

Invitation to Council, Legislators, Congressional Delegation

The Honolulu Department of the Prosecuting Attorney has received federal funding to provide strategic planning services and technical assistance to in order to develop the Honolulu Family Justice Center. We have contracted with the National Family Justice Alliance (www.familyjusticecenter.org), based in San Diego, for strategic planning, training, and technical assistance to assist us with the development of the new Center.

We would like to invite you to attend the first Honolulu Family Justice Center strategic planning meeting, conducted by Ms. Gael Strack (CEO) and Mr. Casey Gwinn (President) from the National Family Justice Center Alliance. They will detail the concept and vision of the Family Justice Center movement and provide an overview of the strategic planning process.

Name: Family Justice Center Strategic Planning
Date/Time: Tuesday, May 11, 2010 beginning at 9:00 AM
Location: Third Floor Conference Room, Room # 309
State Capitol

Former San Diego City Attorney Casey Gwinn and former Assistant City Attorney Gael Strack opened the first Family Justice Center in the U.S. Believing that victims would have an easier time receiving needed services if they only had one place to go to receive all of those services, Mr. Gwinn proposed creation of such a center, where all services for victims were housed under one roof, in 1989. This co-located, multi-agency facility formally opened as the San Diego Family Justice Center in 2002 with staff members from 27 public and private non-profit agencies on-site. The Center has produced major drops in homicides, reductions in recidivism by offenders, and increased safety and empowerment for victims and their children.

The Family Justice Center model has been hugely successful and has been designated as a “best practice” model for domestic violence intervention and prevention services by the U.S. Department of Justice. Ms. Strack and Mr. Gwinn oversaw the President’s Family Justice Center Initiative created by President George W. Bush in 2003 to create the first fifteen Centers in the country. Since that time, Congress had provided funding for Family Justice Centers in the Violence Against Women Act and the Obama Administration has endorsed the model as an innovative approach to victim services.

The National Family Justice Center Alliance is the only agency that provides strategic planning services to those jurisdictions wishing to develop their own Family Justice Center. Today, there are over 55 Centers with over 100 communities in planning processes to create more Family Justice Centers.