeting with OCA and will discuss the slides with them at that time. Linda Shannon will email Natasha Smith (DVCC) if there are any changes to the CPAC training slides as well as give an update at the next meeting.*

**Old Business**

**Family Court Enhancement Project**

Addie Asay (Family Court) stated that Ellen Cooper will be leaving the Family Court Enhancement Project on September 30, 2016. Addie went on to state that the Differentiation and Access to Justice Subcommittees are working on recommendations and preparing a report for Chief Judge Newell and the Family Court Enhancement Project Management team. The new Family Court Enhancement Project coordinator will be selected after the recommendations are examined. The Family Court Enhancement Project was also granted a no cost extension one year.

**Safe & Together**

Shirley Roberts (DFS) talked with David Mandel (Safe and Together) on ways to incorporate elements of the Safe and Together Model into Delaware's child welfare system. Mr. Mandel provided estimates for an assessment, technical assistance and evaluations of Delaware's child welfare system. Those present discussed that the assessment of the child welfare system was the best option and most cost effective of the three options provided from Mr. Mandel. The cost of the assessment would be \$7,232. Ellie Torres (Family Court) stated that she will reach out to the Criminal Justice Council regarding possible funding

sources. Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV) asked about the roles of the Domestic Violence liaisons in this project because the Safe and Together Model focuses on a great deal on offender work. Shirley Roberts (DFS) was unsure what the structure would like look and what the role of the Domestic Violence liaisons would be because the assessment has not been done yet.

### **Definition of a Perpetrator of Domestic Violence and Rebuttable Presumption**

Ellie Torres (Family Court), Chief Judge Newell (Family Court) and Dana Harrington-Conner (Widener) had a teleconference over the summer regarding the definition of a perpetrator of domestic violence and rebuttable presumption. A number of suggestions were made to change the statute. Judge Ranji (Family Court) forwarded the suggested changes to Family Court Judges and Commissioners for feedback. This item is scheduled to be discussed at a joint meeting with Family Court Judges and Commissioner in November 2016.

### **CDNDSC Recommendation**

Linda Shannon (DFS) and Mariann Kenville-Moore (DCADV) contacted Rosie Morales (OCA) and Jessica Begley (OCA) regarding the domestic violence information on the mandatory training slides. Linda stated that the slides have been updated and the information on the slides is based on the Structured Decision Making model used by DFS. Mariann asked that a picture on the slides be removed. Linda will send the revised training slides to Natasha Smith (DVCC) after the meeting.

**The next meeting will take place in Newark, DE on Monday, December 12<sup>th</sup> at 1pm**