

CAM Newsletter

Professionals Empowering Children

Update from the Director

As we head into the Thanksgiving holiday season, there are many things I am thankful for – the work of our multidisciplinary team members and CACs is at the top of that list. Our teams use state-of-the-art, evidence-based, child focused approaches to protect and treat children and hold offenders accountable. Each of you understand the impact child abuse has on the children in your community. You have seen family after family, generation after generation engage in destructive behavior that causes our children trauma. A new research article compliments the ACES study in acknowledging that childhood trauma impacts the mental health well-being and propensity for addiction as these children become adults. The work you do is so important! Without your intervention, the trauma kids endure would continue. Thank you for the tireless work you do to make a difference in these childrens lives.

The good work of Montana MDT members and CACs has not gone unrecognized. Attorney General Fox recently awarded FBI Victim Specialists Michele Stewart and Erin Harris the Outstanding Advocates of the Year. They were nominated by federal and state officials for their advocacy work on behalf of crime victims and their families in nearly 1,500 federal/Tribal criminal and child protection cases.



Congratulations ladies – well-deserved. Michelle and Erin spear head tribal MDTs and CACs, work on the Yellowstone County Human Trafficking Task Force and are on call 24 7 to handle the immediate needs of their victims.



Members of the Fort Peck Tribe MDT and the Fort Peck Tribes CAC a Program of the Red Bird Women’s Center were recognized by Attorney General Jeff Session for the exceptional work this team did in the apprehension and conviction in a kidnapping case. There were multiple professionals from multiple agencies recognized for their collaborative and exceptional efforts to work together to return the victim and prosecute the offender. Indian Country MDTs are more complex due to the multitude of agencies involved. Fort Peck has and continues to be a driving force and an example of how multiple agencies come together to help children. Montana U.S. Attorney Kurt Alme praised the work of multiple law enforcement agencies in the case. “This child is alive today because of the outstanding teamwork of many federal, state, tribal and local law enforcement officers,” Alme said. “They, together with the victim specialists and assistant U.S. attorney who prosecuted the case, ensured this child received the care she needed and brought the offender to justice through their personal dedication to the people we serve,” he said. Congratulations!

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Update from the Director - Continued



MTN News spotlighted the work of Deb Mulcahy -- KRMC nurse helping sexual assault victims. The article spotlights her work with sex assault victims, as a valued member of the MDT. Deb provides services at the Flathead County Children's Advocacy Center housed in the Kalispell Regional Medical Center Emergency Department, which is also home to many dedicated medical providers committed to helping victims of sexual assault.

Our congratulations and admiration to all of you! It is an honor to work with these incredible professionals!

Don't Miss the 2019 Children's Justice Conference January 16th and 17th in Big Sky!



CAM and the Montana Department of Justice's Children's Justice Bureau's MCSART program will once again be sponsoring the Fourth Annual Children's Justice Conference, January 16th and 17th! The conference will once again be held in Big Sky, Montana. Registration has begun, and we are going to be putting together a great lineup of topics that are important and relevant to the work we all do! There are a limited number of lodging scholarships available, and the deadline to apply for those is November 30th. Registration deadline for the conference is December 15! See you there!

What's New in CALiO?

"Interventions to Improve the Response of Professionals to Children Exposed to Abuse: A Systemic Review"

Health care professionals are sometimes uncertain about how to respond to domestic violence, and what the best practices might be when working with children who have been exposed to it. This review takes a look at the response from the medical community to domestic abuse survivors and their children. Included are interventions aimed at improving professional responses to the disclosure of domestic violence with child involvement.

"Individual-level Factors Related to Better Mental Health Outcomes Following Child Maltreatment Among Adolescents"

This study investigates the relationship between individual-level factors and overall mental health status among adolescents, both with and without a history of maltreatment. The objectives of this study was to find the prevalence of mental indicators by child maltreatment types, estimate the prevalence of good, moderate and poor mental health by maltreatment types and examine the relationship between individual-level factors and overall mental health status of adolescents with and without a history of abuse

"Mental Health Intervention: Does an Expedited Process Increase Access to Mental Health Services for Children?"

It is well known that children suffer huge, life-long impacts to their mental, physical and emotional health. The impact of child maltreatment can be mitigated by access to mental health services, in many cases facilitated by Child Advocacy Centers. This study takes a look at the enhanced referral process used to connect CAC clients with mental health services, and examines whether children who received this expedited referral service were more likely than children who received the standard referral process. The implications of the results on social work practice, policy and research are discussed.

Should Childhood Trauma Be Treated as a Public Health Crisis?

by Erin Blakemore, NPR



When public health officials get wind of an outbreak of Hepatitis A or influenza, they spring into action with public awareness campaigns, monitoring and outreach. But should they be acting with equal urgency when it comes to childhood trauma?

A new study published in the *Journal of the American Medical Association* suggests the answer should be yes. It shows how the effects of childhood trauma persist and are linked to mental illness and addiction in adulthood. And, researchers say, it suggests that it might be more effective to approach trauma as a public health crisis than to limit treatment to individuals.

The study drew on the experiences of participants from the Great Smoky Mountains Study, which followed 1,420 children from mostly rural parts of western North Carolina, over a period of 22 years. They were interviewed annually during their childhood, then four additional times during adulthood.

This study has something other similar studies don't, says William Copeland, a professor of psychiatry at the University of Vermont who led the research. Instead of relying on recalled reports of childhood trauma, the researchers analyzed data collected while the participants were kids and their experiences were fresh. And the researchers applied rigorous statistical analysis to rule out confounding factors.

Even when the team accounted for other adversities aside from trauma, like low income and family hardships, and adult traumas, the associations between childhood trauma and adult hardships remained clear. The associations remained clear.

The study is "probably the most rigorous test we have to date of the hypothesis that early childhood trauma has these strong, independent effects on adult outcomes," he says.

For Copeland, the wide-ranging impacts of trauma call for broad-based policy solutions in addition to individual interventions. "It has to be a discussion we have on a public health policy level," he says.

Nearly 31 percent of the children told researchers they had experienced one traumatic event, like a life-threatening injury, sexual or physical abuse, or witnessing or hearing about a loved one's traumatic experience. And 22.5 percent of participants had experienced two traumas, while 14.8 percent experienced three or more.

The childhoods of participants who went through traumatic events and those who didn't were markedly different. Participants with trauma histories were 1.5 times as likely to have psychiatric problems and experience family instability and dysfunction than those without, and 1.4 times as likely to be bullied. They were also 1.3 times more likely to be poor than participants who didn't experience trauma.

When these children grew up, psychiatric problems and other issues persisted. Even after researchers adjusted for factors like recall bias, race and sex, the impact of those childhood psychiatric problems and hardships, the associations remained. Participants who experienced childhood trauma were 1.3 times more likely to develop psychiatric disorders than adults than those who did not experience trauma, and 1.2 times more likely to develop depression or substance abuse disorder. . . .

Erin Blakemore is a science writer based in Boulder, Colo.

A copy of the full Article can be found on NPR.org -- <https://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2018/11/09/666143092/should-childhood-trauma-be-treated-as-a-public-health-crisis>

Online Resources for You!

New Vicarious Trauma Training Available



In an effort to address the issue of Vicarious Trauma in law enforcement officers, mental health providers

and others who work with children who are victims of sexual abuse, the Innocent Justice Foundation, along with the OJJDP and ICAC Task Force Commanders have developed a program that includes several basic and advanced-level trainings, called the Supporting Heroes in Mental Health Foundational Training (SHIFT). The goal of this program is to achieve strong, positive impact and reach through comprehensive and effective training programs. SHIFT educates individuals and teams, improving their ability to mitigate the negative effects of exposure to child sexual exploitation and abuse. For more information, as well as resources for Law Enforcement, Mental Health Professionals, and Judicial Professionals, visit their web site at www.shiftwellness.net

Online Resources for Keeping Kids Safe on the Internet

Here are some great resources for information about keeping kids safe from online predators:

www.connectsafely.org: contains news, tips and advice, downloadable PDF's, and links to the ConnectSafely podcast, featuring interviews with business and law enforcement leaders about the subject of internet safety

www.netismartz.org: offers videos, tip sheets, internet safety instruction lesson plans, and free multi-media presentations aimed at tweens, teens and younger children.

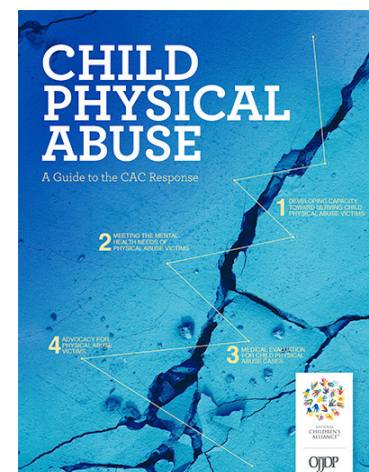
www.icactaskforce.org: has a wealth of information and resources for parents and youth concerning internet safety

www.aliciaproject.org: put together by Internet luring and abduction survivor Alicia Kozakiewicz, this site contains resources, safety tips, and information about laws being enacted throughout the United States to protect children from internet predators

New Resource Looks at Child Physical Abuse

National Children's Alliance presents a guide to the CAC Response to Child Physical Abuse

While CAC's serve many more child sexual abuse victims than physical abuse victims, federal data shows that physical abuse is much more common. As part of their ongoing work to develop tools to improve CAC service delivery to their clients, the National Children's Alliance created a workgroup on the subject of expanding CAC deliver of evidence-based services to victims of physical abuse. This group has created a workbook to help CAC's further understand and work with victims of child physical abuse. Entitled "Child Physical Abuse: A Guide to the CAC Response," the objective of the guide is to increase the number of CAC's that are delivering evidence-based interventions that are designed to meet the specific and unique needs of physical abuse victims. The content of this manual is divided into four sections: Developing capacity to serve CPA victims; Meeting the mental health needs of victims; Covering considerations for medical providers; and The role of the victim advocate. While addressing each specific area of CAC functions, all sections are intended to be ready by all MDT members and CAC leadership. The guide can be found at: <http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/child-physical-abuse-guide>



Preventing Recantation During Child Abuse Investigations



From the introduction: "The investigation of cases of child sexual abuse can be particularly challenging due to the weight of children's disclosures and, in many cases, the lack of evidence to support their statements. Coupled with delayed disclosure, the dynamics of child sexual abuse, and the child's relationship with the alleged perpetrator, who oftentimes is a family member or someone close to the family, children can be reluctant to share details of the abuse during the investigative process. And in some cases, these dynamics may lead a child to subsequently recant their statements of abuse"

This new reference guide takes a look at the various reasons children may recant their testimony, how to help the parent understand the magnitude of the child's testimony, and how to help them help their children during the investigation and trial, as well as what MDT's can do to ensure that the child will be less likely to recant. This guide can be found at: <https://www.childabuseprosecution.apainc.org/monographs>

CAM Had a Very Busy Fall Training Schedule!

CAM had a very busy fall training schedule in 2018! We would first off like to thank everyone at the Montana Board of Crime Control and the MSCART program for their help in sponsoring these events - we couldn't do them without their invaluable help!

A special thank you to VOCA for their assistance in providing 24 out of state and 31 in-state lodging scholarships throughout 2018! Because of them, we were able to help our members go to trainings that they might not have otherwise been able to attend.

Advanced Forensic Interview Training

We started off our fall training sessions in September with Advanced Forensic Interview Training with **Julie Kennison, MSW, LCSW**. Julie is a Program Manager for the National Criminal Justice Training Program of Fox Valley Technical College. We had a large turnout for this training, with over 35 attendees from 16 different counties coming to hear Julie speak.

Advanced TF-CBT Training

Next up was Advanced TF-CBT Training with **Dr. Benjamin Sigel of the University of Arkansas Medical Sciences Department of Psychiatry**. Dr. Sigel presented this training to 29 therapist from throughout the state, coming from six different counties! Dr. Sigel's presentation was aimed to help increase participant's understanding of PSB in children. Dr. Sigel also presented a training session on Problematic Sexual Behaviors in Children that was attended to 28 members of various MDT's from 9 counties.

Child Victim Advocacy and Advanced Child Victim Advocacy Training

Later on in the fall, CAM presented Montana Child Victim Advocacy and Advanced Child Victim Advocacy training in Bozeman. This training was presented by a variety of speakers covering topics such as Preparing a Child for Court, Trauma Informed Advocacy, Cultural Considerations, Crisis Assessment and Intervention Skills, the Role of the Advocate in the Child Forensic Interview and more! This training was attended by 47 people in different disciplines from across the state.

We are looking forward to a busy 2019 training schedule, so watch for more information to come!