

PFJCI  
Monthly

# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome

August is vacation month for many Americans who travel far and wide to new states, foreign countries, or even new attractions in their home towns. We value that precious freedom from work or home responsibilities and often come back from vacations renewed and refreshed.

For many victims of Domestic Violence, freedom to walk outside, to talk to neighbors or family members, to try something new, see something different – these are only wishes and longings. The mechanism of power and control makes any simple break in routine a trigger for anger and assault. Thanks for working hard to set victims free.

## News from PFJCI TA Providers

### SafetyNet—National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV)

Sarah Tucker and Shawndell Dawson from the SafetyNet Project visited Northwest Ohio the week of July 10th to provide two days of training and information to 100-plus community members involved with the Northwest Ohio FJC. SafetyNet also had the opportunity to tour the Defiance County and Henry County sites and meet with a member of the Attorney General's Office to learn about the proposed online statewide protection order registry and discuss its implications for the FJC.

Cindy Southworth recently had the opportunity to tour the Bexar County FJC in San Antonio, Texas, and was excited to see it open and running. Cynthia Fraser provided a brown bag lunch training to the Boston FJC in June and was happy to have great conversations about technology and victim safety with many partners.

### Hennepin County Attorney's Domestic Abuse Service Center

The Hennepin County Attorney's Domestic Abuse Service Center is pleased to present a series of Audio Conference Calls that will focus on Cultural Competency and working with underserved populations. All President Family Justice Center Site partners are welcome to participate on the calls. Each session will last 1.5 hours and will begin at 2:00pm Central Time. The schedule is as follows:

*Wednesday, September 27*

Topic: COMMUNITY OUTREACH

This session will explore: 1) ways you can assess the needs of your community; 2) how you can choose the correct tools and forums that will ensure that your center is reaching underserved populations; and 3) traditional or non traditional ways that you can use to get infor-

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August 2006

Produced by

The San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation's PFJCI TA Team.

This project was supported by Award No. 2004-WE-BX-K001 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

## News from PFJCI TA Providers cont.

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mation out to the community regarding your Center and your services.

*Thursday, October 26*

Topic: PFJCI INTAKE STAFF

This session will address special considerations necessary for reception desk staff. Issues will include: security issues, interpreters, exchange of information and confidentiality regard the intake process. The session will explore specific culturally appropriate ways to assist and meet the needs of all PFJCI clients.

*Thursday, November 16*

Topic: To Be Announced

Please contact Nicki Slick at 612-348-5650 or email [nicki.slick@co.hennepin.mn.us](mailto:nicki.slick@co.hennepin.mn.us) to register your site.

### San Diego Technical Assistance Training Project

Work has begun on the PFJCI Manual. Building on the experiences of the PFJCI, the manual will serve as a step-by-step guide for communities interested in opening a family justice center. It will include a Lessons Learned chapter to help those just getting started to avoid the pitfalls already overcome by PFJCI sites.

You may have been or may shortly be contacted by Francine Phillips, researcher for the manual, for your insights. If you would like to contribute to the step-by-step guide or Lessons Learned sections, please send your story to [francine@sdfjc.org](mailto:francine@sdfjc.org) and include your full name, contact info, and site that you represent.

### *Next Month...*

- Meet the new executive director of the Family Justice Center of St. Joseph County in South Bend, IN.
- Hear from Nikki Daniels about the progress of the Family Justice Center of Hillsborough County in Tampa, FL.
- Get the perspective of national faculty member Mike Hoskins, Director, Family Violence Policy Office, Office of the Deputy Under Secretary of Defense, Military Community and Family Policy.

#### **Get involved!**

If you have news items for the Monthly Bulletin, please submit them to Jennifer Bodine by the 10th of each month at [Jennifer@sdfjc.org](mailto:Jennifer@sdfjc.org)

and we will include them in the next bulletin, subject to OVW final approval.

If you would like to subscribe directly to the Monthly Bulletin, please email [Jennifer@sdfjc.org](mailto:Jennifer@sdfjc.org) and write "Monthly Bulletin Subscription" in the subject line.

# Site Insight: Sitka, Alaska and Alameda, California

## Sitka Family Justice Center

The Sitka Family Justice Center in the remote town of Sitka, Alaska does not have the urban stresses that might be found in New York City or Oakland, but it does have its own challenges that makes its opening one of the most eagerly anticipated in the President's Family Justice Center Initiative. According to recently-hired Program Director Shannon Boussom, "This job is challenging and different and that's what I like about it."

The population of Sitka is 8,900 and there is no vehicular access in or out - the only access to the town is by plane or boat. Jeaneau, the nearest large town, with a population of 26,000, is reachable only by either a half-hour plane ride or 12-hour ferry ride.

"We rely on Alaska Airlines," said Boussom.

"Location has been the biggest challenge," she continued. "I have been involved with the planning for the FJC working with a team of people who were dedicated to making it happen, particularly Robi Craig and Louise Brady. They have been inspiring."

The Sitka FJC settled on a building that had, appropriately, been the "Healing House" for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska's social services. The building has been remodeled to accommodate the FJC and partners, and is divided into two areas with separate entrances. The building includes a family room for victim privacy and toys for children.

The Sitka Police Department Chief Sheldon Schmitt has been an active part of the planning for the Family Justice Center and will locate the Department's Domestic Violence Unit onsite, consisting of detective Kevin Richards and Wilma Bandy, Victim Services Coordinator. Another partner includes Dr. Bill Sallenbach, an employee of Sitka Tribal Social Services, a clinical psychologist who focuses on children who have been exposed to violence. Jennifer King, who works for the Alaska Network on Domestic Violence will be the onsite civil attorney. The advocates of Sitkans Against Family Violence, under the leadership of Director Chris Bauman, will be the onsite victim advocate agency, with help from Judy Brady and Vickie di'Amico, who has worked at their shelter for over 20 years. Off site partners will offer substance abuse counseling services through Sitka Counseling and Prevention.

**Sitka SpeedReader**

- Location was challenging
- Population 8,900
- PD & advocate partners on-site
- Opening planned for August 25



**Shannon Boussom, Program Director, Sitka Family Justice Center**

"In Sitka, we've had a good group of people working together for a long time on DV, but being in one location drew us to the grant," said Boussom, who worked for over three years as counsel for the Sitka Tribe of Alaska tribal council. "Co-location will allow us to help more victims. Our services are not far-flung the way they are in an urban center, but we still have people who can't make it across the bridge."

Another advantage in co-location is becoming evident to Boussom already. "It gives us the opportunity to know each other more. I can already tell that I'm learning more about these agencies. The key to getting to know staff is proximity."

Last April the Sitka Family Justice Center received training from the SafetyNet TA providers with the National Network to End Domestic Violence (NNEDV). Many

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## Site Insight, continued

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### Alameda County Family Justice Center

"I knew about the President's Initiative Grant the day it was released," said Nancy O'Malley, Chief Deputy District Attorney, and a key leader for the Alameda County Family Justice Center in Oakland, California. "The leaders in the Domestic Violence community here were amazed at the opportunity. We had already been through a number of issues together. We put together a Sexual Assault team and resolved territorial concerns. I had been involved in Domestic Violence at the state and national levels and had strong relationships in place. That can make or break a collaboration."

O'Malley noted that respect among agencies needs to be demonstrated, not just talked about. Part of that respect comes from the fact that many of those involved in the Family Justice Center have an advocacy background.

"There are District Attorneys in my office who are strong, passionate advocates," said O'Malley. "There are Victim Witness workers who are strong advocates. One of our medical practitioners started a Sexual Assault Response Team 15 years ago. She's an advocate. Some are in the paid advocate roles and some are advocates at heart."

Another key factor in establishing the Alameda FJC was strategic planning. The planning team invited Casey Gwinn to come to the initial, all-day strategic planning session, which was attended by 102 persons. The group discussed the vision and mission of the FJC and the working groups including "virtually everybody" who wanted to have a part in creating it. By the end of the day, said O'Malley, people were saying, "Let's create it today!"

The strategic plan gave the group context and helped direct each working group to fulfill its goals. When the Alameda FJC opened August 31, 2005, the community at large and many area leaders celebrated the event and have continued to embrace the Center.

"We've been written up, we've gotten awards. The Golden State Warriors basketball team adopted our Kid's Zone and the story was played every night at their games" said O'Malley. "We were just recognized by Oakland Magazine, as the Best of Oakland for Law, and we won the Good Business Award for East Bay Business Times. Each of these honors opens up another avenue to talk about the FJC. Overall, the media coverage has been incredible. Newscasters have come to us to ask if they could MC our events."



Nancy O'Malley, planning team  
Alameda County Family Justice Center, Oakland, California

### Alameda SpeedReader

- Opened August 31, 2005
- Strategic Planning was key
- Enjoys Major media support
- Exploring video relay system for requesting services

The Alameda FJC team has a vision for a full, vibrant center that stays true to its mission and expands beyond providing responsive services for Domestic Violence. The vision involves job training, skill training, counseling, and more.

According to O'Malley, the bottom line is that "people need help, a lot of help." The Alameda FJC reached almost 600 clients in June, 2006. The next step, according to O'Malley, is regionalization.

"I think that it is hard for people to get in their cars and come to Oakland. They just aren't going to," said O'Malley. "We are hoping that we will have a little bit of money and be able to put video relay systems in all the shelters and police departments so, at a minimum, a victim can go

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## Site Insight — Sitka, Alaska continued

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sessions of Strategic Planning and site visits from the San Diego TA Team kept the team moving forward toward opening. They held a mock opening on July 19 with a Grand Opening planned for August 25.

“We’re ready, I believe. Most of the community knows what we are doing at this point. Our major projects in the Fall will be sustainability and fund-raising - and grant writing,” said Boussom. “We have a receptionist, Cheryl Wilson, and now I have a nice sign above our door based on the tribal colors, turquoise, red and black. Sitka Family Justice Center.”



Left, Sitka Family Justice Center team in Sitka, Alaska. Above, the bridge that creates a barrier in winter.

## Site Insight — Alameda, cont.

(Continued from page 4)

into a room, turn on a TV and talk to someone about what services they need.”

What will it take to end violence against women? According to O’Malley, “we need to start talking to kids in kindergarten - as important to their education as reading and writing. We don’t teach kids that it’s not okay to hit. Kids grow up as witnesses to violence with low self-esteem and they don’t have the tools to avoid violence. We started talking to kids about drinking and driving 20 years ago. It’s time that we started talking to kids about abuse.”



Above the “Café Bosco” and above right, Chinese signage at the FJC. Right, Alameda Family Justice Center in Oakland, California.



# Spotlight On: Jacquelyn Campbell, PhD, RN, FAAN

## PFJCI faculty

Each issue of the Monthly Bulletin will highlight a PFCJI faculty member.

*Jacquelyn C. Campbell, PhD, RN is the Anna D. Wolf Chair and Professor at the Johns Hopkins University School of Nursing with a joint appointment in the Bloomberg School of Public Health. Dr. Campbell has been the PI of 10 major NIH, NIJ or CDC research grants and published more than 150 articles and seven books on violence against women. She is an elected member of the Institute of Medicine and the American Academy of Nursing and on the Board of Directors of the Family Violence Prevention Fund, and was a member of the Congressionally Appointed Task Force on Domestic Violence in the Military. She provides consultation to the World Health Organization and is currently the Institute of Medicine/AAN Nurse Scholar in Residence.*



I first got involved with Domestic Violence issues when I was working on my master's thesis in 1978, at Wright State University in Dayton, Ohio. My research involved working with a group of young, inner-city, African-American women and creating strategies to prevent major health problems. I started researching mortality rates and discovered that the leading cause of death for these women was homicide. I went to my faculty advisors and said, "How does a nurse affect that?"

They gave me a wise answer. "That is what research is all about. Study the problem." So I went to the police homicide files and discovered that there was a common factor among the homicides, most were killed by their domestic partners and, in most cases, there was a history of domestic violence that was documented prior to the homicide.

It was about this time that the first scholarly books were being published and people were starting to acknowledge Domestic Violence as a social problem. I finished my degree and moved to Detroit, where I persuaded all of my nurse friends to volunteer enough time to staff a clinic at the local shelter. That is where I really learned everything that is important to know about DV - from the victims themselves. I started teaching nursing students about the realities of DV and found some who were equally as passionate and we held our first conference. That established my work as a professional nurse in the DV field.

The changes from then to now have been amazing in the nursing community. Nurses are willing to take on this issue and create routine responses for women victims, for instance, when they receive pre-natal care. We now do a better job tracking women who have repeat STDs and urinary tract infections, which is often associated with forced sex. Nursing organizations are on the forefront of training healthcare professionals to identify victim injuries. But we still have a ways to go. We would like for every women to be routinely asked about Domestic Violence in a health assessment, they way they are asked about smoking. Some professionals think these questions should be indicator-based, but we feel that it is not enough.

**That is where I really learned everything that is important to know about DV – from the victims**

I think the Family Justice Center concept is wonderful and is an opportunity to collaborate with forensic nurses and establish a pattern of injuries or forced sex. In DV, DNA is not the issue, consent is - that's one area that we need to improve.

Part of what an FJC affords is that a woman can get help outside of the hospital setting. My hope is that at the FJC, services like sexual assault exams can become part of the comprehensive services and, if charges are brought, there is medical documentation available. FJCs can really incorporate a holistic response that is not just a criminal justice response, but also concern about the children, child witnesses and other needs such as shelter and safety.

My work continues to be about trying to identify the risk factors for homicide. The danger assessment that we developed is now online at

[www.dangerassessment.com](http://www.dangerassessment.com). It's in English and Spanish. In a recent study we found that one-quarter of the women who were re-assaulted in their homes were attacked during a custody exchange. Yet very few women had supervised visitation orders. That's a big need. Other needs include new provisions for protocols, mandatory reporting and judicial training. For instance, gun removal for convicted perpetrators is not implemented in many states.

I think that the FJCs are a wonderful move forward. They provide a way to implement a coordinated community response, which is easier said than done. I would urge that all the FJCs collaborate with their local health care systems, include forensic nurses in partnerships, participate in their communities around fatality reviews and homicides and the continue to serve children, most urgently those that witness Domestic Violence homicides.