

**SALLY'S SAFE HAVEN JOINT COMMITTEE MEETING
JUNE 26, 2015
MINUTES**

MEMBERS PRESENT: Judge Raul Zambrano, Committee Chair; Barbara Revels, Committee Vice-Chair; Judge Sharon Atack; Micky Beauregard; Alicia Vincent for Ivan Cosimi; Alexis Smith for Trish Giaccone; Carla Harris; Mark Jones; Eric Losciale; Janet Nickels; Kim Pleasants; Abby Romaine; Marcellina Spigner; and Kathy Vazquez.

MEMBERS ABSENT: Arnold Anderson; Linda Blum; Robert Sterner; Katrina Townsend; and Deborah Winchock-Ebert.

OTHERS PRESENT: Sally Sherman, Deputy County Administrator; Christie Mayer, 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 – Since there are a few new members to the committee, Judge Zambrano asked everyone to give their names, organizations and a bit about themselves. A quorum was established.
3. Approval of Minutes – The minutes of the January 21, 2016 joint committee meeting were unanimously approved after motion by Commissioner Revels and seconded by Judge Atack.
4. Chair Comments – Chairman Zambrano noted the center opened in December 2014 and is now fully operational. He is very appreciative of all the work that has been accomplished to get to this point. Now he would like to get the word out, not only in Flagler County, but in the surrounding counties as well that: (a) the facility is open for residents who live closer to this facility rather than travelling to another facility; (b) to make people aware of the services available at Sally's Safe Haven; and (c) to let everyone know that if another facility cannot accommodate a request that possibly Sally's Safe Haven can assist.
5. Visitation Center – Mrs. Sherman reported that the staff is now paying attention to ensure the policies and procedures are being followed. They do not foresee the need for any changes at this time.

With only one year of funding (fiscal year 2016) remaining, Mrs. Sherman is waiting for the grant period to open to apply for additional funding starting in fiscal year 2017. In response to questions, Mrs. Sherman noted that the names of the grants and criteria for future grants is changing but her goal is to apply for a grant that would be as comparable as possible and, hopefully, for the same amount of

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funds as the current Department of Justice Office of Violence Against Women grant.

Mrs. Sherman noted that since the group had not met for some time, they wanted to give everyone an update on the facility now that it has been up and running for about six months.

One item that has been in the works is an informational flyer that can be provided to judges listing the various services available and other operational information (Attachment 1). Mrs. Sherman asked for input from the committee. One change that will be made is the new hours of operation. Judge Zambrano asked that the words "by court" be added to the "Issuance of a No Contact Order". These changes will be made and provided to the courts.

The committee discussed the various processes when there is domestic violence between parents. Judge Zambrano explained the difference between when an injunction is ordered versus being handled at first appearance.

Judge Zambrano may speak with the other judges in Flagler County asking them to make a decision at first appearance to use the facility for exchanges of children while waiting for the case to be further resolved, rather than letting the injunctions take care of the matters involving children. Commissioner Revels asked that this issue be brought up at the Public Safety Coordinating Council as well.

6. Program Update – Mrs. Sherman noted that discussions at the Public Safety Coordinating Council initially brought out the need for a facility to assist with dependency cases, as well as domestic violence cases, which she had mentioned to Ms. Pleasants. Ms. Pleasants reported the Children's Home Society has signed an agreement with Community Partnership for Children for funding to provide 16 hours of dependency visits at Sally's Safe Haven. This means the facility will now be open five days a week with the dependency visits being scheduled when there is not a domestic violence visit scheduled. In addition, they will be hiring one additional staff member in order to provide even more flexibility in the scheduling. The updated hours will be Tuesday through Saturday from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m.

The current caseload is: four domestic violence cases; five domestic violence with dependency cases; and one dependency case. To date, there have been 26 families referred to the facility. Mr. Losciale feels the facility is right on track to handle the number of referrals projected.

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Mr. Losciale responded to the inquiry that there is no cost for parents to use the facility. The maximum capacity for the facility depends on the arrangements needed, but generally 25 domestic violence cases per week (over three days).

Rather than combine the information, a separate flyer will be developed for information about the referral of dependency cases.

Ms. Harris reported that the number of shelters in 2014 was 36; thus far this year they have had 49. In addition a lot of the children they are seeing also have substance abuse issues in the families. Therefore, she is working with Judge Walsh to have these cases assigned to Sally's Safe Haven.

Ms. Harris inquired if Sally's Safe Haven can accommodate telephone supervised visitation between teenagers and their parents when the custodial parent does not wish to monitor the call. Mrs. Sherman responded that an additional speaker phone line may be needed in one of the visitation rooms that can be hooked to recording equipment.

Ms. Pleasants noted that last month's open house was very successful with 20-25 people touring the facility, most for the first time. She also announced there will be another open house on Monday, August 31st. Mr. Losciale feels this is one of the best facilities around the area and he invited anyone who has not seen the facility to please attend.

7. Committee Comments

- a. Judge Zambrano inquired about beds being available for women at WARM even if they are not pregnant. Ms. Vincent reported they are licensed for 80 beds with 77 being capacity; with the remainder held for emergencies. All of the ladies at the facility must have a substance abuse diagnosis. Today's occupancy is 65 women with 14 children. This is the only facility of this type in the area. Ms. Vincent provided an overview of the entire facility and how it was redesigned to accommodate more women with their young children.
- b. Commissioner Revels inquired as to how long a typical family could be engaged in using Sally's Safe Haven for visits. Mr. Losciale noted it could be a year. Judge Zambrano agreed, noting that most domestic violence injunctions are issued for one year subject to renewal. In divorce cases, the family could use the facility until the children are 16 years of age.
- c. Mrs. Sherman announced that Mr. Stewart Maxcy had resigned as Program Coordinator due to family responsibilities. Therefore, she announced that Christie Mayer, who currently works in the County Administrator's Office, would be acting in that capacity. This is possible

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now that the facility is up and running smoothly, only requiring a few hours weekly.

8. Public Comments – None.
9. Next Meeting – The next meeting was set for Friday, October 2, 2015 at 12:30 p.m. at the Emergency Operations Center.
10. Adjournment – The meeting was adjourned at 1:20 p.m. upon motion that was seconded.

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