HAVING A FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER MODEL IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY

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Role of Collaboration

- Family violence is a social problem
  - Different factors at different levels contribute to it
- There are many different agencies and service providers
  - No one agency/provider/person has all the answers
- Family Justice Centers (FJCs) help facilitate collaboration
Emergence of Family Justice Center

- San Diego 1989, Casey Gwinn
  - Idea of a “one-stop-shop” for victims
- Addition of agencies
  - YWCA, CCS, Victim Witness, CPS
- Collaboration w/ Police Chief
  - Held community meetings, focus groups
- Presentation to City Council
  - Approval and opening in 2002
- FJC Federal Initiative, 2003
- FJC Alliance, 2006
San Jose Family Violence Center

- Opened in 1997
- Predates the opening of Family Justice Centers
- San Jose and the Family Violence Center applied for federal funding to be able to expand, but were denied
Alameda County Family Justice Center

- Opened in 2005
- Open welcoming environment
  - i.e. trauma informed
- Client navigator program
- Strategic placement of partners
- 26 co-located agencies and service providers
Getting the Ball Rolling (in San Jose and Santa Clara County)

- The pieces are there
  - DV Counsel, Family Wellness Court
- Stakeholders like the idea
- Challenges
  - Funding
  - Champions
Collaboration

Judging from the Victim Services Network Community Readiness Assessment:

- Agencies do work together

- There is “collaboration”
  Linkage scores – Alliance level w/ aspects of Coordination

- There is a distinct advantage to co-location
  “If you are not co-located in the same building it is tough… so being co-located to me is the most effective way to fix relationships between agencies that can sometimes butt heads… So I think the biggest way to effectively work together is actually to be co-located”
Collaboration (cont.)

 “…You are not going to want to go to a bunch of different places and meet all different strangers and tell your story a million times. So yeah, I think it definitely makes it a more approachable than to do to not be sending somebody to a million places”

 “Obviously our District Attorney and police still work together to bring cases of violent crime forward but that’s different than being physically in the same location and in the same location with the service providers.”

 …the way that we are siloed and located there are missing opportunities to collaborate.”
Family Justice Center:
Readiness Assessment

- Currently at the “Preparation” stage

Strategies

- Community surveys and assessments
- Public forums or counsels where the public can attend to discuss strategies
- Meeting with leaders and key individuals to generate support from them and community
Next Steps

- Generating commitment
- Identifying key stakeholders
- Making contact w/ the FJCA
  - Community Readiness Assessment
- Access available federal funds
  - Competing for grants
- ICR Trauma Informed Assessment