



The Children's Advocate

Los Angeles County Community Child Abuse Councils

Summer 2016

Introduction: Welcome readers and fellow child advocates!

It is with great pleasure that the Los Angeles County Community Child Abuse Councils release our summer 2016 newsletter! Thus far, we have had an incredible year with regard to our collective efforts to prevent child abuse and family violence in Los Angeles County; from family portrait nights hosted by the Asian Pacific Islander Council to "Law and Ethics in Treating Families with Domestic Violence" trainings hosted by the Westside Domestic Violence Network (to name a few).

This year has been filled with invaluable information, collaboration, and a true desire to change outcomes for some of our most vulnerable children and families!

As the new Community Child Abuse Council Coordinator, I am grateful to have been welcomed by this amazing group of compassionate professionals and to follow in the footsteps of those remarkable individuals that have previously held this position. I've had the opportunity to learn so much about the rich history of the Councils through getting to know each Chairperson and the membership and communities they so tirelessly represent.

As we look forward into the second half of 2016, we are excited to launch our new website, bring timely and informative professional trainings and events to service providers throughout Los Angeles County, and continue to promote community child abuse prevention and advocacy campaigns in our local communities.

We sincerely hope you enjoy the information provided in this summer edition of "The Children's Advocate," and please feel free to contact me, your local Council and/or population specific Council for more information on how you can get involved!

Warmest regards,

Sara La Croix, MSW/MPA

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UPCOMING CONFERENCES: SAVE THE DATES!

Nexus XXI:

*Violence Within the Home and
its Effects on Children*

Oct. 26, 2016

Pasadena Convention Center

EDGY Conference

*November 18, 2016 at the
Skirball Center*

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Dedicated to Marjorie Gins, Champion for Children

COUNCIL NEWS AND UPDATES

LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council

For the sixth year in a row, the LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council has planned and coordinated the annual Embracing Diversity of GLBTQ Youth (E.D.G.Y.) Conference with Penny Lane. The conference increases knowledge and awareness of the needs of LGBTQ Youth and families, and empowers social service and mental health professionals to support the LGBTQ community through an array of services and resources. The conference was held in November 2015 at the Skirball Center. The LGBT Council was able to sponsor 40 professional scholarships which went to parent groups, social service providers, mental health professionals and educators who otherwise could not attend.

Please save the date and join us for the 2016 EDGY Conference on November 18, 2016 at the Skirball Center!

LAC-Family, Children, Community Advisory Council

LAC-FCCAC sponsored a conference on April 21, 2016 titled "Urban Female Youth and Teen Pregnancy...Impact on the Life Span of the Woman and Child" at Calvary Chapel Christian Church. The featured speakers were Kiana Shaw who is dedicated to teaching teen girls life, leadership and empowerment skills through her foundation, Village of Truth and her company LeadHERship Academy. The other speaker was Michael Freeman, Co-Founder and Executive Director of Elevate Your G.A.M.E., a non-profit organization that conducts mentoring programs for urban youth in several Los Angeles area high schools. Both speakers gave stimulating presentations on teenage and young adult (ages 10-24) pregnancy and the serious issues that forever impacts the future of each young woman, the babies, and fathers. The speakers also discussed that without positive intervention, the cycle of having a baby as a teen or young adult will continue to impact all involved family members, their neighborhood, and surrounding community.

LAC-FCCAC also partnered with Elevate Your G.A.M.E. in a new project to support mentored and other youth by developing songs and music created in the hip/hop genre that will uplift and affirm youth in an attempt to encourage them to pursue their goals and teach them to develop healthy and respectful relationships. There are now four songs and corresponding curriculum available at www.elevateyourgame.org that can be listened to by youth individually or in a group. The songs can also be used by anyone to mentor and encourage youth.

Foothill Child Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Council

The Foothill Council hosted their annual Spring Conference on April 29, 2016 at the Almansor Court in the City of Alhambra. This conference trained social workers, mental health clinicians, and other social service providers in the Pasadena and surrounding areas on the topic of "Maternal Mental Health: Prevalence and Effects on the Individual and Family". The training emphasized all five protective factors and provided CEU's for attendees. The trainer for this event was Gabrielle Kaufman, Training Director at Maternal Mental Health NOW!

Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council (El Monte)

This year the Eastside Council hosted their Annual Heroes' Art Contest with the topic of "How I help in my community."

Additionally, their "Awareness + Stop the Violence" Symposium was held on April 13, 2016 at the Grace Black Auditorium in El Monte, CA. A panel discussion of professionals regarding the impact of domestic violence and its relation to child abuse also ensued. Lastly a "Communication Familiar" Workshop for the community was held on May 19, 2016 regarding positive communication skills and parental resiliency.



Asian and Pacific Islander Children Youth and Family Council

For the past year, the (API-CYFC) has regrouping, re-visioning, and recruiting for our council. We reviewed the history, mission, and earlier goals, as well as identified current priorities to best serve the evolving needs of the API community. Our top priorities include organizing and maintaining a network of professionals; facilitating relationship between community-based organizations and local entities; and supporting the advancement of child abuse prevention and treatment programs. Our goal is to expand and strengthen the Council by recruiting both former and new member agencies in order to better serve our API families.

Westside Domestic Violence Network

On April 14, 2016, the WDVN hosted a "Law and Ethics in Treating Families with Domestic Violence" training for providers at the United Methodist Church in Santa Monica.

CCAP of San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley (SPA 2)

Poster/Ad Campaign – April. As part of the SPA 2 Council's strategic plan, the group expanded its 2013-2014 poster campaign utilizing the opening of "Take One Moment" and following with the message that "parents that connect, imagine and play with their children are less likely to be emotionally or physically abusive."

SPA 7 Child Abuse Prevention Council

April 30, 2016: An experiential training called a "Reality Party" was held to inform parents/providers about the dangers of teen partying from a unique perspective. Attendees were then debriefed at the end of the training with mental health providers.

Yes 2 Kids – Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

For the past 13 years, Yes2Kids has conducted a Writing Contest for students in the AV that encourages them to write about topics such as the importance of family, respect, bullying, and how to stop child abuse. This year's theme is "Let's Keep Them Smiling..." and winners were chosen from various grade levels to read their essays, and receive an award/prize. This year's awards ceremony was held on April 6, 2016 at the Larry Chimbole Cultural Center.

San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council

On April 30th, a screening of the documentary film IN UTERO showcased enlightening and oftentimes poignant interviews with experts and pioneers; IN UTERO paints a complex tapestry of the human experience from conception to birth. Tapping into cultural myths, popular movies, and technological trends, the film demonstrates how our experiences in utero preoccupy us throughout our lives.

Experts in the fast-growing field of epigenetics explain that we are not only our genes but a product of our environment as well, a proven fact that changes our perception of stress and exposures to the environment during pregnancy. The film looks at how these environmental effects are passed down through the generations through our genes, making it scientifically plausible that a traumatic event that affected your grandma could leave a mark on your genes.

A panel discussion followed the film presentation with Dr. Caron Post, LeeAnn Paddock, an adoptive parent and Dr. Suzanne Roberts, Pediatrician CHLA. The event closed with a presentation by Caron Post, Ph.D., regarding the intergenerational transmission of trauma and the power of resilience.

We had over 150 attendees with very positive feedback on the film and presentation. Some comments: "the film was impactful, and humbling," "the film was excellent, good connection to the stress in modern society," "How far back we are influenced by our environments, all of it was useful information to impart on our clients."

Special thanks to Sharon Tan, Ph.D, with the Department of Mental Health for her collaboration with the council and securing CEU's for participants.

End Abuse Long Beach

May 12, 2016

Barbara Hernandez, Psy.D., LMFT, LPCC spoke on the "Clinical aspects of trauma and its relationship to Commercially Sexually Exploited Children (CSEC)." The program focused on CSEC as a growing issue in the US, and how as professionals, we have been trained and made aware of the incidence of this problem here in Los Angeles County. However, now that we have become experts at identification, we are left with unanswered questions pertaining to the risk factors, assessment, and clinical treatment of CSEC. This training addressed the clinical aspects of CSEC, and provided an understanding of how unresolved complex trauma has impacted the CSEC population.

Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children (ACADC)

We are honored to return to active status with the Community Child Abuse Councils in 2016! On Saturday, April 30, 2016, from 10-3pm, the ACADC hosted "A Healing Day: Changing Ourselves, Our Families and Our Community" which was a workshop offered for the Deaf Community. The collaborative workshop was hosted by Five Acres Deaf Services, Greater Los Angeles Agency on Deafness, Peace Over Violence and My Choice Counseling. The workshop focused on positive ways to heal from trauma and abuse via hands-on therapeutic arts and resources for the Deaf Community.

Want more information about a Council? Contact Us!

Advocacy Council for Abused Deaf Children:

Joseanna Moseby /Amy Kay (626) 993-3165

Asian and Pacific Islander Children, Youth and Family Council:

Nina Y. Loc (213) 808-1720

Nayon Kang (213) 365-7400

CCAP of San Fernando and Santa Clarita Valley (SPA 2):

Deborah Davies (818) 988 - 4430

Children's Bureau Prevention Dept.

Laura Stroud (213) 342-0113

Eastside Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Connie Preciado-Gonzalez (626) 442-1400 ext. 202

End Abuse Long Beach:

Kathleen Watkins (323) 633-1801

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Foothill Child Abuse and Family Violence Prevention Council:

Erica Villalpando (626) 373-2900

LGBT Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Mark Abelson (323) 646-2419

LAC-Family, Children, Community Advisory Council (LAC-FCCAC):

Sandra Guine (310) 327-9294

Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN):

Cathy Walsh (626) 258-2059

San Gabriel Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Karen Nutt (626) 919-1091

SPA 7 Child Abuse Council:

Norma Yoquez (562) 777-1410 x112

Maria Duarte (562) 777-1410 x181

Westside Domestic Violence Network:

Jennifer Chen Speckman (310) 264-6646

Yes 2 Kids – Antelope Valley Child Abuse Prevention Council:

Charles Avila (661) 940-9530

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Need Community Friendly Child Abuse Prevention Materials in Multiple Languages?

Materials Available Include:

- "Daily Acts of Kindness Towards Children" Calendars
- "Guide to Positive Parenting"
- "California Mandated Reporting, Easy Steps..." pamphlet
- "It only takes a minute to brighten a child's life" Bookmarks
- "Together We stand Up Against Bullying!" pamphlet
- "Resources for Families and Friends After a Suicide, Suicide Attempt or Threat" wallet cards

Please contact Sara La Croix for more information at:

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