

# Justice, Hope, and Healing:

The Role of the United States Department of Justice  
in Supporting Family Justice Centers



# United States Department of Justice



# Family Justice Centers The Vision and the Visionaries



President / Co-Founder



CEO / Co-Founder

**Pioneers of the Family Justice Center Movement  
Trailblazers for the Future of Family Justice Centers**

# *The President's Family Justice Center Initiative*

and the Launch of the Family Justice Center Movement



2003 – 2007

# The New Orleans Family Justice Center Initiative



2007 -  
2014

## Remarks by General Gonzales, at the Phase I New Orleans Family Justice Center Grand Opening:



**US Attorney General Alberto  
Gonzales**

**2005 - 2007**

“Hurricane Katrina did not just wash away homes and livelihoods; it also destroyed some of the key services needed by victims in New Orleans. But in its aftermath, we had the opportunity to create a new model to provide services to victims of domestic violence and sexual assault.

We at the Department of Justice were proud to work with elected officials, Catholic Charities and others in state and local governments and the non-profit community in this effort. Together, we've worked to determine the best ways to address the specific needs of the victims of domestic violence and sexual assault in New Orleans. That spirit of cooperation, of neighbors helping neighbors, brought us together as partners to establish this Family Justice Center in record time.”

~August 28, 2007



## Statement Included in Acting Director Buchanan's Farewell Address:

"A culmination of the Family Justice Center concept, which provides comprehensive victims services, came into full view in August 2007 with the grand opening of the New Orleans Family Justice Center. What I witnessed in New Orleans and what I leave with each of you is the powerful impact of community partnerships, bringing together resources and talents, and dedication to helping those in need of immediate attention and care."

~2007

Mary Beth Buchanan  
Acting Director  
Office on Violence Against Women  
2007



US Attorney General Michael Mukasey  
2007 - 2009

## Remarks by General Mukasey Reaffirming the Department's Commitment to New Orleans and Announcing a New Grant To Support Legal Services for Victims of Domestic and Sexual Violence:

"The Department of Justice is pleased to support the Family Justice Center's important work to help guide victims of domestic violence through the legal process."

"The catastrophe that hit New Orleans caused incalculable pain and loss that we can never forget, but it also opened our eyes to the tremendous need for services. This grant is just one of the many things the Department has been doing to help rebuild the law enforcement capacity of the city and parishes, and to rebuild the justice system."

~May 19, 2008

## Remarks by Acting Director Hanson at the National Lieutenant Governors Association Annual Meeting



**Bea Hanson**  
**Acting Director**  
**Office on Violence Against Women**  
**2011 - 2016**

“OVW has been working in partnership with the Louisiana Commission on Law Enforcement to develop a Family Justice Center in New Orleans as part of a special post-Katrina initiative. The New Orleans Family Justice Center opened its doors 5 years ago, on the 2<sup>nd</sup> Anniversary of Katrina. This month, the Family Justice Center has moved to a new location within the City, and we are excited to be participating in the official grand opening event on August 28, 2012.”

“ This project is a huge victory for victims and survivors of domestic and sexual violence and for the City of New Orleans.”

~July 20, 2012

# Expanding the Family Justice Center Network

## Federal Grant Funding

## National Training & Technical Assistance:



2005 – Present

The Partnership Continues...

# Transforming Family Justice Center Service Delivery



# An OVW Special Pilot Initiative



[At the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Substance Use: Hope, Healing, and Advocacy for Family Justice Centers \(allianceforhope.com\)](https://allianceforhope.com)

[Substance Use and FJC Toolkit \(familyjusticecenter.org\)](https://familyjusticecenter.org)



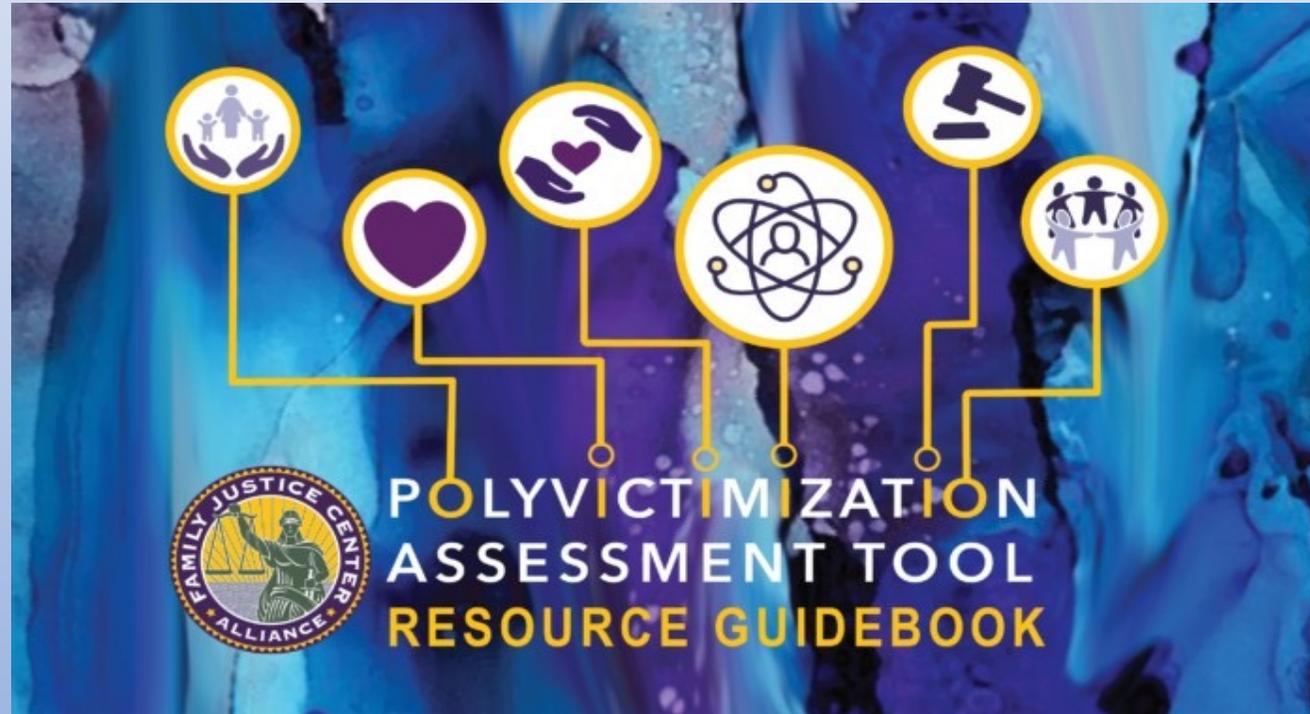
# DISCOVER THE HOPE TECH SUITE

NEW STATE OF THE ART CLIENT INTAKE AND CASE MANAGEMENT TOOLS FOR FAMILY JUSTICE CENTERS AND VICTIM SERVICE ORGANIZATIONS ARE READY FOR USE ACROSS THE COUNTRY!

[HOPETECHSUITE@ALLIANCEFORHOPE.COM](mailto:HOPETECHSUITE@ALLIANCEFORHOPE.COM)

[Webinar: Hope-Centered Intake: How to Put the Science of Hope into Practice \(familyjusticecenter.org\)](https://familyjusticecenter.org)

# OVC's Pathways to Justice, HOPE, and Healing: A National Polyvictimization Initiative



[Webinar: Polyvictimization: The Legacy of The Initiative and the Future of a Groundbreaking Framework \(familyjusticecenter.org\)](https://familyjusticecenter.org)

# The U.S. Justice Department's Recognition of Family Justice Centers Continues...



Rosie Hidalgo  
Director  
Office on Violence Against  
Women  
2023

In her October 31, 2023 Domestic Violence Awareness Month Message, Director Hidalgo remarked:

“Recently, when I was in Oklahoma, I visited a great example of a coordinated community response in Oklahoma City, where an expansive family justice center includes over 40 community partners and collaborates across many systems at the federal, state, and local levels to support survivors.”

# Final Thoughts





# A Sharing of Resources



*I would like to gratefully acknowledge Casey Gwinn and Gael Strack at Alliance for HOPE International, and Ken Shetter at the Alliance's Family Justice Center Alliance, for their leadership in the Family Justice Center Movement, their ongoing partnership with the Department of Justice as a comprehensive technical assistance provider, and for allowing me to share information with you today that has been developed by the Alliance, in part or in whole, with funding provided by the U.S. Department of Justice.*

***This includes:*** ***At the Intersection of Domestic Violence and Substance Use: HOPE, Healing, and Advocacy for Family Justice Centers;*** ***the Webinar: Hope-Centered Intake: How to Put the Science of Hope into Practice ([familyjusticecenter.org](http://familyjusticecenter.org)),*** ***and the Webinar... Polyvictimization: The Legacy of the Initiative and the Future of a Groundbreaking Framework.***

For additional resources available from Alliance for HOPE International, visit ([Alliance for HOPE International](http://Alliance for HOPE International)), and from the Family Justice Center Alliance, visit [Resources \(\[familyjusticecenter.org\]\(http://familyjusticecenter.org\)\)](http://Resources familyjusticecenter.org).

Email [FJCA@allianceforhope.com](mailto:FJCA@allianceforhope.com) for guidance and support in the development of a HOPE Tech Suite; in the implementation of a polyvictimization framework within a Family Justice Center, or in the use of the Assessment Tool.

# Thank you!



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