

The FJC is open!



THE FJC REPORT

Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center Newsletter



Jan Scully Royse;
Chair of the Board
of Directors,
Sacramento
Regional Family
Justice Center

It is with deep appreciation to all who supported us, encouraged us, and partnered with us these past four years that I share with you the wonderful news – the **Sacramento Regional Family Justice Center is now open!**

Nearly four years ago more than 100 community leaders gathered to invest in the dream of a Family Justice Center in the Sacramento Region. We encountered some significant challenges along the way (most notably securing a location), but we met those challenges and we are thrilled to share with you – our most significant supporters – we opened the doors of our Legal Clinic on July 11th.

Our Legal Clinic is located in the Ridgeway Family Relations Courthouse at 3341 Power Inn Road, Room 112, Sacramento. We look forward to the opening of our second space, which will be across the street at 3701 Power Inn Road after the first of the year. *(cont. page 2)*



*The Strategic Planning Session,
November 2012*

Board of Directors

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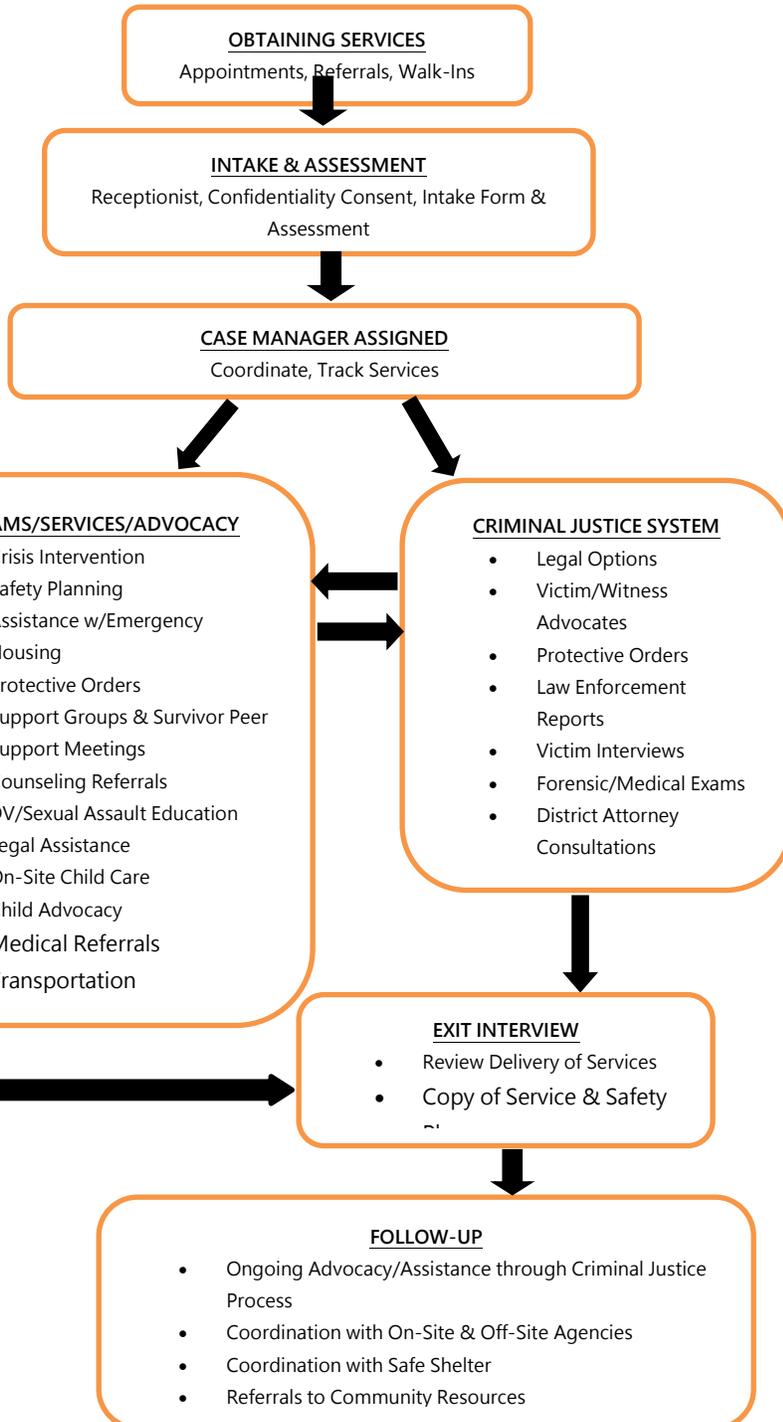
Hope Thrives Here!

3341 Power Inn Road, Room 112, Sacramento, CA 95826
(P.O. Box 276551, Sacramento, CA 95827)
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The FJC is Open! (cont.)

In that space, the FJC will take full form. On site we will have a child care space, therapists, detectives from the Sacramento Police Department, the Sacramento Sheriff's Department, and an attorney from the District Attorney's office. Additionally, the FJC will house the Special Assault Forensic Evaluation (SAFE) Center, which assists children and dependent adults who may be victims of sexual, physical abuse or witnesses to violent crimes, as well as space for our numerous community partners.

The FJC will utilize a trauma-informed approach which ensures that a victim need tell his or her story just one time. The FJC brings all the services to them, thereby lessening the need to repeat the traumatic event numerous times to obtain the help they need.



Our First 60 Days

We served 253 clients, most of whom needed Temporary Restraining Orders for domestic violence and elder abuse.

We received two grants totaling \$1,179,000 over two years.

- The first grant provides funds for three additional attorneys who will form a Mobile Civil Legal Team, enabling the FJC to offer legal services and workshops to our community partners at their locations.
- The second grant provides funds for two caseworkers, one coordinator, translation services, and two vans to transport clients to and from court, to safe shelters, and other needed services provided by our community partners

These grants were funded by the California Office of Emergency Services

Partial List of Community Partners

- A Community for Peace
- California State University Sacramento
- Chicks in Crisis
- Child Protective Services
- City of Refuge
- Department of Child Support Services
- Folsom Police Department
- My Sister's House
- Sacramento D.A.'s Office
- Sacramento Police Department
- Sacramento Sheriff's Department

Meet Our Staff



Faith Whitmore
Chief Executive Officer

As a United Methodist pastor, a community leader, a former non-profit executive with Francis House Center And, most recently, District Director for Congressman Ami Bera, Faith comes to us with a heart for service. She is passionate about the work of the Family Justice Center and is grateful for the opportunity to bring her skills and community relationships to build and strengthen our Family Justice Center.



Maria Perez Manning, Esq.
Director of Legal Services

A graduate of University of San Diego Law School, Maria worked as the Deputy City Attorney for the City of Los Angeles for ten years before moving to Sacramento with her family. For the past three years, she volunteered her legal expertise to the clients at one of our community partners, A Community for Peace in Citrus Heights. Maria has already done an excellent job of organizing our legal clinic and recruiting, training and supervising interns from McGeorge, UC Davis, and Lincoln law schools.



Joyce Bilyeu
Director of Client Services

Joyce brings with her a wealth of experience and expertise in the areas of domestic violence and child abuse prevention. For the past 15 years she worked as the Training Director at the Child Abuse Prevention Council here in Sacramento. She has been an active participant in the Domestic Violence Prevention Collaboration, the D.A.'s Death Review Team as well as holding national leadership positions with the VFW Auxiliary. Her compassion and ability to work with victims is a great asset to our team.

Meet Three of Our Clients

One of the first to come through our doors was an elderly woman in a wheelchair. Battered and bruised, she was blind in one eye from a domestic violence incident many years ago and unable to read with the other eye due to a recent brain surgery.

She could not afford an attorney and could not sit through one of the Court restraining order workshops due to her inability to read and follow along. Without the FJC's assistance, she would still be unprotected and vulnerable.

Thankfully, our team was able to give her individualized attention throughout the 3-hour, 45-page restraining order application process. Her restraining order was granted and, before she rolled away, she hugged every person who had helped her that afternoon.



A frightened, very slight, vulnerable teenager found her way to us. She, too, had been beaten. Her abuser had stolen her phone, her purse, her clothes, and everything she owned. She literally had nothing but the clothes on her back.

One of our staff spent hours listening, reassuring her and, when she was ready, spent the next several hours filling out the temporary restraining order application. Before she left, the team made sure she had a safety plan in place.

A dapper 70-year old gentleman came in by himself, looking very forlorn. He was seeking an elder abuse temporary restraining order against his daughter, which was the last thing he wanted to do. She suffered from mental illness and did quite well as long as she was taking her medications but, as so often happens, when she felt better she thought she didn't need to continue with her prescriptions. She became very violent, walking around the house threatening him and his wife with knives and a hammer. Though heartbroken, he felt he had no choice but to seek protection.

Help Support Our Work

1. Make a tax-deductible contribution. All services are free to our clients.
2. Save the date for our First Annual **HOPE THRIVES HERE!** Celebration on December 9, 2016.
3. Invite one of our staff or Board Members to speak to your congregation, civic group, neighborhood association, or service group.
4. Visit our website often for updates.

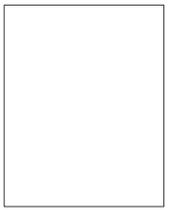
HopeThrivesHere.org

“A family free of violence is a community free of violence.”



P.O. Box 276551
Sacramento, CA
95827

Hope
Thrives
Here!



Camp Hope!

Each summer, The Alliance for Hope creates a wonderful experience for youth who have suffered under family violence. For an entire week, they are surrounded by loving counselors and experience great outdoor adventures.

This year, 11 youth from the Sacramento region had a grand time!

Thank you to D.A. Attorney Paul Durenberger and team for making this possible for the group from our FJC!

Domestic violence poses a serious threat to children's emotional, psychological, and physical well-being, particularly if the violence is chronic.