

**Our Children, Our Families Council**  
**Summary of the Family Violence Council**  
*(Last updated 5/18/15)*

**Goals of the Effort**

The Family Violence Council (FVC) has 3 primary goals:

1. to coordinate services and improve communication between the intervention and prevention communities in domestic violence, child abuse, and elder abuse
2. to analyze trends and data related to family violence in San Francisco, statewide, and nationally
3. to advise the Board of Supervisors, the Mayor, and the Courts about these trends and other family violence-related issues.

**Focal Population of the Effort**

The FVC focuses on victims & perpetrators of child abuse, elder abuse, and domestic violence in San Francisco.

**Impact**

Since its formation in 2008, the FVC has produced an annual report synthesizing available data from government and community-based organizations relevant to family violence, data which was previously scattered across numerous sources. In addition to increasing access to data on family violence, the council brought San Francisco into compliance with the laws surrounding a mandated child abuser intervention program for convicted offenders. As a result of the FVC's lobbying, the City created a 52-week Child Abuse Intervention Program through the Department of Public Health, as required by state law. Ms. Minouche Kandel, who staffs the FVC, attributes these successes to the participation of FVC members, who span a range of government and community groups. She considers the commitment from so many diverse stakeholders to be the FVC's greatest strength.

**Challenges**

The FVC currently struggles with a lack of staffing. While members of the Council actively participate, a large portion of the work falls on Ms. Kandel's shoulders as the only full-time staff member supporting the initiative. Because her responsibilities as the Director of Women's Policy with the Department on the Status of Women entail overseeing both the FVC and the Mayor's Task Force on Anti-Human Trafficking, in addition to other responsibilities, Ms. Kandel reports more full-time staff members would help the FVC make an even larger impact.

**Origins of the Effort**

The predecessor to the Family Violence Council was the Family Advisory Council, and it focused exclusively on domestic violence prevention. In September of 2007, however, the Board of Supervisors passed an ordinance creating the Family Violence Council, and defined its scope as not only domestic violence, but also child abuse and elder abuse. The 2007 ordinance required 18 organizations to be represented on the council and mandated it be co-chaired by the leaders of three non-profits representing the three focuses of the council: child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse. In April of 2015, membership for the FVC was amended to include an additional six agencies, bringing the total number of agencies and organizations represented up to 24.

**Leading the Effort**

Ms. Minouche Kandel, Esq., Director of Women's Policy at the Department on the Status of Women, currently staffs the Council. She is the only full-time staff member working on the FVC. She received substantial assistance from interns throughout the year, particularly in preparing the annual reports. As specified in the 2015 Ordinance which revised FVC membership rules, the Council is co-chaired by three individuals: the director of the Child Abuse Council at the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Center; the director of the SF Domestic Violence Consortium, and the director of the San Francisco Elder Abuse Center.

## **Members of the Effort**

An ordinance passed in April of 2015, which modified the membership of the FVC, mandates a total of 24 agencies be represented on the council. Some agencies choose to appoint more than one individual to the council. The following is a list of FVC members as of May 2015:

**Katie Albright (co-chair):** Director of the San Francisco Child Abuse Prevention Council

**Beverly Upton (co-chair):** Director of the Domestic Violence Consortium

**Shawna Reeves (co-chair):** Director of the San Francisco Elder Abuse Forensic Center

**Paul Henderson:** Mayor's Office of Criminal Justice

**The Honorable Kathleen Kelly:** Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

**The Honorable Anne Christine Massulo:** Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

**The Honorable Tracie Brown:** Presiding Judge of the Superior Court

**Iris Wong:** Legislative Aide, Board of Supervisors

**Liz Tarchi:** District Attorney's Office

**Tara Anderson:** District Attorney's Office

**Gena Castro Rodriguez:** Victim Services at the District Attorney's Office

**Edward Santos:** Chief of Police

**Sgt. Inspector Antonio Flores:** Chief of Police

**Kathy Gorwood:** Sheriff's Department

**Delia Ginorio:** Survivor Restoration Project within the Sheriff's Department

**Carmen Aguirre:** Public Defender's Office

**Simin Shamji:** Public Defender's Office

**Nancy Kirshner-Rodriguez:** President of the Commission on the Status of Women

**Dr. Emily Murase:** Executive Director of the Department on the Status of Women

**Minouche Kandel:** Director of Women's Policy at the Dept. on the Status of Women

**Tina Gilbert:** Adult Probation Department

**Sunny Schwartz:** Adult Probation Department

**Mark Hudgins:** Adult Probation Department

**Robert Smuts:** Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Management

**Cecile Soto:** Assistant Deputy Director, Department of Emergency Management

**Dr. Leigh Kimberg:** Department of Public Health

**Sylvia De Porto:** Human Services Agency

**Jill Nielson:** Department of Adult & Aging Services

**Aumijo Gomes:** Department of Children, Youth, & their Families

**Karen Roye:** Director of Child Support Services

**Freda Randolph-Glenn:** Child Support Services

**Dr. Antonio Ramirez:** Chair of Batterer's Intervention Programs Subcommittee

**Allen Nance:** Chief of Juvenile Probation

**Virginia Donohue:** Animal Care & Control

**Vicky Guldbeck:** Animal Care & Control

**Micki Callahan:** Director of Human Resources for City & County of San Francisco

**Susan Gard:** Department of Human Resources

**Mindy Talmadge:** San Francisco Fire Department

**Erik Martinez:** San Francisco Unified School District

## **Structure of the Effort**

As dictated by the Board of Supervisors' 2007 ordinance which created the FVC in its current form, the entire council meets quarterly, and roughly 80% of the members are in attendance at any given meeting. In addition to quarterly meetings, however, smaller committees (e.g. the criminal justice response group, the domestic violence & housing committee, etc.) meet outside of the quarterly meetings, often monthly, to accomplish their specific priorities. Ms.

Kandel determines the agenda for each quarterly meeting, but responsibility for the smaller committees is delegated to a member of the committee.

### **The Role of Data**

A central priority for the FVC has been to compile data relevant to child abuse, domestic violence, and elder abuse into one annual report. They have successfully negotiated data sharing relationships with the multiple agencies and organizations represented on the FVC to produce a comprehensive picture of family violence trends in San Francisco. Specifically, the FVC's annual report includes information from 11 City public agencies and 25 community-based organizations. The data in the report includes:

- Calls to 911
- Cases received and investigated by the San Francisco Police Department
- Child Abuse, Domestic Violence, and Elder Abuse cases at the District Attorney's Office
- Victims of family violence who received advocacy and support from the District Attorney's Victim Services Division
- Caseloads of the Adult Probation Department's Domestic Violence Unit
- Caseloads of the violence prevention programs at the Sheriff's Department
- Domestic Violence Restraining Order requests and dispositions from Family Court
- Elder Abuse Restraining Order requests and dispositions from Probate Court
- Child abuse allegation and substantiation data from Family and Children's Services
- Elder and dependent adult abuse and neglect data from Adult Protective Services
- Data on individuals identified as experiencing domestic violence in programs of the Department of Public Health
- Family Violence caseloads from the Department of Child Support Services
- CalWORKs Domestic Violence advocate caseloads
- Child abuse reports and programming on healthy relationships at San Francisco Unified School District
- Child Abuse community-based support services
- Domestic Violence community-based support services
- Elder Abuse community-based support services.

### **Related Documents**

- Updated 2015 FVC Membership Roster
- 2015 Ordinance amending composition of the FVC
- The Family Violence Council page on the Department on the Status of Women website < <http://sfgov.org/dosw/family-violence-council>>, which includes links to the most recent annual report on Family Violence trends, past reports, goals, membership, and the 2007 ordinance creating the FVC in its current form.