

MIPSAAC

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"

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 a vital communication 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

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 item 712 "The Social Contract" page 46.

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 (ESPD) program.

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)'f 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 parents(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

REMINDER!

Please renew your annual membership to APSAC. You need National membership for MiPSAC.



COMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS

Jan 29, 1998. Laurel Manor, Livonia, MI. "Issues facing Our Children and Adolescents. For info call: Michigan Association of Children's Alliances (MACA) 517/4850840.

March 11-13, 1998. America's Promise. Child Welfare League of America National Conference. Grand Hyatt Washington, Wash. D.C. Info: CWLA 202/662-2952

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

March 17-20, 1998. **The Fourteenth National Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse.** By the National Children's Advocacy Center. Huntsville, Ala. Info: 205/534-1328.

March 19-22, 1998. The Family Network Symposium. at the Omni Shoreham hotel, Wash. D.C. Info: 301-585-5545

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

March 25-28, 1998. Children's Defense Fund's Annual National Conference "Celebrating 25 years of Standing for America's Children", at the Copnvention Center, Los Angeles, CA. Info: CDF 202/662-3684

April 2, 1998. TBA Southfield "**Counseling and Parenting Teenagers: Making the Connection**", with Francis X. Walton, PhD. Info: MACA 517/485-0840

April 17-19, 1998. MFAPA Annual Training Conference at the Raddison Hotel in Kalamazoo. Info: call Alma Schmidt 1-800-632-0418.

April 21 & 22, 1998. **Third Annual Community Prevention Planning for Children and Families Conference.** Holiday Inn West, Lansing. Info: MACA 517/485-0840.

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

July 26-29, 1998. Program Evaluation and Family Violence Research - An International Conference. By the Family Research Laboratory at the New England Center, Dunham, NH, info: (603)862-1888.

Sept. 13-15, 1998. The Second national Conference on Shaken baby Syndrome by Child Abuse Prevention Center, Salt Lake City, UT. Info: (719)784-3330.

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



We are looking for articles of interest to our membership for the newsletter. Questions or suggestions to consider are always welcome and should prompt good feedback from everyone.

Membership committee -- Vince Palusci
Legislative committee -- Bill Ladd
Conference/Training committee -- Pat Walsh
Public Awareness committee -- Leni Cowling

President:: Dr. Vince Palusci, DeVos Children's Hospital, 100 Michigan Ave. Grand Rapids, MI 49503 phone: (616) 391-8799.

Vice-president: Roger Pickering, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan. P.O. Box 48, Bay City, MI. 48707. Phone: (517)686-7650.

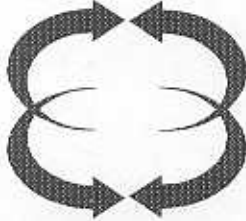
Secretary: Leni Cowling, M.Ed., LPC. Child Protection Services, Antrim County Family Independence Agency, 205 E. Cayuga St., Bellaire, MI 49615. Phone: (616)533-7314.

Treasurer: Tracy Cyrus. DeVos Children's Hospital, 100 Michigan avenue, N.E., Mallcod. Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Phone: (616)391-1223

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?



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

Please send articles for the newsletter to:
Leni Cowling
P.O. Box 892
Bellaire, MI 49615

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. Leni.



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!"