



JEANNINE M. PACIONI
District Attorney

PRESS RELEASE

August 23rd, 2022

Contact: Jeannine M. Pacioni, District Attorney
Telephone: 831-755-5470

MONTEREY COUNTY DISTRICT ATTORNEY INVITES COMMUNITY TO PARTICIPATE IN PLANNING PROCESS FOR THE MONTEREY COUNTY FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER, SOUTH COUNTY OFFICE

SALINAS, California- Monterey County District Attorney Jeannine M. Pacioni invites members of the public to attend the Community Forum for the Monterey County Family Justice Center, South County Office which will be held on Thursday, September 22, 2022, at Compass Church located at 830 Padre Dr, Salinas, CA 93901. The forum will begin at 9:00am and end at 11:30am. The Monterey County District Attorney's Office has invited the team from the Family Justice Center Alliance, a project of Alliance for HOPE International, to help Monterey County begin the planning process for a Monterey County Family Justice Center, South County Office located in King City to help survivors of family violence and their families get the resources and support they need at one location.

The mission of a Family Justice Center is to provide one place for victims of domestic violence, sexual assault, child abuse, elder abuse, and human trafficking to receive the services currently available in their community from both non-profit and governmental agencies. Family Justice Centers co-locate, coordinate, and integrate services so that victims and their children travel to fewer places and tell their stories fewer times.

The Family Justice Center model's documented and published outcomes include reduced homicides, increased victim safety, increased autonomy and empowerment for victims, reduced fear and anxiety for victims and their children, increased efficiency and coordination among service providers, increased prosecution of offenders, dramatically increased community support services to victims and their children, and reduced recantation and minimization by victims when they receive this level of support. (See Case Gwinn and Gael Strack, *Dream Big: A Simple, Complicated Idea to*

Stop Family Violence. Other outcomes posted online in the Alliance’s resource library at <http://www.familyjusticecenter.com>.)

“The Family Justice Center provides a more supportive experience for victims, it also increases efficiency in service provision, reduces victim recantation, increases prosecution of offenders, and ultimately reduces crime.” – North Carolina medical journal 77.4 (2016); 286-289.

“When I had to file charges, I was thinking ‘Do I want to tell this story again?’ That downtime in the middle of everything can be confusing as you’re wondering if you should even go through with it. If we could have a Family Justice Center here, that would make it easier for us.” – Jamie, Survivor

The Community Forum being hosted on September 22, 2022 by the Monterey County District Attorney’s Office is the first step in the planning process for creating a Monterey County Family Justice Center, South County Office located in King City. The Community Forum will generate momentum for the development of a Family Justice Center by bringing local elected officials, policy makers, and government and community-based agencies together to start the planning process for a co-located service facility. The public is encouraged to attend the Community Forum at Compass Church. Please RSVP by sending an email to FamilyJusticeCenterRSVP@co.monterey.ca.us.