



Office of the San Diego City Attorney

Mara W. Elliott
City Attorney

July 23, 2019

A Look Back at Our First Year

Dear Community Partners, Regional Stakeholders, and Friends:

It is an honor to lead the San Diego Family Justice Center (SDFJC), a diverse and engaged organization committed to transitioning victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, and human trafficking to survivors. It seemed like just yesterday we gathered together at the San Diego Convention Center to relaunch the SDFJC and to begin crafting a Strategic Plan that furthers our collective mission.

From building new partnerships to expanding our geographical reach, and from implementing victim-centered approaches to serving new clients, we have had an exciting and rewarding year. Together we strive to ensure that all individuals, families, and communities receive the public safety resources they need to build healthy relationships and reclaim their lives. As we look back at our first year, we are most proud of the work that we have achieved with your help:

Our Collective Impact

- 19,362 telephone callers were assisted by SDFJC staff members.
- 7,995 adults and children escaped violence and sought services at the SDFJC since July 1, 2018 to the present.

Working for the Continued Sustainability of the SDFJC

- The SDFJC secured a California Governor's Office of Emergency Services grant for \$587,000 to build SDFJC programs. This grant led to a partnership with the San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc. to provide a full-time family law attorney and legal assistant on-site at our facility and a partnership with SAY San Diego to create a child watch program that provides for child supervision while parents receive critical services at the SDFJC.
- The SDFJC hosted the California Family Justice Center Network (CFJCN) which aims to ensure the sustainability of the 21 family justice centers around the state. The CFJCN is a group of leaders from the California FJCs who strive to create funding opportunities for FJCs around the state.
- SDFJC leadership visited the Orange County Family Justice Center, Alameda County Family Justice Center, Riverside Family Justice Center, and Fort Worth's One Safe Place to learn about their services, operations, and partnerships.

Serving Survivors

- Based on recommendations from the SDFJC Human Trafficking Working Group (HTWG), we expanded services to include victims and survivors of sex trafficking. The HTWG is comprised of experts from the San Diego City Attorney's Office, San Diego County District Attorney's Office, Multiple Conflicts Office, Office of the Alternate Public Defender, Center for Hope and Strength, San Diego Center for Counseling, Palomar Health, Free to Thrive, Living Beyond the Hustle, the Lynch Foundation for Children, and Center for Justice and Reconciliation – Point Loma Nazarene University.
- We served 191 children at the Annual Holiday Party which included a visit from SDFJC proponent Mayor Kevin Faulconer, who played Santa Claus, and the San Diego Padres' Friar and his Pad Squad. KUSI News and Councilmember Georgette Gómez publicized our event. The City Attorney's Office, through a toy drive, collected 189 toys for grateful SDFJC families.
- We provided cultural responsiveness trainings to our staff and partners to ensure our diverse communities feel welcome and receive targeted services.
- Most importantly, we listened to survivors. We held three survivor focus groups that provided insights into our policies, procedures, and trauma-informed practices.

Collaborating with Community Partners and Improving the SDFJC Facility

- We welcomed five new on-site Community Partners including the Lynch Foundation for Children, Free to Thrive, San Diego Volunteer Lawyer Program, Inc., SAY San Diego, and Immigration Center for Women and Children.
- With the help of our Community Partners, we created 16 online videos for staff training on topics such as mandatory reporting and confidentiality; psychology of domestic violence; SDFCJ Community Partner overview; mock assessments; animal abuse connections with domestic violence and child abuse; and identifying and addressing suicidal ideations.
- With the assistance of the City Attorney's Information Technology Office, we installed new copiers for SDFJC staff and Community Partners; Wi-Fi service for clients and Community Partners; and a television screen in the client kitchen to update clients on new and important information. We also refurbished the Community Partner lunch room.

Connecting to our Region

- We created a bilingual (Spanish and English) Public Service Announcement that was aired on radio and television stations.
- We provided tours of the SDFJC for 324 people who learned about the plight of the vulnerable populations we serve.
- We welcomed international guests from Mexico, Colombia, Hong Kong, South Africa, Cote D'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, Niger, India, Trinidad, South Sudan, Ghana, Rwanda, and Togo, and hosted the State Department's International Women of Courage awardee Naw K'nyaw Paw (a human and gender rights activist from Burma).

- We continued to provide workplace violence trainings at SONY Electronics and InfraGard San Diego's Active Shooter and Workplace Violence Prevention Conference, building on the success of the San Diego Police Department, Domestic Violence Unit prior training.
- SDFJC Staff and Community Partners participated in 30 community engagement events including National Night Out, InFaith Community Foundation, San Diego County Probation Department Juvenile Hall Open House, and City Heights Law Day.
- We presented at the San Diego County Commission on the Status of Women & Girls' 4th Annual Symposium Combatting Violence Against Women and Girls, San Diego State University, Human Trafficking – CSEC Victim Service Subcommittee Human Trafficking, 3rd Annual LGBT Law Enforcement Summit and Aaron Price Fellows Program on Elder Abuse.
- We partnered with San Diego State University School of Public Policy Capstone Project to create an assessment tool for the SDFJC.
- We created a Healthy Teen Relationship student film category for the Innovative Video in Education (iVIE) 18th Annual iVIE Awards & Student Film Festival. Students from across the County created three-minute videos on how to have healthy teen relationships using social media. The winner was selected by a group of SDFJC Community Partners and received a donation from the Lynch Foundation for Children.
- 183 participants joined us at our monthly Lunch and Learn Workshops.
- We provided free Halloween costumes to children, 150 baseball tickets to see the San Diego Padres, 124 annual passes to Balboa Park museums, 50 Summer Happy Boxes, and Handbags for Hope with help from local community organizations and government institutions.

This client from April 2019 said it all: *"A million thanks for all of your staff and for all the resources [Y]ou always made a very, big positive, hopeful difference in my life. I am very grateful. Thank you all so very much."*

Through accelerated collaboration and strong partnerships, our work together is changing lives for the better. Our transformative journey could not be achieved without your engagement. We greatly value your support and look forward to continuing to work together to serve the people of San Diego.

Sincerely,



Mara W. Elliott
San Diego City Attorney



Yvette Lopez-Cooper, Executive Director
San Diego Family Justice Center

MWE:YLC:vj
cc: Honorable Mayor and City Council