

**SALLY'S SAFE HAVEN JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
JANUARY 21, 2015
MINUTES**

APPROVED AT JUNE 26, 2015 JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING.

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge Raul Zambrano, Committee Chair; Barbara Revels, Committee Vice-Chair; Arnold Anderson; Kathy Bassett; Trish Giaccone; Carla Harris; Janet Nickels; Kim Pleasants; Robert Sterner; Katrina Townsend; Alisha Vincent.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sally Sherman, Deputy County Administrator; Stewart Maxcy, Program Coordinator

1. Pledge of Allegiance – The meeting was called to order at 12:30 p.m. with the Pledge of Allegiance led by Judge Zambrano.
2. Roll Call – The members stated their names and organizations for the record. A quorum was established.
3. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the October 20, 2014 meeting were unanimously approved as distributed.
4. Chair Comments – Judge Zambrano announced that the center has opened and is “ready for business”. He encouraged everyone to please advertise this throughout the community so those families needing a safe place for a child exchange will know of its availability.

Judge Zambrano noted that Mr. Chet Bell has retired from Stewart-Marchman ACT. Mr. Maxcy reported that the new director, Ivan Cosimi, will be attending the meetings in the future.

In addition, the funding for the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) has been pulled and he inquired if another agency was going to replace it. Ms. Pleasants reported that the duties of the CAC have been divided among other agencies. Ms. Gaiccone also noted that the Family Life Center in Flagler County is in the process of being certified as a rape crisis center, for victims ages 12 and older. In addition, Volusia County victims of rape are being serviced by the Family Life Center in Flagler County due to the closing of the CAC.

5. Visitation Center
 - a. Facility Update – Mr. Maxcy provided an update on the facility, with the ribbon cutting earlier this month. All furnishings are now in place as well as toys and games for the children. A security system has been installed and can be viewed remotely as well as on-site. Panic buttons have been purchased for all staff members, which goes to the police department for

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response. A fence has been installed at the back of the building to ensure security for the parent entering the facility from the rear.

Mr. Maxcy also reported that 4-5 families have already been identified who were travelling outside of the county who will now use the facility. He has made presentations to several organizations to help get the message into the community. The current schedule the facility is available is weekly on Tuesday, Thursday and Saturday.

- b. Facility Needs – Mr. Maxcy reported that transportation to and from the facility – which is not a facility need, but rather a community need -- is the one thing that seems to be lacking. Once the facility is up and running additional items may be identified but at this time there does not seem to be anything outstanding.

Judge Zambrano commended the Flagler County Facilities Department for the wonderful work performed to create the facility.

Mrs. Sherman noted there is a link on the Flagler County website for information about the facility.

- 6. Program Update – Ms. Pleasants reported that the facility is now fully staffed. Ms. EVELDA Ash, the Program Lead, is from Tree House in Daytona. All staff members have some background in domestic violence training with additional training continuing.

- 7. Committee Comments

- a. Mr. Sterner inquired if the center will handle out of county residents and is it only handling domestic violence as opposed to family cases where there is no domestic violence involved. Judge Zambrano noted that, in the past, Flagler residents have been going to other counties but his concern is whether it would affect the grant. Mrs. Sherman noted that since parents do not always live in the same jurisdiction and the way the grant was written, it would not be a problem. A motion was then made by Mr. Sterner to allow residents outside of Flagler County to use the facility when accompanied by a judge's order for domestic violence cases. The motion was seconded and unanimously carried.

As to whether or not the facility can be expanded to accommodate families where there is not domestic violence involved; ex: dependency cases, Judge Zambrano noted that the grant is very limited to address only domestic violence cases. The center specifically is for families where violence has become part of the relationship and there is an exchange of children. So long as there is the ability to identify violence in the family,

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Judge Zambrano, again, feels the center could be utilized by the family as long as there is a court order.

Mrs. Sherman also announced that staff and the Children's Home Society are looking for additional grant sources where the center could be further utilized when not being use for the domestic violence cases. Ms. Pleasants stated that the times the facility will be used for other purposes will also be kept separate. Judge Zambrano also feels it was initially thought to have this as a multi-use facility.

Mr. Sterner would like to have a one-page information sheet that can be shared with judges who do not attend this meeting explaining the guidelines for use of Sally's Safe Haven. It was agreed that a more condensed sheet will be developed specifically for the judges.

Ms. Harris reported they have a contract with Harmony House and Tree House so she inquired if a contract would be needed to use Sally's Safe Haven for supervised visitation for domestic violence cases. Mrs. Sherman noted that a tri-party agreement may be needed to accommodate the needs of Community Partnership for Children.

- b. Mrs. Townsend – In response to her question, Judge Zambrano noted that individuals cannot just decide without the courts agreement, to change the location of the exchanges. They can go to the second floor of the Justice Center at the "Self-Help Desk" and get the form to make the request to change the exchange location to Sally's Safe Haven.
 - c. Mrs. Sherman noted that at the time of the ribbon cutting, a plaque was presented with the names of all of the Core Committee members. At this time she presented plaques to Judge Zambrano and the other Core Committee members for their individual involvement in the creation of Sally's Safe Haven. Judge Zambrano acknowledged all of the work by Mrs. Sherman to make one comment he made several years ago at a Public Safety Coordinating Council come to fruition.
- 8. Public Comments – None.
 - 9. Next Meeting – No future meeting date has been set.
 - 10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned upon motion that was seconded.