

**Family Violence Program
Legal Representation for DV Survivors Committee
Minutes
October 8, 2008**

Attendees: Victoria McVicker, Kathleen Schoen, Cheryl Law, Amy Miller, Dianne Van Voorhees, Carla Scarpone, Andrea Love, Betty Wytias

Discussion:

1. Need nominations for New Chairperson.
2. Andrea Love agreed to take the Minutes.

Collaborations:

1. State Court Administrator's Office (SCAO), Alicia Davis, Kay Yorti, Steven Vasconcellos - October 8, 2008 meeting, Kath and Amy discussed what the courts and commission on families is doing, and Child and Family Investigators (CFIs):
 - ◆ Children's Advocacy Committee (CAC) of Colorado Coalition of Domestic Violence (CCADV) is doing study, so they will have more than antidotes.
 - ◆ Discussed need for more DV training for CFIs.
 - ◆ Creating risk assessment tool for CFIs and judges to use in determining risk of batterer parent and corresponding set of guidelines for parenting orders based on assessment – again positive response.
 - ◆ Agreed to collaborate on an update to DV bench book.
 - ◆ Definition of domestic violence statute in best interests of the child determination – will be further discussion.
 - ◆ Kay Yorti will send a request for proposal to present at interdisciplinary summit on family issues. Possible topic would be parent alienation syndrome.
 - ◆ Next meeting with people from State Court Administrator's Office will be beginning of December.
2. Next step, talk to Theresa Spahn, Office of Child Representative (OCR) - Amy and Kath setting up meeting.

Child Advocacy Committee (CAC) study:

- ◆ The survey is ready and CCADV should have some statistics in 6 months. The survey will be administered to those who are using domestic relations system and those who are using others systems.
- ◆ Committee suggested questions about judges and respondent counsel in delinquency and neglect cases.

Members from CCADV statewide conference:

- ◆ Meeting was held in September in Grand Junction.
- ◆ Amy and Kath facilitated round table on civil legal issues and what people are seeing around the state; good and bad.
- ◆ Discussed domestic violence service providers contacting local Access To Justice local committees and pro bono coordinators. Kath's goal is to have ATJ reach out to local service providers. She will send information to pro bono coordinators listing CCADV services and service providers.
- ◆ Resource sharing.

- ◆ Interest in statewide legal advocate manual.
- ◆ This Committee welcomed all those who want to participate in this committee.

Collaboration with Paralegals:

- ◆ Paralegals are looking for pro bono opportunities
- ◆ Collaborate with CBA Paralegal Committee
- ◆ Conduct a joint training on domestic violence and domestic relations issues
- ◆ Have paralegals help with service gap in rural areas

Committee Action:

- ◆ Put together subcommittees for -
 - bench book (Kath, Dianne, Andrea, Carla)
 - put together outline and assessment by next meeting with SCAO in December.
 - risk assessment tools
 - research
 - trainings for *pro bono* attorneys
 - develop similar to PPO Project - make connections with pro bono attorneys
 - advertise video of PPO training through local bars
 - Office of Child's Representative maintains library for their attys. Maybe get copy to their library.
 - definition of statute
 - research
 - interdisciplinary summit on family issues
 - may present to Standing Committee on Family Issues on Jan 15th about the definition of "spouse abuse" in best interests of the child statute
 - collect info and have complete for Summit, May 2009?

Future Projects:

- ◆ Develop manuals for attorneys and advocates -
 - place on web for arguments regarding issues encountered by lawyers representing victims of domestic violence (parent alienation syndrome, supervised visitation, etc.)
 - talk to Tammy Kuennen (at DU Law) and clinical instructors at CU Law about student research projects
 - Cheryl will send email to committee to start collecting information for the manuals

- ◆ Create Fact Sheets for advocates -
 - Housing, financial, etc – covers legislation
 - Pos
 - PAS
 - Housing
 - Leases
 - Breaking Lease for DV
 - Changing locks
 - CFI
 - GAL

- D&N process
- CPS process
- List of definitions
- Overview of Civil system
- Overview of criminal
- What is legal advocacy
- Difference between advocacy and advice
- Temp Care and Control
- List relevant Statutes
- Post decree issues
- Evidence
- Appearance in court
- Subpoenas

Next meeting: Wednesday, November 12, 2008, 12pm.