



**DOMESTIC VIOLENCE COORDINATING COUNCIL**  
**Children and Domestic Violence Committee**  
**Draft Meeting Minutes**

August 27, 2018 10 A.M.

Delaware Public Service Commission Conference Room (Dover, DE)

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The DVCC Children and Domestic Violence Committee met on August 27, 2018 at the Delaware Public Service Commission Conference Room in Dover, DE. In attendance were Josette Manning (DSCYF), Natasha Smith (DVCC Staff), Bridget Walters (Child Inc.), Colleen Woodall (DFS), Marcey Rezac (DCADV), Blanche Creech (People's Place), Treenee Parker (DFS), Lori Sitler (Child Inc.), Michele Ostafy (Child Inc.), Rosemary West (Turning Point at People's Place), and Courtney Tull (Turning Point at People's Place). Ellie Torres (Family Court) and Sonya Tull (Child Inc.) were present for the meeting via phone.

**Called to Order:** Secretary Manning called the meeting to order.

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

**Minutes from April 30, 2018:** Minutes were approved as written.

**Old Business**

**Family Court Enhancement Project**

Ellie Torres (Family Court) provided an update about the Family Court Enhancement Project. Ellie stated that the Custody Packet is finished and will be translated into additional languages. The grant is also coming to an end this year and Family Court is discussing a sustainability plan after the project is complete. Family Court is also looking to hire a Domestic Violence Coordinator in order to help with the progress made during the Family Court Enhancement Project.

**Next Steps – Safe and Together Model**

Colleen Woodall gave an update on the progress of the Safe & Together Model. Colleen discussed the four technical assistance days that took place at the locations where the Domestic Violence Liaisons are located. Colleen discussed the number of skills that were able to be practiced between the DVLs and the DFS supervisors involved with the project. Colleen also described that two of the DVLs have worked on revamping the referral used by DFS to get information to the DVLs. Colleen described the process of using the DVLs for consultation on DFS cases in addition to just referrals for clients. The DVLs and their DV Agency Supervisors also met with the DFS Training Department to discuss introducing the Safe & Together Model to new DFS workers during New Worker Training. DFS is also looking to introduce the model during staff meetings at the agency. Also, Colleen mentioned that the DVL workgroup will be meeting more often to practice the skills learned from the Safe and Together Consultants. Bridget

Walters (Child Inc.) stated that the DVLs are discussing holding Q&A conference calls with DFS staff every other month. Bridget stated that they would utilize the Learning Center to have staff sign up. Also, there is a new Domestic Violence Liaison in Kent County who will be attending the Safe and Together Institute's Conference in October 2018.

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

Ellie stated that the draft is currently on hold because of SB 209 and SB210. Secretary Manning recommended that this item be removed from the agenda and added back at a later time if needed.

#### **Divorced and Separating Parents Curriculum**

Secretary Manning stated that her office would be in contact with those who wished to participate in a group to discuss the topic an online parenting course option. Natasha Smith (DVCC) will provide the names of those interested to Secretary Manning.

#### **Bench card**

Natasha Smith (DVCC Staff) added additional language to the Bench card that states that financial assistance may be available and that classes are offered at a variety of location, date and times throughout the State. Natasha will send the Bench Card to Ellie Torres (Family Court) to add additional custody language.

#### **New Business**

##### **Enhancing Delaware's Response for Children Experiencing DV Summary Report**

Secretary Manning discussed revisiting the goals in the report and if there is anything more the committee can do to move the goals forward. A number of topics were mentioned during the meeting such as

- Creating a structure for Dialogue between the Division of Family Services and Treatment Providers
- Safe and Together Model reaching out to include more work around the model with Division of Family Services Supervisors
- Determining if there is any increase in the number of people seeking batterers intervention treatment after the Safe and Together Model has been introduced to the Division of Family Services
- Have the Visitation Centers provide an overview of services to the DVCC Children & DV Committee
- Have Children and Families First share an overview of services provided at the December 3<sup>rd</sup> DVCC Children & DV Committee. Trenee Parker (DFS) will reach out to Children and Families First regarding availability for the next meeting.
- Examining Delaware Specific information on Substance Exposed Infants and domestic violence
- Looking into the possibility of childcare being provided for litigants during PFA days

Secretary Manning stated that not all of the topics would be appropriate for this committee but it the committee could start with Children & Families First providing an overview at the next committee meeting.

#### **Announcements**

**Next Meeting Dates: Monday, December 3, 2018 at 10am** at University Plaza Conference Room