

M.C.A.C. NEWS

METROPOLITAN CHILD ADVOCACY COALITION



VOLUME 17 - ISSUE 3

JULY 2007

MCAC Annual Conference **INSIDE THE CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION AND BEYOND**

AUGUST 17, 2007

8:00—4:30

Westside Community Center

3534 South 108th Street

Omaha, NE 68144

Lunch Provided!

This program will provide an in-depth review of the child abuse system from reporting and interviewing through treatment for offenders. Anyone working with children would greatly benefit from this in-depth look at how children enter the system and work their way through.

Mandatory Reporting, Anne Vasilisin, NHHS

Minimal Facts Interviews, Suzie Mistry, Project Harmony

Joint Investigations, Law Enforcement & CPS

Forensic Interviews & Sexual Assault Exams, Suzie Mistry & Marilyn Erickson, Project Harmony

1184 Teams, Jackie Simmons & Colleen Roth, Project Harmony
Sandra Markley & Tricia Freeman, Sarpy County Attorney's Office

Prosecution, Leigh Ann Retelsdorf & Jennifer Crystal-Clark

Treatment, Treatment Team Members

To register return the Registration Form (page 7) and payment to:

Project Harmony
7110 "F" Street
Omaha, NE 68117

INSIDE THIS ISSUE:

From the Chair	
What is Abuse/ Neglect?	2
Causes/Results of Child Abuse	3
SACC Lunch Upcoming Board Meetings	4
Agency Spotlight	5
Board Member Spotlight Save the Date!	6
August Conference Registration What are 1184 Teams?	7
Member Benefits	8
MCAC Board List Upcoming Training	I



**Turn your
face to the sun
and the
shadows fall
behind you**

-Maori proverb

From the Chair...

Summer is upon us and even with the absence of school our families and our children's lives are still full of activities. I hope you all get an opportunity to take a vacation or at least some time for rest and relaxation this summer. Even with all the summer activities filling our calendars make sure you don't forget to register for the upcoming MCAC Conference on August 17th, "**Inside the Child Abuse Investigation and Beyond.**" We are going to take an in-depth look at mandatory reporting, minimal facts interviewing, joint investigations, forensic interviewing & sexual assault exams, the 1184 teams, prosecution, and treatment. There are several knowledgeable professionals from the community joining us to share their expertise. It's going to be a great conference so be sure to send in your registration today!

With the upcoming conference there is no better time than now to become a member of MCAC! There are so many benefits for MCAC members including a discount on your conference registration fee. Also as a member you receive six issues a year of the MCAC newsletter, free attendance at the Sexual Abuse Case Consultations, free CEU's at all 6 education programs, plus you can be listed on a therapist resource list which is distributed to individuals and agencies in the community. So when you are registering for the conference, if you're not already a member, you can just sign up and join today. Please contact me at shelliw@omahahomeforboys.org or 457-7150 if you have any questions about joining MCAC or if you'd like to become more involved. Have a GREAT SUMMER!!

Sincerely,

Shelli Wolverton

MCAC Chairperson

What is Abuse & Neglect?

Physical Abuse—an unexplainable, non-accidental injury to the child

Emotional Abuse—continual scapegoating or rejection of a child by parents which results in disturbed behavior

Sexual Abuse—any sexually oriented act, practice, contact, or interaction in which the child has been used for sexual stimulation of an adult

Emotional Neglect—when the child is suffering severe negative emotional effects to a parent's failure to provide opportunities for normal experience that produce feelings of being loved, wanted, secure & worthy.

Physical Neglect—when a parent fails to provide basic needs or a safe and sanitary living environment for the child.

Retrieved from: www.hhs.state.ne.us/cha/abuse.htm

There's no telling'

I HAVE TOLD *and all my worst fears have been realized as others have done telling of their own.*

You sure have told me alright.

You have told me I am crazy.

You have told me I am oversensitive.

You have told me it wasn't so bad.

You have told me my rape story turns you on.

You have told me that I chose my pain.

You have told me that you never would have tolerated such abuse.

You've told me that my story is too intense, overwhelming.

Yeah, I guess you told me!

Many times and in many ways people told me not to tell. Each time you told me not to tell, you have also told my 4 year-old, my 7 year-old, my 9 year-old and my 15 year-old selves not to tell—justifying all those decisions I made to keep my silence....

~Anonymous adult survivor of child sexual abuse

What are factors of child abuse?

Why would someone abuse a defenseless child? What kind of person abuses a child? Not all child abuse is deliberate or intended. Several factors in a person's life may contribute to the abuse of a child:

- **Stress**, including the stress of caring for children, or the stress of caring for a child with a disability, special needs, or difficult behaviors.
- **Lack of nurturing qualities** necessary for caring for a child.
- **Difficulty controlling anger.**
- **Personal history of being abused.**
- **Isolation from the family or community.**
- **Physical or mental health problems, such as depression and anxiety.**
- **Alcohol or drug abuse.**
- **Personal problems** such as marital conflict, unemployment, or financial difficulties.

No one has been able to predict which of these factors may contribute to the abuse of a child. A significant factor is that abuse tends to be **intergenerational** – those who were abused as children are more likely to repeat the act when they become parents or caretakers.

In addition, many forms of child abuse arise from ignorance, isolation, or benign neglect. Sometimes a cultural tradition leads to abuse. For example, such beliefs as:

- Children are property.
- Parents (especially males) have the right to control their children in any way they wish.
- Children need to be toughened up to face the hardships of life.
- Girls need to be genitally mutilated to assure virginity and later marriage.

What are the results of child abuse?

Child abuse can have dire consequences, during both childhood and adulthood. The effects of being abused as a child vary according to the severity of the abuse and the surrounding environment of the child. If the family or school environment is nurturing and supportive, the child will probably have a healthier outcome.

Emotional Effects

- Low self-esteem
- Depression and anxiety
- Eating disorders
- Relationship difficulties
- Alienation and withdrawal
- Personality disorders

Physical Effects

- Injury
- Death
- Lifelong health problems
- Cognitive difficulties

Behavioral Effects

- Problems in school and work
- Delinquency
- Teen pregnancy
- Suicide attempts
- Criminal or antisocial behavior
- Substance abuse
- Aggressive behavior
- Spousal and child abuse

The Sexual Abuse Case Consultation (SACC) Lunch

September 7, 2007 12:00-1:30

Topic: *Building Coping Skills in Children with Borderline Personality Symptoms*

NEW FORMAT! All meetings will have a different presenter who will have a one-hour educational component (12:00 – 1:00) with case consultation during the last half hour (1:00 – 1:30). **Morgan Keen Hecht** will present on **Building Coping Skills in Children with Borderline Personality Symptoms**.

Meetings are held at **Project Harmony** in the conference room from **12:00 – 1:30pm**. Although **Morgan Keen Hecht** will facilitate the meeting, 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, however...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 Morgan 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. We ask that you plan to stay for the entire session.

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.

See you there!



→ **DON'T FORGET!**

The next Board Meetings will be held;
 Tuesday, July 17, 2007 &
 August 21, 2007
 From 11:45-1:00 at
 Project Harmony
 (7110 F Street)



AGENCY SPOTLIGHT

What is Kid Squad?

- ◆ Kid Squad is an Early Childhood Consultation Program offered as a no cost service to childcare homes and centers.
- ◆ Kid Squad helps young children develop the positive behavioral skills that will lead to success in school, family and community.
- ◆ Kid Squad is an outreach program. We come to your child in the childcare setting and your home.



Who is Kid Squad? Kid Squad cares about kids, families and child care providers. Kid Squad is a tested model that results in improvements in children's social and emotional development.

What does Kid Squad offer to your family? Kid Squad will help strengthen your relationship with your child. We can help you increase your tool box of individual parenting strategies, and if helpful, assist you in finding specialized services for your child.

What are Kid Squad Strategies? The Kid Squad consultants will provide the following services:

- ◆ Observe your child in the classroom;
- ◆ Consult with you regarding the observations;
- ◆ Consult with the child care staff regarding observations;
- ◆ Work with the parent and teacher to assess the needs of the child;
- ◆ Develop a Child Action Plan and help the team implement the plan;
- ◆ Facilitate problem solving regarding the child; and
- ◆ When more significant problems are identified, assist you in finding appropriate services.

Is there a cost? There may be a modest cost for individualized parent consultation and counseling outside the center, if parents choose those services. Medicaid or Health Insurance may cover the cost of the counseling.

KID SQUAD is a cooperative program of the Center for Holistic Development, Child Saving Institute, Early Childhood Training Center, Heartland Family Service, and Munroe Meyer Institute. The Alegent Community Benefit Trust provided funding support for this program.

For additional information call: Traci Penrod-McCormick at (402) 553-6000 or Alice Drake at (402) 444-4989

MCAC Board Member Spotlight

Coleen Cusick—Therapy Committee Chair

Agency: Children's Hospital– Family Support Center

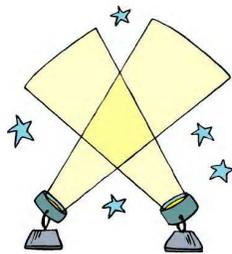
Position: Child & Family Therapist

What I do: I have a very diverse caseload from pediatric clients through adults for individual and family therapy. I work in an outpatient therapy office that is located just East of Children's Hospital.

Educational/Career Background: I attended the Social Work program between University of Lincoln and the Omaha Campus. I have both my undergraduate and graduate degree in Social Work and graduated in 1989.

I received my initial training at Uta Halee Girls Village as a therapist for 7 years in their psychiatric residential treatment program. I was with Child Saving Institute for 1 ½ as the Coordinator for the Shelter programs. I have been with Children's Hospital since October 1999. I am a member of the 1184 Treatment Team in Douglas County which continues to keep my eyes open to kids in need and where change is needed in the system to get these needs met. I have been also tackling the Therapist Resource List for MCAC for the past 6 years and I appreciate everyone's patience on this.

Family/Pets: We have two dogs Black Lab mix, Midnight and a little Poodle-Pomeranian mix, Maggi. They are a source of much unconditional love!



Most Memorable Accomplishment: Thankful every day to be smoke free!!

Favorite Vacation Destination: Los Cabos San Lucas, Mexico

Favorite Quote: *One Hundred Years from now it will not matter how large your house was, how fast your car could go or the amount of money you had in your bank account....the only thing that will matter is if you made a difference in the life of a child.*

Forest Witcraft.

Save the Date!

MCAC Sexual Abuse Conference

Exposing Sexual Offenders:

Evaluation & Treatment

September 28, 2007

8:15 AM—4:00 PM



2007 MCAC CONFERENCE REGISTRATION FORM

INSIDE CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION AND BEYOND

Please register the following person for the 2007 MCAC Conference to be held on
August 17th, 2007, at the Westside Community Center:

Name: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ State: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Email: _____

Cost: \$50 for MCAC Members

\$75 for non-members

**Annual membership is \$10 for individual or \$75 for Agency
(up to 10 names on mailing list)**

Total Enclosed: \$ _____

Checks payable to M.C.A.C. and mail to: Project Harmony, 7110 F Street, Omaha, NE 68117

For more information contact April Anderson at 595-1326 or aanderson@projectharmony.com

What are the 1184 Teams?

LB 1184 was passed in 1992 for the purpose of establishing Child Abuse and Neglect Investigative and Treatment Teams. The Legislature found that child abuse and neglect are community problems requiring a cooperative response by law enforcement, HHS, and other agencies designed to protect children. The county attorney was delegated the responsibility for establishing the teams in each county in Nebraska. Project Harmony employs the Case Coordinator designated through new legislation to assist the county attorneys with facilitating case reviews, developing protocols, and arranging training opportunities for the Douglas and Sarpy County 1184 Investigative and Treatment Teams.

The Investigative Team staffs cases of suspicious child deaths, serious injury, life-threatening neglect, sexual assault, or those with system issues with a team of professionals involved in the investigative process (i.e. law enforcement, CPS, County Attorney's Office, schools, etc.). The Treatment Team staffs cases of youth within the NE Criminal Code when a child is a victim or any case arising under the NE Juvenile Code. These are typically ongoing HHS cases (Abuse/Neglect, Status Offense, Office of Juvenile Services, Adoption, etc.) in which assistance with treatment and permanency planning are needed and/or to address system issues that affect the best interest of the child. The Treatment Teams consists of a diverse group of community mental health experts, the County Attorney's Office, HHS Safety and Protection Ongoing Workers, schools, probation, CASA, etc. As a team we are *committed* to improving our practices in the investigation and treatment of child abuse and neglect victims and their families. Anyone can make a referral to the teams through the Case Coordinator, Jackie Simmons, at #595-1326 or jsimmons@projectharmony.com.

MCAC Member Benefits

Metropolitan Child Advocacy offers numerous benefits for both individuals as well as agencies. If you are an individual member, take this information to your agency to explain the wonderful benefits to the entire organization!

Therapy List: Receive MCAC's Therapy List to use as a resource or have your name placed on the list to be a resource for others.

Newsletter: Agency's receive up to 10 newsletters 6 times each year stuffed full of resources, articles, upcoming events, etc.

SACC Lunches: This is the Sexual Abuse Case Consultation where you can attend to receive consultation from area experts as well as education components on various topics. SACC lunches are free to members!

Programs: Members can attend quarterly programs on hot topics for individuals working with children and families. This session is free to members and includes the program, breakfast, networking and CEU's!

Conferences: Members enjoy discounts to the annual January Kick Off Breakfast as well as the August Conference.

www.mcacomaha.org

We're on the Web!

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

