

PALM BEACH COUNTY
BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS
WORKSHOP SUMMARY

Meeting Date: January 26, 2010

Department

Submitted By: PUBLIC SAFETY
Submitted For: Victim Services Division

I. EXECUTIVE BRIEF

Title: Presentation of domestic violence services provided by the Department of Public Safety, Division of Victim Services and other support agencies.

Summary: The Department of Public Safety, Division of Victim Services will coordinate a two-part presentation. Part one of the presentation will be an overview of the domestic violence services system coordination in Palm Beach County. The Aid to Victims of Domestic Assault (AVDA), Florida Resource Center For Women and Children, Inc. (FRCWC), the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Domestic Violence Intake Unit, the Division of Victim Services, and the Office of the State Attorney Family Violence Unit will make a presentation regarding their services and the continuum of care provided to victims of domestic violence.


Part two of the presentation will include the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office and the Office of the State Attorney Family Violence Unit presenting information regarding sexual predators within our community. COUNTYWIDE (GB)

Background and Policy Issues: This workshop presentation was requested by the Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners at the Department of Public Safety budget presentation held on December 9, 2009.

Attachments:

- A. Executive Summary of Agencies Responding to Domestic Violence Services
- B. Continuum of Care Flow Chart for Domestic Violence Services

Recommended by:

 1/22/10
Department Director Date

Approved by:

 1/22/10
Assistant County Administrator Date

II. FISCAL IMPACT ANALYSIS

A. Five Year Summary of Fiscal Impact

Fiscal Years	<u>2010</u>	<u>2011</u>	<u>2012</u>	<u>2013</u>	<u>2014</u>
Capital Expenditures	N/A				
Operating Costs					
External Revenues	N/A				
Program Income (County)					
In-Kind Match (County)	N/A				
Net Fiscal Impact	N/A				
# ADDITIONAL FTE POSITIONS (Cumulative)	0				

Is Item Included In Current Budget? Yes ___ No ___ (N/A)
 Budget Account No.: Fund ___ Department ___ Unit ___ Object ___.

B. Recommended Sources of Funds/Summary of Fiscal Impact:

C. Departmental Fiscal Review: _____.

III. REVIEW COMMENTS

A. OFMB Fiscal and/or Contract Dev. and Control Comments:

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 OFMB
 1/22/10
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 Contract Administration

B. Legal Sufficiency:

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 Assistant County Attorney

C. Other Department Review:

 Department Director

ATTACHMENT A

PALM BEACH COUNTY BOARD OF COUNTY COMMISSIONERS

JANUARY 26, 2010 BUDGET WORKSHOP

PANEL PRESENTERS

Division of Victim Services Nancy A. Dixon, Director

In 1978 Palm Beach County Board of County Commissioners established a comprehensive service to victims of violent crimes. Our program, Victim Services, provides a 24 hour county-wide crisis response to rapes, homicides, domestic violence, and other violent crimes, crisis counseling and advocacy, therapy services, professional training, and system coordination.

Locally, the division, within the Public Safety Department, coordinates services through the Victim Advocacy Coordinating Council, the Victim Rights Coalition, the Domestic Violence Council, the Domestic Violence Fatality Review committee, and the Human Trafficking Taskforce. Each Victim Services advocate is assigned as a liaison to a municipal law enforcement agency and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office substations.

In domestic violence incidents that result in serious injury or death, PBSO refers the victim and/or surviving family members to Victim Services.

All law enforcement agencies and hospitals in the county refer sexual assault cases to Victim Services.

State Certified Domestic Violence Centers: Aid to Victims of Domestic Abuse (AVDA) and Harmony House Pam O'Brien, Executive Director (AVDA) and Mary Cauthen, BSW, MS, Director of Harmony House Domestic Abuse Programs

AVDA and the YWCA's Harmony House are state-certified domestic violence centers serving the entire county. It is important for victims to have options. For safety reasons, many participants residing closer to the YWCA Harmony House may desire to come to AVDA and visa-versa. Both centers provide outreach services, including individual and group counseling, economic empowerment and legal advocacy. Residential services include emergency shelter, extended shelter and transitional housing. Individualized safety planning and case management services are provided for all adult and child participants. *As the two state-certified domestic violence centers in the county*, AVDA and Harmony House provide hotlines that are answered 24/7 by trained, certified advocates to provide immediate case management services. The centers are trained in serving the needs of victims of human trafficking and provide a leadership role in the Palm Beach County Human Trafficking Coalition. The centers also offer comprehensive, community-wide violence prevention educational programs, and work closely with law

enforcement to provide immediate assistance to victims. The two certified centers are the only providers who can legally assist victims in accessing relocation funds available through the Victims of Crime Act. In the first three months of AVDA's current fiscal year, direct services to victims of domestic violence was over 100% higher than the same period last year. Both centers are experiencing unprecedented demands for services. The Harmony House has experienced a 60% increase in direct services. Out of all the victims served by AVDA, 50% have not reported to law enforcement and of those served by Harmony House, 34% have not reported to law enforcement.

Florida Resource Center for Women and Children, Inc. Jane Wagley, Executive Director

Florida Resource Center For Women and Children, Inc.(FRCWC) provides victims of domestic violence and their dependent children with emergency shelter, a hotel/motel program, food, clothing and personal items, 24/7 crisis hot line, lethality assessments, safety planning, individual and group counseling, support groups, case management, direct health care services provided by nurse practitioners through the FRCWC Health and Education Center, domestic violence education, parenting and anger management classes, employment assistance, computer lab, tutorial services/learning lab, relocation and financial assistance (rent, utilities, prescriptions), early childhood (ages 3-5) learning center, women's health care education and patient navigation, legal and court advocacy, family self-sufficiency program, transportation and children's programs. FRCWC outreach services include anti-violence curriculums in Palm Beach County schools and community programs for students ages 3-18, Brother To Brother - Sister To Sister Support Groups in high schools, an Alternative To Suspension Program in high schools, business development programs and community education. FRCWC is a partner with the Area Agency on Aging, State Attorney's Office and Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office to provide certified "Enhanced Training and Services to End Violence and Abuse of Women Later In Life Program" and Elder Abuse Training for Law Enforcement.

Office of State Attorney Elizabeth Parker, Chief Assistant State Attorney

The Family Violence Unit of the State Attorney's Office focuses on the investigation and prosecution of perpetrators of domestic violence. There are three misdemeanor attorneys and two felony attorneys that hand all of the cases. There are eleven victim advocates that work closely with the victim and coordinate with Victim Services, shelters and other agencies to ensure that all of the victim's needs are being met. Each agency has access to the Domestic Violence Information System (DVIS).

Palm Beach County Sheriff's Office Captain Carol Gregg and Marla Galindez

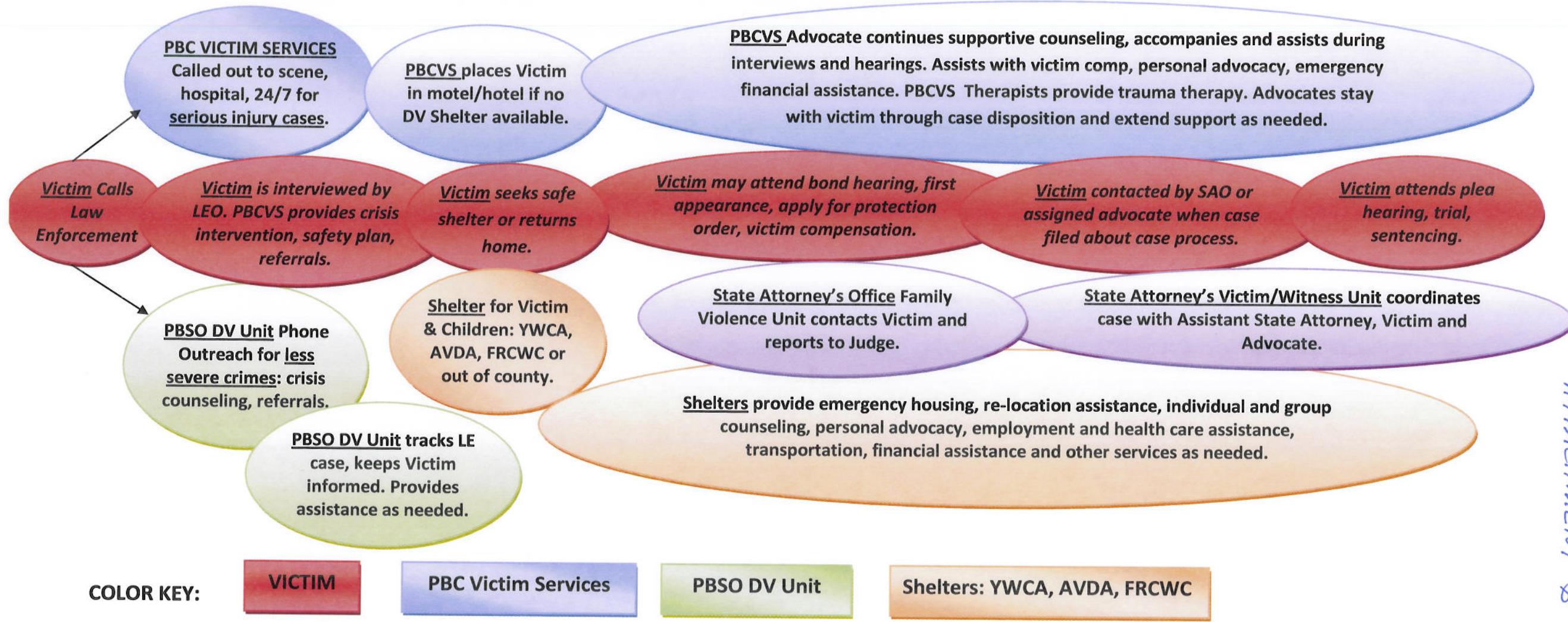
The Sheriff's Office currently has a protocol which distinguishes between Level 1 and Level 2 Domestic Violence related calls. Level 1 calls, which include serious bodily injury (victim hospitalized) and serious psychological trauma, are referred to Victim Services for Crisis Intervention. Level 2 calls which would include all other less severe Domestic Violence related crimes are handled by our Victim Advocates and Volunteer advisors. The Sheriff's Office works closely with the County Victim Services Division on these cases.

VICTIMS REPORTING TO LAW ENFORCEMENT

PALM BEACH COUNTY DOMESTIC VIOLENCE

CONTINUUM OF CARE

Reported to FL Dept. of Law Enforcement, 2008: 6,333 incidents; 4,146 arrests



ATTACHMENT B