Preventing Child Abuse Webinar – April 29, 2020
AGENDA

When Watchful Eyes Are Absent
Maura Guten, President & CEO
CHILD ABUSE NETWORK

Warning Signs
Kim Parker, VP of Clinical Services
PARENT CHILD CENTER

How You Can Help
Christine Marsh, Sr. Director,
Child Abuse/Trauma Services
FAMILY & CHILDREN’S SERVICES
OVERVIEW OF THE CHILD ABUSE NETWORK

CAN is the first stop in the process of a child abuse investigation. We are Oklahoma’s first and Tulsa’s only nationally accredited Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC). We provide services in a child-friendly, safe and therapeutically and forensically sound manner.

CAN provides:
• forensic interviews
• medical evaluations
• mental health consultations and crisis intervention
• Case review for the Tulsa County Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

CAN’s on-site partners include:
• OU child abuse pediatricians, fellows and nurses
• Tulsa County District Attorney’s Crimes Against Children team
• Tulsa County Department of Human Services Child Welfare investigators
• Tulsa Police Department Child Crisis Unit detectives
JEOPARDY TO CHILDREN’S SAFETY DURING SHELTER AT HOME

Many children rely on schools to provide meals and may not have access to adequate food or clothing.

Abusers have greater access to children, while children have less access to trusted adults.

Shelter at home causes increased psychological, financial, and physical stress to parents which are all risk factors for abuse.

Isolation is a key factor in sexual abuse cases and part of the grooming process.
WHAT CAN HAS SEEN SINCE SOCIAL DISTANCING

Stark increase in the severity of the abuse in each case.

Number of referrals steadily increasing as compared to the first few weeks of social distancing.

Increase in referrals seen at our center initiated by the child/children independently seeking help for themselves.

Increase in referrals as a result of hospitalization/ER referrals.

Increase in secondary traumatic stress to our staff and partner agencies.
CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT PREVENTION DURING COVID-19

Kimberly Parker, LPC-S
Vice President of Clinical Services
OUR MISSION:
To prevent child abuse and neglect through education, treatment and advocacy.

OUR VISION:
That all parents have the knowledge and skills to protect, nurture and provide for their own child.
Mission: To prevent child abuse and neglect through education, treatment and advocacy.

Prevent through COMMUNITY OUTREACH
• Anti-Bullying Collaboration
• Barbershop Project
• Bright Beginnings
• Kids on the Block
• Teach Kindness
• Period of Purple Crying
• Speakers Bureau

Protect through FAMILY SUPPORT
• Family Connects
• Parents as Teachers®
• SafeCare®
• Tulsa County Emergency Shelter

Heal through THERAPY
• Circle of Security Class
• Child Parent Psychotherapy
• Compassion Workshop
• Family Therapy
• Nurturing Parenting Class
• Safe Babies Court Team
• Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy

Invitations extended from hospitals, churches, schools, civic groups, etc.

Referrals from doctor’s offices, hospitals, community programs, self-referred

Referrals from DHS, through the court system, other agencies, self-referred

PCCT is a hope-centered organization. Hope is a scientific theory that proves to be the leading indicator of success in relationships, academics, and career - as well as a healthier, happier life.

PCCT uses the hope model in all services. Our generous donors and supporters create a pathway of hope directly impacting our ability to keep children safe.
PROGRAM OVERVIEW

Kids on The Block
Educational puppet program on child abuse, bullying & more

Bright Beginnings & Family Connects
Registered nurse educators provide information to caregivers of newborn babies before they leave the hospital and offer free home visits after hospital discharge

Parents As Teachers & SafeCare©
Voluntary & free of charge home-based early childhood parent education and family support programs for caregivers and their children birth through kindergarten

Counseling for Adults, Children & Families
We provide evidence-based, trauma-informed therapy services in English & Spanish
THE 5 R’S OF LOOK OUT REACH OUT

1. RAISE the issue
2. REACH out
3. REMEMBER risk factors
4. RECOGNIZE warning signs
5. REPORT

- The best way to know if a child has been abused is if the child tells you
- One sign or symptom may not indicate abuse, important to look for a PATTERN of signs
- If you suspect a child or vulnerable adult is being abused CALL: 1-800-522-3511

For more information visit: https://www.childwelfare.gov
www.ncsn.org
KEEPING CLIENTS CONNECTED

• **Ensure privacy** during conversations

• **Pay attention BE CURIOUS.** Ask how they are doing/feeling? What is the best / hardest parts of their day? What are their biggest worries? What do they miss the most?

• Provide education on “normal” expectations on feelings, behaviors for parents and children during this time “abnormal” time of national crisis

• Provide information and space for **how you can be contacted**: email, phone number, classroom chat/message

• Schools, Coaches, Faith leaders, Community Groups, Stores/Restaurants, Neighbors, Family- **GET CREATIVE in distributing information** on managing parental stress, resources/crisis lines, positive parenting tips
KEEPING CLIENTS CONNECTED

TAUW Agencies have pivoted quickly to minimize gaps in services to clients.

• TAUW agencies using TELEHEALTH & TELEPHONE to work to keep clients CONNECTED and engaged in services.

• Continuing parenting group classes through pre-recording group sessions & live ZOOM trainings.

• Agencies reaching out with “Totes for HOPE” or other parent / child activity packets as well as basic needs, resources, crisis & helpline information for client’s with limited supports.

• TAUW agencies have had an increased social media presence to get helpful information out in a variety of formats including: Facebook, Tulsa World, Tulsa Kids Magazine, New & radio stations.
*If you suspect a child or vulnerable adult is being abused
CALL: 1-800-522-3511
“HOPE is the belief that tomorrow will be better than today, and that you have the power to make it so.”
- Dr. Chan Hellman
Christine Marsh
Senior Director Child Abuse & Trauma Services
www.fcsok.org
Family & Children’s Services Unique Community Role

- Founded in 1921
- 120,000 served a year
- Early childhood, child abuse and trauma prevention/intervention
- Parenting classes, school-based therapy, child and adult psychology, adult mental health, pharmacy
- Expert provider for adults, children and families who are indigent, low income, underinsured and uninsured.
How to report suspected abuse

Family • Friends 
Neighbors

• Statewide Abuse and Neglect Hotline: 1-800-522-3511

• If you suspect that a child or vulnerable adult is the victim of abuse, neglect or exploitation, please call the Statewide Abuse Hotline
Create a plan for yourself if you start feeling overwhelmed.
CONTACT INFORMATION

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