



2012

Artwork by Claudia Fernety www.claudiafernety.com

Presented By



In Partnership With



Sponsored By



ALLIANCE MISSION:

Our mission is to create a network of national and international Family Justice Centers and similar co-located service models with close working relationships, shared training and technical assistance, collaborative learning processes, coordinated funding assistance, and transformational leadership.

ALLIANCE VISION:

A future where:

- All the needs of victims are met,
- Children are protected,
- Violence fades,
- Batterers are held accountable,
- Economic justice increases,
- Families heal and thrive,
- Hope is realized, and
- We ALL work together...

Family Justice Center Alliance 707 Broadway, Suite 700 • San Diego, CA 92101 Phone: (888) 511-3522 • Fax: (619) 236-0677 www.familyjusticecenter.org



TABLE OF CONTENTS

| Introduction | 4 |
|--|----|
| Telling Amy's Story | 5 |
| Create Strategies to Raise Awareness Using Telling Amy's Story | 5 |
| Create a Video | 6 |
| Showcase Video at Targeted Forums | 6 |
| Additional Tips | 7 |
| Develop a High Risk Case Response | 7 |
| Additional Resources and Information | 8 |
| Develop Outreach and Awareness Materials | 9 |
| Changing the Ending to <i>Telling Amy's Story</i> Brochure | 9 |
| Changing the Ending to <i>Telling Amy's Story</i> Flyer | 10 |
| Documenting Outcomes | 10 |
| Conclusion | 11 |
| Appendix | 12 |
| | |



INTRODUCTION

This toolkit is designed to help Family Justice Centers raise awareness about domestic violence, the Family Justice Center model, and most importantly, high-risk victims. Domestic violence homicides are predictable. If they are predictable, they are preventable. It is only a question of awareness, resources, and priorities. Professionals and community citizens can utilize resources, such as the Verizon Foundation-supported documentary, *Telling Amy's Story*, to identify victims in need. Together, we can change the ending for the next Amy.

The Alliance would like to thank One Safe Place (The Tarrant County Regional Family Justice Center) for pilot testing this program. Many of the recommended steps and processes found throughout this toolkit are available due to the hard work and tremendous effort of One Safe Place.

Special Note: Items marked with an asterisk (*) are available as a resource in the Appendix of this toolkit.



TELLING AMY'S STORY

Telling Amy's Story is a documentary that follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred on November 8, 2001. The victim's parents and co-workers, law enforcement officers, and court personnel share their perspectives on what happened to Amy Homan McGee in the weeks, months, and years leading up to her death. The detective who led the case review, Deidri Fishel, discusses the danger signs in Amy's relationship and the numerous times police or other agencies could have intervened. Click here to view the 4-minute trailer: http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=9pt0qoqFV6g.



CREATE STRATEGIES TO RAISE AWARENESS USING TELLING AMY'S STORY

Unfortunately, we cannot change the ending to Amy's story but we can change the outcome for other victims. Family Justice Centers can use the documentary to educate the community



about domestic violence and the services available at Centers. Such education can assist friends, family, and co-workers in talking about domestic violence, learning about high-risk factors, and getting help for victims in need.

One Safe Place (The Tarrant County Regional Family Justice Center) used the documentary in a variety of strategic ways that other Centers can adapt and model in your community. The following information provides ideas and approaches to strategically and efficiently use the documentary.

Create a Video



One Safe Place took the four-minute trailer of *Telling Amy's Story* and merged it with their informational video. The video showed viewers that "Amy" exists in their community as well; however, the Family Justice Center is now available to *change the ending* for the next Amy. The video is available here: http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=4BA16ehaijl&f eature=youtu.be.

Showcase Video at Targeted Forums

Directors, partner agency staff members, and volunteers are frequently asked to provide training or an informational presentation about the Family Justice Center. Telling Amy's Story can be used to explain why the Family Justice Center is needed and why it works. The documentary captures the audience's attention and highlights how serious of an issue domestic violence really is in every community. The Alliance recommends using the documentary in these settings:

- Family Justice Center Open Houses/Tours
- Family Justice Center Informational Presentations (Off-Site)

- Community Forums
- Business Training Events it is an excellent tool to open the discussion when providing training for a Human Resources Department or other business audience *and gaining that business's support for the Family Justice Center!*
- Staff and Volunteer Trainings

Additional Tips

- The Alliance recommends distributing additional *Telling Amy's Story* DVDs to interested audience members. For copies of the DVD, contact the Alliance at info@nfjca.org.
- After showing the documentary, the Alliance recommends providing a **short survey*** to the audience. The survey will identify outcomes and help you analyze how successful the documentary was in your presentation.
- Finally, post the YouTube four-minute trailer of the documentary on your website. The documentary assists survivors and interested community citizens to understand the connection between one person's story and the need for and services provided at the Family Justice Center.

DEVELOP A HIGH RISK CASE RESPONSE

For many years, domestic violence professionals have believed that high risk case information should only be managed by professionals. Little effort has been made to educate the general public about the key lethality markers that indicate whether a victim may be in a high risk situation. Today, the National Family Justice Center Alliance recommends that all community members be educated about high risk domestic violence victims and high risk cases. By understanding the markers of high risk cases, business professionals, community members, friends, and family members will be more quickly able to seek professional help when a high risk victim is identified.





The Alliance created a video, featuring Alliance President, Casey Gwinn, to educate members of the public about the key high risk factors that should raise red flags and cause business leaders, community members, neighbors, family, and friends to reach out to criminal justice system professionals, civil attorneys, and social service providers once these key lethality factors are identified in a particular

relationship or case. The video can be used by any Family Justice Center and shown in community presentations or staff trainings at Family Justice Centers. Alternatively, this video can also be used by any Family Justice Center Director or local elected official to create a personalized video with similar content. The script of this video is available from the Alliance upon request. Click here to view the video: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=1q6-</u>dA_bX3c&feature=youtu.be.



In addition, the Alliance has created a **Domestic Violence High Risk Case Protocol*** which explains the steps professionals must take to enhance victim safety and offender accountability when they identify such a victim that is in extreme danger. The Protocol can be used as a review in each Family Justice Center

to ensure all necessary steps and procedures are in place. The Protocol is available in the Appendix of this toolkit.

Additional Resources and Information

In addition to the ideas and suggestions above, the following resources may be helpful to learn more about *Telling Amy's Story* and related high-risk case information.

• Family Justice Center Alliance Resource Library, Telling Amy's Story Category The Telling Amy's Story category contains webinars, publications, and additional materials useful for Centers to learn more about using the documentary, and high-risk,



lethality information. For more information visit <u>www.familyjusticecenter.org</u>, and then "Resources".

Penn State Public Broadcasting - Telling Amy's Story
 Penn State Public Broadcasting created a website devoted entirely to Telling Amy's
 Story. The website houses additional information, materials, and tools for use and
 adaption in your community. For more information, visit http://telling.psu.edu/index.html.

DEVELOP OUTREACH AND AWARENESS MATERIALS

As part of using the documentary, it is important to create corresponding outreach and awareness materials. Materials can range from brochures to videos, among others. The following items will help a Center get started and are also available in the Appendix to this Toolkit.

Changing the Ending to Telling Amy's Story Brochure*



abusive relationship.

The Changing the Ending to Telling Amy's Story Brochure, created by the Alliance, can be provided to community members and professionals. The brochure contains information about the documentary, the Family Justice Center, DV 101, and most importantly, high-risk signs and behaviors. In addition, the brochure includes sample language a friend or co-worker can use when talking to their loved one who is in an



<u>Flyer</u>



The Alliance has created a flyer to promote the showing of *Telling Amy's Story*. Specifically, the Alliance has used the flyer to engage business communities to watch a webinar hosted by the <u>Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence</u>. The webinar provided information to Human Resources personnel about the documentary. The webinar presenters explain how such personnel can assist

employees who are experiencing abuse or in order to provide the needed assistance. One Safe Place used the flyer to promote the webinar and educate the business community on the Family Justice Center. The flyer became a two-for-one - business leaders could talk with business leaders - and could also learn about the Family Justice Center! Centers should also consider reaching out to the business community in the same fashion. Information on how to do so is included in the flyer which is located in the Appendix.

DOCUMENTING OUTCOMES

As always, it is important to document outcomes related to any program or event. Funders, key stakeholders, and the general community will want to see the progress Centers have made related to community outreach and engagement.

An excellent way to document outcomes is by conducting a short survey that asks "before" and "after" questions related to a given presentation. A sample Survey* is included in the Appendix for reference.



CONCLUSION

Using *Telling Amy's Story* to change the ending for every victim of domestic violence will be a powerful tool. The documentary not only helps to educate the general community about domestic violence and the Family Justice Center model, but it also teaches others how to address the issue in a business, community, or family setting.

We hope this toolkit helps Family Justice Centers and other collaborative community partnerships around family violence to provide dynamic and powerful training sessions to raise awareness about domestic violence and reduce domestic violence homicides by changing the ending for other "Amys."



APPENDIX

Enclosed with this toolkit are several sample forms and templates which you can use to promote this program. This section contains a list of materials described throughout the toolkit which are marked with an asterisk.

List of Materials Provided

- High Risk Case Protocol
- Brochure
- Flyer
- Survey



Domestic Violence High Risk Case Protocol

Some victims of domestic violence are in extreme danger when they come forward for help. Domestic violence professionals must take steps to enhance victim safety and offender accountability when they identify such a victim that is in extreme danger. Every opportunity must be identified to increase safety and offender accountability and reduce the likelihood that a victim will be seriously injured or killed after seeking intervention services from the criminal or civil justice system. All system professionals should be part of the process of identifying high risk situations and the need for a specialized high risk response.

Police Response

- If the victim calls the police, the police response should be prompt and thorough in responding to the report of victimization.
- The 911 operator should be the first person to begin evaluating the potential danger for a victim seeking assistance.
- The responding officer(s) should treat a domestic violence case as a priority call, conduct a thorough investigation, and make an arrest if appropriate. Police response should include treating domestic violence as a serious crime, writing a complete report, gathering all evidence, documenting all injuries, offering the victim transportation to shelter, and providing information about all available services. At all points, the rights of the victim should be paramount and the officer should be seeking to determine the level of danger to the victim. All information regarding risk and lethality obtained by the 911 operator should be transmitted to the responding officer.
- Any high risk case, should result in the assignment of the case whether misdemeanor or felony
 – for a follow up investigation. The detective's follow-up investigation should be thorough and
 the report should adequately document all relevant information regarding risk factors and
 lethality for the prosecutor and victim witness personnel in the prosecutor's office. All prior
 incidents described by the victim should be included and any potentially chargeable prior
 offenses should be noted in the report whether the victim called the police or not. The follow
 up investigation to be submitted to the prosecutor's office should clearly document risk factors
 and the potential level of danger to the victim.

Prosecutor's Response

- Criminal charges should be filed whether misdemeanor or felony in all appropriate cases where the case can be proved with or without the victim's participation. Allegations of felony conduct, particularly in high risk cases, should be filed as a felony absent some major mitigating circumstances that would point toward the filing of misdemeanor charges.
- In most cases, the prosecutor should file charges in the case based on the information provided and not require additional interviews with the victim unless absolutely necessary. Prior uncharged conduct which could result in new charges may necessitate an interview with the victim. An advocate should participate in any follow up interview with the victim, particularly if

the victim is already working with an advocate from a prosecutor's office, shelter, or Family Justice Center.

- The victim witness advocate should contact the victim within 24 hours of the incident or less. The advocate should complete a Risk Assessment with the victim. The advocate should complete a Safety Plan with the victim whether the risk level is low, medium, or extreme. If the victim is found to be in extreme danger, a multi-disciplinary team should be convened to work with the victim to ensure safety and to heighten the team focus on offender accountability. The advocate should provide information on all available services. The advocate should take steps to ensure the victim actually makes contact with the needed service providers and should ensure that the service providers know the situation represents high risk to the victim.
- The bail amount should be commensurate with the seriousness of the crime and the court should be informed of the results of the risk assessment process and the opinion of domestic violence professionals that the offender represents a serious threat to the safety of the victim. Adequate bail conditions should be put in place with the bail amount being consistent with the level of risk to the victim.
- The Victim Information and Notification Everyday (VINE) System (if in place in the county) should be utilized for the benefit of the victim.
- A criminal stay away order should be issued to order the suspect to stay away from the victim as a condition or bail in the case.
- If charges are not filed, the victim should be notified that the case is not going to be issued and the suspect is going to be released. The prosecutor or the victim witness advocate should take other steps to work with other service providers to ensure the victim's safety once the suspect is released from custody. Each case may require unique actions to communicate with appropriate partner agencies.
- The victim witness advocate should coordinate with non-profit service providers or other advocates working with the victim to make sure the victim is still receiving all necessary civil legal, safety planning, and advocacy services whether criminal charges are filed for not.
- The prosecutor's office should be working with their local FJC team (if one exists) to coordinate all safety enhancement activities whether charges are filed or not.

Civil Legal Services/Clinic

- If the victim seeks a civil protection order, the civil legal service providers working with the victim should have access to prior police reports and any risk assessment or safety plan completed prior to the use of civil legal services.
- If the civil legal service provider does not have such risk and safety-related information, they should conduct a risk assessment and work with the victim on a safety plan as part of the provision of any legal services.
- In cases where the danger level is high, civil legal service providers should accompany the victim to court or (whenever practicable) provide electronic court filing services to avoid requiring the victim to go to court.
- If a FJC exists, the victim should be permitted to obtain her legal protection order without having to go to court.
- For any contested hearing in court with the abuser, the victim should have legal and advocacy representation.
- If a FJC is in place, the victim should have access to video teleconferencing services to ensure no direct contact with the abuser in court for any contested hearing.

- For all hearings, a court support advocate should be assigned to support the victim and ensure the victim is not alone inside or outside the courthouse at any time.
- For all court proceedings, court preparation information should be provided to the victim prior to going to court and, whenever practicable, an orientation process should be offered to the victim.
- After an order (ex parte or permanent) is obtained, safety planning services should be provided to the victim to ensure the victim's clear understanding of the high risk nature of the situation.

Family Justice Center (if one exists in the community)

- A comprehensive intake process, which complies with National Family Justice Center Alliance model practices, should be completed when the victim arrives at the FJC.
- A Consent to Share Information Form should be completed with the victim.
- In all cases, a Risk Assessment using a validated tool should be completed with the victim.
- If the victim is identified as high risk or in extreme danger, the victim should be notified of their high risk status.
- In all cases, a safety plan should be completed with the victim. The victim should be offered a copy of the safety plan.
- If the case is deemed high risk, each Family Justice Center should have a process to designate the case and call a High Risk Team meeting with representatives from agencies deemed critical to the safety of the victim and the accountability and monitoring of the abuser.
- In each high risk case, an advocate or detective should be designated as the lead professional for all coordination of activities between involved agencies.

High Risk Team (if in place)

- If the victim is determined to be in extreme danger, a high risk review team meeting should be called immediately after such determination is made. Appropriate steps should be taken in the first 24-48 hours as deemed necessary to begin the work of the high risk team to ensure the victim's safety. The participants in the high risk team should include all agencies already working with the victim and any necessary agencies that may not already be involved in the case.
- Consent should be obtained from the victim for all high risk team members to share information with each other. If consent cannot be obtained, all team members should identify any information which can legally be shared with appropriate team members.
- The victim should be invited to participate in the meeting(s) unless participation will negatively impact the victim's safety.
- All relevant professionals should be present for the high risk team meetings, including:
 - FJC staff (if an FJC exists), civil attorney, therapist, shelter advocate, police officer/detective, prosecutor, victim witness advocate, court personnel or deputy sheriff, or other professionals
- A lead advocate or detective should be identified to manage the case and maintain contact with the victim.
- All necessary actions should be taken to monitor the abuser, incarcerate the abuser, or otherwise increase accountability for the abuser.
- The victim should be enrolled in VINE (if it exists in the community).
- A GPS device should be considered for the offender (if GPS is used in the jurisdiction).
- After the case is deemed high risk, all participating professionals should treat the case as high risk in all interactions with the victim, offender, family members, and allied agencies.

What is the Family Justice Center?

The Family Justice Center is a collaborative community response to family violence. The Family Justice Center brings together, in one place, numerous domestic violence organizations which represent government, private, non-profit, military, and faith-based communities. This strategic and coordinated utilization of services increases the potential of success for victims of domestic violence.

Available Services:

Filing for a Civil Protection Order or modification of one

- Referrals to Domestic Violence Shelters
- Counseling for Family Violence Issues
- Safety Plans
- Teen Healthy Relationship Groups
- Case Management
- Applications for and services of Legal Aid
- Life Skills
- Chaplain Services
- Child Care

Who Can Get Help at a Family Justice Center?

The Family Justice Center (FJC) is committed to helping all victims of family violence. The FJC is available to men, women, and children of any age, economic, social, religious or ethnic group and does not discriminate against any victim.



Contact the Family Justice Center

[insert address] [insert phone number] [insert email] www...



Changing the Ending to *Telling Amy's Story* is made possible by the Family Justice Center Institute, a program of the Family Justice Center Alliance. The Alliance would like to thank the Ver izon Foundation for sponsoring this program.





Family Justice Center

A Public Service Media Project from Penn State Public Broadcasting

TELLING amy's story



Changing the Ending to *Telling Amy's Story* at the Family Justice Center

Telling Amy's Story

The documentary film *Telling Amy's Story* follows the life of Amy Hogan McGee shortly before she is killed by her abusive husband Vincent McGee. The detective who led the case review, Deidri Fishel, turns Amy's story into a cohesive timeline that clearly shows the danger signs in her relationship and the numerous times police or other agencies could have intervened.

Unfortunately we cannot change the ending to Amy's story but **we can change the outcome** for other domestic violence victims. By providing wraparound services at a local Family Justice Center or similar domestic violence agency, victims can find the help they need.

In addition, friends, family, and co-workers can prevent other stories from ending like Amy's by talking about domestic violence, learning about high-risk factors, and getting help for victims in need.



High-Risk Indicators

Homicide is preventable because it can be predicted.

Watch for high-risk indicators of homicide:

- Victim has been strangled
- Violence is getting worse
- Abuser shows stalking behaviors
- Victim has attempted to separate from partner
- Abuser has access to weapons
- Use of illegal drugs or alcohol abuse
- Abuser has threatened to committ suicide

Take Action

Share these statements to encourage victims of domestic violence to get help:

"I am afraid for your safety."

Victims often minimize the violence they are experiencing. This statement expresses concern and care as well as the need fo expedient intervention.

"I am afraid for the safety of your children." Often when women realize their children could be harmed they are more likely to leave.

"It will only get worse."

Victims need to know that their abuser will not stop without intervention by law enforcement or other social service agency.

"There's help available."

It's imperative that victims know help is available. This inspires hope and courage to seek guidance.

"I'm here for you no matter what."

This inspires trust and lets the victim know they can always come to you for help.





Facts About Domestic Violence:

• Three to four million women in the United States are beaten in their homes each year by their husbands, ex-husbands, or male lovers.

• One in every four women will experience domestic violence in her lifetime.

• Police report that between 40% and 60% of the calls they receive, especially on the night shift, are domestic violence disputes.

Signs of Abuse

Does the abuser:

- Embarrass victim with bad names and put downs?
- Stop victim from seeing or talking to friends or family?
- Call victim a bad parent or threaten to take away or hurt their children?
- Shove, slap, or hit the victim?
- Threaten to kill the victim?
- Act like abuse is no big deal, the victim's fault, or even deny doing it?
- Control money, make the victim ask for money or refuse to give money?



Thank you for your time and interest in learning how you and your business can identify how to address domestic violence in the workplace and the community in general. This flyer identifies how to: view a 4-minute trailer of *Telling Amy's Story*; watch a webinar which addresses how businesses can use *Telling Amy's Story* at their workplace as an educational tool; and view information about One Safe Place, a local collaborative which houses multiple agencies in one location to serve victims of family violence.

Telling Amy's Story Documentary

Telling Amy's Story is a documentary that follows the timeline of a domestic violence homicide that occurred on November 8, 2001. The victim's parents and coworkers, law enforcement officers, and court personnel share their perspectives on what happened to Amy in the weeks, months, and years leading up to her death. Click here to view the 4-minute trailer: <u>http://www.youtube.com/watch?feature=player_embedded&v=9pt0qoqFV6g</u>.

Telling Amy's Story is a powerful tool to highlight how friends, family members, business leaders, and the general community can take a role in preventing domestic violence homicides. In addition, this documentary is a great way for the business community to identify and learn of existing family violence organizations, such as the Family Justice Center.

One Safe Place

The Family Justice Center model, such as One Safe Place in Tarrant County, Texas, provides most services victims of domestic violence and sexual assault need in one location. Multi-disciplinary agencies (counseling, advocacy, case management, legal services, and law enforcement, among other service providers) are co-located in one location to serve victims of family violence. To learn more about One Safe Place, visit: www.onesafeplace.org.

Using Telling Amy's Story as a Tool for Your Business - Webinar

Kim Wells, the Executive Director of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, will highlight how *Telling Amy's Story* has been successfully used at workplaces as a tool to educate employees and managers regarding domestic violence and high-risk cases and how this success can be replicated in other workplace settings.

To Join the Webinar, click here: https://calcasa.ilinc.com/perl/ilinc/lms/vc_launch.pl?activity_id=fxmpmkx&user_id=

Enter your Name and Email Address and click Submit. Once your information is entered, the webinar will begin playing.

After the conclusion of the webinar, please take to share your feedback by completing the following survey: <u>https://www.surveymonkey.com/s/PZC9YJT</u>.







Telling Amy's Story Community Feedback

| 1. | 1. Before today, how much knowledge did you have about domestic violence? | | | | |
|----|---|-------------------|-----------------|-------------|-----------------------------|
| | A Great Deal 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Not Much 1 |
| 2. | . After today, how much knowledge do you have about domestic violence? | | | | |
| | A Great Deal 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Not Much 1 |
| 3. | Before today, would ye | ou know if a frie | end or employe | e was in e | xtreme danger? |
| | A Great Deal 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Not Much 1 |
| 4. | After today, would you | know if a friend | d or employee v | was in extr | eme danger? |
| | A Great Deal 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Not Much 1 |
| 5. | Before today, how likel be killed by her partner | | ow if a domest | ic violence | victim is at a high-risk to |
| | A Great Deal 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Not Much 1 |
| 6. | After today, how likely killed by her partner? | are you to know | w if a domestic | violence v | ictim is at high-risk to be |
| | A Great Deal 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | Not Much 1 |



verizon foundation



7. Before today, how likely would you have referred a friend or employee struggling with family violence to a Family Justice Center?

| A Great Deal | | | | Not Much |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

8. After today, how likely would you refer a friend or employee struggling with family violence to a Family Justice Center?

| A Great Deal | | | | Not Much |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

9. Before today, would you have been willing to tour a Family Justice Center and bring a friend or employees with you?

| A Great Deal | | | | Not Much |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

10. After today, would you have been willing to tour a Family Justice Center and bring a friend or employees with you?

| A Great Deal | | | | Not Much |
|--------------|---|---|---|----------|
| 5 | 4 | 3 | 2 | 1 |

11. Before today, have you been personally challenged to take action to help stop violence against and abuse against women and girls in your community?

YES NO (Circle One)

12. After today, are you more likely to take action to help stop violence against and abuse against women and girls in your community?

YES NO (Circle One)







13. Before today, have you discussed domestic violence at your business with your employees as part of a Human Resources round table? (If Business).

YES

NO (Circle One)

14. After today, are you more likely to discuss domestic violence at your business with your employees as part of a Human Resource round-table? (If Business).

YES

NO (Circle One)

- 15. What recommendations do you have in using social networking platforms that will engage others to stand against violence against women?
 - YES NO (Circle One)
- 16. During today's presentation, what had the most impact in motivating you to take action and help make the world better for your daughters, granddaughters, and the women in your community?

YES NO (Circle One)

I'm interested in learning more about the Family Justice Center! Please contact me.

- o I'd like to learn more information about how the Center works and the services provided
- o I'd interested in volunteering or interning
- o I'm interested in learning how I can support the Center
- o I'm interested in the Center providing information to my organization or community group

| Name: | |
|---------------|--|
| Email: | |
| Phone Number: | |