Preventing Child Sexual Abuse in Youth-Serving Organizations through Risk Reduction Practices

Janna Estep Jordan, MSW, Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
Allyson Taylor, Director and Laken Albrink, Office of Child Abuse and Human Trafficking, Prevention and Prosecution, Office of the Attorney General

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PCAK Mission

- To prevent the abuse and neglect of Kentucky’s children.
- By Providing
  - Community Programs
  - Public Education
  - Advocacy
What are Your Expectations?

Objectives of Training

Participants will be prepared to:

- Define child maltreatment per KY law.
- Reporting child maltreatment per KY law.
- Identify three techniques child sex offenders use to pick families and children as targets.
- Increase participant capabilities to implement strategies in creating safe environments.

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Save The Date!
Free Training Series

Training Schedule
- Mayhill, KY | October 16, 2017
- Paducah, KY | October 26, 2017
- Lexington, KY | November 2, 2017
- Elizabethtown, KY | November 29, 2017
- Bowling Green, KY | December 5, 2017
- Hazard, KY | January 11, 2018
- Hopkinsville, KY | January 25, 2018
- Corbin, KY | February 8, 2018
- Louisville, KY | February 22, 2018
- Somerset, KY | March 8, 2018
- Morehead, KY | April 5, 2018

Both afternoon and evening training opportunities provided at each location.
The Reality for Kentucky

- 54,263 calls involving 75,710 children met criteria for investigation in calendar year 2016
- 22,090 unique children substantiated as victims or in need of protective services during calendar year 2016 = 1 child every 24 minutes or 60 children every day

Physical Abuse

- Committed by the parent, guardian or caretaker
- By definition, the injury is not an accident, however, neither is it necessarily the intent of the adult to injure the child
- May result from over-discipline or from punishment which is inappropriate to the child’s age or condition
- Injuries to a child during a domestic dispute can also constitute physical abuse

Physical Warning Signs

- Bruises/fractures on children less than one year of age
- Wounds in various stages of healing
- Unusual, unexplained head injuries
- Unusual bruises, burns, bite marks, scratches
- Missing or loosened teeth
- Patterned injury (extension cord, paddle, hand, etc.)
- Repeated injuries
### Behavioral Warning Signs

- Unusually fearful or timid
- Appears under much stress
- Psychosomatic complaints
- Physical and/or language development delays
- Craves affection
- Afraid of physical contact
- Overly anxious to please adults
- Notably destructive, aggressive
- Indiscriminate attachment to strangers
- Short attention span

### Neglect

The term "abused or neglected child" includes a child whose health or welfare is harmed or threatened with harm when his or her parent, guardian, or other person exercising custodial control of supervision:

- Engages in a pattern of conduct that renders the parent incapable of caring for the immediate and ongoing needs of the child, including, but not limited to, parental incapacity due to alcohol and other drug abuse
- Continuously or repeatedly fails or refuses to provide essential parental care and protection for the child, considering the age of the child
- Does not provide the child with adequate care, supervision, food, clothing, shelter, education or medical care necessary for the child's well-being.

### Forms of Neglect

- Medical (including Dental)
- Environmental
- Exploitation
- Abandonment
- Lack of Supervision
- Hygiene
- Food
- Education
- Clothing
- Substance Abuse
- Risk of Harm
- Domestic Violence
### Physical Warning Signs

- Abandonment
- Lack of proper supervision
- Lack of adequate nutrition
- Untreated illnesses or skin disorders

### Behavioral Warning Signs

- Severe developmental delays
- Begs / steals food
- Inappropriate seeking of affection
- Chronically dirty and not bathed
- Constant fatigue / listlessness
- Assumes adult responsibilities

### Emotional Abuse

Any injury to the mental or psychological capacity or emotional stability of a child as evidenced by a substantial and observable impairment in his/her ability to function within normal range as testified to by a Qualified Mental Health Professional.

- Often is observed through behavior
- Often accompanies physical abuse and sometimes sexual abuse
Examples

- Withdrawal of love
- Ignoring
- Name calling
- Ridiculing
- Threatening
- Isolating
- Cruel or bizarre punishments
- Terrorizing
- Total rejection

Sexual Abuse

- Contacts or interactions in which the child is being used for the sexual gratification of the adult or other perpetrator
- Developmentally, children cannot give consent (power/coercion is always present)
- May be committed by another child when the abuser is in a position of power/control over the victim or is significantly older

Examples of Child Sexual Abuse

- Sexual contact between an adult and minor
- Fondling, intercourse, vaginal or anal penetration or oral/genital contact
- Exposing children to pornography or using them for pornography
- Having sex in front of children
- Taking sexually explicit pictures of children
- Masturbation of child victim
- Oral sex
- Child trafficking
Physical Warning Signs

- Difficulty walking or sitting
- Difficulty urinating or excreting
- Torn, stained or bloody underclothes
- Pain or itching in genital area
- Pregnancy

Behavioral Warning Signs

- Regression
- Sudden behavior changes/ fear of person(s)/ place(s)
- Frequent headaches or stomach aches
- Sleep & eating disturbances
- Entices other children into sexual play
- Acts out sexual behavior with dolls/toys
- Age inappropriate knowledge of sex

Conservatively, 1 out of 5 girls, 1 out of 10 boys (NCVS, 2012) will be victims of sexual abuse before their 18th birthday.
Did You Know That…

- Children ages 7 – 9 are the most commonly targeted age group for sexual abuse.
- Only 5 – 13% of child sexual abuse victims tell anyone they are being abused while it is occurring (London, 2005).

Meet John

Understanding Grooming

- Target the child
- Obtaining access
- Test the child to see how the child reacts to certain situations (test the waters)
- Identify with the child
- Isolate the child; One-on-one situations
- Work to create secrecy
- Communicate with the child outside of their current role
Incidence vs. Apprehension Rates:

Sex Offenders

- Commit an average of 120 separate sexual crimes before they are caught (Weinrott, 2001; O'Connell, 1998)
- Men who primarily abuse girls, abuse an average of 12 girls (Hindman & Peters, 2001, CBI, 1992)
- Men who primarily abuse boys, abuse twice as many (CBI, 1992)
- Sex offenders say that only 3% of what they do is detected (Abel, 1987)
- Five to 20% are female
- 1 out of every 10 to 25 men have molested children
- 78% of victims do not tell anyone until adulthood (Finkelhor, 1990)

How Many Do We Catch?

- 3% to 6% convicted
- 12 to 18 cases reported
- 100 incidents of CSA

Notes:
- Hanson, Rasnick, Saunders, Kilpatrick & Best (1999). Factors related to the reporting of childhood rape.
Most Stereotypes are WRONG!
“Crime Switching” Behavior:

- Most sex offenders commit more than one type of sexual crime. For some, what they get caught for is a fluke! It’s about who tells on them.
  - **65% to 70%** of offenders sexually abuse children and sexually assault adults, or abuse child victims from different age groups (Heil, 2003 & O’Connell, 1998).
  - **66% to 75%** of child molesters abuse children from different relationship categories (incest offenders abuse other people’s children too and vice versa) (Abel, 1992; O’Connell, 1998; Heil et al., 2003).
  - **30%** of child molesters abuse boys and girls.

Offender Relationship to Victim

- Biological parent 16%
- Stepparent 14%
- Other relative 16%
- Acquaintance or friend of parent 26%
- Person in authority 22%
  - (pastor/teacher/coach)
- Stranger 5%

“Probably everyone in this room has someone in our life who is a sex offender, we just don’t know who it is.”

What offenders say about how they pick communities...

- Neighborhoods, churches, youth sports, community organizations (Scouting, YMCA, etc.) offer access to children.
- Offender’s past behavior probably unknown in the new setting.
- People in a new setting are often:
  - Open, trusting, friendly, tolerant, accepting and naïve
  - Poorly informed and may have some loose boundaries
  - Unwilling to confront questionable behavior
Picking families...

- Families that are vulnerable, needy or gullible.
- Families where parents and children aren't close and don't communicate.
- Single parent families or stressed homes.
- Families that don't supervise their children closely.
- Families that aren't very assertive.
- Possible prior victimization of parent/s.
- Family who indiscriminately trust others.

How sex offenders pick their child victims...

Offenders say they abuse children:

- I can get close to
- Develop a relationship with
- Are sexually and emotionally attracted to
- Can control and manipulate into keeping their abuse a secret
- Can discredit in front of other people

How offenders seduce children...

- Study and befriend their victims
- Become a friend or act like a same-age friend
- Treat child as if older
- Get physical (wrestling, tickling, hugging, kissing, massages, backrubs)
- Get physical in front of parents
- Accidental touching of private parts
- Sex jokes and pornography
- Move slowly
Offender tricks…

- If a child reacts negatively back off and try again later
- Make it feel good
- Make the child think they wanted to do it
- Confuse child about sex = love/affection
- Make it seem normal, act like it’s a game or OK to do
- Molest children at night
- Reward children for the sexual contact

False Allegations vs. Mistakes

Only 2% to 5% of child abuse allegations are false, 8% to 12% of cases with teens.

Six Critical Components to Keeping Children Safe

[Image of a brochure]

1. Strategies for Screening and Selecting Employees / Volunteers

- Background Checks
  - Frequency
  - Child Abuse Central Registry and Criminal
  - Statewide verses national
  - Sex Offender Registry
  - Confidentiality

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1. Strategies for Screening and Selecting Employees / Volunteers

- Screen applicants (EVERYONE!!!)
  - References-match the references provided to the applicant’s application or resume. Does anything stand out or seem to be missing?
  - Let them know your organization is serious about child sexual abuse prevention. Be firm and do not skirt around the issue.
  - Inform potential applicants/volunteers about your organization’s policies.
  - Require applicants to sign a document to affirm their understanding and agreement of those policies.

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1. Strategies for Screening and Selecting Employees / Volunteers

Ask questions pertinent to screening:
- What age/sex youth do you want to work with?
- How would you feel about working with a different age/sex?
- Why do you want this job/to volunteer?
- What do you consider inappropriate behaviors between an adult and a minor/child to be?
- If you see inappropriate behaviors occurring between a staff member or volunteer, how would you handle the situation?
### Remember

- Individuals with previous sexual offenses, violence against youth, or other criminal offenses should not be considered.
- **65% to 70%** of offenders sexually abuse children and sexually assault adults, or abuse child victims from different age groups (Heil, 2003 & O’Connell, 1998).
- Keep background checks confidential!
- Background checks are not the be all end all. Offenders commit on average **120 - 200** crimes before ever being caught.

### 2. Strategies for Guidelines on Interactions between Individuals

- **2 adult/1 child ratios** - Minimize one-on-one interactions with a child and adult; Have two adults present at all times
- Do not transport a child without two adults present
- Typically younger youth need more adults overseeing them
- Don't allow bullying, risqué jokes or sexual harassment

### More Strategies...

- Prior to touching the child to illustrate a technique or action, ask their permission. This establishes boundaries.
- Speak up when you see something inappropriate or concerning.
- Have policies or a plan in place on how to deal with reports of inappropriate behaviors. Remember to respond as soon as possible—do not wait!
- Avoid gifts! If a child is in need, use resources and good judgment for ensuring their needs are met! Involve others when a need is identified.
Reducing Risk

- Do you have a social media policy?
- When using social media as a tool for communication, always involve the parent or more than one child at a time. Let parents know the policy!
- Do not use private messaging features that isolate the parties involved, such as Facebook messaging or snap chat. Always make sure your communication is out in the open for others to view.

3. Strategies for Monitoring Behavior

- If policies are not developed outlining who is responsible for youth before/after activities officially begin, put something into place. Let volunteers, staff and parents know the expectation.
- Develop monitoring protocol, including a CLEAR reporting structure within the organization
  - Establish direct-line and back-up reporting systems
  - Create a climate which encourages people to question and act on red flags
  - Include random check-in
  - Document

4. Strategies for Ensuring Safe Environments

- Utilize open, visible areas
- Institute a “no closed door” policy
- During overnight stays, adhere to the two adult ratio
- Do not allow anyone to participate who has not been vetted
- Address suspicious behaviors immediately
- Empower volunteers and employees to speak up if they are uncomfortable or see something questionable
  - Report it
  - Address privacy and security during showers/bathroom breaks
5. Inappropriate Behavior, Breaches in Policy and Allegations and Suspicions of Abuse

- Define appropriate and inappropriate behaviors
- Determine behaviors your organization will respond to internally and those requiring a report to authorities
  - For example, a youth telling a risqué joke may require notification of immediate supervisor, informing the youth’s parent and/or filing of incident report
- However, if a youth or employee/volunteer engages in sexual contact with a youth, this should always be reported immediately to law enforcement / child protective services
- Empower staff to be open about any concerning behaviors
- Partner with child protective service and law enforcement before any allegations arise in order to form relationships and insure policies are in line with the law

Mandatory Reporting: Purpose of the Law

Children have certain fundamental rights which must be protected and preserved. These include, but are not limited to:
- The rights to adequate food, clothing, and shelter
- The right to be free from physical, sexual, or emotional injury or exploitation
- The right to develop physically, mentally, and emotionally to their potential
- The right to educational instruction
- The right to a secure, stable family

Mandated Reporting: KRS § 620.030

- Any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child under age eighteen (18) is dependent, abused or neglected shall immediately make a report
- This duty also applies to any person who knows or has reasonable cause to believe that a child is a victim of human trafficking
  - Any person under the age of 18 involved in commercial sexual activity is by law a victim of human trafficking
  - Commercial sexual activity includes stripping, prostitution, pornography or escorting
- The following persons may also be requested to submit a more detailed written report including, but not limited to: teacher, school personnel, child-caring personnel, mental health professionals, nurse, etc.
- Any supervisor who receives from an employee a report of suspected dependency, neglect, or abuse shall promptly make a report
  - NOTE: merely reporting to a supervisor does not satisfy the legal obligation to report!
## Mandated Reporting: 1-877-597-2331

### Where to Report
- A local law enforcement agency or the Kentucky State Police
- The Cabinet for Health and Family Services, 24-hour child abuse reporting hotline

### What Information is Needed
- Child’s identity
- Any person believed to be responsible for the dependency, abuse, or neglect if that person is known
- The nature and extent of the dependency, abuse, or neglect
- Where the child can be found
- Name and address of person reporting (optional, as you may remain anonymous)

### Violations
- Any person who intentionally violates shall be guilty of:
  - Class B misdemeanor for 1st offense;
  - Class A misdemeanor for 2nd offense;
  - Class D felony for each subsequent offense

### Immunity
- Both civil and criminal immunity from prosecution are given to any person making a report or assisting legal authorities or the child protection program in making an assessment, as long as that person is acting in good faith

### Exemptions
- Only attorneys who gather information from their clients and clergymen who in their capacity as a spiritual advisor who gather information privately from a clergy-penitent are exempt from the mandate to make a report based on such information
- Spouse relationship does not exempt you from reporting
- Professional-client or patient privilege does not exempt you from reporting
Mandated Reporting: 1-877-597-2331

What to Expect
- Determination whether the referral meets criteria
- Investigation/assessment conducted as soon as possible
  - Within one hour if the child may be in imminent danger
  - Within 24-48 hours for other cases, depending on the level of risk to the child
  - Police may also investigate
- Services and/or separation of child if necessary for child’s protection
  - First priority is to protect children from dependency, neglect, and abuse
  - Help to strengthen families by working to increase parental capacity for care
  - If family must be separated for the child’s protection, the goal is to reunite the family

Reporting Guidance
- It is not the role of an employee or volunteer to investigate an allegation of dependency, abuse, or neglect—let the Cabinet and law enforcement handle the investigation
- Help staff understand inappropriate responses can harm the child
- Act on all infractions of your organization’s child sexual abuse prevention policy

Internal Records
- Include child sexual abuse as a category on general incident reporting forms
- Review reporting forms with supervisor
- Clearly document compliance with mandated reporting laws

Handling Disclosures
- Don’t overreact
- Don’t investigate; gather the information you need without leading the child to make a report
- Let the child know you will be letting authorities know for the child’s safety
- Let the child know they did the right thing by disclosing
- Offer support/appropriate resources
- Do not share their story with others not involved in your mandated reporting process
Recanting

- Between 23 and 80% of sexually abused children recant prior disclosures of abuse when they experience negative consequences of disclosure. (Keary & Fitzpatrick, 1994)
- In approximately 23% of child abuse cases, children reactant after disclosure.
- Children with supportive parents are less likely to recant.
- Studies show most children who recant are telling the truth and is a result of familial adult influences rather than a result of false allegations.

6. Training and Education

- Ensure training content is modeled by everyone in your organization, from management to volunteers
  - Everyone needs to know and understand:
    - Definition for all forms of child maltreatment
    - Define appropriate/inappropriate behaviors
    - Child sexual abuse prevalence
    - Risk factors of victimization and perpetration
    - Address common myths about offenders
    - Healthy development of youth
    - Kentucky Reporting Laws (immunity for reporters)
    - Handling disclosures

- Create an environment where trainees feel comfortable asking questions
  - Designate one point of contact in regards to questions and concerns to ensure messages are consistent
  - Provide information to parents
  - Know and understand the REPORTING LAWS!!! (any other obligations via Clery Act or Title IX)
Barriers and Moving Forward

- Review your plan
- Questions?
- Are you concerned about any barriers?
- Attend one of the FREE 3 hour trainings occurring across the state. Refer your community to the training!!!
- Complete your onsite evaluation

Resources

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky [www.pcaky.org](http://www.pcaky.org)
1.800.CHILDREN (1.800.244.5373)
Kentucky Office of the Attorney General

Kentucky Community Mental Health Center Crisis Services: Hours and Locations

Helplines
- Mental Health-Crisis Helpline (24 hour) 1.800.928.8000
- Bluegrass Rape Crisis Center 1.800.656.4673
- Domestic Violence and Rape Helpline (24 hour) 1.800.799.7233

Questions/Comments?

Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky
[pcaky@pcaky.org](mailto:pcaky@pcaky.org)
Office of the Attorney General
[ICareAboutKids@ky.gov](mailto:ICareAboutKids@ky.gov)

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