



“Domestic Violence and Child Abuse - The History, the Parallels and the Ethical Issues”

Charles Wilson, MSSW

Executive Director
Chadwick Center for Children and Families
Rady Children's Hospital



Developing the Relationship Between Child
Advocacy Centers and Family Justice Centers

Understand the History...
Looking Forward...

FJC Vision Statement

- **A future where...**
 - All the needs of adult and child victims are met
 - Children are protected
 - Violence fades,
 - Batterers/abusers are held accountable
 - Economic justice increases,
 - Families heal and thrive,
 - Hope is realized, and
 - We ALL work together...



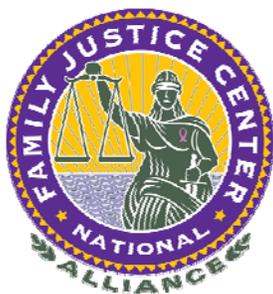
**Child Advocacy Centers and
Family Justice Centers...**

Working collaboratively...



Reaching the Vision
is not an event...

It is a long journey...



1992 New York Study

Children Are Present in 68%
of All Reported Domestic
Violence Incidents

The Reality

- 3.3 to 10 million children witness domestic violence each year
- 54% of all child abductions occur in the context of domestic violence
- 75% of the children of divorced parents report witnessing domestic violence
- 70% of shelter children are victims of physical abuse or neglect



The Facts

- Child abuse is 15x more likely to occur in DV homes
- 50-75% of male batterers also abuse their children
- 6% of pregnant women are battered (CDC 1997 Study)
- 6x more likely to commit suicide (Mass. Study, 1992)
- 24x more likely to be sexually assaulted
- 60x more likely to be involved in delinquent behavior
- Male children witnessing any DV: At least three times more likely to become abusers
- Children of most violent homes: 1000x more likely to become abusers
- 1992 Mass. Study – 67 child fatalities – 43% were in homes where the mother was identified as a victim of domestic violence





History of 2 Movements: Child Abuse & Domestic Violence

History of 2 Movements

Child Protection

- Child Protection grew out of the medical recognition of child abuse in the 1960's and child welfare traditions dating back to the passage of the Social Security Act and before. Both had a rescue orientation
- For the first 20 years the field in general matured through professional orientations with medicine, criminal justice, child protection and mental health operating in silos
- Sexual Abuse reports exploded in 1984.





Summer of 1977

**“Why don’t you big people
talk to one another?”**



Spring of 1984

**“You’re supposed to be
helping..... but your
making it worse!”**





History of 2 Movements

Child Protection

- Child Protection grew out of the medical recognition of child abuse in the 1960's and child welfare traditions dating back to the passage of the Social Security Act and before. Both had a rescue orientation
- For the first 20 years the field in general matured through professional orientations with medicine, criminal justice, child protection and mental health operating in silos
- The CAC movement emerged as part of a broader recognition that the disciplines must work together
- For most of this history the survivors of abuse played little role in shaping the shape of the response

History of 2 Movements

Domestic Violence

- Shelter movement was driven by survivors
- DV movement grew out of recognition by survivors of domestic violence that services and support were needed along with housing...
- DV movement is a different social change movement than child protection
- Home network, secret advocacy, confidential shelters, non-government social services...then the call for criminal and civil justice system to help...
- Then the realization that re-victimization could happen if they "helped"...
- Leading to money and specialized programs...
- Leading to...victims going from place to place to place to get needed help...





What's a CAC?

- **First – It's a Team**

- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection
- Prosecutor
- Medical
- Mental health
- Victim Advocacy



Essential Components of CAC Team

- **All 6 Disciplines Represented**

- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection
- Prosecutor
- Medical
- Mental health
- Victim Advocacy

- **All Involved in the Investigation**
- **Routinely Share Information**
- **Written Agreement-Protocol**



San Diego Community Partners

- Health and Human Services Agency:
 - Child Welfare Services (CWS)
- Law Enforcement
- District Attorney
- County Counsel
- Medical
- Hospital based Children's Advocacy Centers
- Trauma Mental Health Treatment
- Kids in Court
- Schools



What's a CAC?

- CAC's are not just a team – It's a place





Other Essential Components

- Organization Capacity
 - Governance
 - Embedded within Government Agency
 - Part of Existing Nongovernmental Agency
 - Hospital Based
 - New Nongovernmental Agency
- Cultural Competency and Diversity
 - **Language capacity**



Other Essential Components

- **Forensic Interviews**



eed the



Other Essential Components

- **Medical**

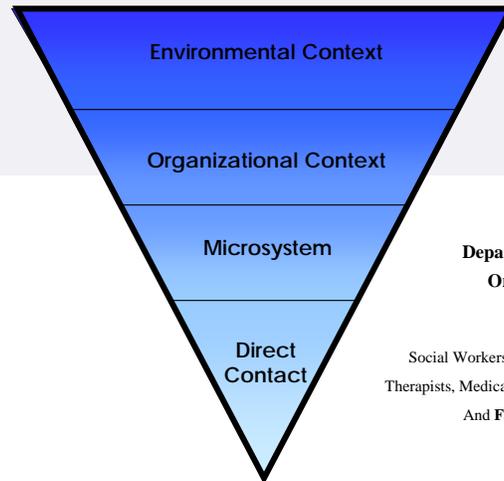


Case Review

- Regularly scheduled
- Coordination
- Facilitation
- What Cases?
- Timing?
- Location?



Institute for Healthcare Improvement Model



Community/
Fundors

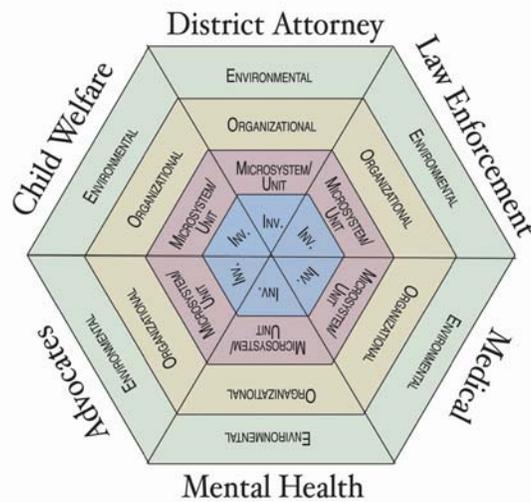
Organizations

Departments Within
Organizations

Social Workers, Investigators,
Therapists, Medical Professionals. Etc
And Families



Complexity of Change in a CAC Environment



What's a FJC and Where Did They Come From?



The Family Violence Program at Children's Hospital

- 1989 - Assigned Advocates to Battered Women to Support Them in Family Court, Criminal Court, Juvenile Court
- Where Child Abuse and Domestic Violence Were Present in the Relationship
- Court Support
- Safety Planning



Partnership with City Attorney and Family Violence Program

- Longer sentences with advocates in court
- Study showed victims were less likely to recant with support from FVP
- Prior history far more extensive than prior police contacts
- High prevalence of sexual assault
- Identification of high risk cases was easier



Key Event: Public Conflict with Children's Services Bureau - 1991

Domestic Violence vs. Child Abuse

Public Awareness Campaign with Focus on Children - 1993

- Public Service Announcements with 911 Tapes From Children
- Posters/Billboards/Bus Bench Ads
- DV Council PSA video
- National Campaign Available Through Family Violence Prevention Fund - San Francisco



The Change Process...

- Tension, finger pointing
- Court fight...over access to records...
- Dialogue...between CA and DV professionals
- Cross-Training
- Child Abuse/DV Committee of DV Council
- Family Violence Project - Probation Officers and CPS Workers



San Diego Family Violence Project

- Specialized Handling of Cases Where Defendant on Felony Probation and History of Domestic Violence and Child Abuse
- Specially trained in Domestic Violence Issues
- Advocacy for V...Goal: Protect Victim so she can maintain custody of children!!
- Facilitate Support Systems for Children
- Hold the Abuser Accountable!



Fundamental Principle:

You cannot protect children if you do not protect their mothers...

Key Question: Are You Planning
for the Safety of the Children in All
DV cases?

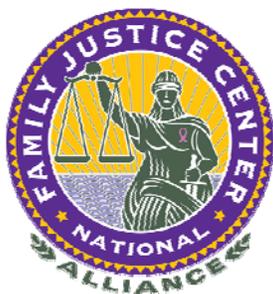
- Safety Plans for Kids
- Support Groups for Kids



And on the other side...
a key question:

- Are you planning for the safety of mothers in all child abuse cases?
- Do you have specially trained domestic violence advocates working as full partners in your child advocacy system?
- Are partners cross-referring cases?





The Next Major Step Forward...

...to Help Hurting Families

San Diego Grand Opening – October 2002

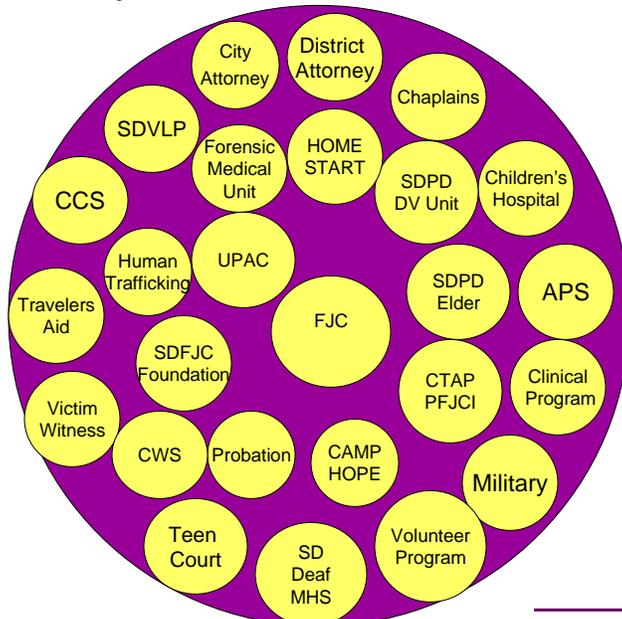




Family Justice Center Grand Opening October 10, 2002

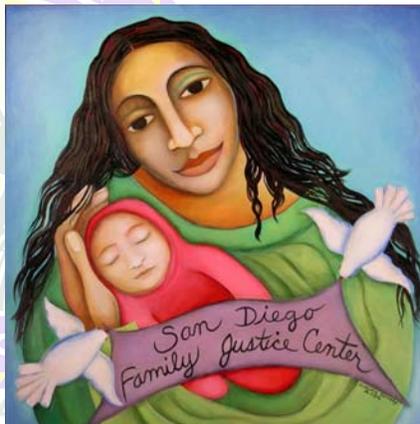


Family Justice Center Vision

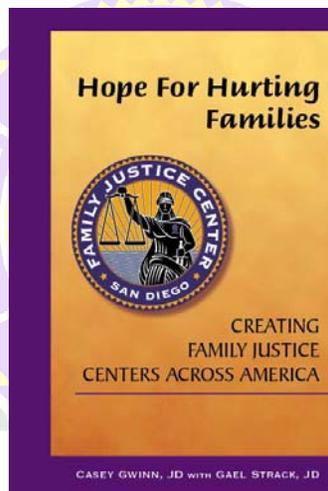


CAC + FJC Models

- The Long-Term Vision: CAC + FJC Working Together to provide the best assistance for victims of abuse



New FJC Book



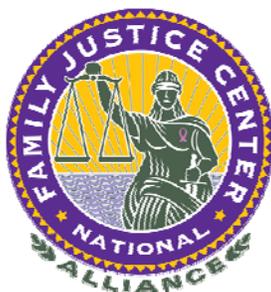
www.volcanopress.com





Chapter 8: Helping Children Caught in the Cross-fire

*Gwinn, Strack "Hope for Hurting Families:
Creating Family Justice Centers Across
America"*



The Chadwick Center Children's
(CAC) at the San Diego Family
Justice Center...

Opened September 2004

Meeting the Needs of Children...

- Children's Hospital's Chadwick Center (CAC) – Service Provider
- Goals: Provide all necessary children's services on-site...
 - Forensic exams
 - Interviews
 - Therapy/Counseling



What Are YOUR Issues?

- Do you have coordinated services for victims of child abuse and domestic violence?
- Do you see a need for such coordination?
- What are your barriers to building this partnership?
- How can your existing coordination between child abuse and domestic violence advocates be improved?



Innovative Approaches

- National Children's Advocacy Center
www.nationalcac.org
- Ouachita Parish FJC
www.fjcouachita.org
- St. Joseph County FJC Vision
- Hillsborough County FJC
- San Diego FJC/YWCA/Chadwick Vision



Reminders for Dreamers

- Be Focused and Persistent
- Be Overcomers: Politics, Turf Issues, Competing Priorities, Enemies, Money, and Personality Conflicts
- Bringing together Child Advocacy services and Domestic Violence services is NOT EASY!
- Stay Humble
- Learn from past mistakes
- Listen to advocates/survivors
- Always aspire, never settle
- Beyond services...what is your Camp Hope?



Dream Big!



Rady
Children's Chadwick Center
San Diego for Children & Families



Family Justice Center Grand Opening October 10, 2002