

PFJCI  
Monthly

# NEWSLETTER



## Welcome

June heralds the beginning of summer, long after schoolbooks are put away and graduation memories fade. The rhythm is ingrained in us to seek a slower pace, plan a vacation, or enjoy light every evening at the end of the workday. For victims of DV, however, the end of school may mean added pressures of children underfoot, or left alone at home. As the weather heats up, so do relationship pressures. Anger, irritation, noise, heat. These can be fearful forces in a violent home.

Thanks for keeping your cool as you work with DV victims in June.

## News from PFJCI Sites

**Erie County (Buffalo)** - On May 2, 2006 the Family Justice Center of Erie County became the eighth Family Justice Center to open in the President's Initiative. Over 400 people attended two exciting events - a Grand Opening luncheon celebration and an evening reception. Tours were provided to the many business leaders, elected officials, and other community leaders that attended each of the events. The Buffalo FJC has 32 partner agencies involved. The event highlight was the powerful testimony of a domestic violence survivor whose husband is now serving 36 years in state prison for his abuse of her. She challenged everyone present to stay focused on helping victims and their children no matter what the frustrations of trying to work together. Nathan Cook is the executive director.

**Knoxville**— The Knoxville Family Justice Center opened May 19, 2006 in a ceremony involving several hundred participants, including both City and County Mayors, along with OVW Director Diane M. Stuart. According to Police Chief Sterling Owen, the majority of primary responders, including paramedics, were in attendance — an unprecedented show of law enforcement support at an FJC opening. Deputy Chief Gus Paidousis noted that there were over 75 uniformed officers from Knoxville Police and Knox County Sheriff's departments. In a moving tribute, each table was lit with four candles, representing the children who die from abuse each day.

This is the ninth PFJCI Center to open out of 15 OVW-funded sites. Victims in Knoxville have access to nine on-site agencies, which include Child and Family Tennessee, the Community Coalition on Family Violence, Legal Aid of East Tennessee, the Salvation Army, YWCA, the Knoxville Police Department and Knox County District Attorney General, Probation and Sheriff's offices. A total of 63 Knoxville agencies serve the FJC as partners. The FJC is located in the Harriet Tubman Street building, "meant to be warm, inviting and safe," according to Executive Director Amy Dilworth.

### Get involved!

If you have news items for the  
Monthly Bulletin,  
please submit them to Jennifer Bodine by the 10th of each month at  
[Jennifer@sdfjc.org](mailto:Jennifer@sdfjc.org)

and we will include them in the next bulletin,  
subject to OVW final approval.

If you would like to subscribe directly to the Monthly Bulletin, please email  
[Jennifer@sdfjc.org](mailto:Jennifer@sdfjc.org) and write "Monthly  
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June, 2006

Produced by

The San Diego Family Justice Center Foundation's PFJCI TA Team.

This project was supported by Award No. 2004-WE-BX-K001 awarded by the Office on Violence Against Women, Office of Justice Programs, United States Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice.

# Site Insight: Nampa, Idaho and Boston, Massachusetts

## Nampa Family Justice Center

Corporal Angela Weekes, a detective with the Nampa Police Department in Idaho, didn't really hear about the Family Justice Center concept until she attended Anne O'Dell's STOP DV conference in San Diego and toured the San Diego Family Justice Center. The timing was perfect.

Rebecca Lovelace, now executive director of the Nampa Family Justice Center, had worked as a Canyon County probation officer for five years before switching to the Valley Crisis Center, a shelter, where she met Angela. Over the next five years, they worked together as the Shelter provided training opportunities for the police. They brought Anne O'Dell to Idaho and Angela responded positively.

"The more I trained, the more interested I was in finding solutions," said Weekes.

Then came the conference. Overwhelmed with expert advice and cohesive information, Weekes woke up at 3 a.m. and wrote eight pages of notes about how a Family Justice Center would work in Nampa. As soon as she got home she called Rebecca and said, "You have to come over. You won't believe what I saw. I want to do this in Nampa."

The City of Nampa was getting ready to award a round of Community Development Block Grant money, so Angela and Rebecca worked on a grant and were awarded \$350,000. The mayor offered a downtown building owned by the city. Agencies came to them and said, "Give us some space and we'll put someone there." Support for the FJC was falling into place about the time the team heard about the President's Family Justice Center Initiative (PFJCI), a special initiative administered by the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women (OVW). They sent six delegates to the PFJCI Informational Conference in January, 2004. That year there were 350 DV cases handled by the police department.

"I was at the next year's STOP DV conference in San Diego, this time with my whole team, when Rebecca called to let me know that we were under consideration by OVW and they were coming for a site visit," said Weekes.

"I think that it was clear in the site visit that we were resolved to create the FJC with or without the grant," said Lovelace, "and that was helpful. We told OVW that we could start with them at one level or without them at a level that would just take us longer. Plus, we had 20 people from different agencies show up for the site visit, so I think our commitment was very evident.

"Our partnerships and relationships are truly amazing. We are a small town, 76,343 to be exact, and we still get calls from partners that we didn't know existed who want to be a part of the FJC," said Lovelace.

Opening Day was November 30, 2005 and came with two surprises.

"We're not big enough," was Weekes' reaction by the end of the day.

Also by the end of the Grand Opening, the CEO of the city's major hospital, Mercy Medical Center, called to say this was exactly in line with their vision for the community. They became a solid partner.

"It was so great to see the reality," said Weekes. I believe that the criminal justice system isn't the best responder. As an officer, I noted that we had 91 clients, with only 21 wanting police services. We can help so many more victims who would never come if we waited for police referrals."

Lovelace finds that the co-location has helped cement partnerships that were in place for years, but not as solid.

"It's funny," she said, "we had always referred everyone around town. But being in the same building, we find out how much we really didn't know about each other. We are still learning the capabilities of everyone onsite. One Idaho Legal Aide attorney, who was our biggest skeptic, is now our greatest supporter. 'I can't get over the fact that I can come straight here and don't have to wait an hour,' he said recently."

Advice to sites waiting to open? "Be prepared as best you can," said Lovelace.

The Nampa FJC saw 274 clients in the first four months of operation, with 238 calls including 22 crisis calls. Client services coordinator, Nikki Lopez, keeps them all getting services and embraced with hope, but the response has kept them busier than they ever imagined.

### Nampa SpeedReader

- Inspired by International DV Conference
- Mayor donated city building
- Still learning about partner capacity
- 274 clients in the first four months



Rebecca Lovelace, Executive Director  
Nampa Family Justice Center



Angela Weekes  
Nampa Family Justice Center

### Boston Family Justice Center

Dee Kennedy, with a background as a probation officer, worked at a hectic pace to make sure that the Boston Family Justice Center was ready for its opening. From August 1, 2005 until May 2006, Kennedy was the sole employee. Then things started to happen. In May, the City of Boston reviewed candidates for two reception/intake workers, a childcare worker and an assistant development director.

May 15 was the Boston FJC's first official board meeting, consisting of 15 seats with staggered terms made up of appointees from Boston Mayor Thomas M. Menino, Suffolk County District Attorney Daniel Conley, Jane Doe, Inc., the statewide coalition of domestic violence and sexual assault programs, and the Children's Advocacy Center of Suffolk County, which is a co-located partner at the FJC.

"The building for the FJC was given to us by the Mayor free of charge for four years. It's a 33,000 sq. ft. former school, with long corridors and large rooms with high ceilings," said Kennedy. "There is lots of room, which is a plus, but also lots of challenges. It's an older building. If a millionaire wanted to give us a new roof; that would be lovely."

Kennedy emphasized that subdividing the rooms has created challenges with co-location in terms of confidentiality and shared space. The Boston Police Department Domestic Violence, Trafficking, and Crimes Against Children Units are on the second floor, with about 26 personnel that started moving onsite in November, 2005. Also located there is the Suffolk County DA's Family Protection and Sexual Assault Unit.

Boston Medical Center's Child Witness to Violence Project plans to have a clinician on-site and civic/legal advocates will help clients with paperwork for protection orders, which must be filed geographically at the courts. Other partners include: The Trauma Center, Massachusetts Society for the Prevention for Cruelty to Children, The Network/La Red, Safe Havens Interfaith Partnership Against Domestic Violence, Gay Men's Domestic Violence Project, Finex House, Dress for Success, Greater Boston Legal Services, Victim Rights Law Center, Noah's Ark, Association of Haitian Women of Boston, Boston Area Rape Crisis Center and more.

"We had an Open House here last October," said Kennedy "and a gentleman came to Margot Hill and said, 'You need furniture. Go to our warehouse and take whatever you need.'"

Black Rock Financial Group ended up donating 14 truckloads of beautiful, corporate office furniture, conference room suites and meeting room suites. Additional donations came from Equity Office Properties, which donated 14 "gorgeous" work stations in beautiful condition. Seven rooms have been painted, carpeted, and provided with some furnishings for community-based organizations. The Boston Police Department and the Suffolk County District Attorney's Office have installed computers for their staff and the City of Boston has installed 15 computers, while the Art Connection donated 32 works of art for the CAC, including a large mural that goes the length of a long corridor on the first floor. Even one of the police sergeants pitched in and replaced a kitchen counter.

"I think it's really starting to happen. There are only two rooms left to build out - those are for the FJC staff," said Kennedy.

With the furniture in place and improvements nearing completion, Kennedy is working hard on the detail issues, such as fax machines and phone lines, as well as the concerns about mandated reporting and the interface with advocates and police. Grant funds were reallocated to assist with the provision of community-based advocacy at the FJC with a mini-proposal deadline of May 23. The confidentiality and intake plans were reviewed by OVW and NNEDV at the end of May, and the Boston FJC opened as scheduled on June 13.

"I anticipate that we won't encounter as many co-location problems as people might think. We have eight fax lines and 100 phone handsets and 20 agencies co-locating, so there will have to be some sharing, but I think this is something we can work out. I think that everyone needs to look at the reality we have and know that we have to help victims today," said Kennedy.

"We had a taste of what it will be like when trafficking victims were brought to the FJC by ICE agents. We luckily had an advocate there who secured shelter and then coordinated with the police, so we've seen firsthand the advantages that co-location can bring to the table."

The Boston Police Department reported a total of 11,372 DV incident reports in 2005, with 3,406 restraining orders filed.

#### Boston SpeedReader

- Furniture donated
- Building free for four years
- Phone/fax details resolved
- Opening took place June 13



Dee Kennedy, Site Operations Director  
Boston Family Justice Center

# Spotlight On: Kimberly Wells

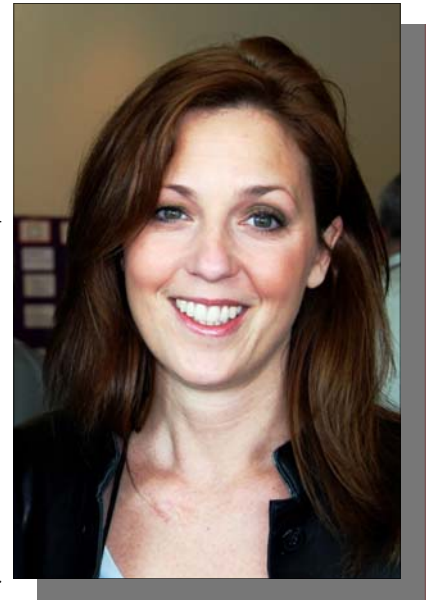
## PFJCI faculty

*Each issue of the Monthly Bulletin will highlight a PFCJI faculty member.*

*Kim Wells is the executive director of the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence. The Alliance is a leading force in the fight against domestic violence, and is the only national organization of its kind founded by business leaders and focused on the workplace. Since 1995, the Alliance has brought together dozens of progressive companies who exchange information, collaborate on projects, and use their influence to instigate change, with corporate members and affiliates reaching over a million employees across the nation.*

*Nationally, Wells serves on the National Faculty for the President's Family Justice Center Initiative, the ASIS International Workplace Violence Prevention and Response Guideline Committee, and the Workplace Committee of the National Task Force to End Sexual and Domestic Violence Against Women. In Illinois, Wells is a core faculty member of the Illinois Attorney General's Victim Assistance Academy, and is a member of the Governor's Commission on the Status of Women in Illinois Violence Reduction Working Group. She co-chaired the Promotion Committee for the State of Illinois as it developed and distributed a statewide model policy for partner violence and sexual assault and the workplace.*

*Wells is a frequent speaker and guest lecturer in the United States and internationally on topics such as partner violence and the workplace, workplace violence, organizational ethics and leadership. Internationally, she has assisted the Australian, Israeli, UK, and Turkish governments in creating business partnerships to address intimate partner violence as a workplace issue.*



For about nine years, I've worked with the Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence, helping companies build infrastructure and create awareness programs to support victims of Domestic Violence. Our job is to help corporations understand how much DV affects the workplace. Most employee assistance programs are adept at dealing with health or disabilities. They haven't all caught up with DV and its impacts, but things have come a long way.

I'm trained with an M.A. in Counseling/Psychology and in my training DV was never mentioned. It wasn't until after I had my degree and was working with homeless folks that I saw Domestic Violence impacts firsthand. I learned the dynamics of DV from the people I was serving. We had to learn about the cycle of violence and appropriate intervention to help them. Now I share that understanding in building corporate awareness.

We tell them, "Imagine that you have taken your life into your own hands and you are told to go there, there, there, there, and there. That doesn't even take into account the language barrier. Now, pretend there is a place where a person does not have to do that. They want help, and they can get it with dignity and respect. To be a part of it would be an honor." The Alliance provides companies with a continuum of resources, from policy assistance, training for managers, training for employees, a speech for a director, or help with an employee health fair.

Companies respond because an FJC is where their employees will go for services. An FJC will help their employee get on with life and be productive. It's beneficial and it's cutting edge, so it captures the imagination of some companies very well. They are smart to do in-kind contributions and get other companies in their peer network to help with auction items and other support, volunteering or clothes drives or cash. It's quite wonderful to see them go down that road.

Verizon Wireless, for example, has been awesome. They have embraced the Family Justice Center concept and have given financial support to a couple of FJCs. They are primed and knowledgeable and would be a good resource not to bypass in your communities.

The Alliance did a phone survey of employed adults about the impact of Domestic Violence. We had a random sample of 1200 workers. We found that among those with average and above-average salaries, 21 percent were victims of DV. Also, 44 percent recognized the impact of DV at work, through victim absences, injuries, harassment, and frequent phone calls. No one else had ever asked these questions, but it's very good information to convince corporations to partner with the solutions. You can learn more about the survey and register for a weekly email update on corporate involvement by visiting [www.caepv.org](http://www.caepv.org).

To be a small part of connecting resources is a really wonderful thing. To watch these FJCs develop and see the communities figure out how they will be best served is very interesting. But, bottom line, this is a head and heart issue. At the end of the day, you are going to be a part of someone's life if you serve to eradicate DV.