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

A CHILDREN'S FORUM

MAY 19, 1998

"A CHILDREN'S FORUM"

The recommendations arising from complaints investigated by the OCO during
the period July 1, 1996 through June 30, 1997 are as follows:

A. Aid to Dependent Children: It is recommended that public and private child
welfare workers shall communicate with FIA Specialists to verify that a parent who is receiving public
assistance (ADC) but has had their child(ren) removed from their home, is either attending
school or gainfully employed according to policy

B. Background Checks: It is recommended
that CPS investigations shall document whether
background information exists indicating any
violent behavior by a parent(s) or caregiver that
might place a child at risk (e.g., CPS History,
central registry, sex offenders registry, criminal
history).

C. Central Registry: It is recommended that
substantiated abuse and neglect data entered into
the Central Registry shall state why a perpetrator is
on the registry. Data shall also be consistent as to
the specific nature of the offense (i.e., physical
abuse, sexual abuse, physical neglect, medical
neglect).

D. Child Medical exams: It is recommended
that FIA policy shall be modified to require public
and private agencies to ensure every child entering
foster care receives a medical examination within
72 hours, utilizing the Early Periodic Screening
Diagnosis and Treatment (ESPDT) program.

A day is set aside to discuss or debate in
various detachments those issues on
child abuse and neglect which are in need
of further debate and discussion. We will
begin with a legislative update on pending
and proposed legislation, after which we
will break into discussion/debate units to
communicate the needs, concerns, and
build a community effort towards problem-
solving. We can resolve issues together.
Please make this date on your calendar an
important one. You will need to register so
that the numbers can be organized. This
is a planned, informal, forum which will be
dialogue in making the State
of Michigan safer for its future generations.
Please drop Leni a note with how many
persons will be attending with you. Leni
Cowling, P.O. Box 892, Bellaire, MI 49615
E. CPS Investigations: It is recommended that CPS shall be authorized to prioritize investigations because the existing 21 day rule does not allow adequate time to complete all abuse and neglect investigations.

F. Drug Exposed Infants: It is recommended that when a newborn infant tests positive for illicit drugs or alcohol and a subsequent child is born to the same parent, and that child also tests positive for illicit drugs or alcohol, the child(ren) shall be removed and a petition for termination of parental rights shall be filed.

G. FIA Legal Representation: It is recommended that state law and rule shall establish legal representation of FIA in all child protection proceedings.

H. Friend of the Court Records: It is recommended that Friend of the Court reports shall be allowed into evidence in child protection proceedings.

I. Inconsistent Explanations for Injuries: It is recommended that policy governing CPS investigations shall more heavily weight inconsistent explanations of a child's injuries as a major risk factor in investigative decisions.

J. Legal Representation of Children: It is recommended that: (1) public and private agency caseworkers shall inform the court when they learn that a child's attorney's legal duty to "observe and interview" the child and consult with foster parents and the caseworker has not been met; and (2) judges inquire at each review, disposition, and permanency hearing whether pursuant to MCR 5.915 (B)(2), the child's attorney has consulted with the child(ren)'s foster parent(s) and caseworker before each hearing.

K. Live-together Partners: It is recommended that state law shall be changed to require live-together-partners (LTP's) to participate in parent/agency agreements.

L. Medical Evidence of Abuse: It is recommended that CPS shall document and/or report all medical evidence concerning a child abuse or neglect allegation, even when the caseworker does not personally observe the injury.

M. Parent agency agreements: It is recommended that: (1) parent agency agreements shall be made part of court orders following each review hearing; (2) public and private agencies shall report to the court each documented sign of parental non-compliance with court-ordered P/AA's; and (3) the legal standard of parental compliance necessary to reunify children with their parent(s) shall include substantial completion of the tasks and expectations outlined in the P/AA and court orders.

N. Parental Rights: If a parent(s) has a CPS history and voluntarily relinquishes parental rights in lieu of having rights involuntarily terminated, it is recommended that FIA policy item 712 "Referral from FC to CPS" page 71 shall be revised to require CPS to consider the history and circumstances of the voluntary relinquishment when conducting an investigation on future children of the same parent(s).

O. Prevention Services: It is recommended that CPS shall be required to make a prevention services referral within 5 days if an allegation of child abuse or neglect is unsubstantiated, but in which prevention or support services are recommended by the investigating worker.

A full copy of the Report can be had by contacting the Children's Ombudsman, P.O. Box 30026, Lansing, MI 48909

REMEMBER!
Please renew your annual membership to APSAC. You need National membership for MiPSAC.
COMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS


March 13-14, 1998, MACA/Mipa-MSU Play Therapy with Elana Gil, Ph.D., Holiday Inn West in Lansing, MACA (517) 485-0840.


March 26, 1998, Family Summit II, Calvin College Fine Arts Center, Grand Rapids, MI, By Pine Rest Christian Mental Health Services (616) 831-2622.


July 9-12, 1998, APSAC national colloquium at the Chicago Hyatt Regency.


Nov. 16-21, 1998, 12th National Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect, Cincinnati, OH.

MIPSAC Goals:

☐ To bring together Michigan professionals working in the area of abused children

☐ To foster networking among Michigan professionals

☐ To be an information resource for Michigan professionals

☐ To sponsor quality training for Michigan professionals.
Editorial comment

JUST FOR ARGUMENTS SAKE

When looking at neglect issues, when do we conclude chronic neglect and when is chronic neglect harmful to the children? Much of this argument includes the poverty issues. However, health issues must also be considered, especially with resistant diseases spreading. A family with two years of chronic head lice is an example. A home with feces, both animal and human, all over the floor is another. What do you think?

MIPSAC MEETINGS

March 13, 1998 in Bay City

May 19th, 1998 in Lansing

July 12-19, 1998 at the APSAC Colloquium in Chicago

NOTES:

Is anyone interested in collecting articles from the local newspapers that deal with Child abuse and neglect? It would be of interest to see the media coverage on a state-wide basis.

I am looking at the multigenerational patterns of abuse and would welcome discussion with anyone who would like to research it with me. Lani.

The MIPSAC newsletter will be put out in January, May, and September. Due dates for articles is the end of the month preceding. Thank you.

Please send articles for the newsletter to:
Leni Cowling
P.O. Box 852
Belairre, MI 49615

Who said: "Be careful how you raise your children in their youth—they will be the ones taking care of you in your old age!"