

# M.C.A.C. NEWS

METROPOLITAN CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION



VOLUME 16 - ISSUE 2

APRIL 2006

## ENURESIS & ENCOPRESIS: WHAT IS IT AND HOW DO WE TREAT IT?

This presentation will discuss the misconceptions and evidence-based practices in the treatment of enuresis and encopresis. Earlier information about these conditions tended to portray individuals with encopresis or enuresis as having severe psychiatric disturbances. More recent studies, however, have demonstrated developmental and genetic relationships to elimination disorders. Similarly, treatments have been developed that emphasize a combination of medical and behavioral interventions and have been shown to be quite effective. Information of both a theoretical and practical nature will be covered in this talk.

*Presented by: Joseph H. Evans, PhD, Professor, Department of Pediatrics, Director, Monroe-Meyer Institute Psychology Department, University of Nebraska Medical Center*

**FRIDAY, MAY 12, 2006**

8:30-9:00 a.m. - Networking

9:00-10:30 a.m. - Program

Program will take place at:

**Omaha Home for Boys**

4343 N 52nd Street

**Wurdeman Learning Center**

(South Entrance)

For Questions about this free program, please contact April Anderson at 595-1326 or [aanderson@projectharmony.com](mailto:aanderson@projectharmony.com)

*\*General meetings are open to all regardless of membership status. This program meets the criteria of the approved continuing education program for 1.5 hours of mental health, social work, and /or counseling practice. You must be an MCAC member to receive continuing education credit for this program.*

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**APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE  
AWARENESS MONTH!**

## From the Chair...

April is Child Abuse Awareness month and I want to take this opportunity to say “thank you” for all you do every day to advocate for abused/neglected children and their families. Every one of you play a vital role in preventing child abuse and are to be commended for your tireless efforts!

During April blue ribbons are worn in order to help bring awareness to child abuse. It is important to acknowledge that child abuse is a community problem, requiring a united community response. MCAC is a strong coalition of over 400 members. Collectively we can make a difference in ensuring the right of *every* child to have a safe and healthy upbringing.

We had our Strategic Planning meeting on March 24, 2006, and it was an amazing process. Thank you to all members who attended and participated. MCAC is entering a new period of growth within our organization and it is an exciting time to become involved as we establish new goals to be accomplished within the next few years. However, it will take the involvement of everyone. We are strong in numbers...*just imagine what we could accomplish* with over 400 active members. If you are ready to increase your participation in MCAC to improve the lives of children in our community, please contact me at [croth@projectharmony.com](mailto:croth@projectharmony.com) or any of the Committee Chairs. We greatly appreciate your ongoing support and involvement in MCAC.

Thank You, again!

*Colleen Roth*, LMHP

MCAC Chairperson

“Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much!”

-Helen Keller

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# BEHAVIORAL SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

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### Sexual Abuse Indicators in Child’s Behavior:

- ⇒ Sexual Acting Out
- ⇒ Angry, Hostile, Aggressive
- ⇒ Change in Behavior
- ⇒ Nightmares, Bedwetting, Fear of Dark
- ⇒ Reluctance or fear of a Person or of Certain Places
- ⇒ Change in School Grades, or Attention Span
- ⇒ Advanced Sexual Knowledge and/or Interest in Sexual Acts Terminology
- ⇒ Regression to Babyish Habits
- ⇒ Masturbates Excessively

### Physical Abuse Indicators in Child’s Behavior:

- ⇒ Wary of Physical Contact with Adults
- ⇒ Wears Long Sleeves or Other Concealing Clothing
- ⇒ Child’s Story of How Injury Occurred is Not Believable
- ⇒ Shows Little or No Distress in Being Separated From Parents
- ⇒ Apt to Seek Affection From Any Adult
- ⇒ Constantly on Alert for Danger, Chronically Suspicious

From: <http://www.hccac.org/abuse/recognize.html>

## March Program Review

March's MCAC Program, "Reporting and Responding to Child Abuse and Neglect," was held at the Omaha Home for Boys on March 10, 2006. Sgt. Tim Woolman with the Omaha Police Department, Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, gave an excellent PowerPoint presentation on the police department's role in investigating physical and sexual abuse of children. Suzie



Mistry, Forensic Interview Specialist with Project Harmony, provided information on how Project Harmony assists in

child abuse investigations, including how all the agencies work together. Anne Vasilisin with Child Protective Services discussed how to make a report when someone suspects child abuse and how those cases are investigated by CPS. The panel also provided information on mandatory reporting and what questions to ask when a child discloses abuse. We are so grateful to all of the speakers for taking time out of their busy schedules to educate other professionals. Thanks to all of you who attended the program! We had approximately 140 people in attendance, which is an all time record for the MCAC Programs.

## SEVEN TYPES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

### EMOTIONAL ABUSE

Mental or emotional injury to a child that results in an observable and material impairment in the child's growth, development, or psychological functioning.

### PHYSICAL ABUSE

Physical injury that results in substantial harm to the child, or the genuine threat of substantial harm from physical injury to the child.

### SEXUAL ABUSE

Sexual contact, sexual intercourse, or sexual conduct, as those terms are defined by law, including: sexual penetration with a foreign object, incest, sexual assault, sodomy inflicted on, shown to, or intentionally practiced in the presence of a child to arouse or gratify the sexual desires of any person, or failure to prevent the above named actions.



### ABANDONMENT

Leaving a child in a situation exposing them to substantial risk of harm, without arranging for necessary care for the child, when there is a demonstrated intent not to return by the parent, guardian, or managing or possessor conservator of the child.

### NEGLECTFUL SUPERVISION

Placing the child in or failure to remove the child from a situation that a reasonable person would realize requires judgment or actions beyond the child's level of maturity, physical condition, or mental abilities and that results in bodily injury or substantial risk of immediate harm to the child.

### MEDICAL NEGLECT

The failure to seek, obtain, or follow through with medical care for the child, with the failure resulting in or presenting a substantial risk of death, disfigurement, or bodily injury or with the failure resulting in an observable and material impairment to the growth, development or functioning of the child.

### PHYSICAL NEGLECT

The failure to provide the child with food, clothing, or shelter necessary to sustain the life or health of the child.

# The Sexual Abuse Case Consultation (SACC) Lunch

May 19, 2006 12:00-1:30

Sibling Visitation

**NEW FORMAT!** All meetings will have a one-hour educational component (12:00-1:00) with case consultation during the last half hour (1:00-1:30).

Meetings are held at **Project Harmony** in the upstairs conference room from **12:00-1:30**. Although **Nancy Thompson** facilitates the meetings, all in attendance are invited to offer feedback on cases presented. CEU's are available and, of course, you are welcome to bring your lunch.

Please e-mail **Carole Nelson** at [cnelson@childsaving.org](mailto:cnelson@childsaving.org) regarding your plans to attend and to staff a case at a SACC Lunch. Staffing is not required; you are welcome to come and listen! Although priority is given to cases involving sexual abuse issues, participants are also welcome to present any case to Nancy and the team of professionals in attendance.

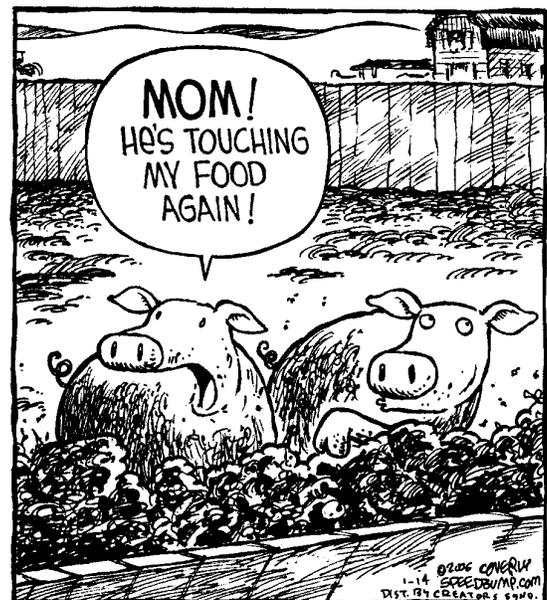
Professionals of all disciplines (no foster or adoptive parents, please) are invited to attend—it is often helpful to have therapeutic, educational, and legal perspectives available. Please plan to attend the full hour and a half.

See you there!

MCAC sponsors this peer consultation group that is **free of charge** to MCAC members and employees of member agencies. Non-members are charged a \$5 admission fee.



**Reminder:**  
 The next  
**Board Meetings**  
 will be held **Tuesday,**  
**April 18, 2006 and**  
**May 16, 2006**  
 From **11:45-1:00** at  
**Project Harmony**  
**(7110 F Street)**



# 2006 M.C.A.C. Board

## Chairperson

Colleen Roth, Project Harmony 595-1326 croth@projectharmony.com

## Vice-Chair/Secretary

Mary Beth Hanus, Archdiocese of Omaha Schools 827-3798 mbhanus@archomaha.org

## Past Chair

Beth Morrissette, Uta Halee 453-0803 x259 bmorrissette@utahalee-cooper.org

## Treasurer

Roxanne Koenig, Lutheran Family Services 978-5616 rkoenig@lfsneb.org

## Membership

Jackie Simmons, NHHS 595-1615 jackie.simmons@hhss.ne.gov

## Newsletter

Shelli Wolverton, Omaha Home for Boys 457-7150 shelliw@omahahomeforboys.org

## Program

April Anderson, Project Harmony 595-1326 aanderson@projectharmony.com

## Prevention

Carolyn Thiele, Heartland Family Service 553-3000 cthiele@cox.net

## Sexual Abuse

Carole Nelson, Child Saving Institute 553-6000 cnelson@childsaving.org

## Therapy

Coleen Cusick, Family Support Center 955-3900 ccusick@CHSomaha.org

## Truancy

Steve Snodgrass, Ralston Schools 898-3446 Steve\_Snodgrass@ralstonschools.org

## Members at Large:

Child Protective Services - Melanie Pflug 829-1632 melanie.pflug@hhss.ne.gov

Law Enforcement - Lt. Barry DeJong, OPD 444-4133 bdejong@ci.omaha.ne.us

County Attorney - Anne Armitage 444-6435 AArmitage@co.douglas.ne.us

Medical - Mary Vondra, R.N. 553-1351 mv4915@cox.net

Schools - Beth Draper, School Counselor 597-4990 x0203 bdraper@esu3.org



Don't forget to wear your blue ribbon to support

**CHILD ABUSE AWARENESS!**

# PHYSICAL SIGNS OF CHILD ABUSE

## Sexual Abuse Indicators:

- ⇒ The Most Difficult Type of Abuse to Detect Because There are Few Warning Signs
- ⇒ Irritated or Reddened Genitals
- ⇒ Unusual Smell or Discharge From Genitals

## Physical Abuse Indicators:

- ⇒ Unusual Bruises on Places not Common with Childhood Injuries
- ⇒ Bite Marks
- ⇒ Unexplained Burns
- ⇒ Unexplained Fractures

From: <http://www.hcac.org/abuse/recognize.html>

## AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

### Douglas County Family Drug Treatment Court

The Douglas County Family Drug Treatment Court (FDTC) is a strength-based, problem-solving court program designed to help parents and children get back together or stay together. It serves children, ages 0-3, placed in NHHSS custody whose parents admit to substance abuse and voluntarily agree to participate in the program. The Honorable Douglas Johnson of the Separate Juvenile Court of Douglas County started the program in May 2005 with a grant from the Nebraska State Patrol in collaboration with Family Connections, Inc (Child Saving Institute, Heartland Family Services, Catholic Charities, and Salvation Army) and a team of court, community and HHSS professionals.

The goals of the FDTC is to achieve timely, safe, and permanent homes for infants and toddlers whose parents are affected by substance abuse, through intense supervision and specialized collaboration of the court, community, and treatment providers.

The program helps parents recover from substance abuse and acquire parenting skills by referring them to substance abuse treatment, mental health treatment, and parenting programs. FDTC also helps to make sure that while parents are in treatment, they will have parenting time with their children and reside together as appropriate.

To safely reunite parents and children, the program requires completion of a minimum of 12 months of treatment and supervision. As parents work through their specially designed treatment program they complete progressive phases with specific requirements for advancement. The Court, the FDTC team, and treatment providers constantly monitor progress and help the family on its way to meeting the program's goals.

**Contact:** Lou Shilton  
 Child Saving Institute  
 115 South 46th Street  
 Omaha, NE 68132

**Phone:** 402-553-6000 ext. 261  
**Fax:** 402-553-2428

# MCAC Board Member Spotlight

## RoxAnne Koenig, MS, LMHP—MCAC Treasurer

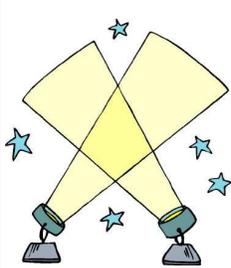
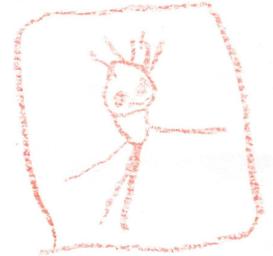
**Agency:** Lutheran Family Services

**Position:** RTA/RSAFE Program, Incest Treatment Program Coordinator, Adult Services

**What I do:** I work with adults and families where sexual abuse has occurred, supervise referrals and staff, facilitate coordination with the treatment team. I also enjoy providing information and resources to a variety of professionals in the community.

**Educational/Career Background:** Received Masters of Science degree from UNO in Counseling and worked with the RTA/RSAFE team since 1994. Attended trainings focused with treatment of people who have sexually offended and their families. Membership with ATSA.

RoxAnne, as drawn by son, Matthew



**Family/Pets:** I have a husband, Kory, two children, Matthew and Catherine, and a dog, Maggie.

**Most memorable accomplishment:** Being a wife and mother has been and continues to be the most amazing experience in my life.

**Favorite vacation destination:** I love visiting the Oregon coast.

**Favorite Quote:** “Follow Your Bliss” by Joseph Campbell

## CHILD ABUSE OFFENDER'S BEHAVIOR

### Sexual Abuse Indicators:

- ⇒ Extreme Over Protectiveness Toward Child
- ⇒ Extreme Parental Dominance in Home
- ⇒ Socially Isolated
- ⇒ Sexually Abused as a Child
- ⇒ Interchange of Mother and Daughter Roles
- ⇒ See Child as Seductive
- ⇒ Refer to Children in Sexual Manner
- ⇒ Use Gifts and Favors as a Way to Relate with Children
- ⇒ Invite Children Over to their Home

### Physical Abuse Indicators:

- ⇒ History of Abuse as Child
- ⇒ Unrealistic Expectations of Child
- ⇒ Uses Harsh Discipline that isn't Age, Condition or Offense Appropriate
- ⇒ Seems Unconcerned About Child
- ⇒ Emphasizes Bad Qualities Instead of Good Qualities of Child
- ⇒ Seldom Looking at or Touching Child
- ⇒ Showing no Concern About the Injury, Treatment or Prognosis



From: <http://www.hccac.org/abuse/recognize.html>

**What is the Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition?**

The Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition was formed in 1990 as a result of a merger between three groups of similar purposes: The Child Abuse Council of Omaha, The Child Sexual Abuse Network of Omaha, and the Sarpy County Child Abuse and Neglect Council.

Area professionals, understanding the importance of networking, created MCAC as a form for examining ways in which child abuse and neglect are dealt with across the metropolitan area, AND when necessary, organizing for change. In addition, MCAC has evolved in to a vehicle for providing accessible professional education, promoting new programs, and publicizing current thinking and system changes.

**2006 M.C.A.C. Membership Application**

Annual Membership dues extend from January –December

Organization/Individual: \_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_

Agency Members: Up to 10 names on the mailing list:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_

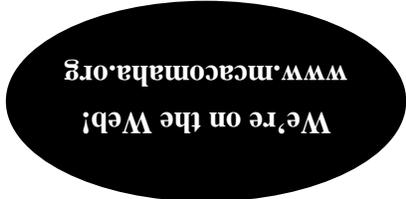
4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_ 6. \_\_\_\_\_

7. \_\_\_\_\_ 8. \_\_\_\_\_ 9. \_\_\_\_\_

10. \_\_\_\_\_ Fee Enclosed: Individual \$10 \_\_\_\_\_ Agency \$75 \_\_\_\_\_

Checks payable to : Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition Mail to: M.C.A.C., PO Box 6646, Omaha, NE 68106

Questions or concerns? Please call Jackie Simmons, Membership Chair at (402) 595-1351



Metropolitan Child Advocacy Coalition  
PO Box 6646, Elmwood Station  
Omaha, NE 68106

