

e-update (June 16, 2006)



It's everybody's business.

Family Justice Center of Boston Celebrates Grand Opening

On June 13, the Family Justice Center of Boston (<http://www.cityofboston.gov/police/fjc.asp>) celebrated its Grand Opening – at the Center, victims of domestic violence and sexual abuse can receive shelter, legal protection, and other basic services at a single location. Deidre Kennedy, director of the center, said people in need of assistance can walk in, or may make appointments with one of the more than 20 public and private agencies with on-site offices. It is open for business not just for victims in Boston but all of Suffolk County, and a person who walks inside its doors looking for help will find 35,000 square feet of it – counselors, legal aid, family advocates, drop-in childcare, temporary foster homes for pets, even a hot meal. And if they choose – only if they choose – victims can also find detectives and prosecutors to guide them in pursuing criminal charges. Medical care, already on hand for children, will eventually be available for adults in-house as well.

The Family Justice Center of Boston is one of the 15 opening as part of the President's Family Justice Center Initiative (PFJCI) (<http://www.usdoj.gov/ovw/pfjci.htm>) – designed to play a crucial role in developing multi-disciplinary service centers for victims of domestic violence and their children. In October of 2003, President George W. Bush announced the PFJCI, which is administered by the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) (<http://www.usdoj.gov/ovw/>). The PFJCI is a pilot program that has awarded more than \$20 million to the 15 communities across the country for the planning, development, and establishment of comprehensive domestic violence victim service and support centers.