

MiPSAC

**Newsletter of the Michigan Professional Society on the Abuse of Children, Inc., the Michigan Chapter of APSAC.
Volume IV, Issue 1, January-April, 1999**

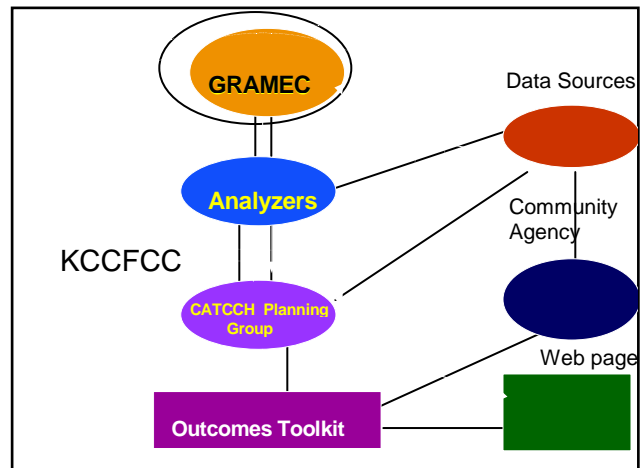
MEDICAL CONCERNS

by Vince Palusci

While much is known about the incidence of child abuse and neglect, we are just beginning to develop programs to address the needs of families to prevent maltreatment from occurring in the first place. This requires an understanding that goes beyond counting "reports to CPS" and places the child and family in a social context which needs to be addressed in a variety of ways.

To better understand the multifactorial nature of maltreatment, data must be developed which examines a variety of health, social, economic and legal concerns that affect children. One such attempt is the CATCCH project in Kent County, Michigan. Community Assessment Technology Changing Children's Health is a federally-funded data utilization and enhancement project created through a collaboration of Michigan State University, DeVos Children's Hospital, Spectrum Health and the Grand Rapids Area Medical Education Consortium.

In its second of three years of funding through the U.S. Health and Human Services Maternal Child Health Bureau, CATCCH seeks to coordinate maternal-child health data, create a central "data center," and produce information to help government and community agencies. Appropriate policies to protect confidentiality are being developed.



CATCCH Data Flow Chart

In addition to creating a centralized database, the CATCCH project will pilot the Community Outcomes Toolkit in West Central Michigan. This software was developed by the Health Forum, and it will enhance community collaboration and health planning participation in Kent County and West Michigan.

This initiative has enlisted the support of a variety of human services agencies in Kent County, including hospitals, schools, FIA, courts, mental health, United Way, Michigan Department of Community Health, and the Kent County Child and Family Coordinating Council of the Kent County Board of Commissioners. For further information, please contact Ms. Patricia Marks, CATCCH Community Coordinator, at 616-391-2332.

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)
 External Communications committee (Carol Siemon)

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:
 Leni Cowling, Editor
 P.O. Box 892
 Bellaire, MI 49615
 e-mail: Kizzi@torchlake.com

Editor's Note:

I wish to thank Pat Walsh for assuming my duties as Secretary while I am on Medical Leave. It is wonderful to be able to count on her. If you have any items for the newsletter, or comments for our "Just for Arguments Sake" column, please forward these to Pat at DeVos Children's Hospital, 100 Michigan Street, MC-98, Grand Rapids, MI 49503. Email: Pwalsh6991@aol.com.



*...And a woman, who held a babe against her bosom
 said, speak. Speak to us of children.*

And he said:

Your children are not your children.

*They are the sons and daughters of Life longing for
 itself.*

*They come through you, but not from you,
 And though they are with you, yet they belong not to
 you.*

*You may give them your love, but not your thoughts.
 For they have their own thoughts.*

*You may house their bodies, but not their souls.
 For their souls dwell in the house of tomorrow, which
 you cannot visit, not even in your dreams.*

*You may strive to be like them, but seek not to make
 them like you.*

For life goes not backward nor tarries with yesterday...

*You are the bows from which your children as living
 arrows are sent forth.*

*The archer sees the mark upon the path of the infinite,
 and He bends you with His might that His arrows
 may go swift and far.*

*Let your bending in the archer's hand be for gladness;
 For even as He loves the arrow that flies, know He
 loves also the bow that is stable.*

From The Prophet, by Kahlil Gibran
 Submitted by Leni Cowling



Just For Arguments Sake!

By Leni Cowling

As a Child Protection Worker, I go into family homes daily. I see homes of every economic status, as child abuse really doesn't have a price tag on it. I see children who are growing up without parental guidance in all walks of life. Personally, I do not see children as a right, but as a privilege.

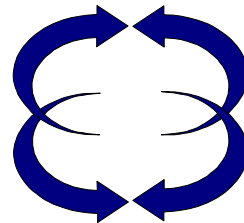
If you have a child, or children, and cannot afford them, who should pay for their care? In the United States, we do not like to see starving children, but whose responsibility is it to see that they do not starve? Parents who take money that they can find to buy drugs instead of food are not caring for their children. Parents will spend money on cigarettes instead of milk. There are parents who will put twenty dollars on lottery tickets instead of getting meat and vegetables, hoping to get the big money windfall.

Poverty will always be with us, until we have every individual nurtured to his / her fullest potential. Some persons can rise above an abusive or neglectful childhood. Most do not. I see generations of accepted sexual misuse of children. This way of life is passed down from father to son, from mother to daughter. So, now we have a generation of single mothers, who do not want a committed relationship with a male...just his money. In fact, one man can biologically father many children.

We really do not need so many men, do we? Maybe another war would reduce the numbers to a manageable degree. It still leaves these single mothers without enough money to support the children they are having. While they are at work, trying to make a few dollars, their children are unattended and at risk for abuse by strangers, boyfriends, and other children.

I feel great dismay when we have a pregnant 15 year-old coming into the office with her own mother, who is thrilled to have a grandbaby coming. I have seen so many cases where, two years later, the mother is in a broken-down, rat-infested apartment, with another boyfriend, pregnant again, and not speaking to her own mom. When we get a protective services referral, where do we start? What do the taxpayers want us to do about this? I really don't know.

(The comments expressed reflect the views of the author and do not necessarily represent the views of MiPSAC or APSAC.)



NEXT MiPSAC MEETINGS:

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

March 19, 1999, 10 AM – 12 Noon
Michigan State Medical Society,
Lansing, MI

May 21, 1999, 11 AM - 2PM
Shanty Creek, Bellaire, MI

(Please submit any nominees for the MiPSAC Child Advocacy Award to Roger Pickering by April 30, 1999)

The President's Corner

By Tracy Cyrus & Pat Walsh

On January 1, 1999, Roger Pickering, MSW became the President of MiPSAC. Roger is the Northern Regional Director of Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan, Bay City, serving the northern half of Michigan's lower peninsula. He succeeds Vince Palusci MD of DeVos Children's Hospital in Grand Rapids.

Roger has over 18 years experience in the agency approach to interventions for abused and neglected children. Lutheran Child and Family Services provides treatment for sexually abused children, outpatient counseling and group therapy, foster care and residential treatment programs with child victims, offenders, and families.

Roger received a Masters in Psychiatric Social Work from the University of Nebraska, and has obtained post-graduate training as a marriage and family therapist from the University of Wisconsin.

Roger and his wife Janet, an Interior Designer, have been married for 29 years. They are the proud parents of "two great sons." Nathan, the oldest, is a senior at Western Michigan University studying Pre-Med. Curtis, is a sophomore at Michigan State University studying Biochemistry. Recently experiencing the empty nest syndrome, with their sons off to college, Roger and Janet have built a new home and reside in Bay City. They have an active lifestyle with golf, tennis, cycling and hiking.

Roger anticipates his MiPSAC Presidency with enthusiasm. He considers himself an optimistic person, looks for the best in people and has a genuine appreciation for the collaborative process. "With diversity, experience, talent, and education we are able to assist high risk children. Putting these together with enthusiasm, something good will result."



1999 UPCOMING CONFERENCES AND MEETINGS :

March 7-13, 1999. 15th Annual Symposium on Child Sexual Abuse and APSAC Forensic Interviewer Training, National Child Advocacy Center, Huntsville, AL. 256-534-1328, 312-554-0166

March 10-12, 1999. "Teen Suicide: A Cry for Help", Michigan Child Death Review Program, Mount Pleasant, MI 517-324-7365.

March 19, 1999, 10 AM – 12 Noon, MiPSAC Board Meeting, Michigan State Medical Society, Lansing.

May 11-12, 1999. "Fifth Annual Medical Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect", Michigan Family Independence Agency, Ypsilanti, MI. 517-335-6119.

May 21, 1999, 11 AM - 2PM, MiPSAC Board Meeting and Awards Ceremony, Shanty Creek, Bellaire.

June 2-5, 1999. APSAC's 7th Annual Colloquium and Forensic Interviewer Training, San Antonio, TX. 312-554-0166

July 25-28, 1999. "The Power of Prevention", Georgia Council on Child Abuse and APSAC, Atlanta GA. 770-395-7700

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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