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# CITY OF OAKLAND



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To: Councilmember Noel Gallo, Chair, and other members of the Public Safety Committee of the Oakland City Council

From: Councilmember Kalb

Date: June 20, 2013

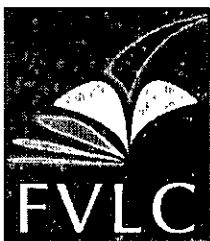
Subject: Written reports from three nonprofits and the District Attorney's office who will be presenting during the Public Safety Committee meeting of June 25, 2013 under the item "Report On The State Of Domestic Violence In Oakland"

The attached reports from Family Violence Law Center, The Link to Children, A Safe Place, and Office of the District Attorney of Alameda County are being submitted as a supplement to the report provided by the Oakland Police Department for the "Report On The State of Domesdc Violence in Oakland" item on the agenda for the June 25, 2013 Public Safety committee. Representatives from those three nonprofits and the District Attorney's office, as well as from OPD, will be making presentations during the meeting for that item.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Dan Kalb", written over a horizontal line.

Dan Kalb, Councilmember



# Family Violence Law Center

*Providing Services to Domestic Violence Survivors for 35 Years*

## Report to the City of Oakland Public Safety Committee Meeting June 25, 2013

### Domestic Violence is an Oakland Problem

- ↳ Domestic and dating violence are the most common forms of violence experienced by women and girls.
- ↳ 1 in 4 women experience violence by a spouse or someone they are dating at some point in their lifetimes.<sup>1</sup>
- ↳ 1 in 3 adolescent girls experience dating violence, including physical, emotional or verbal abuse.<sup>2</sup>

This translates to more than 49,000 Oakland residents who will experience domestic violence over their lifetime.<sup>3</sup> In comparison, approximately 1,500 Oakland residents will experience some form of gun violence every year.<sup>4</sup>

### As a first responder, FVLC provides direct emergency services to Oakland residents experiencing domestic violence.

During the first three quarters of FY 12-13, FVLC provided services to 1,176 Oakland residents.

On a typical day, FVLC receives 86 crisis calls, serves 59 people and has to turn an additional 46 survivors, or 44%, away due to lack of resources.<sup>5</sup>

Post-crisis, our staff offers other support including: extensive safety planning, legal services, and long-term case management to help survivors and their families stabilize.

92% of FVLC clients reported that they had experienced no further physical abuse six months after receiving services. Additionally, 82% indicated that receiving services was very important.

### FVLC works in partnership with OPD to intervene.

During the first three quarters of FY 12-13, we received 3,262 domestic violence police reports from the Oakland Police Department.

As a result of our follow up contact with those victims, 140 survivors obtained 229 court orders, including temporary and permanent restraining orders

We provided line-up training on domestic violence response for 116 officers.

## **FVLC prevents dating violence among youth.**

FVLC teaches teen dating violence prevention to the majority of Oakland Unified School District's middle schools.

During the first three quarters of FY 12-13, FVLC taught teen dating violence prevention curricula at 8 OUSD middle schools, reaching 1,105 students.

## **The economic and social benefits to investing in violence prevention are significant:**

The costs of domestic and dating violence extend beyond the impact on the individual who was victimized.

*↑ Nationally, domestic violence, dating violence, sexual assault and stalking cost approximately \$8.3 billion annually in direct medical and mental health services and lost productivity.<sup>6</sup>*

*↑ Children exposed to domestic violence are at greater risk for substance abuse, adolescent pregnancy and criminal behavior in later life than those who were not exposed.<sup>7</sup>*

## **Oakland Unite supports FVLC at the level of \$400,000 annually.**

These funds primarily cover front line Crisis Intervention staff who respond to crises, educate OPD officers, provide free legal assistance, and support survivors with safety planning and other supportive services.

## **Request of the Public Safety Committee**

1. Support FVLC access to OPD consultant and OPD leadership to improve coordination. As examples, coordinate with neighborhood-based strategies for addressing domestic violence, and improve coordination and expand currently allocated time dedicated to domestic violence training with OPD.
2. Invest increased resources in dating and domestic violence prevention, stabilizing long-term case management, and fully fund the cost of programs.
3. Launch a community violence/domestic violence task force to address the continuum of violence in Oakland, bringing unusual partners into dialogue.
4. Speak out publicly against domestic violence—including upon death.

## **Speaking points:**

- 1 in 4 women experience domestic violence.
- We take this as serious as we take violence in our streets – it is just hidden behind closed doors.
- We can stop violence against women and girls with prevention, intervention and community response.

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<sup>1</sup> Futures Without Violence, "Get the Facts: The Facts on Domestic, Dating and Sexual Violence," citing *Adverse Health Conditions and Health Risk Behaviors Associated with Intimate Partner Violence, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report*. February 2008. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. Available at <http://cdc.gov/mmwr.PDF/wk/mm5705.pdf>. Accessed at [http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/action\\_center/detail/754](http://www.futureswithoutviolence.org/content/action_center/detail/754) on May 30, 2013.

<sup>2</sup> Ibid, citing Davis, Antoinette, MPH. 2008. *Interpersonal and Physical Dating Violence Among Teens*. The National Council on Crime and Delinquency Focus. Available at [http://www.ocis.ohio.gov/TDVMonth/Interpersonal\\_Teens.pdf](http://www.ocis.ohio.gov/TDVMonth/Interpersonal_Teens.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> With a 2011 Oakland population of 395,817, assuming 50% of whom are women then 25% of all women experience DV.

<sup>4</sup> Walter, Shoshanna, "Children Are Often Victims as Shootings Soar in Oakland," as printed in [http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/08/us/children-are-often-victims-as-shootings-soar-in-oakland.html?\\_r=0](http://www.nytimes.com/2012/01/08/us/children-are-often-victims-as-shootings-soar-in-oakland.html?_r=0).

<sup>5</sup> FVLC participates annually in the National Network to End Domestic Violence's Domestic Violence Counts: National Census of Domestic Violence Services. In one 24-hour period September 2012, FVLC received 86 crisis calls, served 59 clients in addition to those calls and could not serve 46 people. The most common issue we had to turn away were requests for legal services.

<sup>6</sup> Ibid, citing Max, W, Rice, DP, Finkelstein, E, Bardwell, R, Leadbetter, S. 2004. *The Economic Toll of Intimate Partner Violence Against Women in the United States*. *Violence and Victims*, 19(3) 259-272.

<sup>7</sup> UNICEF, "Behind Closed Doors: The Impact of Domestic Violence on Children," (2008), p.7, citing multiple sources. Accessed at [www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/protection/files/BehindClosedDoors.pdf) on May 30, 2013.

## A Safe Place --

A Safe Place (ASP) is a comprehensive victim centered domestic violence assistance program with two locations. Our beautiful home serves as confidential emergency shelter and provided professional domestic violence support services for families, who are homeless due to domestic violence for up to 90 days. Our 24-hour crisis and referral line operates at this location and provides crisis counseling, information and referrals. Our community center is located near downtown Oakland. We provide confidential services to adult victims (male and female) as well as community based programs through this location. Community center clients can receive advocacy, support services, professional counseling, support groups, information and referrals for other domestic violence related services (i.e. legal, housing, etc.). The teen dating violence prevention, community education and outreach program provide activities on preventing teen and domestic violence. The mental health services provided through our community center are critical to victims who are not in need of shelter, but can receive safe confidential services during their crisis.

Last year, ASP received over 2000 call via the 24 hour crisis, information and referral line. These calls were from friends, victim family members, ministers, employers, medical providers, social workers, law enforcement and victims themselves seeking support around intimate partner abuse and domestic violence. Sheltering, mental health services, and support groups were provided to over 400 women, men and children. We provided counseling and mental health services to over 100 children exposed to violence in the home. Over 50% of our clients (crisis line, sheltering, and community mental health) are African American and Spanish speaking clients.

Last year, our teen dating violence prevention program activities included successful, well attended quarterly town hall sessions for teens and youth. Sessions provided opportunities for teens and young adults to discuss intimate and personal challenges they are experiencing in relationships. Local rap artists and media representatives provided support in creating dialog among adults and youth in attendance.

Community conversations among youth and adults, facilitated by young adults, created a learning community about a critical issue facing teens today. Our community education and outreach prevention program includes state mandated and specialized trainings about intimate partner abuse for other professionals working with victims of domestic violence. Our experience working with children and teens in our shelter program has proven that the origins of violence start at a very early age. Children often display mental or psychological trauma. Our intervention with these families may often be the only therapeutic support they may receive.

Outreach to communities of color and men have increased requests for services. We have experienced an increase in the number of men calling the 24 hour crisis line, seeking counseling through our community counseling center, and men with children, seeking emergency shelter. Although the number of men calling does not equal the number of women, men seeking services continue to increase. Partnerships with agencies serving other communities of color have increased calls for services. ASP is a founding member of the Asian Coalition to End Domestic Violence which has increased outreach to the Pacific Islander communities and agencies serving this community. ASP has been open to all victims of domestic violence involved in heterosexual or homosexual relationships.

ASP is a pioneer in the domestic violence movement. Locally and statewide, for 35 years, ASP has never lost sight of goal decrease the number of domestic violence victims in Oakland through intervention and prevention. We have remained firmly committed to our mission to provide emergency, transitional services and community

education to decrease and prevent violence in the home. We remain committed to safety, shelter and survival assistance to all victims.

While our programs and services have helped to change many lives for the better, ASP organizational capacity has received little attention and continues not to meet the criteria for funding, through Oakland's violence funding initiatives. Our effort to heighten the visibility of this issue in the community, build capacity to new populations, and secure future sustainability are compelling matters for the agency.

During the past 29 years as the Executive Director of ASP, I recognize the fact that the origins of community and street violence begins with domestic violence. Children exposed to violence in the home, who do not receive intervention or specialized services, will most often repeat the abuse, often with their partner. Intervention and prevention are key factors in making our communities safe. ASP recognizes community conversations provide an excellent opportunity for the community to talk about an issue that is shameful and embarrassing.

ASP is funded by the State of California, County of Alameda, foundations (S.F. Foundation, Blue Shield, Kaiser, etc), corporations, churches and individual supporters.

## Oakland's Public Safety Committee Presentation on Domestic Violence

by **The Link to Children**

Effects of exposure to Domestic Violence between parents or intimate partners on young children's cognitive and emotional development include:

DV causes a disruption in the quality of the attachment relationship to the primary care givers' and their child/children. Primary care givers become the source of danger and reflect the incapacity to provide security at the most vulnerable developmental stage, between birth and kindergarten. Young children live in their bodies and imitate the behaviors of others that they observe and interact with. The risk is high for these young children to repeat the behaviors that have been internalized, putting them at risk for attention issues, aggressive behaviors, mistrust of others and behavior that either reflects the aggressor or the victim who they were exposed to.

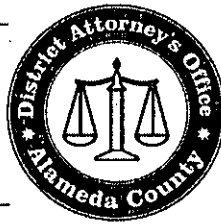
Goal for implementing child-parent therapy: to treat immediate symptoms for both the child and the parent by establishing or repairing a secure attachment between child and parent. Supporting the primary caregiver to develop a narrative about the child's experience of the DV.

Child-parent therapy provides dual attention to both the primary caregiver and their child to repair and support the development of a secure relationship. The therapy offers both persons a chance to develop a narrative about the traumatic experience, one that can be talked about over the years as the child develops the capacity to understand what happened to them and what happened inside of them in terms of feelings and memories. An important goal is to prevent the development of symptoms that lead to the transmission of intergenerational trauma

Goal to educate parents, teachers and other important figures in children's lives about the critical importance of self-regulation for the development of healthy minds and bodies and academic and interpersonal success. Exposure to DV causes dis-regulation in young children.

The need to educate teachers on how to talk to young children who express that DV is happening in their home and to assess when a referral is needed to assess if the child is being harmed by the DV is critical. Further support for teachers and other important adults in young children's lives to understand that self-regulation is one of the most crucial capacities a child can develop in order to function in school and in their social lives. It is important to offer tools and education to adults about how their behavior towards others and specifically their children influences the young child's capacity to self-regulate.

Provide outreach to fathers who have been involved in DV and provide education and support for improving their understanding of all of the above. The need to develop a collaborative relationship with programs that work with fathers who are overcoming violence is critical.



City of Oakland Public Safety Meeting June 25, 2013

Oakland, the location of the Alameda County Family Justice Center, is the county's largest city where 150 languages are spoken. The 2010 United States Census reported that Oakland has a diverse population of 390,724 of which 65.5% are people of color and 34.5% are Caucasian. More than 19.6% of Oakland families live below the poverty level, and this is above the state average of 14.4%. While DV crosses all ethnic, income, geographic and cultural boundaries, Oakland does have the highest number of DV calls for assistance to law enforcement in the county, logging 3,679 in 2010 representing 54.5% of the county's DV calls for assistance. In 2012, Oakland Police Department (OPD), topping all other police agencies in the county, accounted for 43.5% of the DV related incidents reviewed twice the amount of any other agency. Of the charged Alameda County DV related incidents in 2012, OPD accounted for 39% of the felonies, 23% of the misdemeanors and 56% of the felony or misdemeanor probation only cases.

The Alameda County District Attorney's DV Unit, which embodies the VAW DV team, continues to be located at the Alameda County Family Justice Center (ACFJC) with law enforcement, probation, 18 non-profit advocacy organizations and civil attorneys, providing improved responses and services to victim/survivors. In 2012, the ACFJC delivered to 17,000 individuals services concerning domestic violence and interpersonal sexual assault. The ACFJC houses four special vertical prosecution teams, the North County Domestic Violence, Stalking, Elder/Dependent Adult Protection and Child Abduction. The co-location of the above agencies has resulted in each victim being offered an array of services depending on her/his current need. In addition the co-location has fostered substantial growth in the professional and personal relationships between the individuals in all these various disciplines, which has forged a



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tremendous communication bridge between all parties, thus improving our response to and services for victim/survivors.

Several indicators tracked by the ACDA provide evidence of the impact the ACFJC/DV Unit has had in improving domestic violence offender prosecution outcomes, resulting in increased participation in the criminal justice process by victims. For example, in 2005/06 (the first year of operation for the ACFJC), 69% of felony domestic violence cases were charged with victim participation. In 2010, this number increased to 87%. In 2012, VAW DV team had a 95% conviction rate and had 94% victim participation rate. More victims are participating in the prosecution of cases revealing increased victims' confidence and access to services.