

Family Justice Center Feasibility Study – Final Report

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Outline



PROJECT TIMELINE



METHODOLOGY



CONCLUSIONS



RECOMMENDED
ACTION

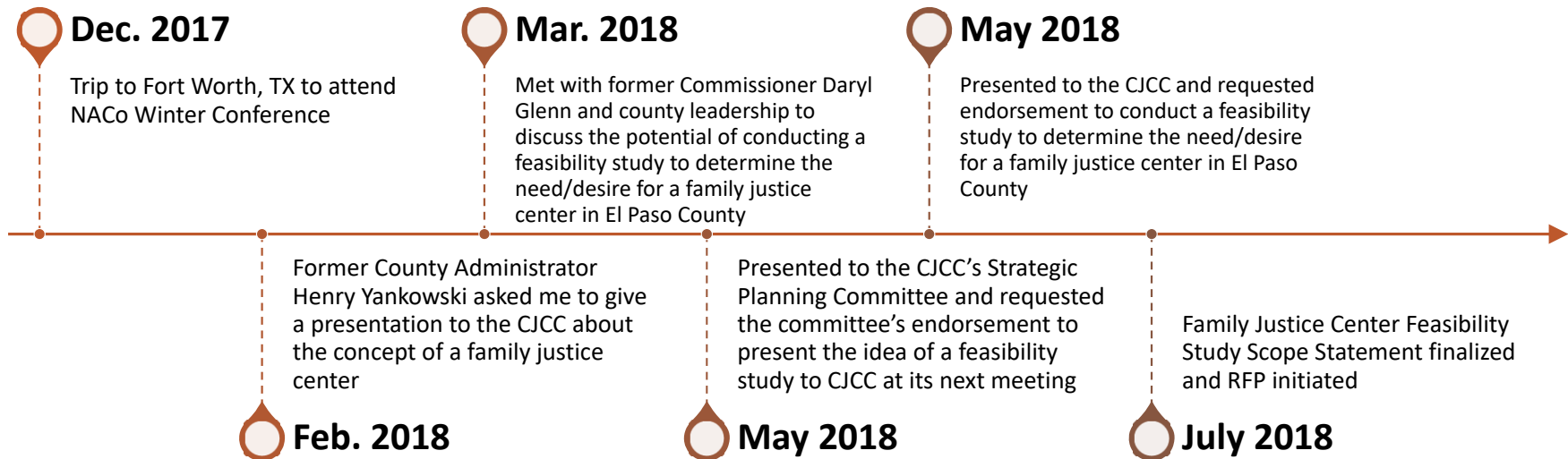


WHAT'S NEXT?

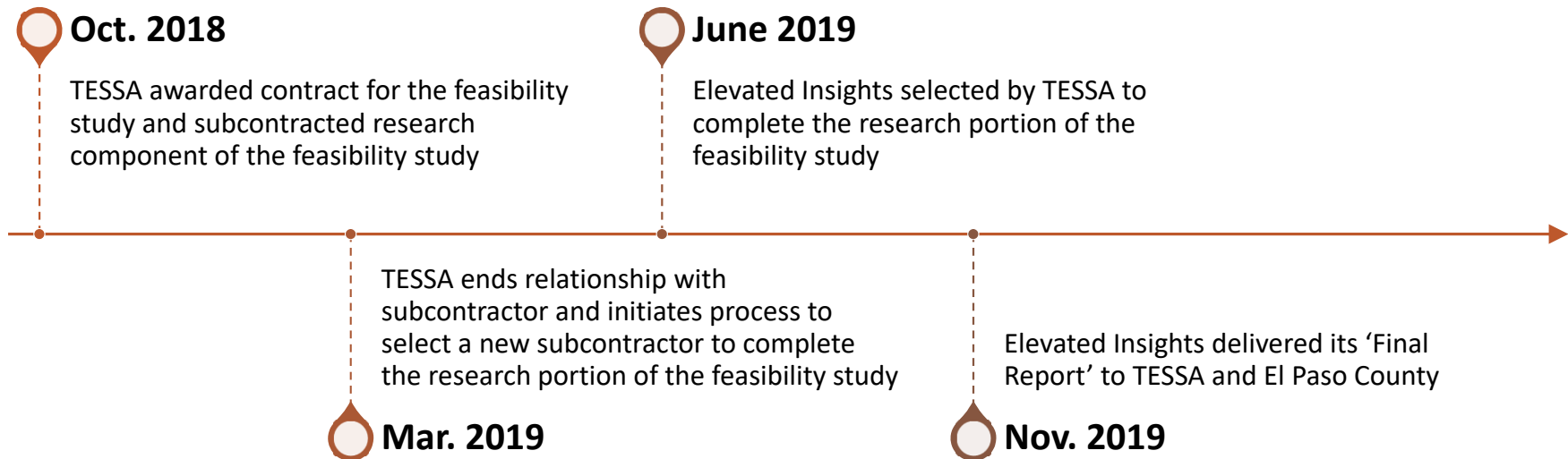


QUESTIONS/
COMMENTS

Project Timeline



Project Timeline



The findings in this report are based on the first 4 phases



Focus Groups With Survivors

Among TESSA users and Non-users



Online Survey Among 760 Survivors

Taken online and distributed at TESSA, distributed fliers at local community organizations, and posted on social media groups. Flighted from July 8 - August 16, 2019



Group Discussions with Partner Organizations

Including CSPD, El Paso County, Judges, Attorneys, Advocates



Survey Among 54 Community Partners and Leaders

Flighted from July 17 - August 24, 2019

Methodology

- While survivors prioritized different needs based on the type of abuse they had experienced, they collectively **identified their top 4 areas of need as:**
 - **Legal support:** legal advocate who assists with paperwork/accompanies them on court visits and free services from a lawyer
 - **Housing support:** assistance affording long-term housing (security deposit aid) and assistance finding/securing long-term housing
 - **Financial assistance:** emergency funds to assist with bills and needed services or items
 - **Counseling/support groups:** individual counseling cited as key desired format

- **Partners identified the top 3 gaps for meeting victims' needs within El Paso County as:**
 - **Housing:** transitional housing (2-6 months) and emergency shelter/safe house (up to three months) suggested by most
 - **Legal support:** free services from a lawyer and a legal advocates to assist survivors with paperwork/accompany on court visits
 - **Services for children / youth:** supplemented/free daycare so survivors can work, long-term counseling, or special camps for children affected by domestic violence were most frequently noted areas of support

Conclusions

- **Given limited resources, if El Paso County could EITHER develop a combined service center OR focus on better meeting their top needs, 2/3 of all survivors would want the county to focus on filling the current gaps/meeting needs in other areas.**
 - **The survivors who would be more likely to seek services if provided in a combined services center said, if they had to choose, they would prefer El Paso County to focus on meeting their top needs** (vs. develop a Combined Services Center)
 - Among the survivors who wanted El Paso County to focus on improving service gaps, **the legal system, housing support, financial assistance, and counseling support were cited as top needs**
 - **Community partners were split on what to prioritize with limited resources** – about 5 in 10 would fill the gaps with victim resources, 4 in 10 would develop a combined service center, and others would increase organizational resources/ address organizational challenges

- **When it comes to interest in a combined services center:**
 - **2/3 of the past 3 year survivors are more likely to seek services if provided in a combined services center**, as they find the idea of a one-stop shop to be much more convenient with transportation, easier to share information with agencies, and they like the idea of expertise and sensitivity in a specialized site
 - **9 out of 10 of these community partners felt they could better meet victim needs** with a combined service center

Conclusions

Based on this research, there is not one single path moving forward (providing co-located services vs. filling the gaps of current needs), **as both actions are desired if funding could be identified.**

Importantly, how to best allocate resources and meet needs is an **extremely complicated** issue. Decisions should not be made and actions should not be taken based on any single study.

These findings provide clarity on needs/gaps in EPC and should serve a gateway to continue the conversation of how best to address all of El Paso County domestic survivor needs in the future.

Additional discovery and exploratory phases should be conducted before making decisions to ensure that needs of all El Paso County survivors will be met and to ensure all community partners agree to communicate/ collaborate towards one common goal, despite organizational differences.

Recommended Action

Filling Gaps Considerations

- Some needs can be **addressed through increased staffing** (legal advocate to assist with paperwork/accompany them to court& assistance finding/securing long-term housing)
- In some cases, **partner agencies weren't fully aware of the services and resources that existed for survivors, which made some gaps feel even larger**
 - **Developing an inclusive list of potential services available** to provide to survivors would give them a starting point to navigate the system, ensure all survivors have the same access to help, and build a sense of collaboration among organizations (vs. territorialism over clients)
- **Other needs**, such as affordability & availability of long-term housing and free services from a lawyer, are areas that **will require more time to develop infrastructure and resources**
 - With that being said, **awareness of these needs and data to support the need in these areas can serve as a catalyst to start working towards change**

Recommended Action

Combined Service Center Considerations

- Since TESSA is an existing resource and is surrounded by existing partner agencies, such as Myron Stratton Home, Partners in Housing, and Peak Vista, there is an opportunity to **further develop the Stratton Consortium into a Combined Service Center.**
 - Alternatively, since TESSA offers many of the services that other organizations would provide through co-location, they could take necessary steps to increase funding and therefore grow their services. Currently, TESSA is unable to meet the needs of all local survivors and are turning some away for housing, legal, etc.
- **Partner organizations already taking on a co-location approach have found it beneficial** because it:
 - Helps them to trust other organizations to help clients when you know them / have a relationship with them
 - Makes it easier to give a client a warm hand-off (vs. cold referral) to another provider
- Ideally this improved partnership among agencies would **help survivors better navigate the system (since many resources will be in one general area) and make survivors become more likely to get help** (69% of P3Y survivors said a combined service center would make them more likely to seek services)

Recommended Action

So... What's Next?

Questions/Comments?