

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.



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

We're on the Web!
www.mcaomaha.org

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

M.C.A.C. NEWS

METROPOLITAN CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION



VOLUME 16 - ISSUE 1

FEBRUARY 2006

REPORTING AND RESPONDING TO CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

This training will provide information about the Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, Project Harmony, and NHHS and how these agencies respond to child abuse and neglect reports. The training will also provide information on reporting and questioning in a suspected child abuse situation and provide some suggestions on how to conduct a minimal facts interview when a child first reports the possibility of child abuse and/or neglect. You will also receive some guidelines on what information is helpful when reporting and what happens when a case has been filed.

Presented by: Sgt. Tim Woolman, Omaha Police Department, Child Victim/Sexual Assault Unit, Suzie Mistry, Child Interview Specialist, Project Harmony and Anne Vasilisin, NHHS Hotline

FRIDAY, MARCH 10, 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

*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.

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Chair Sexual Abuse Resources	2
Dec Program Review Child Sexual Abuse	3
SACC Lunch	4
Myths & Facts About Child Sexual Abuse	5
Award Winners Sexual Abuse Indicators	6
Board Member Spotlight Sexual Abuse Prevention	7
M.C.A.C Application	8



We worry about what a child will become tomorrow, yet we forget that he is someone today.

-Stacia Tauscher

From the Chair...

MCAC has been a strong force in the community for over 15 years, advocating for abuse/neglect victims and their families, organizing for system changes, and providing education and training to professionals throughout the community. When I was asked to chair MCAC this year, I must admit I was a bit overwhelmed with the responsibility. However, when I thought about what MCAC stood for, it is a *COALITION*.....a “partnership” of professionals within the community who are committed to improving the system on behalf of child abuse/neglect victims and their families. Though we are all busy in our lives, I am reminded of a quote by the Honorable Charles D. Gil, “*There are many wonderful things that will never be done if you do not do them.*”

There are many opportunities within MCAC and I would encourage each and every one of you, as a member and partner with MCAC, to GET INVOLVED this year in some capacity. We need your ideas, your talents, your skills, your enthusiasm, and your dedication to promote positive system changes, educate the community on the dynamics of child abuse/neglect, the needs of the child/family, and training for professionals who provide the treatment services. We will be holding a strategic planning meeting in March with all committee members to give us a jumpstart in identifying our goals for 2006. We have hired a professional consultant to facilitate this process and would love to have you be a part of it. Below is a list of our present sub-committees and the chairs. If you would like to participate in one of these committees, we are looking for fresh ideas and interest. Perhaps you have an idea for a new committee or an advocacy issue that is not currently being addressed. NOW is the time to get involved! You can email me with your thoughts and committee membership request @ croth@projectharmony.com.

Sub-Committee / Chair

Program: April Anderson

Prevention: Carolyn Thiele

Website: Steve Snodgrass

Therapy: Coleen Cusick

Newsletter: Shelli Wolverton

Membership: Jackie Simmons

Sexual Abuse: Carole Nelson

Truancy: Steve Snodgrass

Thank You!

Colleen Roth, LMHP

MCAC Chairperson

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE RESOURCES

www.csom.org - Center for Sex Offender Management’s goal is to enhance public safety by preventing further victimization through improving the management of adult and juvenile sex offenders who are in the community.

www.aacap.org/publications/factsfam/rspdabus.htm - responding to child sexual abuse

www.prevent-abuse-now.com/help10ab.htm - Sexual abuse: reactions and reporting

www.casat.on.ca/handindx.htm - when a child or youth is sexually abused...a guide for youth, parents, and caregivers

Victims No Longer: The Classic Guide for Men Recovering from Sexual Child Abuse

By: Mike Lew

The Right Touch: A Read-Aloud Book to Help Prevent Child Sexual Abuse

By: Sandy Kleven and Jody Bergsma (Illustrator)

The Courage to Heal: A Guide for Women Survivors of Child Sexual Abuse

By: Ellen Bass and Laura Davis



MCAC Board Member Spotlight

Colleen Roth, LMHP—MCAC Chair

Agency: Project Harmony

Position: Case Coordinator



What I do: I assist the county attorneys in Douglas and Sarpy Counties facilitate the 1184 Investigative and Treatment Teams. I am responsible for obtaining case referrals for review, documenting case progress and follow up on cases, providing training to the teams, assisting in development/ refinement and compliance of team protocols, assuring coordination and information sharing among the investigative/treatment professionals, etc. This position was created at the recommendation of the Governor’s Commission for the Protection of Children. I have been working in this field for twenty plus years and I am inspired by the professionals who dedicate themselves to improving the lives of abused children and their families. I consider it a great privilege to support team members in their efforts to serve our community’s most vulnerable.

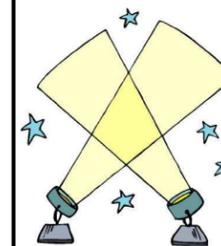
Educational/Career Background: I have a Bachelor of Science degree in Social Work and a Master of Science degree in Human Services. I have been at Project Harmony since July 2004. Prior to that I worked for a private agency for eight years as the Program Coordinator of the Therapeutic Foster Care and Treatment Foster Care Programs. I started my career at NE Dept of Health and Human Services, where I was a Child Protective Services worker for five years and an Adoption Specialist for seven years.

Family/Pets: My husband and I have been married for nearly twenty-six years. We have three gorgeous daughters, Kelly (19 yrs), Kara (20 yrs), Nichole (25 yrs), and a son-in-law, Tony (28 yrs). I am very blessed to have such a loving and supportive family. No pets...three kids were enough!

Most memorable accomplishment: My most memorable accomplishments both occurred in 2005 when my husband and I celebrated our 25th wedding anniversary and our third daughter graduated high school! We made it through adolescence x3...life is good!

Favorite vacation destination: I would have to say my favorite and most frequent vacation spot is Phoenix Arizona, where my mom and nine of my twelve siblings reside. It is a blast every time we get together!

Favorite Quote: “I can do all things through Christ who strengthens me.” Phillipians 4:13



SEXUAL ABUSE PREVENTION TIPS

- ⇒ Teach children to say “No” and tell a grown up
- ⇒ Teach children the proper names for body parts
- ⇒ Explain good, bad, and confusing touch
- ⇒ Talk openly about sexual abuse
- ⇒ Teach children not to keep secrets
- ⇒ Identify 5 grown-ups your child can go to
- ⇒ Explain that sometimes adults we trust may try to do something wrong with or to them
- ⇒ Teach your children they must ask permission before accepting gifts from others



From: St. Luke’s Hospital Child Protection Center. “Prevention Guidelines and Safety Techniques” (1996)

Congratulations!

We would like to congratulate this years' MCAC Award Winners on a job well done!

KIM HAWEKOTTE - Kim made significant contributions to improving services for abused children during her six years as the Douglas County Juvenile Division Head County Attorney. She served on numerous community committees and governor appointed initiatives. Kim also played a key role in the development of the Juvenile Assessment Center, which has served thousands of troubled youth in Douglas County. She is now the Director of the Office of Juvenile Services and continues to be a strong advocate and leader for effective services to abused children and families. Kim has clearly gone beyond the call of duty to be a voice for abused children.

COLLEEN ROTH - Colleen has been in the Child Welfare field for over twenty years, including Child Protective Services, Adoption, Program Coordinator & Supervisor. She has now been the Case Coordinator for the LB 1184 multidisciplinary treatment and response teams for Douglas and Sarpy Counties for only a year and a half, but the effect that she's had has been tremendous. As case coordinator, Colleen has been able to impact policy decisions, set trends, and bring bureaucratic groups together, all with the ultimate goal of protecting our most vulnerable citizens.

CHRIS BERT - Chris has shown great leadership of the Baby Blossoms Collaborative (BBC) and their outstanding contributions to our community in their efforts to reduce the number of infant deaths resulting from SIDS and suffocation. As the coordinator of Baby Blossoms Collaborative, Chris took the lead in initiating the Safe Sleep Campaign. She is recognized for her leadership and commended, along with the entire Baby Blossoms Collaborative, for their diligent efforts. Their hard work will undoubtedly have a significant impact on our community and the state of Nebraska by reducing the rate of infant mortality from sleep related deaths.

INDICATORS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

The following are behaviors commonly displayed by children who are or have been sexually abused. Although the presence of one or more of these indicators is not proof that a child is being sexually abused, a pattern of these behaviors usually indicates that a problem exists. It is important to talk with a child who exhibits a pattern of behavioral problems and to seek any necessary help.

- * Isolation from peers
- * Fear of being alone
- * Excessive masturbation
- * Attraction to older men or dislike of men
- * Bi-sexual/homosexual experimentation
- * Limited participation in organized social activities
- * Developmentally inappropriate knowledge of sexual acts and sexual language
- * Increase in physical complaints—i.e. headaches, misc. and/or chronic illness
- * Attention getting behavior—Inappropriate acting out
- * Physical abuse—self inflicted (mutilation) or inflicted by parents
- * Abrupt change in behavior
- * Change in appetite, eating disorders
- * Truancy—i.e. skipping school/classes
- * Overly seductive behavior
- * Prostitution or promiscuous behavior
- * Clinging, whining

From: Rape & Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo/Moorhead—Fargo, ND

December Program Review

December's MCAC Program, "Nothin' But Baby Safe Sleep Tips", was held at the Omaha Home for Boys on December 9, 2005. Chris Bert with the Douglas County Health Department and Coordinator of the Baby Blossoms Collaborative, gave an excellent power point presentation on the risk factors associated with infant mortality, including ways to reduce the



tor of the Baby Blossoms Collaborative, gave an excellent power point presentation on the risk factors associated with infant mortality, including ways to reduce the

risk of SIDS (Sudden Infant Death Syndrome) and Suffocation. A pamphlet on this subject can be found at www.douglascountyhealth.com/children/index.php. Colleen Roth, Case Coordinator with Project Harmony discussed the role that the 1184 team played in helping this subject come to light, including other community action and awareness efforts towards changes in regards to the infant deaths. We are so grateful to both of the speakers for taking time out of their busy schedules to educate other professionals. Thanks to all of you who attended the program!

CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE

⇒ WHAT IS CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Child sexual abuse occurs when a child is tricked, forced, coerced, or manipulated into sexual contact for the purpose of gratifying the abuser. The sexual abuse can range from fondling of the child's sexual parts, exposure of the abuser's sexual parts, having the child touch the abuser's sexual parts, to intercourse.

⇒ SOME FACTS

Approximately 25% of girls and 10% of boys will be victims of sexual abuse by the age of eighteen (Schlesinger, 1982). The abuser is known to the victim in 85% of the cases and in 94% of the cases, the abuser is male (Groth, 1979).



⇒ EFFECTS OF CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE?

Nearly all victims will experience feelings of confusion, shame, guilt, anger, self-blame, embarrassment, and fear. Child sexual abuse can result in long-term relationship problems and be perpetuated from generation to generation. A male who is sexually abused as a child is more likely to sexually abuse others if there has been no intervention. A female victim who receives no intervention is more likely to be re-victimized.

⇒ REACTION OF PARENTS

When their child is violated, parents may also feel violated, too. They experience feelings similar to those of their child: self-blame, guilt, embarrassment, and fear. They tend to want to overprotect their child to ensure the child's safety; however, the child may view this as punishment or lack of trust.

When parents have also been victims of sexual abuse, it may be difficult for them to separate feelings regarding their experience of abuse and that of the child. These parents may need to receive help to deal with their own abuse issues.

From: Rape & Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo/Moorhead

The Sexual Abuse Case Consultation (SACC) Lunch

February 17, 2006 12:00-1:30

Treating Sexually Reactive Children

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 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.

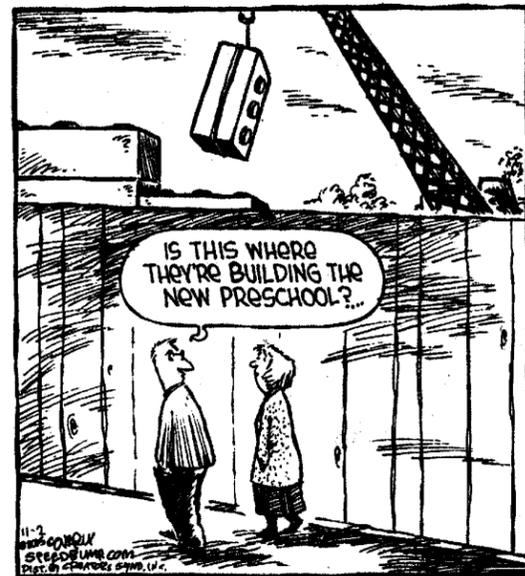
Professionals of all disciplines (no foster or adoptive parents, please) are invited to attend—it is often helpful to have therapeutic, educational, and legal perspectives available. Please plan to attend the full hour and a half.

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,**
February 21, 2006 and
March 21, 2006
From **11:45-1:00** at
Project Harmony
(710 F Street)



Myths & Facts About Child Sexual Abuse

Myth #1: Child sexual abuse occurs only among strangers. If children stay away from strangers, they will not be sexually abused.

Fact: National statistics indicate that in approximately 85% of the cases, the offender is known to the victim. He/she is usually a relative, family member, family friend, baby-sitter, or older friend of the child.

Myth #2: Children provoke sexual abuse by their seductive behavior.

Fact: Seductive behavior is not the cause. Responsibility for the act lies with the offender. Sexual abuse sexually exploits a child not developmentally capable of understanding or resisting and/or who may be psychologically socially dependent on the offender.

Myth #3: The majority of child sexual abuse victims tell someone about the abuse.

Fact: According to a study by Dr. David Finkelhor, close to 2/3 of all child sexual abuse victims may not tell their parents or anyone else because they fear being blamed, punished, or not believed.

Myth #4: Men and women sexually abuse children equally.

Fact: Men are the offenders 94% of the time in cases of child sexual abuse. Men sexually abuse both male and female children. 75% of male offenders are married or have consenting sexual relationships. Only about 4% of same-sex abuse involves homosexual perpetrators; 96% of the perpetrators are heterosexual.

Myth #5: If the children did not want it, they could say, "Stop!"

Fact: Children generally do not question the behavior of adults, and have been taught to obey adults. They are often coerced by bribes, threats, and use of a position of authority.

Myth #6: All sexual abuse victims are girls.

Fact: Studies on child sexual abuse indicate one of four females under the age of 18 and one of six to eight males under the age of 18 are child sexual abuse victims.

Myth #7: Family sexual abuse is an isolated, one-time incident.

Fact: Studies indicate that most child sexual abuse continues for at least two years before it is reported. And in most cases, it doesn't stop until it's reported.

Myth #8: Family sexual abuse only happens in low-income families.

Fact: Family sexual abuse crosses all classes of society. There is no race, social, or economic class that is immune to family sexual abuse. Incest is estimated to occur in 14% of all families. 10 to 20% of American children are incest victims; 90% of the victims are female, and 90% of the abusers are fathers or stepfathers.

From: Rape & Abuse Crisis Center of Fargo/Moorhead