

Family Justice Center



Family Justice Center



Mission Statement

To stop family violence; make victims safer; hold batterers accountable; provide wrap-around services and long-term support for victims and their children through collaboration and coordinated services; and ultimately be the first large city in the United States to eliminate domestic violence homicides.

Department Description

The San Diego Family Justice Center will work in a united effort to achieve the following objectives:

- Reduce the number of domestic violence cases that go unreported
- Ensure domestic violence perpetrators are prosecuted
- Provide help and resources to children exposed to domestic violence
- Increase access to medical care to victims of domestic violence
- Increase access to legal assistance to victims of domestic violence
- Reduce recidivism and homicides

The San Diego Family Justice Center (FJC) opened its doors on October 10, 2002, with unanimous support from the Mayor, City Council, City Attorney, City Manager, Police Chief, Fire Chief, and over 40 community organizations. Supporters included the County's entire Congressional delegation and State legislative delegation. The FJC was launched as a public safety initiative of the City of San Diego under the leadership of the Office of the City Attorney and the San Diego Police Department in order to address the issue of family violence.

Prior to the FJC, families had to seek help on their own and travel all over the city to receive needed services; sometimes as many as 32 different locations. The FJC makes the legal and recovery process less overwhelming to victims and their children. Victims of family violence, including domestic violence and elder abuse, in the City of San Diego can now come to one location to talk to an advocate, get a restraining order, plan for their safety, talk to a police officer, meet with a prosecutor, receive medical assistance, counsel with a non-denominational chaplain, get help with transportation, and obtain nutrition or pregnancy services counseling. Victims are also able to obtain clothing, food, counseling for their children, and forensic documentation of their injuries once they arrive at the FJC.

Family Justice Center

Department Description

The FJC unites the following agencies/programs under one roof to provide comprehensive, wrap-around services to victims of family violence: Adult Protective Services; Cal Western Law School Legal Internship Program; Camp Hope; Center for Community Solutions TRO Clinic; Children's Hospital Chadwick Center; Crime Victim's Fund; Navy and Marine Corps; President's Family Justice Center Initiative Technical Assistance Program; San Diego Office of the City Attorney Domestic Violence and Special Victims Unit; San Diego Deaf and Mental Health Services; San Diego District Attorney's Office Family Protection Division and Victim Witness Assistance Program; San Diego Domestic Violence Council; San Diego Family Justice Center Department; San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation; San Diego Fire Department Chaplain's Program; San Diego Police Department Domestic Violence Unit and Elder Abuse Investigations Unit; San Diego Probation Department; San Diego Volunteer Lawyers Program; San Diego Youth and Community Services B-SAFFE Human Trafficking Project; Sharp Grossmont Healthcare Forensic Medical Unit; Teen Court; Travelers Aid; and, the FJC Volunteer Program.

Governance

Given the success and growth of the FJC, it was clear to City policymakers and community leaders that a clear governance structure was needed to ensure the benefits to the citizens of San Diego. In October 2004, a City ordinance was proposed to establish a new department, the San Diego Family Justice Center Department, to support and advance the mission, goals, management, and future challenges. On November 29, 2004, the Mayor and City Council unanimously adopted Ordinance No. 0-19339 thereby creating the FJC as a City Department. The Council subsequently approved the allocation of five positions to staff the operations of the FJC Department, including a Director, Budget and Grants Analyst, Manager of Client Services, Executive Secretary, and Bilingual Clerical Assistant. The FJC is also supported by federal and state grants, as well as funds raised by the San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation.

Service Efforts and Accomplishments

In October 2003, President George W. Bush created the President's Family Justice Center Initiative designed to develop 15 federally funded Family Justice Centers across the country within the first two years. The San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation (Foundation) was named to oversee the Technical Assistance Team for the President's Initiative. Since the inception of the Initiative, 11 of the 15 demonstration sites have opened their doors. The rest of the sites are slated to open by the end of the calendar year 2007.

Beyond the President's Initiative, national and international momentum has been growing. In June 2004, the San Diego Family Justice Center in partnership with the Foundation created the National and International Family Justice Center Alliance, an informal sister city relationship, with other communities around the world moving toward the creation of Family Justice Centers modeled after the San Diego Family Justice Center.

Awards

- Outstanding Achievement Award at the U.S. Conference of Mayors in Denver (2003)
- Peacemaker's Award from the Mediation Center (2003)
- Leadership Award from Child Help USA (2004)
- National Awards Program for Adult Community Category from the Freedoms Foundation at Valley Forge (2004)
- Advancing the Status of Women Award from Soroptomist International (2004)
- City Manager's High Performing Team Award (2004)
- Howland Gold Medal Award for municipal enrichment from the National League of Cities (2005)
- Finalist in the Channel 10 Leadership Award Dinner (2005)
- One Place Center of Self Esteem (2005)
- Finalist for the San Diego Business Journal Multicultural Heritage Award (2005)
- Individual Leadership Awards from the San Diego Domestic Violence Council (2006)
- Individual Leadership Awards from the San Diego Bar Association and San Diego Police Historical Society (2006)

Family Justice Center

Service Efforts and Accomplishments

Consistent High Ratings from Victims

Clients who completed exit surveys reported that they felt safe upon arrival and services were provided quickly in an efficient manner. Survey results showed that staff was caring, comforting, and professional. The clients were particularly excited to have numerous services at one location rather than having to visit an estimated 32 locations.

Conclusion

Clearly, within four short years of operation, the San Diego Family Justice Center has achieved tremendous success and grown rapidly. It has gone from handling an average of 87 walk-in clients and 650 phone calls per month to 1,000 walk-in clients and 2,500 phone calls. It has been hailed as a model by President George W. Bush, the Attorney General of the United States, the California Attorney General, and many local, state, and federal elected officials. It has received national awards from the U.S. Conference of Mayors, the National League of Cities, and a variety of other national organizations. Since being featured on The Oprah Winfrey Show in January 2003, delegations from every state in America and over 50 countries have sent representatives from their communities to visit the San Diego Family Justice Center.

Today, the San Diego Family Justice Center, including its camping initiative Camp Hope, has become the most significant and comprehensive public safety initiative that addresses domestic violence in San Diego's history. Law enforcement, prosecution, intervention, and prevention services are now available under one roof to address all aspects of family violence incidents and it is touching the lives of many.

Budget Dollars at Work

Since 2002:

- Worked in close collaboration with 25 on-site community partners
- Served over 34,000 women, children, and men
- Answered over 140,000 phone calls
- Welcomed over 17,000 site visitors
- Raised over \$2.6M in grants
- Received 53,941 volunteer hours (using the 2005 national average hourly wage of \$18.04, this equates to close to \$1 million in value).

Department Summary

Family Justice Center				
	FY 2006 BUDGET	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 FINAL	FY 2007-2008 CHANGE
Positions	5.00	5.00	5.00	0.00
Personnel Expense	\$ 500,054	\$ 506,037	\$ 456,875	\$ (49,162)
Non-Personnel Expense	\$ 56,910	\$ 164,691	\$ 80,483	\$ (84,208)
TOTAL	\$ 556,964	\$ 670,728	\$ 537,358	\$ (133,370)

Family Justice Center

Department Staffing

	FY 2006 BUDGET	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 FINAL
GENERAL FUND			
Family Justice Center			
Client Svcs Mgmt	5.00	5.00	5.00
Total	5.00	5.00	5.00

Department Expenditures

	FY 2006 BUDGET	FY 2007 BUDGET	FY 2008 FINAL
GENERAL FUND			
Family Justice Center			
Client Svcs Mgmt	\$ 556,964	\$ 667,515	\$ 518,971
Family Justice Center	\$ -	\$ 2,225	\$ 11,943
Operations Mgmt Svcs	\$ -	\$ 988	\$ 6,444
Total	\$ 556,964	\$ 670,728	\$ 537,358

Significant Budget Adjustments

GENERAL FUND

Family Justice Center	Positions	Cost	Revenue
Salary and Benefit Adjustments	0.00	\$ (58,880)	0
Adjustments to reflect the annualization of the Fiscal Year 2007 negotiated salary compensation schedule, changes to average salaries, retirement contributions, retiree health contributions, and other benefit compensation.			
Increase to Retiree Health Care-Other Post-Employment Benefits (OPEB)	0.00	\$ 9,718	0
Addition of funds to be applied towards the total liability for retiree health care.			
Non-Discretionary	0.00	\$ 5,456	0
Adjustments to reflect expenses that are determined outside of the Department's direct control. Examples of these adjustments include utilities, insurance, and rent.			
Support for Information Technology	0.00	\$ (89,664)	0
Funding is allocated according to a zero-based annual review of information technology funding requirements and priority analyses.			

Family Justice Center

Expenditures by Category

	FY 2006 BUDGET		FY 2007 BUDGET		FY 2008 FINAL
PERSONNEL					
Salaries & Wages	\$ 340,673	\$	343,627	\$	297,387
Fringe Benefits	\$ 159,381	\$	162,410	\$	159,488
SUBTOTAL PERSONNEL	\$ 500,054	\$	506,037	\$	456,875
NON-PERSONNEL					
Supplies & Services	\$ 4,033	\$	54,933	\$	61,323
Information Technology	\$ 38,901	\$	76,002	\$	14,890
Energy/Utilities	\$ 13,976	\$	33,756	\$	4,270
SUBTOTAL NON-PERSONNEL	\$ 56,910	\$	164,691	\$	80,483
TOTAL	\$ 556,964	\$	670,728	\$	537,358

Salary Schedule

GENERAL FUND

Family Justice Center

<i>Class</i>	<i>Position Title</i>	<i>FY 2007 Positions</i>	<i>FY 2008 Positions</i>	<i>Salary</i>	<i>Total</i>
1132	Asst Management Analyst	1.00	1.00	\$ 53,981	\$ 53,981
1218	Assoc Management Analyst	1.00	1.00	\$ 64,539	\$ 64,539
1535	Clerical Assistant II	1.00	1.00	\$ 35,402	\$ 35,402
1876	Executive Secretary	1.00	1.00	\$ 52,009	\$ 52,009
2132	Department Director	1.00	1.00	\$ 90,000	\$ 90,000
	Bilingual - Regular	0.00	0.00	-	\$ 1,456
	Total	5.00	5.00		\$ 297,387
FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER TOTAL		5.00	5.00		\$ 297,387

