

Victim Centered Prosecution

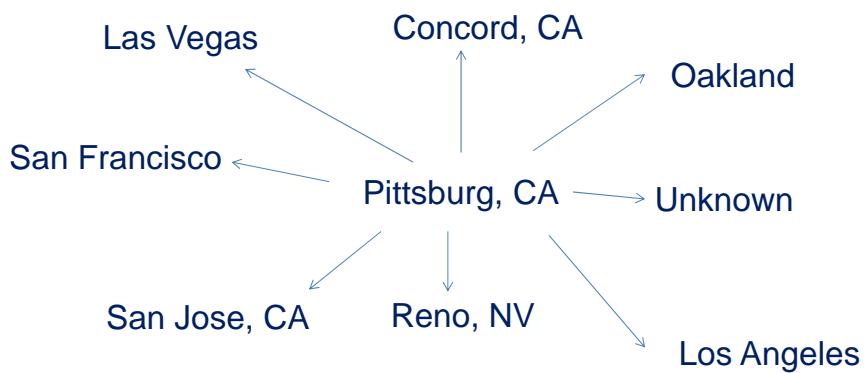
Alison Chandler, Deputy District Attorney
Shannon Mahoney, Victim Assistance Program Manager
Contra Costa County District Attorney's Office
10:45 – 12:15



Shannon Mahoney, Manager Victim Assistance Program
Alison Chandler, Deputy District Attorney

Mark Peterson, District Attorney

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Collaboration Makes A Difference



Shannon Mahoney, Manager Victim Assistance Program
Alison Chandler, Deputy District Attorney

Mark Peterson, District Attorney

Success Starts with Collaboration

- Within the county
- Within Community Partners
- Statewide
- Nationally



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Contra Costa County Collaboration



Community Violence Solutions
ending sexual assault & family violence

STAND!
For Families Free of Violence.



FAMILY JUSTICE CENTER
SERVING • CONNECTING • EMPOWERING



CONTRA COSTA
CRISIS CENTER

CalVCP 50
1965-2015



BAY AREA LEGAL AID
WORKING TOGETHER FOR JUSTICE

**monument
CrisisCenter**



Lao Family Community Development, Inc.
We are here to help you. We are here to help you. We are here to help you.



**FOOD
BANK**
of Contra Costa & Solano

**RAINBOW
COMMUNITY CENTER**



Shannon Mahoney, Manager Victim Assistance Program
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The Law Has Provided for a Victims' Rights Shift

Historically the CA justice system has been centered around the rights of the defendant.



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Victims' Rights Shift

- Marsy's Law in the California Constitution
- Expanded on who is defined as a victim
- Victims must be informed of rights



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Victims' Rights Shift

- Right to be notified, attend and speak at hearings and confer with prosecutor
- Prevent disclosure of confidential information
- Additional protections from the defendant
- Restitution must be ordered



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Taking Advantage of the Shift

- Victims Now Claim Their Stake!
- Prosecutors/Advocates Educate in Court
- Law Enforcement Reaches Out Early
- Team Approach to Prosecution

**REQUIRES COLLABORATION AMONG
COMMUNITY PARTNERS**



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Alison Chandler, Deputy District Attorney

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Don't Forget the Big Picture

THIS IS A LIFE!



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Giving People What They Need

- You are the resource
- Never say no, offer an alternative
- Know your community, make sure they know you
- Participate in awareness/education
- Facilitate connections



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Utilize all Resources Available

- Closed captioned trial testimony
- Victim Impact Statements by Skype
- Court House Dog
- Continuing education



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Partner Up

- Law Enforcement
- District Attorney's Office
- Victim Advocates
- Community Partners



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Ongoing Obstacles

- Defendant Centered System
- Remedies Not Strong Enough
- Complicated Cultural Considerations
- Cases Have Proof Problems
- Restitution Shortcomings
- Language Barriers

Don't Let Obstacles Get in Your Way!



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Deconstruct Perceptions



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Moving Forward

- Start from the Ground Up
- Build community around victim for safe community
- Prepare for the unknown
- Rebuild and Empower for Life
- Utilize ALL tools for Success!



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Alison Chandler, Deputy District Attorney

Mark Peterson, District Attorney

Thank You

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