



MiPSAC

Newsletter of the Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Inc., the Michigan Chapter of APSAC.

Volume 11, Issue 3

October - December, 2006

President's Corner

by Rosalynn Bliss, MSW, LMSW

With the coming of winter and the end of 2006 comes the close of my time as MiPSAC President. It has been a tremendous honor to serve as president this past year and to be a part of some of the positive changes that have taken place for MiPSAC. I have found the experience to be quite rewarding. I have particularly enjoyed serving on a board that is comprised of professionals from varying fields of child welfare who bring a wealth of knowledge and expertise to the table. Each meeting presents an opportunity to discuss child welfare issues and cases with professionals who continuously provide insight and helpful input.

In addition to great dialogue, we have all worked hard this year to make needed changes to the by-laws, create a statewide membership, develop documents, and establish a process for MiPSAC state applications. MiPSAC continued to support the UofM Statewide Child Abuse and Neglect Conference in Ypsilanti by co-sponsoring a plenary speaker. The MiPSAC Ray Helper Child Advocacy

Award was also presented to Steve Yager.
(continued page 6)



MiPSAC President Rosalynn Bliss (right) presents Steve Yager with the 2006 Ray Helper MiPSAC Child Advocacy Award. Steve is pictured with his wife Dawn.

In this Issue of the MiPSAC Newsletter...

Pages 1,6 ...President's Corner, by Rosalynn Bliss, MSW LMSW

Page 2...MiPSAC Announcements

Page 3...Michigan's Medical Resource System, by N. Debra Simms, MD

Pages 4,5...Online Grooming Practices, by Det. Jerry McCarthy

Page 6...Understanding and Overcoming Cultural Barriers, by Carol A. Siemon, JD



Meetings & Conferences

MiPSAC Board Meetings

2nd Friday, even months, 12 noon – 2 PM

Michigan Children's Ombudsman's Office, Lansing
Harmonm@michigan.gov

APSAC ADVANCED TRAINING INSTITUTE.

January 22, 2007

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
San Diego, California
www.apsac.org

21st Annual San Diego International Conference. on Child and Family Maltreatment.

January 22-26, 2007

Town and Country Resort & Convention Center
San Diego, California
www.chadwickcenter.com/san_diego_conference.htm

16th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect:
Protecting Children, Promoting Healthy Families and
Preserving Communities. April 16-21, 2007 Portland,
Oregon. 16conf@pal-tech.com

APSAC 15th ANNUAL COLLOQUIUM

July 11-14, 2007, Boston Marriott Copley, Boston MA,
www.apsac.org

ISPCAN 18th International Congress

September 7-10, 2008 Hong Kong, China
www.ISPCAN.org

Join the MiPSAC member listserv
(sponsored by Wayne State University)

by contacting Vince Palusci at
Vpalusci@med.wayne.edu

(reminder...you must be a member of APSAC in Michigan
or MiPSAC to participate)

MiPSAC
P.O. Box 12264
Lansing, Michigan 48901

Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Inc. 2006 MiPSAC Board of Directors (Board term)

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St. John's Home, Grand Rapids rbliss@stjohnshome.org

Vice President: Colette Gushurst, MD (05-07)
Kalamazoo Center for Medical Studies, Kalamazoo
gushurst@kcms.msu.edu

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vpalusci@med.wayne.edu

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enrightcha@voyager.net

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Carol Siemon, JD, SCAO, East Lansing (05-07)
N. Debra Simms, MD, DeVos Children's Hospital (05-07)
Nancy Skula, Care House, Mount Clemens (06-08)
Mary Smyth MD, William Beaumont Hospital (06-08)

Honorary Members:

Leni Cowling, M.Ed. Bellaire
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MiPSAC was founded in 1995 and incorporated in 1996 as the Michigan non-profit 501(C)3 state chapter of APSAC. The comments expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of MiPSAC or the American Professional Association on the Abuse of Children. (APSAC).

MiPSAC's Goals

- To bring together professionals working in the area of child maltreatment
- To foster networking
- To be an information resource
- To sponsor quality training

Michigan's Medical Resource System

By. N. Debra Simms, M.D.

On October 1, 2005 the Helen DeVos Children's Hospital Child Protection Team (CPT) was awarded the contract by the Michigan Department of Human Services for the Medical Resource System (MRS).

The MRS contract began in October of 1998 when it was awarded to DeVos CPT and helped establish the On-Call Emergent Sexual Abuse Evaluation Program. Funding was also provided for state-wide training of medical providers in the area of child abuse and neglect. The DeVos CPT provided second opinion evaluations and case reviews for statewide CPS agencies through funding provided in the contract.

On renewal of the MRS contract in October of 2001 it was awarded to the CPT at University of Michigan Mott's Children's Hospital. The services provided by the contract were essentially the same as the first contract. During the next 4 years, the Physicians Advisory Committee continued to meet with representatives of the Department of Human Services to explore alternative concepts for delivery of services to support the CPS agencies in all 83 counties. A single point of service was not optimal. The concentration of Child Abuse expertise and services in the lower half of the state lead to geographic discrimination. A plan to distribute services to all areas of the state was desired.

The October 2005 version of the MRS contract awarded to Helen DeVos Children's CPT asked for two programs. The first was a 24/7 "Medical Consultation Hotline" for any DHS/CPS worker in need of medical information, or guidance in caring for a victim of abuse. The worker is assisted in determining what services are needed and the most appropriate location. Specially trained MSW's with extensive experience in abuse and neglect are available at all times for emergent and routine assistance. A physician is also available 24/7. The second program included in the MRS contract is the development of a Statewide Physician Network. This includes the identification of existing child abuse providers/ resources and a needs assessment of areas lacking these resources. The goal is to identify counties needing services and to work with providers and community agencies to design and implement a program that will work for them in their local area. No provision is made for payment to provide direct services (examinations, second opinions, or case reviews). Medical Consultation Hotline MSW's refer CPS workers in need of direct services to the most appropriate provider in their area. The local provider bills for services through the patients insurance, invoice billing or DHS 93's. DeVos CPT has established relationships with existing medical experts to provide resources to the areas that are without services at this time.

Initial survey of existing resources showed the greatest need existed in northern Michigan and the Upper Peninsula. Therefore, emphasis has been placed on developing providers in these areas during the first year of the contract. Areas under development include St. Ignace, Cheboygan, Traverse City and Marquette. Interest has been expressed by several other non-urban and rural communities in establishing medical services for their child abuse victims and CPT is actively working with them to accomplish this.

You may contact the Helen DeVos Child Protection Team by calling (877) 391-2345.

Online Grooming Practices

By Detective Jerry McCarthy, Kentwood Police Department

When it comes to Online Crimes, Law Enforcement and the Internet usually intersect only after there is a victim.

We as Law Enforcement Professionals need to work proactively in the chat rooms in an attempt to control the online sexual exploitation of children.

Proactive Policing needs to be recognized as an important part of our daily functions as law enforcement officers.

As I work undercover in the chat rooms as a young teenage boy or girl it is amazing to find the number of adults and their behavior patterns when it comes to their sexual interest in children.

This is called the online grooming practice of the pedophile. Accessibility, Opportunity and Vulnerability play a major part in this grooming process.

I have found that teenage girls between the ages of 13-15yrs old are the most susceptible to this process.

The victims that do actually meet the pedophile have often been taught the Stranger Danger of the Internet but are often "IN LOVE" with this person because of the grooming process that takes place and they don't consider the pedophile as a stranger.

As I teach 6th & 7th grade students I explain the law, punishment and severity of the crime which seems to have more of an impact on them because they don't want the person they believe they are in love with to go to jail.

I also stress to students about personal information in public profiles such as real name, age, location, and photographs which is where the pedophile gets an array of free information.

The first stage of the grooming process is the Friendship Forming Stage where the pedophile is getting to know the child. The length of this stage varies. The adult often asks for a picture of the child to make sure he is not conversing with an undercover cop. He may ask "What do u look like?" or "Where do u live?"

The second stage is the Relationship Forming Stage where the adult discusses with the child about school, home life, brothers or sisters, and "are u home alone?" The adult starts trying to be the child's "Best Friend."

Next is the Risk Assessment Stage. The adult assesses the risk of getting caught. The adult will ask the child about the location of his or her computer, whether other family members use that computer. Parental access to the computer increases the likelihood of the adult's activities being detected.

The Exclusivity Stage follows the risk assessment where the tempo of the conversation changes to the ideal of “Best Friends.” “I understand what you’re going through, you can talk to me about anything.” The word “Trust” is used often by the adult.

Next, the **Sexual Stage** is introduced with questions such as “have you ever been kissed?” or “How far have you gone?” or “Have you had sex yet?”

I have found that these stages sometimes can happen during the first chat session with some adults while other times the adult works more slowly taking weeks to gain the child’s trust and go from one stage to the next.

This all often ends with the adult asking the child for a face-to-face meeting, for the purposes of sex. The child, interestingly enough, often thinks the meeting is just to meet a new friend.

The adults that I have arrested that have set up a meeting to have sex with what they think is going to be a 13 to 15 year old boy or girl are often middle-aged, professionals who are married with children, and rarely have any kind of criminal background.

My responsibility as a detective with the Kentwood Police Department is to take the place of an “Actual Child Victim” in attempt to locate these perpetrators of Online Crimes.

Internet Safety Tips and Helpful Websites can be found at the City of Kentwood Website at www.ci.kentwood.mi.us/police/crimepreventiontips.asp

Websites of interest:

www.apsac.org ;

www.michiganschildren.org

www.childtrauma.org;

www.firststar.org

www.nationalcalltoaction.com

www.ISPCAN.org

www.preventchildabuse.org

www.cwla.org

www.childrensdefense.org

MiPSAC Membership Information

There are two ways to become a member of MiPSAC, the state chapter of APSAC in Michigan:

1. Join APSAC. Joining APSAC and paying your annual dues also makes you a member of MiPSAC if your membership address is in Michigan. A part of your annual dues is sent to MiPSAC to cover your membership. MiPSAC hears periodically (but not often enough) about new APSAC members, so please let us know if you think you are an APSAC member so we can make sure you receive MiPSAC communications.

2. Join MiPSAC only. Our changed bylaws have created an in-state membership category to join MiPSAC. This does NOT include APSAC membership. Please contact the membership chair at ypalusci@med.wayne.edu or mail us for more information.

MiPSAC, P.O. Box 12264, Lansing, Michigan 48901

Workshop Summary: Understanding and Overcoming Cultural Barriers

by Carol A. Siemon, JD

An exceptionally dynamic presenter, Misty Larthridge, discussed "Positive Discipline Techniques: Understanding and Overcoming Cultural Barriers." Using humor, group participation, and clear illustrations, Ms. Larthridge emphasized the need for us to understand our own backgrounds, biases, and prejudices before we can effectively intervene in a culturally sensitive way with the children and families with whom we work.

Ms. Larthridge described attitudes about discipline as based firmly on cultural norms and loosely on societal norms with frequent clashes between different cultural expectations. She emphasized the need to first recognize the barriers- or bricks in the wall between us and a client- to then remove the bricks in the wall to instead build a bridge to a relationship with the client. She presented a look at some of the barriers interventionists typically encounter and some practical ways to deal with those barriers.

To successfully overcome those barriers to create the trust and make the positive connection necessary to successfully intervene with an individual or family, Ms. Larthridge described utilization of a "formula" of:

- Recognition of the barriers
- Empathy/sympathy/acting with compassion
- Educating
- Modeling
- Supporting
- Reaffirming

Fundamentally, she encouraged us to recognize that barriers to connection exist in every culture and society but that we can each choose to learn to break down barriers with empathy, sympathy, and compassion, to help promote more positive parenting.

President's Corner (continued from page 1)

At our annual meeting, a number of new board members and officers were elected. It is with great confidence that I turn over the leadership of MiPSAC to Dr. Collette Gushurst, the 2007 MiPSAC President. It is my hope that next year we will be able to proudly launch a MiPSAC website, increase membership, provide educational resources to professionals, and advocate for policies that truly have the best interest of children as their primary goal. I encourage you to get and stay involved. The relationships you build through MiPSAC makes being a member very worthwhile! I look forward to working with you in 2007.

--Rosalynn Bliss, MSW LMSW, 2006 MiPSAC President

MiPSAC has new contact information!

Please direct questions about MiPSAC membership, the newsletter and other issues to:

MiPSAC
P.O. Box 12264
Lansing, Michigan 48901

Please contact APSAC directly about APSAC membership: APSAC, P.O. Box 30669, Charleston, SC 29417, apsac@comcast.net, (843) 764-2905