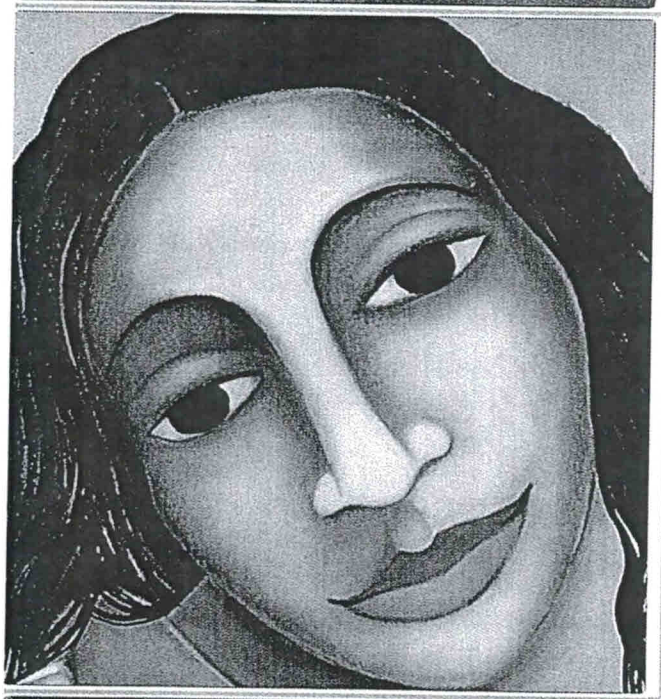
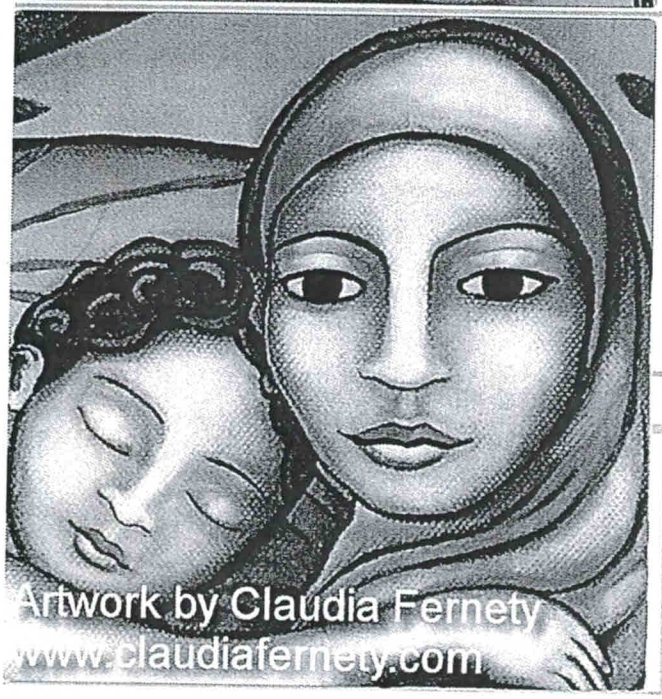




Artwork by Claudia Fernety
www.claudiafernety.com

Welcome to the Family Justice Center Alliance

Local Services, Global Reach

Family Justice Center Alliance
707 Broadway, Suite 700 • San Diego, CA 92101
Phone: (888) 511-3522 • Fax: (619) 236-0677
www.familyjusticecenter.org

How the Family Justice Center Alliance Can Help Your Community

How do I start a Family Justice Center in my community?

Across the country and around the world community leaders, advocates, law enforcement agencies, service providers, shelters, and concerned community leaders are exploring the possibility of starting a Family Justice Center in their own community. Most communities seek out a grant from public or private funders to assist with the costs of the planning process. Then, communities generally reach out to the Family Justice Center Alliance (Alliance) to help them design a planning process for their community.

Prior to starting the formal planning process in a community, the Alliance has developed an Orientation Process to help communities get ready to start a Family Justice Center. The Orientation includes a welcome packet of key information and resources on how to get started as a member, how to access our resource library, how to attend our free monthly on-line webinar trainings and how to participate in our monthly calls with other developing sites. The Alliance frequently schedules an informational conference call with Casey Gwinn and/or Gael Strack to answer questions, assist in determining a community's level of readiness and carefully explain the technical assistance and training our team can provide before starting the formal planning process. We strongly encourage interested communities to spend time becoming familiar with the FJC movement through the free online Resource Library. See Membership information at the end of this packet.

Overview of the Family Justice Center Alliance

Our Vision

Our vision is to create a future where: ALL the needs of victims are met; children are protected; Batterers are held accountable; Violence fades; Economic justice increases; Families heal and thrive; Hope is realized; and we ALL work together.

Our Mission

Our mission is to create a network of national and international Family Justice Centers and similar co-located service models with close working relationships, shared training and technical assistance, collaborative learning processes, coordinated funding assistance, and transformational leadership.

Overview of the Family Justice Center Alliance

The Alliance serves as clearinghouse, research center, and national membership organization for all Centers in the United States. Membership is free. The Alliance also serves as the comprehensive technical assistance and training provider for the United States Department of Justice for federally funded centers. The Alliance also works with centers outside the federal initiative in the U.S. and abroad. There are currently more than 84 operational centers in the United States with ten international Centers (Canada, Mexico, England, Jordan and Sweden). In addition, there are over 100 Centers currently developing in the United States, Europe, Middle East, Africa, and Central America. The Alliance hosts an annual international conference, provides shared learning opportunities such as staff exchange programs, international internships, web-based education programs, and training in the area of family violence. At present, the Alliance has 2,300 members and over 10,000 attendees per year in its online training courses. Over 60,000 unique users per year access the Alliance's online resources. The Alliance is also the coordinator of the current California Family Justice Initiative, funded by Blue Shield of California Foundation, which has helped start five new Family Justice Centers in California since 2009. The $2 million Blue Shield of California Foundation California Family Justice Initiative is funding development of a statewide network of Centers made up of core criminal justice system professionals and a host of community-based non-profit and government agencies. Today, the Alliance is assisting with the start up of fifteen additional Centers in California.

Overview continued

Scope of Services

Utilizing a network of onsite staff, national faculty and technical assistance providers, the Alliance provides training, planning, consulting and technical assistance in the following areas:

• How to Start a Family Justice Center • Community/Center Assessment • Strategic Planning • Training for Police Officers, Judges, Prosecutors, and Advocates • Funding and Sustainability for Centers • Best Practices • Board Development • Client Intake and Services • Confidentiality and Information Sharing • Communication Systems (what does this mean? Essentially, this can be covered in either Data Collection, Intake, or Technology Considerations) Data Collection and Evaluation • DV and Children	• Getting Buy-In • Governance Structure • Faith-Based Partnerships • Launching a Forensic Medical Unit • Media and Public Relations • Offender Accountability • Operations - Forms, MOUs, Protocols, and Partnership Development • Prosecution Policies and Practices • Public Awareness Posters • Safety and Security Considerations • Strangulation • Technology Considerations • Volunteer and Internship Programs (Recruiting, Training, and Retaining)

Why is a Family Justice Center model needed?

Each year law enforcement agencies in California and around the world respond to an alarming number of incidents of domestic violence. The prevalence of family violence is even more alarming when one considers that experts estimate that only 25 percent of such cases are actually reported. There are many reasons why victims often fail to report domestic violence, sexual assault, stalking, or other forms of abuse, including fear of the system, fear of the offender, religious beliefs, emotional ties to the abuser, threats to children, lack of money or resources, or simply not knowing that help is available.

Most criminal and civil justice systems make it difficult for victims to seek help and unintentionally wear them down. Victims are often required to travel from location to location to seek services that are scattered through a community or region. They have to tell their story over and over again to staff members representing agencies, such as, law enforcement, courts, civil legal, medical, transportation, housing, social services, mental health, rehabilitation, financial assistance, and many more. The criminal justice system unintentionally makes it easy for victims to become frustrated and ultimately stop seeking help. Faced with so many obstacles, victims often return to their abuser rather than obtaining the necessary services.

California Attorney General Kamala Harris and former Attorney General Bill Lockyer, now State Treasurer, have both recognized the need for the Family Justice Center model and have called for the creation of Family Justice Centers in California to better assist victims and their children.

The Family Justice Center approach was recently profiled in the Stanford Journal of Social Innovation as a model for services. The Stanford Journal of Social Innovation identified the endorsement of Oprah Winfrey and the profiling of the model on the Oprah Winfrey Show in 2003 as a key turning point in the launching of the Family Justice Center movement. The Journal identified three key components to success in surveying Centers across the country: 1) Ask clients what they need; 2) Build genuine collaboration; and 3) Identify and share best practices.

What are the services and activities that can be provided at a Family Justice Center?

A Family Justice Center model can be expected to offer comprehensive medical and legal services, counseling to victims and children, links to Juvenile, Family, and Criminal court, as well as access to on-site professionals providing civil legal services, job training and placement assistance, public benefits assistance, advocacy, and safety planning. It can also provide comprehensive prevention efforts such as outreach to young adults and underserved victims through community education.

Most importantly, each Family Justice Center is different and is based on the needs of victims in each community. The on-site partners and services at each Center often vary as well based on the unique characteristics of the organizations in a particular jurisdiction. During a strategic planning process, each Center must identify which services are most needed and helpful for victims by being provided in a co-located service delivery model. The services may be very limited such as the presence of police, prosecutors, and community-based non-profit agency advocates. The services may also be very diverse and include full health services, forensic examinations, job training, comprehensive and long-term counseling services, camping and mentoring services for children, and a host of other assistance coupled with the basic services from police officers, prosecutors, and advocates.

Tulane University recently completed a survey of all Family Justice Centers in the United States and documented the following services which are being co-located within Family Justice Centers:

- Criminal Justice
- Medical Services
- Civil Legal Services
- Child Care/Child trauma/Advocacy Services
- Child Welfare
- Subject Matter Focus Areas: Domestic Violence/Sexual Assault/Stalking/Elder Abuse
- Living Provisions/Needs
- Financial & Employment Assistance
- Public Benefits
- Social Services
- Spiritual Support
- Community Education/Outreach/Prevention
- Camping/Mentoring Programs

What does the planning process look like?

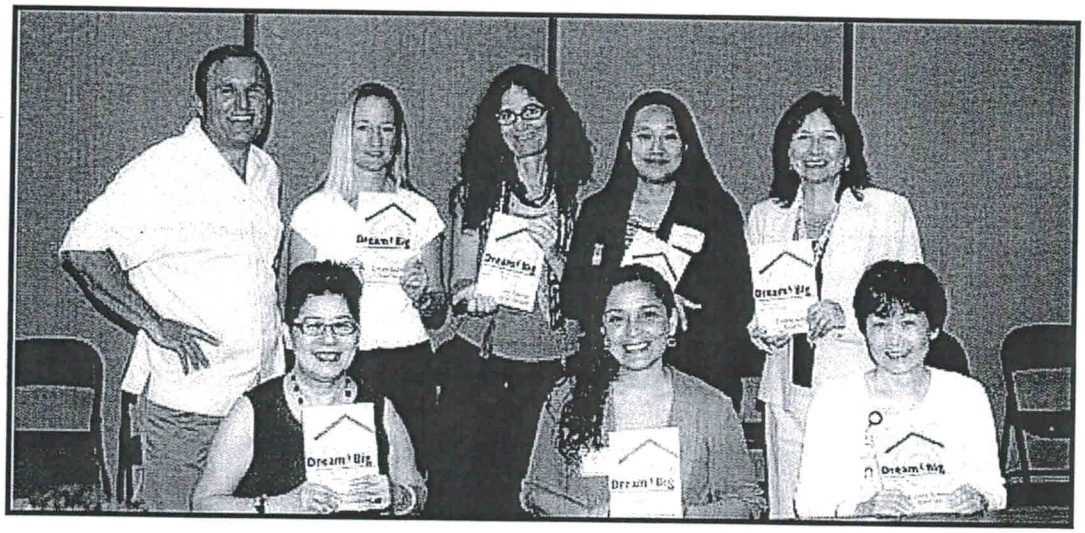
The formal planning process includes three distinct phases of planning and development when starting a Family Justice Center. The Alliance is often invited by a local community, using public or private grant funds, to participate in all three phases described below.

Phase I: Phase I assesses a community's readiness for creating a Family Justice Center. Each community has its own level of readiness. Some communities are ready to get started. They have a long history of working together, years of specialization, long-standing protocols, strong champions, key stakeholders, on and off-site partners who are ready to participate, community buy-in and secured local funding to begin the planning process. In other communities there are a few key people who are just beginning to explore the feasibility of what it would take to get people to talk about starting a Family Justice Center. They see the vision but are not sure how to start.

The Alliance has worked with communities in all stages of development including communities that have some buy in, some support, some hesitancy, and lots of questions about what it would mean to start a Family Justice Center in their community. The Alliance is often invited by a local community to conduct a Community Assessment prior to the beginning of a formal planning process for a Center.

The Community Assessment conducted by the Alliance includes meeting with all stakeholders, hosting a community forum, conducting focus groups with survivors and professionals, meeting with elected officials and policy makers, learning about the community's response to domestic violence, assessing level of collaboration and readiness for collocation and ultimately providing recommendations for next steps. Based on the discussions with the Planning Team, the Alliance will either recommend a 2-day Study Tour Community Assessment or a 4-day Snapshot Community Assessment. In all cases, the Alliance has been able to help communities work through their questions and come to a decision about whether or not they are ready to move forward. For those that are ready, the Alliance provides a customized strategic planning process that creates a road map for implementation. For those that are not yet ready for co-located, multi-disciplinary services, the Alliance is able to help identify the next steps necessary for moving forward.

Honolulu Family Justice Center Strategic Planning Team

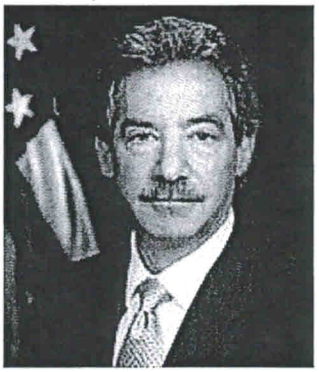


"I personally cannot thank you two enough for all that you have done (so far!). This project is important to a lot of us, and many people didn't think it could be done, but with your help, we will have one here in Honolulu. I am excited and thrilled to no end!"

– Fredese Whitsett, Honolulu Prosecuting Attorney's Office

Message from Deputy Attorney General James Cole

Deputy Attorney General James Cole welcomes attendees at the 12th Annual Family Justice Center Conference



"It is a distinct honor to address all of you at the Twelfth Annual International Family Justice Center Conference. The leadership that Casey Gwinn and Gael Strack provide in the Family Justice Center movement is invaluable."

"By providing comprehensive services in one location, the centers enhance victims' safety, and make it more likely that they can successfully navigate the criminal and civil justice processes. Many family justice centers are now seeing the benefits of co-location for survivors of sexual assault and child abuse, and are expanding their collaborative partnerships and their range of services to address these crimes... We have seen what this actually means for communities, and we know it saves lives. "

"The Family Justice Center model is one of the leading life-saving, community-based policing strategies in this country. We applaud you for showing us how to do it right, how to be responsive to all the needs of victims and their children, and how to ultimately break the generational cycle that destroys the lives of women, men, and families."

We would like to thank the Office on Violence Against Women for their generous support in making Family Justice Centers a reality for our nation!

San Diego Family Justice Center
Direct Services Team

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Lee Friedman Program Coordinator Women of Wisdom Phone: (619) 533-3515 Email: lee@nfjca.org	Katie Huerta Case Manager Women of Wisdom Phone: (619) 533-3515 Email: katie@nfjca.org

Family Justice Center Alliance National Advisory Board

The Alliance is also supported by a nationally recognized Advisory Board which helps to process and evaluate major issues, trends, and focus areas for the Alliance and the Verizon Foundation-funded Family Justice Center Institute. The Institute focuses on developing on-line resources, best practice models, and technology initiatives that can increase safety and services for victims and their children.

Sarah Buel, JD
Clinical Professor of Law
Sandra Day O'Connor College of Law
Arizona State University

Yvonne Carrasco
Consultant to Foundations & the Non-Profit Sector

Denise Gamache
Director
Battered Women's Justice Project

Michael Mason
Chief Security Officer
Verizon Communications

Amy Sánchez
Chief Executive for External Relations
Casa de Esperanza

Oliver J. Williams, Ph.D.
Professor
School of Social Work, University of MN

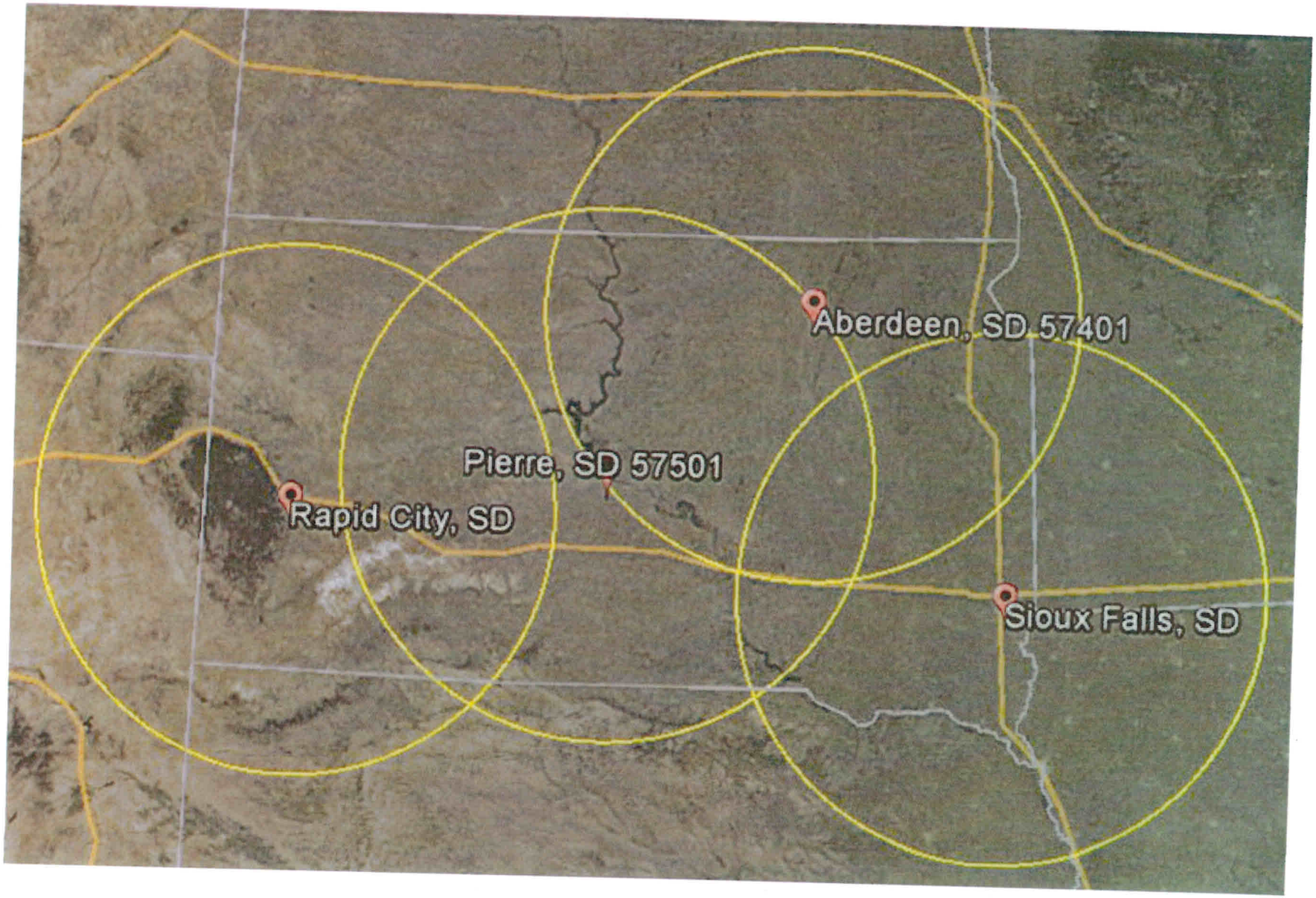
Ted Bunch
Co- Founder
A Call to Men

Sue Else
President
National Network to End Domestic Violence

Dean M. Hawley, MD
Professor
Indiana University School of Medicine
Clarian Pathology Laboratory

Nancy E. O'Malley
District Attorney
Office of the District Attorney,
Alameda County

Kim Wells
Executive Director
Corporate Alliance to End Partner Violence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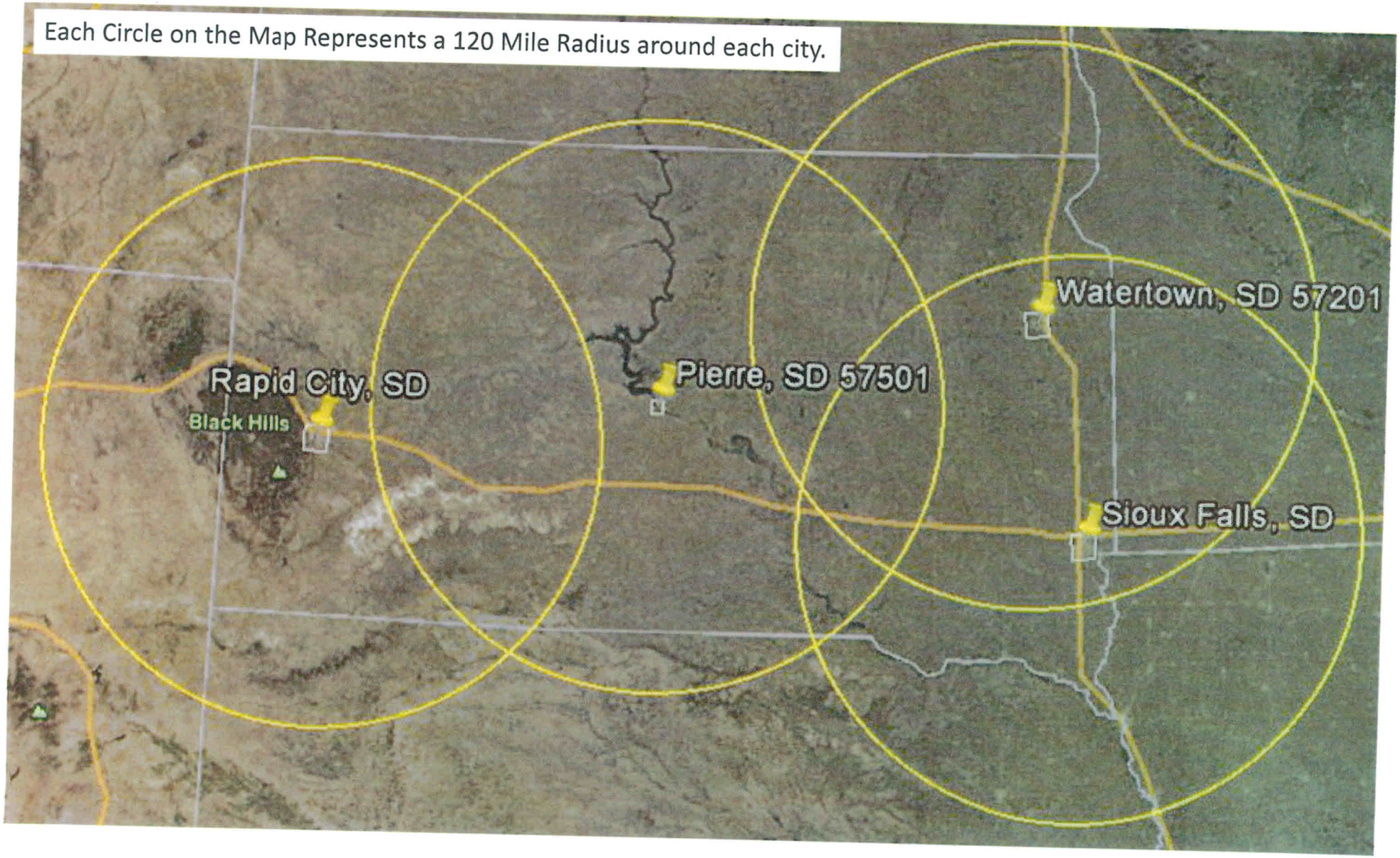
Pierre, SD 57501
Rapid City, SD
Sioux Falls, SD


Each Circle on the Map Represents a 120 Mile Radius around each city.
Rapid City, SD
Black Hills
Pierre, SD 57501
Watertown, SD 57201
Sioux Falls, SD