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MiPSAC



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

LEGISLATIVE CONFERENCE

by Roger Pickering

The first annual MiPSAC Legislative Conference: "A Children's Forum" was held on May 19th at the Prosecuting Attorneys Association in Lansing. The conference included a delicious lunch and presentations by our special guests for the event - State Senator R. Robert Geake (R-Wayne, District 9) and State Representative Edward LaForge (D-Kalamazoo, District 60). Both legislators shared some of their valuable insights about the legislative process, reinforced their goal to keep the needs of children a high priority and answered questions about current and pending legislation effecting children.

Sen. Geake informed the audience about some committee work he has been involved with that will restructure the outcome categories of mandated child abuse and neglect investigations. Through a structured decision-making process, the investigators would determine the degree of substantiated / unsubstantiated child abuse/neglect using a new five tier rating system. If this proposed legislation becomes a reality, the new rating system for child abuse/neglect would offer more flexibility and effective treatment opportunities for the children and families needing it. The law would also mandate court involvement at the highest level of concern and provide new protocols for managing abuse/neglect cases.

Rep. LaForge shared his expertise and great understanding of the child welfare system in Michigan. He was forthright and candid about



*Rep. Ed LaForge (left) receives his MiPSAC Child Advocacy Award from Roger Pickering
(Note: I could not resist putting in Roger's picture-Ed.)*

the pitfalls and problems with the system as it exists now. It became obvious through his insights that legislation is only a small part of a much larger societal picture. Rep. LaForge helped all attendees better grasp the challenges lawmakers have in addressing the core issues facing the citizens of Michigan, rather than to keep passing "Band-Aid" laws that don't create positive change and often only complicate the lives of people. His insight and compassion for the arena of children's issues was appreciated.

Sen. Geake and Rep. LaForge responded to questions from the audience and engaged in lively discussion about the legislative role in addressing child abuse in Michigan. It was an honor for the Michigan Chapter of APSAC to present to Senator Geake and Representative LaForge the 1998 MiPSAC Child Advocacy Award.

MiPSAC is 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.

Volunteers are always welcome for MiPSAC Committees:
 Membership committee (Vince Palusci)
 Legislative committee (Bill Ladd)
 Conference/Training committee (Pat Walsh)
 Newsletter /brochure committee (Leni Cowling)

Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Inc.
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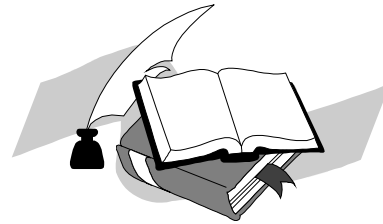
The comments expressed in this newsletter reflect the views of the author(s) and do not necessarily represent the views of MiPSAC or the American Professional Association on the Abuse of Children. (APSAC).

MiPSAC 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.

Please send articles for the newsletter to:

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 e-mail: Kizzi@torchlake.com



Editor's Note:

I want to thank the MiPSAC Board of Directors for nominating me for the APSAC 1998 President's Honor Roll. I will treasure it. I am grateful that we have so many wonderful individuals who want to come together to build a force for resolving the problems and clearing the way for the next generation to grow and flourish to the best of their potential. We speak for those who cannot speak for themselves. I cannot think of a more noble cause. Leni

(Way to go Leni! We are honored to know and work with you... The MiPSAC Board)

NEXT MiPSAC MEETINGS:

We look forward to sharing with you at these important meetings. Please call any board member for directions:

*September 18, 1998, 12-2PM
 Beaumont Hospital, Royal Oak, MI
 October 19, 1998, 5-7 PM
 Marriott Conference Ctr, Ypsilanti*

MEDICAL CONCERNS



Report from the APSAC Colloquium, Chicago IL, July 7-11, 1998:

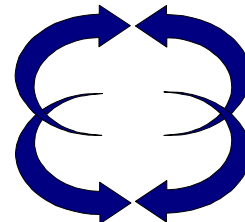
The APSAC Colloquium offered medical professionals training in new advancements in the care of maltreated children. While primarily a multidisciplinary meeting, several workshops were arranged in a "medical track" which offered new insights by nationally recognized speakers on a variety of topics, including child fatality, sexual abuse, timing of injuries, factitious disorders by proxy, peer review and field research presentations.

While some review information was presented, physicians and other medical professionals had the opportunity to hear Bob Reese talk about the power of the media in the "au pair" case, Carol Jenny present the new AAP slide set on sexual abuse, Dirk Huyer and Bob Kirschner discuss fatal child abuse cases and Randy Alexander talk about Bites and Burns. New research shows us that we all have to keep up with the latest information, and the APSAC conference was a pleasant way in a great city to keep on top of our dynamic field.

A "pre-conference" for physicians who specialize in child abuse and neglect highlighted the development of this field as a subspecialty, with special knowledge and expertise in the examination and evaluation of

children with physical abuse, sexual abuse, neglect and other nontraditional concerns. This was the second meeting of this group of physicians, (primarily pediatricians) who first met in Philadelphia in September, 1997. This "Philadelphia Group" seeks to define the role of this new medical specialty, with its unique court involvement and patient base. As part of its preparation to petition the American Board of Pediatrics for subspecialty certification, the group has dubbed the field "Child Abuse and Forensic Pediatrics". Much discussion centered on the future of the field, and a next meeting was planned in the next 9-18 months.

For further information about the APSAC Colloquium or the preconference physicians' meeting, please feel free to contact me or other MiPSAC members who attended. We look forward to seeing you next summer in San Antonio for the Seventh APSAC Colloquium in June, 1999.



REMINDER!

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

Part of your annual dues to APSAC pays for your MiPSAC membership automatically!

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Children and the Internet:

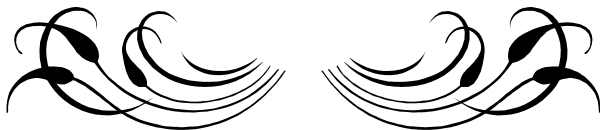
A Report from the APSAC Colloquium

by Leni Cowling

Sgt. James Doyle of the Computer Investigations & Technology Unit of the NY City Police Dept and Peter D. Banks, Director of Training for the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children gave an excellent demonstration of the extent of internet pornography and the reach it has to the nation's children. Peter logged onto the "net" and went into a "chat" room, stating he was a 15 year old girl who liked sports and had a cat.

At the end of the session, he returned to the chat room to find numerous entries by others, including some specifically directed sexual invitations. It was clear how easy it is for our children to get into the wrong area when on a computer, and once opened, the door swings both ways: a child can be "tagged" from then on. They also showed the audience the types and capabilities of the equipment that is used by persons who victimize children "on-line" and discussed the unique problems in investigating these crimes against children.

It was very disturbing and a reality check for all of us. This is a highly profitable business and our children are at serious risk. We must be on guard to protect children from this new threat to their health and safety.



1998 UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS :

Oct. 5-8, 1998. 14th Annual Midwest Conf on Child Sexual Abuse and Incest. Marriott-Madison West, Middleton, WI. Call 800-442-7107.

Oct 10-13, 1998. National Assoc of Counsel for Children, 21st National Children's Law Conf, Milwaukee, WI. The Pfister Hotel, 303-792-9900.

Oct 13, 1998 Introduction to Power Therapies: Emotional freedom Techniques and Trauma Incident Reduction. UM Sch Social Work, Ann Arbor. 734-647-4281.

Oct 19, 1998. Allegations of sexual abuse in divorce. UM Sch Social Work, Ann Arbor. 734-647-4281. Muskgon Area ISD.

Oct 19, 1998. MiPSAC Meeting, Ypsilanti Marriott, 616-391-1223

Oct 19-20, 1998. UM Michigan Statewide Child Abuse Conference, Ypsilanti Marriott, 734-763-1400

Oct. 22-23, 1998. Fourth National Roundtable on Managed Care in Child Welfare, Denver, Colorado. American Humane Assoc.

Oct30, 1998. Ethics and experiential education, UM Sch Social Work, Ann Arbor. 734-647-4281.

Nov 1-6, 1998 Child Welfare Leadership Institute, AHA Taining Ctr, Englewood CO. 303-792-9900

Nov 2-6, 1998 The Childhood Trust Forensic Institute: 5-day Forensic Interviewer Training, Cincinatti OH, 513-558-4067.

Nov 6, 1998. DeVos Children's Hospital Family Violence Conference, Grand Rapids 616-391-1223

Nov16-21, 1998. 12th National Conference on Child abuse and Neglect. Cincinnati, OH. Sponsored by NCCAN. Call (301)589-8242.