

## ***History of Solano County Office of Family Violence Prevention and Family Justice Center***

- 1998: The Office of Family Violence Prevention (OFVP) was created by the Board of Supervisors to reduce family violence in Solano County through collaborative activities with County departments, community based organizations, and non-profit victim service agencies. The Board of Supervisors originally directed that the development of this office occur under the County Administrator so that “Solano County would be assured a more coordinated response to family violence and ensure that the program was looked at a not favoring one functional area over another.”
- 2001: October 2001, the Board approved the OFVP three-year strategic plan. The plan outlines activities and goals that would be undertaken over the three-year period. The primary activities of the OFVP include facilitating the development of three projects designed to reduce violence in Solano County. Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), implemented in December 2001; Family Violence Intervention Team (FIT). The FIT team consists of a Sheriff's Detective, Victim/Witness Assistant, and CPS professional who make visits to homes where family violence is present; and Safe From The Start project (SFTS). This project is designed to reduce children's exposure to violence through public awareness, education, and early intervention.
- 2004-2006:
- AB 2010 passed that allowed Solano County to collect Vital Records Fees in support of collaborative and coordinated DV work.
- An Ad Hoc Committee of the Board of Supervisors was formed to explore model programs for developing coordinated, collaborative responses to family violence.
- On December 14, 2004 the Board of Supervisors approved a recommendation to transfer the Office of Family Violence Prevention from the County Administrator's Office to the Probation Department.
- On July 1, 2005 the OFVP completed its move to the Probation Department and operated as a stand-alone division within the Probation Department.
- Solano County collected one full year of Vital Records Fees to determine, on average, how much funding would be available on an annual basis. Solano County collected about \$80,000 per year in Vital Records Fees.
- The Ad Hoc committee made a recommendation, based on expected average annual funding, to explore creating a Family Justice Center.
- 2007: On February 27, 2007, the BOS authorized the Office of Family Violence, a Division of the Probation Department, to conduct a feasibility analysis of a Family Justice Center (FJC) in Solano County and approved a \$10,960 appropriation transfer request from unanticipated revenue form the Marriage License Special Fee AB 2010 Oversight Fund for the FY2006/07 cost of an extra

help Project Manager to prepare the study and develop funding concepts. OFVP contracted with the Glen Price Group to conduct a feasibility study for a potential Family Justice Center.

- 2009: On February 24, 2009, the Feasibility Study report for a proposed Solano Center for Family Safety and Justice was presented to the Board. It received approval to move forward with strategic implementation planning.

Strategic planning began and over 60 key stakeholders and partners attended the Strategic Planning Kick-Off event. Strategic planning included determining an appropriate site and facility, key programming and services, critical partnerships and operating agreements, and a sustainability plan.

The Office of Family Violence Prevention worked with key stakeholders to begin an assessment process that included domestic violence victim stakeholder groups to develop a framework for prioritizing types of services victims needed most. Stakeholders also explored partner strengths as well as available resources to determine which resources were most needed in order for key partners to support the project.

- 2010: The Office of Family Violence Prevention and its partners received over \$1 million in grant and foundation funding to support FJC services - \$400,000 from the US Dept. of Justice, Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) specifically for the SFJC project; \$400,000 for the Safe Haven Supervised Visitation and Exchange project, \$50,000 from the Avon for Women fund, and assisted in bringing in additional funding for other SFJC partners (including the Court's DV Docket project) for a total of more than \$1 million. This additional funding included passage of AB 1222 which extended the sunset date of the Vital Records Fee legislation (none of this funding could be used for capital expenditures.)

- 2011: Strategic planning completed. An original goal for the SFJC stated in the 2011 Plan was to “create a user-friendly environment for victims and their families that encourages effective partner collaboration.”

SB 154 (Wolk) passed which eliminated the sunset of Vital Records Fee funding.

The Solano Family Justice Center officially providing collocated services on February 2, 2011 with DV Shelter advocates and OFVP staff, although a formal site had not yet been identified.

June 14, 2011, the Board approved the transfer of the OFVP and 5.0 FTE from the Probation Department to the District Attorney's Office to better accommodate victims seeking services effective June 26, 2011.

September 27, 2011, the Board of Supervisors received a presentation from the District Attorney on the Solano Family Justice Center and directed staff to develop recommendations to rent, lease, lease/purchase or purchase a building to house the Solano Family Justice Center. The Board established a Family Justice Center Facility Ad Hoc Subcommittee to evaluate the alternatives and bring recommendations back to the Board.

2012: The Ad Hoc Subcommittee in coordination with the DA, General Services Department, and the County Administrator's Office evaluated alternative locations for the Solano Family Justice Center, resulting in a recommendation of 604 Empire Street, a County-owned space, as the location for the SFJC.

December 11, 2012, BOS passed the Terms and Conditions establishing a 30 month pilot project for the Solano Family Justice Center at 604 Empire St.

2013: 604 Empire Street opened its doors on April 24, 2013.

2014: October 7, 2014, the BOS received an update on the Solano Family Justice Center pilot project., it specified four on-site partners in addition to the OFVP and the Sheriff's Office: LIFT3, Child Haven, a pro bono attorney, and Catholic Social Services.

2015: June 30, 2015, a report ending the 30-month pilot project. An attachment discussed the Future Programming and Services for the Solano Family Justice Center stating: The District Attorney and the Office of Family Violence Prevention will continue to seek partnerships, programs, and funding sources that increase direct services for victims of family violence. The Solano Family Justice Center at 604 Empire Street, through the 30 month pilot project, has become the foundation upon which current and future partners can work together to strengthen and grow programming and services. It included a list of services and programs under consideration.

2017: The first Grand Jury Report was released it had several findings and noted several changes in partnerships.

2021: The second Grand Jury Report was released.

The SFJC is currently located at 604 Empire Street in Fairfield.