



Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

~ To lead our community in eliminating the suffering of abused children. ~

The Mid-Month Memo

Vol. 5, Issue 6
March 16, 2016

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Kansas Air National Guard

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Juston White, Boys and Girls Club
of South Central Kansas

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M&L CPA's Chartered

Primary Partner Agencies

COMCARE of Sedgwick County
Exploited and Missing Child Unit
KS Dept. for Children and Families
Wichita Regional Office

KU School of Medicine - Wichita
Office of the District Attorney, 18th
Judicial District, Sedgwick County

Sedgwick County Sheriff's Office
Via Christi Health
Wesley Medical Center
Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center
Wichita Police Department

CACSC Annual Board Meeting

At the CACSC Annual Board Meeting on February 22nd, the following members were elected to the Executive Committee:

Keith Marshall, President
Katherine Melhorn, Vice President
Jeff Mullen, Treasurer
Sister Janet Rowley, Secretary

Additionally, Brian Gaddis was welcomed as a new board member and time was dedicated to strategic planning as we move forward through the transition to our newly renovated home in the former Lincoln Elementary School building.

Resources for Child Abuse Prevention Month

Prepare for Child Abuse Prevention Month coming up in April. Educational and promotional materials can be obtained from Kansas Children's Service League. The 40th Anniversary Kits for Prevent Child Abuse Kansas include 40 blue Pinwheels for Prevention, a yard sign, wrist bands, a lapel pin, bookmarks, magnets & posters. Resources are available through kcsl.org.

For Your Calendar

March 29, 2016: Wichita Area Sexual Assault Center's Lunch and Learn Series; Sexual Violence against Men and Boys; Noon to 1 PM; <http://wichitasac.com/>

April 13-14, 2016: 19th Annual Crime Victims' Rights Conference, Capitol Plaza Hotel, Topeka

May 23, 2016: "Change A Child's Life," Golf Tournament, Willowbend Country Club

Sept. 10, 2016: ICT-S.O.S. Race4Freedom, <http://ictsos.org/>

October 3-5, 2016: 40th Annual Governor's Conference for the Prevention of Child Abuse and Neglect; Wichita Hyatt Regency

November 18, 2016: CACSC Heroes Gala; Scottish Rite Center

Child Advocacy Center of Sedgwick County

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Are Children in Youth-Serving Organizations at Higher Risk for Abuse?

National media coverage of child abuse perpetrated by teachers, day care providers, clergy, scout leaders and coaches in youth-serving organizations (YSOs) can lead to concern that these are high risk environments for our children. An analysis performed by the Crimes Against Children Research Center at the University of New Hampshire was published in February. It used combined population surveys to calculate prevalence rates for YSO abuse and compared them with rates of family and other non-family, non-YSO abuse. Aggregate data from 3 representative samples of 13,052 U.S. children, ages 1 month to 17 years, in 2008, 2011, and 2014 indicate that the rate of abuse by adults in YSOs was 0.4% for the past year and 0.8% over the lifetime of the child. These low rates are probably not surprising considering most YSOs provide care in settings with policies for screening and supervising workers. These data compare to lifetime rates of abuse by a family adult of 11.4% and by non-family, non-YSO adults of 5.9%.

When the lifetime exposure to abuse in YSOs is categorized, sexual abuse was infrequent, occurring in 6.4% of the cases reporting abuse. Physical abuse accounted for 34.6% of cases where those interviewed reported abuse. Verbal abuse was most frequent, reported by over 63%. Most episodes of abuse occurred in school or daycare (67%). Although the overall percentages seem small, it is important to remember this translates into a significant number of children and it is well documented that, for many reasons, children delay their disclosures, so these data likely underrepresent the prevalence of abuse. Regardless of the concerns about missed cases, it is noteworthy and critical to understand that abuse is far more common in family settings than it is in youth-serving organizations.

A. Shattuck, D. Finkelhor, H. Turner, S. Hamby: "Children Exposed to Abuse in Youth-Serving Organizations; Results from National Sample Surveys," *JAMA Pediatrics*, February 2016, Vol. 170: No 2

What can we do to help ensure that our children are safe in youth-serving organizations?

- Youth-serving organizations should be expected to create environments that contribute to safe, healthy, and respectful interactions with children and teens.
- Assure that YSOs have policies regarding access to the property, social media contact and photo sharing between staff and children, non-physical discipline (including positive verbal interactions), supervision, and pick-up and drop-off rules.
- Assure that YSOs thoroughly and consistently screen all employees and volunteers, and provide training about organization policies and abuse prevention.
- If you sense that an adult is spending significant amounts of time alone with a child, speak up and insist that this be addressed.
- Although it is important to teach children about unsafe touches and who to go to if they are uncomfortable about an adult's behavior, children are not responsible for their own protection.
- All adults have a moral and ethical obligation to report suspected child abuse, regardless of their legal obligation to do so as a state mandated reporter.

If you suspect child abuse or neglect call 911 or 1.800.922.5330

"The purpose of child advocacy centers is to provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to reports of child abuse, in a dedicated, child-focused setting."
**The CACSC is accredited by the National Children's Alliance:
Empowering Local Communities to Serve Child Victims of Abuse**