



NEW HAMPSHIRE NETWORK OF
CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

News You Can Use

Spring/Summer 2009

CACs Celebrate Everyday Heroes

At the heart of every Child Advocacy Center are the members of the multidisciplinary team. The hard work and commitment of these dedicated team members is what makes the CAC model so effective. Yet, these everyday heroes who work tirelessly each and every day to protect and support children are rarely recognized. For that reason, please take a moment to celebrate a few of New Hampshire's Everyday Heroes who do a heroes job everyday.

Strafford County CAC



Steve Bourque
Rochester Police Department

CAC of Coos County Karen York DCYF, Berlin District Office



CAC of Rockingham County



Mike Munck
Exeter Police Department



Mondanock Region CAC Jessica Walker DCYF, Keene District Office

Lakes Region CAC
Christa Clapp
DCYF, Laconia District Office



CAC of Hillsborough County
Scott Park
Merrimack Police Department



CAC of Carroll County
John MacDonald
State Police, Troop E

NHNCAC Welcomes Two New CAC Directors!

Carroll County

The Child Advocacy Center of Carroll County recently hired Susan Emily Sharp as their new Executive Director. Susan has more than 20 years of business management experience, including 12 years with high-tech Fortune Five Hundred companies.

In the non-profit sector, Susan has been co-president and board member of an active alumnae association for a nationally recognized independent girl's school and has been on the board of several community organizations including the League of Women Voters in Concord, MA. While living in California, she participated in an intensive volunteer training program to become a telephone counselor in Santa Clara County for a 24-hour crisis hotline providing support for battered women, rape, substance abuse, grief and loss and parental stress.

To reach Susan: email susan@carrollcountycac.org or call 603-569-9840

Merrimack County

Michael R. Major, LCMHC, has recently been hired as the Executive Director for the Merrimack County Child Advocacy Center located in Concord, NH.

Michael holds a Master of Science degree in Community Mental Health Counseling and is a Licensed Clinical Mental Health Counselor with over 25 years experience in the mental health field, working primarily for non-profit organizations including community, in-patient, out-patient, home, school, detox and rehabilitative settings.

Michael brings skills in needs assessments on both an individual and program level. He has a strong passion for working collaboratively with varying system collaterals and resources available to best meet the needs of those customers/clients served.

To reach Michael email: MMajor@mcdiversion.net or iammrmajor@myfairpoint.net

It's An Adults Job to Protect Children from Abuse Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention



The New Hampshire Network of CACs is a proud recipient of a two year child abuse prevention grant from the New Hampshire Children's Trust Fund. The purpose of the grant is to support the roll-out of the award winning evidence-based child sexual abuse prevention training titled *Stewards of Children*.

Unlike many prevention curriculums that focus on teaching children to protect themselves, the Stewards of Children program has been developed for adults only. Owned and developed by the South Carolina based Darkness to Light, Stewards of Children educates adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Darkness to Light believes that adults are inadequate at protecting children from sexual abuse for three reasons: 1.) a low awareness of the prevalence, consequences and circumstances of child sexual abuse; 2.) limited knowledge of the needed steps and actions necessary to protect children from sexual abuse; and 3.) a community reluctance to take action in response to suspicions of abuse.

The Stewards of Children education prevention training is designed for parents, community groups, faith organizations, educators, coaches, youth leagues and virtually any organization or entity that interacts with children regularly.

Thus far, more than 160 adults across the state have been trained in Stewards of Children - and to rave reviews! If you are interested in bringing the Stewards of Children Training to your community, contact your local Child Advocacy Center. Trainings are free (at least until our supply of training materials runs out!) To find a CAC in your area visit www.nhncac.org or email info@nhncac.org

Looking For Training in Forensic Interviewing?

During the week of September 21- 25, New Hampshire's own Kathryn Adler will be providing a five day statewide forensic interview training. The exact location of the training has yet to be determined but will likely be held in either Manchester or Concord.

As CAC's position themselves to meet the newly revised National Children's Alliance Accreditation Standards, it will be required that individuals performing forensic interviews at CACs have a minimum of 40 hours of forensic interview training. To learn more about this week-long training contact your local CAC or visit www.nhncac.org. Further information and registration materials will be posted on the NHNCAC website by August 1. NHNCAC hopes to underwrite the full cost of the training, though participants seeking overnight lodging may need to secure that on their own.



Rockingham County Celebrates with Diamonds and Denim

On Saturday, May 30, 2009 the Child Advocacy Center of Rockingham County celebrated ten years of service with a fundraiser at the Community Campus in Portsmouth. The event titled, *Diamonds and Denim*, rose over \$32,000 and featured live music from the Don Campbell Band. Other highlights included a live auction complete with a Dude Ranch package; raffles and door prizes. According to CACRC Executive Director Maureen Sullivan, the tremendous success of this event was the direct result of the centers many friends and supporters.

NCA's New Accreditation Standards: What's Different?

CAC's looking to apply for NCA Accreditation in 2010 will need to meet the newly revised NCA Standards for Accredited Members. The most significant changes can be found in the standards pertaining to: forensic interviews, victim services and medical and mental health care.

Forensic Interviews: Individuals conducting forensic interviews at CACs must have attended 40 hours of nationally or state recognized forensic interview training that includes child development. In addition, forensic interviewers at CACs must be able to document ongoing education in the field of child maltreatment.

Victim Support and Advocacy: The new standards include a comprehensive check list related to victim support and advocacy. CAC case files will need to include documentation of victim support services for families throughout the entire life of the case. The role is best defined as a family advocate

Medical care: Medical evaluations must be provided by health care providers with pediatric experience and child abuse expertise. In addition, all children passing through a CAC should receive a medical evaluation.

Mental Health: Mental health members of a CACs MDT must be trained in trauma focused therapy. Providers must have access to ongoing training and peer review.

For more information on
NCA's New Accreditation Standards visit
www.nhncac.org/about



The Victims of Child Abuse Act Receives Funding Increase!

The Victims of Child Abuse Act received a \$5 million funding increase in the Omnibus Spending Bill that was passed by Congress earlier this year. This funding increase will have a direct impact on both established and developing CACs as well as NCA chapter members. Appropriated through the

House and Senate Commerce, Justice, Science and Related Agencies Appropriations Subcommittees, the Victims of Child Abuse Act funds the competitive and non-competitive grants awarded by National Children's Alliance. Although it remains to be seen exactly how this funding increase will be disbursed, there is no question that it means more support for the work of CACs and MDTs across the country. NCA should be issuing an RFP sometime in late summer / early fall.

New Hampshire CACs Go to Washington!

In June a representative from each of NH's eight established and two developing CACs attended the National Children's Alliance Leadership Conference in Washington, DC. A grand total of 12 New Hampshire residents made the trip to DC which included meetings with all four members of the New Hampshire Congressional Delegation. The group had the opportunity to speak directly with both Senator's Gregg and Shaheen. Everyone was thrilled with the opportunity to personally thank Senator Gregg for his continued commitment to the Child Advocacy Center movement and also introduce the model to Senator Shaheen. Only the CAC of Rockingham County was open during Senator Shaheen's tenure as Governor. A wonderful trip was had by all!

Team NH meets with U.S. Senators Judd Gregg and Jeanne Shaheen



Pictured Above L to R: Donna Swett (Belknap County), Michael Major (Merrimack County), Susan Sharp (Carroll County), Maureen Sullivan (Rockingham County), Jodi Richardson (Strafford County), Senator Gregg, Shelby Trahan (Hillsborough County), Cathy Brittis and Jody Thompson (Grafton/ Sullivan Counties), Amanda Peterson (NHNCAC) Atonya Hart (Cheshire County) and Joanne Legare (Coos County).

