

ALLIANCE for HOPE INTERNATIONAL

Working Together: The Family Justice Center Framework

Family Justice Center Alliance
Alliance For HOPE International

TODAY'S SPEAKER



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*Scan QR code
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**CREATING COMMUNITIES
OF SAFETY, HOPE AND HEALING**



**We want to create hope for
every person...we must give
hope, always hope...**

Mother Teresa



Focus on Children Must Be Central to all Family Justice Centers

Childhood trauma is the single greatest
threat to public health and community
safety on the planet.



NATIONAL CENTER ON
DOMESTIC VIOLENCE,
TRAUMA, AND
MENTAL HEALTH

ALLIANCE for **HOPE** INTERNATIONAL





Why the Need for a Family Justice Center?

Survivors Tell Us

- Victims are fearful of systems and don't understand the process
- Court is the scariest place to seek help
- Shelters are the safest place
- Victims must go from place to place
- They must tell their story over and over
- Victims want all their services together in one place

How it Started

- **Public safety initiative** led by Police Chief and City Attorney with the support from the DV Council and local officials
- **Bring many professionals together** to help victims of domestic violence and their children – under one roof
- **Reduce the amount times and places victims have to go** to tell their story and get the help they need

AB 1623: Majority Leader Atkins (SB 557: Senator Kehoe)

Family Justice Centers defined:

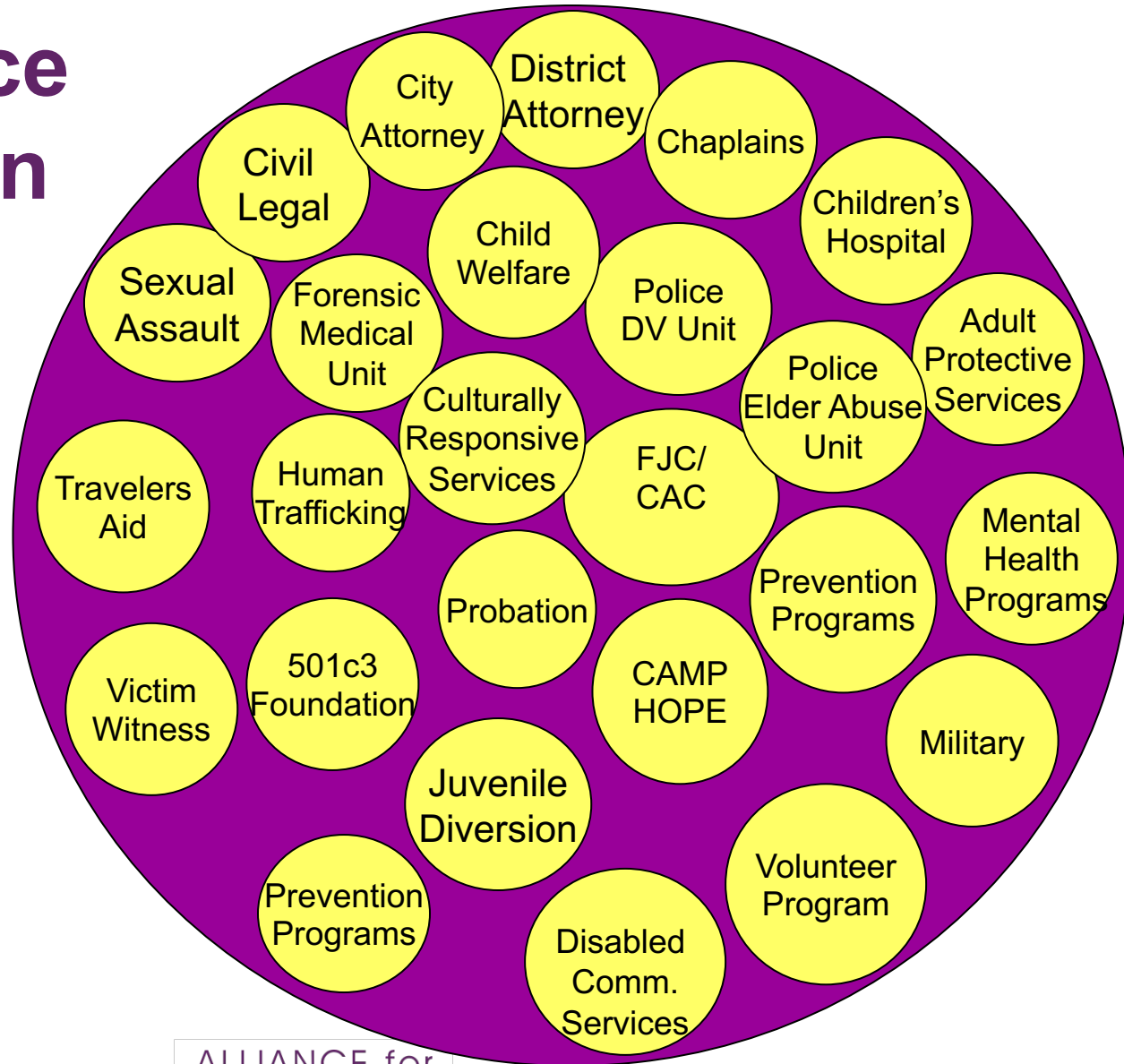
“Multiagency, multidisciplinary service centers where public and private agencies assign staff members on a full time or part-time basis in order to provide services to victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, elder abuse or human trafficking from one location in order to reduce the number of times victims must tell their story, reduce the number of places victims must go for help, and increase access to services and support for victims and their children.”

A Victim's Journey-What might they need?

- Temporary Protective Order
- Medical Treatment
- Children's Advocacy Center
- Police Investigation
- Advocacy or counseling
- Civil Legal Aid
- Public Assistance
- Meet with District Attorney or Solicitor General's offices
- Safe Shelter
- Attend Court
- Need a TPO extension
- More counseling for self or children

What does that journey look like in your community?

Family Justice Center Vision



The Cost to Our Community

CITIES WITHOUT DYNAMIC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS HAVE SOME OF THE HIGHEST DOMESTIC VIOLENCE HOMICIDE RATES IN THE COUNTRY. DYNAMIC FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS DRAMATICALLY REDUCE THE LIKELIHOOD OF A CLIENT BEING MURDERED.

- Loss of Life
- Physical health care costs
- Mental health care costs
- Cost to children
- Lost work productivity
- Policing costs
- Court costs
- Incarceration costs
- Debt and poor credit
- Cost of programs, shelters, centers

The Big Vision

- **A future where...**
 - All the needs of victims are met
 - Children are protected
 - Violence fades
 - Aggressors are held accountable
 - Economic justice increases
 - Families heal and thrive
 - Hope is realized, and
 - We ALL work together

Family Justice Centers Are More Than Just a Building

What Is On The Inside Matters

Community-wide response

Improving survivors' access to services

Best/Promising Practices

- Integrating health services with social, legal, and behavioral health services
- Integrating prevention and intervention efforts
- Addressing child welfare and domestic violence concurrently
- Expanding sustainable civil legal services
- Expanding the “field” to include ALL societal sectors working with trauma-exposed adults and children

Alliance's Four Strategic Directions



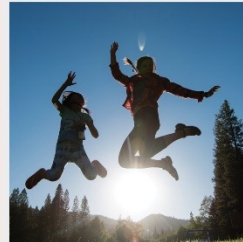
We must act based on what we believe...

Guiding Principles

ALLIANCE for
HOPE
INTERNATIONAL



Transformative



*Victim
Centered*



*Kind
Hearted &
Hope-
Centered*

Empowered



*Community
Engaged*



*Safety
Focused*

*Offender
Accountability*



*Prevention
Oriented*

*Survivor
Driven*



*Culturally
Responsive*

*Relationship
Based*

Start Small

Dream Big

Family Justice Center

Advocacy

Law Enforcement

Prosecutor and Civil Legal Services

Counseling
Child Resource Room
Adult Therapy

MDT
Child Abuse and Sexual Assault

Social Services
DCF
Housing Services
Cultural and Linguistic

Wellness Center
Mental Health Center
Interfaith Counseling
Meditation

Medical Forensic Examination Room
Prevention

Self Sufficiency
Job Training
Dress for Success
Childcare
Camping and Mentoring

Accountability to Survivors

“Accountability to survivors should be built into every Center...and includes creating community long after the crisis...”

- Gael Strack

VOICES



- Survivor Advocacy Group at each Center
- Work on various projects
 - Community outreach and awareness
 - Legislation
 - Evaluation and monitoring
- Not a support group
- Connects with the broader national VOICES movement
- Holds Centers and their Partners accountable

Governance Structures at FJCs

Government

- City or County
- Mayor's Office
- Law Enforcement
- DA's Office

Non-Profit

- Existing DV Program
- DV Council
- New Non-Profit

Shared Leadership

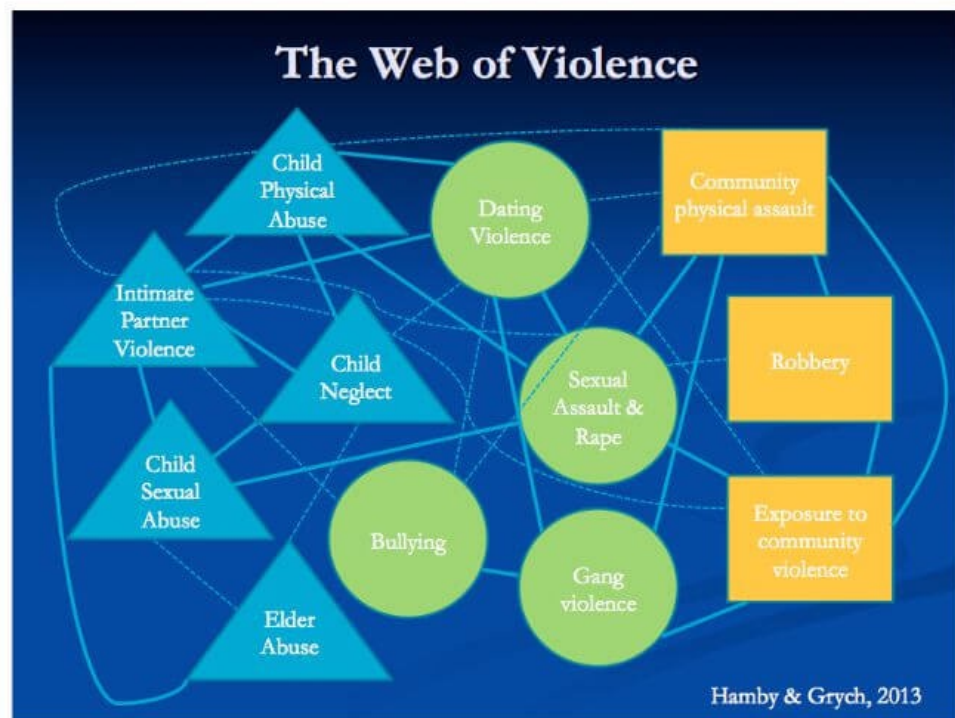
- Government & Non-Profit

Tribal



The Trend Toward Polyvictimization Screening and Services

OVC Initiative
Intersections of Trauma
Social Justice Focus



Looking at the Intersection of Substance Use and DV

OVW Initiative
Substance Use &
FJCs

The Relationship Between Domestic Violence, Sexual Assault, Trauma, Mental Health, and Substance Use



FJCs Should Provide Services for Child Witnesses

- Co-occurring rates of child abuse and domestic violence necessitate the integration of services for children in Family Justice Centers
- High rates of domestic violence among adult care providers for suspected child abuse victims points toward comprehensive services for adult survivors in CAC and child welfare interventions
- Mutual accountability between DV and CA professionals is critical

Children's Services Should be Integrated into the FJC Model

Each year

5

MILLION CHILDREN
in the US are exposed
To family violence

- We are dealing with an epidemic
- Children who witness violence suffer the same mental/emotional harm as children who are physically abused.
- Children exposed to DV are 1500% more likely to be physically abused or seriously neglected.
- Children exposed to DV are 6 times more likely to commit suicide and 50% more likely to experience substance abuse.

Benefits and Challenges of a Dynamic Family Justice Center Framework

Challenges

- Egos, turfs, power, and control
- Morphing different partners with different cultures
 - Different styles
 - Different problem solving techniques
- Learning to build and fly the plane at the same time
 - No directions, no cookbook
 - Policy follows practice
- Shared sustained funding for all partners
- Maintaining adequate staffing levels



We Change the Ending with the Power of We

Family Justice Centers are an evidence-based practice with strong outcomes in diverse communities

Informed by Evaluation

- Evaluation Committees
- Focus Groups
- Client Surveys
- Comparison Study Models
- Benchmarking
- Client Profile Studies
- FJC Snapshot Assessments
- Ongoing Research
- **2007** Blue Shield of California Study
- **2009** NYC FJC Study
- **2013** California Legislature Study (Petrucci)
- **2017** University of Oklahoma Study (Hope, Resiliency, Flourishing, Satisfaction of Life, and Survivor Defined Goal Achievement)

FJCs Bring More Resources

- The pie is getting bigger – bringing in new funds and making new friends
- Sites with history of collaboration and FJCs are becoming strong candidates for federal grants and special initiatives

Blueprint for Safety

Witness Intimidation Project

Children Exposed to DV Initiative

Homicide Prevention Initiative

National Polyvictimization Initiative

OVW/OVC Grants

DV Collaboratives/FJ/MA Centers Should Be Experts in...

- Collaborative, integrated approaches to addressing family violence and related sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking
- Community engagement and outreach
- Homicide prevention
- Handling strangulation assaults
- Aggressive intervention with offenders
- Addressing the health needs of victims and their children
- Addressing childhood trauma in children and adults – the best trauma-informed models in America
- Hope, healing, and providing community for survivors and their children

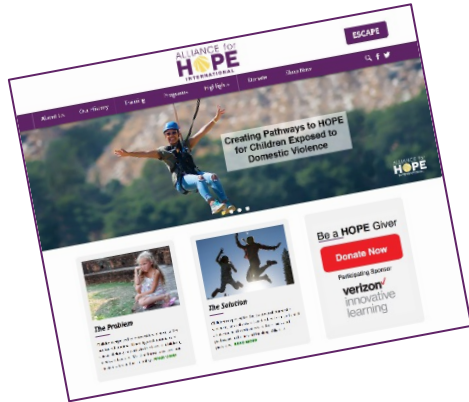
What are the biggest problems developing true collaboration?

- **Power and control**
- Personality conflicts
- Ego struggles
- Politics/Competition/Limited resources
- Different value systems, priorities, goals
- Different visions for service delivery
- Lack of grace, mercy, forgiveness
- Lack of accountability and mutual respect
- Poor, inconsistent communication
- Lack of compromise, negotiation
- No one listens to survivors and lets them participate in the design of the service delivery model
- Weak collaborative leadership

The Attributes of Healthy Relationships in an FJC

- Grace
- Mercy
- Forgiveness
- Humility
- Unselfishness
- Sense of humor
- Affirmation
- Encouragement
- Mutual Respect
- Shared Resources
- Massive amounts of communication

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Thank you!