



**Solano Partnership Against Violence**  
604 Empire Street Fairfield, CA 94533  
707-784-7635

## **SPAV Advisory Board Members**

### **Executive Members**

#### ***Chair***

**Jenalee Dawson**

*District 3 Rep.*

#### ***Vice-Chair***

**Sandra Lee**

*Victim Advocate*

#### ***Secretary/Treasurer***

**Tiffani Thomas**

*Solano Courts*

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*District 1 Rep.*

Viola Robertson

*District 2 Rep.*

Christina Baird

*District 5 Rep.*

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*Contra Costa*

Dr. Mihri Inal Cakir

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Wendy Loomas

*Health & Social Services*

Cynthia Williams

*CASA / City of Fairfield*

Lisette Estrella- Henderson

*Solano County Office of*

*Education*

**May 7, 2019**

Dear Solano County Board of Supervisors:

Solano Partnership Against Violence (SPAV) is pleased to present to the Solano County Board of Supervisors the following "Violence Prevention Action Plan" for 2019/2020. This report is a synopsis of the excerpted collection of community input we have collected in the past year from local community organizations, county affiliates, and advocates who provide services or have been personally impacted by violence.

Note: (This is the first report submitted to the Board of Supervisors with the current SPAV Members at Large)

### **Membership**

SPAV has over 30 community partners and affiliates who attend regular monthly meetings of its 15-member board in support of its collaborative efforts as the advisory board to the Solano County Board of Supervisors. Current agencies represented by the membership include the Solano County Office of Education, Healthcare Providers, and social service agencies. These meetings are subject to the Brown Act and Robert's Rules of Order.

SPAV does not currently receive any funding but does receive administrative staff support from the Office of Family Violence Prevention (OFVP). OFVP acts as a liaison between SPAV and county departments, functions, and resources, for the purpose of carrying out SPAV's goals. This can include administrative support for the purpose of facilitating member recruitment, facilitating BOS agenda items, mandatory trainings, taking minutes, posting and distributing meeting agendas, providing necessary and appropriate meeting space and supplies, as well as other support services as needed, at the discretion of the Director of the Office of Family Violence Prevention. With this support, SPAV has been successful over the past few years in educating themselves on services, programs, and resources in the community, and partnering with numerous agencies to provide outreach and awareness.





## History

Solano Partnership Against Violence (SPAV) was originally formed in 1991 as a group of concerned professionals who convened monthly brown bag lunch meetings to discuss improving service delivery by public and private agencies to those affected by domestic violence. In 1995, it became the County's domestic violence task force planning body and was designated an independent entity operating as a Countywide task force on family and domestic violence by the Board of Supervisors (BOS) in April 1996. It was further designated as the Solano County Domestic Violence Prevention Council by the Board in August 1999, becoming eligible for County staff assistance, and thus began its relationship with the County's Office of Family Violence Prevention.

In August 2007, SPAV underwent a significant change in membership, and the new group drafted a Strategic Plan to address priorities that was presented to the Board in June 2008. Today, the purpose of SPAV is to develop a more comprehensive and systemic approach to ending family violence in Solano County. It is a collaborative group of professionals interested in addressing issues pertaining to the prevention, detection, and intervention of family violence in Solano County. Our vision is to engage all members of the community in heightened awareness and collaboration; to transform Solano County into a safe, violence-free place.

## Background of the Plan

SPAV's Strategic Plan (dated March 2008), has 4 top priority areas:

1. Educate ourselves on services, programs and resources in the community
2. Partner with agencies doing outreach
3. Conduct a needs assessment
4. Learn about the BOS legislative/policy process

It was determined by members that the only priority still needing to be addressed is #3: conducting a current needs assessment; and so, in February of 2018, members voted to form a strategic planning committee and begin the planning of this community-wide assessment.

However, it was immediately identified that the challenge of collecting pertinent data would be best served in a collaborative effort with other community partners. With the assistance of a pro-bono consultant (Potentiate), SPAV scheduled the first Community Violence Prevention Roundtable Forum.





The Roundtable Forum was held in Vallejo on September 18, 2018, with support from The Office of Family Violence Prevention, and with key-note speakers County Supervisor Erin Hannigan and District Attorney Krishna Abrams. A total of 98 participants, community partners and agencies from different sectors of the community attended in support and to provide valuable input and expertise. Other key participants included Solano County Health and Social Services Director Gerald Huber, Vallejo Mayor Bob Sampayan, Senator Bill Dodd, and representatives from the offices of Congressman Mike Thompson and John Garamendi.

With the help of facilitators from Sonoma State University, an assessment was conducted on the current gaps and needs in the community as it pertains to access to services. Additionally, opportunity was provided to receive community input on how to best address prevention of violence in the areas of Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, Teen Dating Violence, and Elder Abuse.

From these efforts, the strategic planning committee, comprised of Board Members Cora Young (Chair), Wendy Loomas (Vice-Chair), Brenna Benjamin, Sandra Lee, Jenalee Dawson, Dr. Mihri Inal Cakir, volunteers Robert Tobin, Vic Jenkins, and Kirstein Reid, and staffed by Lori Frank, met monthly to formulate a Plan to bring back to the membership for approval for submission to the Board of Supervisors. Together they contextualized the input, and developed the outlined “Action Plan”, which was approved February 13th, 2019 by the SPAV voting members. This Action Plan is intended as a tool to move forward in the development of a new Strategic Plan to better serve the current needs in Solano County. SPAV’s goal is to continue holding roundtable forums, where efforts can clearly identify the current problems as it pertains to violence prevention and intervention and define overall solutions to build a strong implementation and plan grounded in strategy. Together, we will build community-wide momentum and be actively engaged in preventing violence in Solano County.

This report is presented to the Solano County Board of Supervisors for the purpose of providing information on the proposed Action Plan and SPAV’s most current goal in the development of a new Strategic Plan to better serve the advisory board over the next 1-3 years.

Respectfully,

Jenalee Dawson, SPAV Chair





*In fulfillment of The Solano Partnership Against Violence (hereafter SPAV) mission to develop a more comprehensive approach to ending family violence in Solano County consistent with the Board of Supervisors policies, SPAV presents the results of a September 2018 community forum regarding child abuse, teen interpersonal violence, elder abuse and domestic violence, and their 2019 Action Plan for improving local prevention and intervention efforts to address these issues.*

#### BACKGROUND:

The Solano Partnership Against Violence (SPAV) exists for the purposes of:

- a) Providing a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment and legal processing of family violence cases;
- b) Promoting public awareness of family violence and the resources available for intervention and treatment;
- c) Providing the Board of Supervisors with policy, legislative and funding recommendations;
- d) Encouraging and facilitating training of professionals in detection, treatment, and prevention of family violence;
- e) Recommending improvements in services to families and children;
- f) Encouraging and facilitating community support for family violence prevention programs; and
- g) Facilitating better integration of family violence prevention services within Solano County.

To fulfill item "C" above, SPAV members and volunteers gathered issue indicator data for presentation at a "community roundtable" discussion on September 18, 2018, where 98 local residents and agency representatives shared community input of recommendations (see Appendix A) for reducing the incidence of family violence - and accelerating response when it does occur - within Solano County.

Based on these findings, SPAV requests the Solano County Board of Supervisors' endorsement of its proposed 2019 Action Plan that will guide its development of a 2020 Strategic Plan for improving local efforts to address these issues.





## SOLANO PARTNERSHIP AGAINST VIOLENCE 2019 ACTION PLAN

In order to address each objective below, SPAV has created five Ad Hoc subcommittees comprised of Board Members and community affiliates who will be working to address each objective in order to achieve the stated outcomes. Those committees are:

- Reducing Barriers
- Interagency Communication
- Safe Housing
- Quality Assurance
- Leveraging Resources

SPAV intends to report back on its accomplishments to the Board of Supervisors in April 2020.

**OBJECTIVE #1:** Develop strategies for reducing systems access barriers for victims of family violence who encounter cultural, language and other logistical obstacles to securing support services.

**OUTCOME:** SPAV will clarify role responsibilities, interagency communication/coordination procedures, referral criteria, etc. and will identify options for translation services, cultural diversity training and other strategies to improve responsiveness to underserved populations in Solano County.

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**OBJECTIVE #2:** Encourage local public/private agencies involved in family violence prevention/intervention services to work together to assure Solano County's response to these issues is based on evidence-based best practices.

**OUTCOME:** SPAV hosts a systems development meeting where we will identify local agencies that will delineate necessary adjustments to bring Solano County's services system for family violence survivors into closer alignment with the six-principles of trauma-informed care (i.e. safety, trust & transparency, choice and mutuality, collaboration, empowerment and cultural competency).

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**OBJECTIVE #3:** Assure that Solano County’s local housing development plan reflects the necessity for additional “Safe Housing”<sup>{1}</sup> options for survivors of family violence using the “Housing First”<sup>{2}</sup> approach.

**OUTCOME:** SPAV will engage local public/private housing programs from the seven cities and unincorporated areas within Solano County in developing strategies for increased/improved response to the housing needs of those displaced by family violence.

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**OBJECTIVE #4:** Promote the implementation and publishing of Client Satisfaction surveys from local agencies involved in family violence services.

**OUTCOME:** SPAV will strengthen quality assurance monitoring for the family violence services system by updating SPAV’s 2009 survey of local agencies regarding responsiveness to children and families exposed to family violence and encourage local agencies’ commitment to publish aggregate information about survivors’ assessment of service responsiveness.

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**OBJECTIVE #5:** Invite an independent local philanthropic group (e.g. Solano Community Foundation) to convene a conversation among local family violence prevention and intervention agencies regarding collaborative response to emerging public and private sector resource opportunities.

**OUTCOME:** SPAV will recommend local response system for reducing the occurrence of family violence and accelerating response when it does occur, defining the financial resources local agencies bring to this issue, and establishing the number of people/households assisted annually by this system as preliminary steps toward development of a comprehensive resource acquisition strategy for addressing unmet needs. This will provide the basis for devising strategies for the design and implementation of a Development Plan for bringing additional funding and other resources into local efforts to prevent and intervene in family violence in Solano County.

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<sup>{1}</sup> Safe Housing is domestic and sexual violence transitional housing so that survivors and their children can avoid homelessness as the only means of living free from abuse.

<sup>{2}</sup> Housing First is an approach to quickly and successfully connect individuals and families experiencing homelessness to permanent housing without preconditions and barriers to entry, such as sobriety, treatment, or service participation requirements.





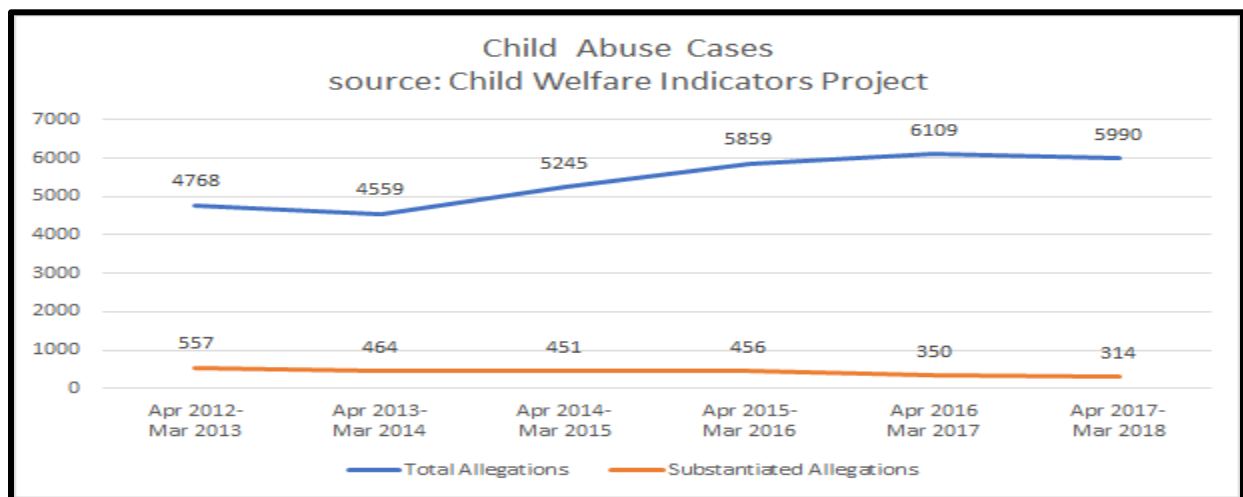


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## APPENDIX A:

*The following are summaries of community input received from Solano County Community Forum on Family Violence (Vallejo, September 18, 2018) that served as the basis of the Action Plan. Provided for informational purposes only.*

### ISSUE AREA #1: Child Abuse



Source: Child Welfare Indicators Project

#### **RECOMMENDATIONS re: Child Abuse Prevention/Intervention:**

- 1a Commend local agencies that provide community-based support services to those affected by family violence.
- 1b Encourage the County's Child Welfare Services division to expand/formalize a multi-sector/system response to child neglect cases which have the highest number of allegations, and to bring back the Family Strengthening Partnership program.
- 1c Commend local school districts for their youth leadership councils and cultivate these groups' engagement in policy/program discussions regarding family violence reduction.
- 1d Encourage local school districts to replicate the Benicia School District's practice of having student conflict managers on site at each school.





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- 1e Promote availability of pro bono legal services support for custodial parent.
- 1f Complement current crisis –focused intervention services with lighter touch, pre-legal system involvement where safe and appropriate.
- 1g Promote implementation of Universal Consent Form among local agencies to accelerate service coordination.

## ISSUE AREA #2: Teen Interpersonal Violence

In summary, the group discussion was for all agencies to work in collaboration to address issues pertaining to youth violence. Many agencies that currently serve youth are unaware of other agencies that can assist in providing support. The group felt they would be able to do more to educate and support the youth in areas of violence prevention if they worked together and supported each other's efforts.

SPAV intends to focus on supporting current programs in place that are working in the prevention and intervention of Teen Interpersonal Violence. Our intended goal is to decrease the number of reported non-fatal emergency visits in Solano County in the near future. Advocating for the need to implement new education and awareness programs, through collaborative efforts with local school districts, and community-based organizations that serve the youth population.

### Non-fatal Emergency Department Visits for Violence Against Teen Females by Partner (EpiCenter)

Year	15-19 yrs	20-24 yrs	Total
2013	43	181	224
2014	35	214	249
TOTAL			473

Source: EpiCenter







- 2a Commend local programs currently working on issues pertaining to Teen Interpersonal Violence:
- Solano Youth Voices, Solano Youth Coalition and other groups cultivating teen engagement in issue discussions, policy development and program planning;
  - Benicia School District's use of conflict managers;
  - Services to homeless youth (e.g. Heart-to-Heart);
  - Youth activities options like Police Activity League, Late Night Basketball, etc.;
  - Emerging faith-based groups like New Dawn (Vallejo);
  - Utilize "hot spot mapping" to identify safe & unsafe spaces in local schools.
- 2b Encourage better use of local school data already available (e.g. Healthy Kid Survey) and/or add questions to this survey to get information needed about "safe space" in schools and accelerate response to students-in-need.
- 2c Encourage local school boards to fully implement AB 643 (chaptered 10/7/17, Section 51934 of the Education Code) authored by Assemblyman Jim Frazier, which requires school districts to ensure that all pupils in grades 7 to 12 receive information about adolescent relationship abuse and intimate partner violence.



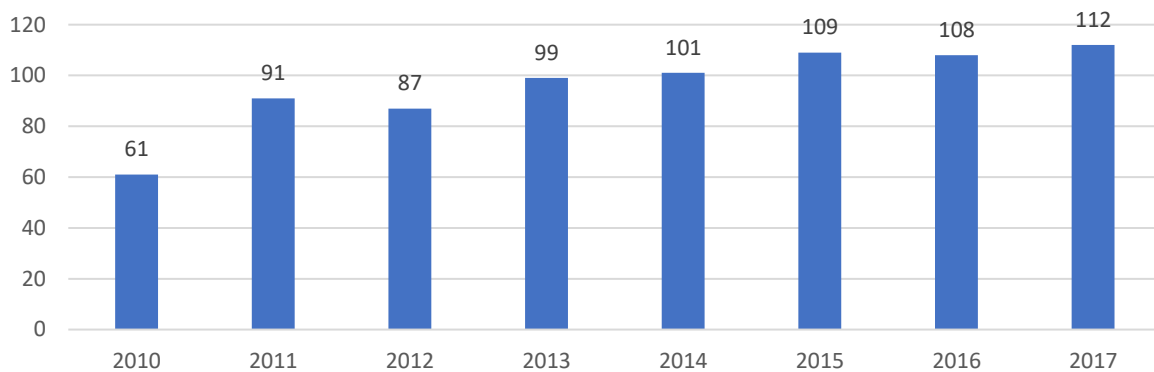


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## ISSUE AREA #3: Elder Abuse

### Violent Crimes Against Senior Citizens in Solano County 2010 to 2017

SOURCE: [openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data](http://openjustice.doj.ca.gov/data)



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- 3a Commend Meals on Wheels, Faith-in- Action, In-Home Support Services, the local Food Bank, local Senior Centers that support seniors living independently, and Pride Center, St. Vincent DePaul, Solano County Senior Coalition, Catholic Charities, County Veterans Services, Alzheimer's Association and other local groups for their creative response to the needs of this population.
- 3b Allocate Solano County matching funds for implementation of the "Home Safe" {3} law for enhancing elder protection.
- 3c Support information/referral hotline for senior citizens, and other options that reverse the current reactive process toward more protective/preventive response system.
- 3d Consider replication of Child Protective Services (CPS) model for investigating claims of elder abuse reported.

{3} The **Safe at Home** program provides victims of domestic violence, stalking, sexual assault and human trafficking (effective January 1, 2018), as well as reproductive health care workers, a way to thwart abusers from finding them at home, at work and at school. **Safe at Home** participants are assigned a substitute mailing address.

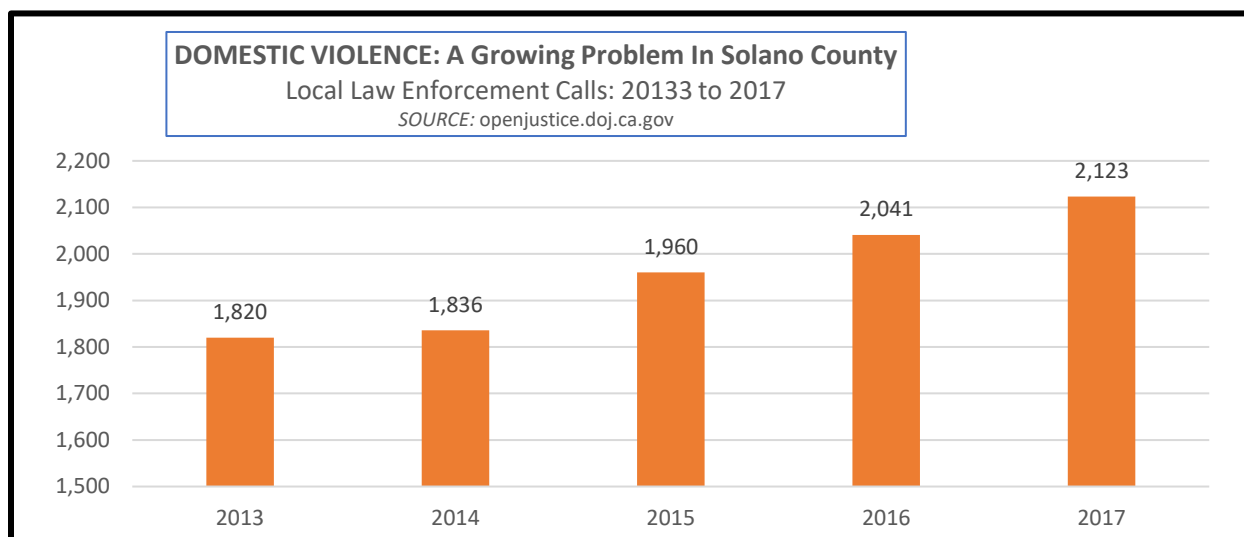




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- 3e Promote development of strategies to address fear of stigma among those seeking services from Latino, LGBTQ and Asian communities. Partner with the Solano Pride Center, to provide educations and awareness.
- 3f Encourage better communication regarding financial scams against elderly.
- 3g Encourage Solano County's state/federal lobbyist to highlight an elder abuse issues agenda.

## ISSUE AREA #4: Domestic Violence



Source: openjustice.doj.ca.gov

- 4a Ask Solano County District Attorney's Office to explore replication of the perjury prosecution unit for family law cases that has proven cost-effective in Lake County.
- 4b Advocate for expanded access to therapy funded by Victims of Crime Act (VOCA) to include extended family members close to the victim and increase availability of these services by advocating for an increase in the therapist reimbursement rate.
- 4c Invite local health care providers to develop a domestic violence screening protocol for domestic violence in the early stages of pregnancy and expand availability of counseling on healthy relationships and positive parenting for young couples having their first child.





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- 4d Encourage the Solano County Family Court system to apply emerging “best practices” regarding adjudication of family violence cases, e.g. several counties operate a Family Court for domestic violence cases to better address child custody and other issues.
- 4e Strengthen efforts on addressing domestic violence problems at their source by directing the SPAV to track data on perpetrator’s compliance with court-ordered participation in Batterers Intervention Programs; on the compliance rate compliance with mandated orders from Probation Department; and on the frequency of cases plea bargained down to non-DV-related charge.
- 4f Encourage federal legislators to support H Con Res. 72 expressing the sense of Congress that child safety is the first priority of custody and visitation adjudications, mandating State courts to improve adjudications of custody where family violence is alleged.
- 4g Encourage follow-up well-being checks on family violence survivors.

