

# Marion County Community Assessment

## Recommendations and Next Steps - March 2016

### Victim Services

Convene focus groups of survivors using Focus Group Toolkit.

Continue to identify other services and programs to support adult survivors and children where there is co-occurrence of child abuse and domestic violence.

### Law Enforcement

Create a stronger policy requiring law enforcement investigators to attend and view forensic interviews at Liberty House.

Create detective positions for follow-up investigation of domestic violence cases.

Use a domestic violence checklist form across all county law enforcement agencies.

Create a formal process to provide feedback on all domestic violence cases submitted for prosecution by local law enforcement agencies.

Coordinate law enforcement crime mapping efforts to create a countywide map of domestic violence calls for service.

### Restraining/Protection Orders

Reconsider rules about not allowing victims to dismiss restraining orders for one year.

Reconsider process requiring victims to submit paperwork for protection orders before 10:30 AM.

Place advocates in the courtroom for every protection order calendar.

Assign a professional or volunteer advocate to the courtroom each day.

Develop a written feedback form to be provided to survivors seeking restraining orders.

Re-examine the protection order process.

Develop a process to ensure that victims connect with an advocate prior to obtaining a protection order.

Ensure civil legal assistance or advocacy support for all victims applying for protection orders.

Consider the City of New York School of Law Incubator model to increase civil legal services for victims.

### Court Procedures

Reconsider current check-in procedure for victims at Marion County Jail Annex.

Train family law facilitators in domestic violence dynamics and risk assessment factors.

Develop a workgroup to evaluate the viability of electronic filing, video teleconferencing, and other mechanisms that allow victims to access legal assistance without coming to court and supports child care.

### Juvenile Department

Convene a working group to look at potential onsite partners to increase services and collaboration on campus.

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### System Wide Issues

Develop a countywide domestic violence plan with a 5-10 year focus on violence reduction and prevention.

Create a mapping process to identify all potential service locations where victims of domestic violence must go for services. Validate the map.

Conduct a brief study to analyze the overlap or lack of intersections between victims calling 911 and accessing criminal justice system intervention, calling Center for Hope & Safety, and seeking civil protection orders.

Develop a countywide protocol on handling domestic violence cases at misdemeanor and felony levels.

Provide additional training on the handling of non- and near-fatal strangulation cases.

Create a working group affiliated with MCRI to discuss co-location models and evaluate opportunities.

Consider expanding the De Muniz Resource Center into a more robust, holistic services model.

### Children, Youth and Families

Invite Liberty House and Center for Hope and Safety to be represented on the Children & Families Commission.

Host a discussion about formal, long-term frameworks to create regular interaction among staff members providing direct assistance in agencies and organizations.

Consider how to provide referrals and services to children and youth not in the Juvenile Justice system or connected to victim services, including mentoring.

Disseminate existing maps to all community agencies focusing on youth and families.

### Other

Consider sending a multi-disciplinary team to the Alliance's four-day training institute on strangulation

Participate in a facilitated conversation with service providers and survivors to discuss report.

Send a team from Marion County to attend the 16th Annual International Family Justice Center Conference in San Diego, April 2016.