

**LAKE COUNTY
CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
PREVENTION PLAN
4/28/2011**

**The 2011 IUN Forum on Child Abuse and Neglect
Prevention Plan Subcommittee**

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Introduction

STATEMENT OF NEED

The Indiana Kids First Trust Fund has partnered with the Indiana Department of Child Services and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana to create a statewide child abuse prevention plan. While still in the development phase, the state collaborators were led by the vision that all of Indiana's children will be healthy and safe, with a mission to promote the wellbeing of Indiana's children by funding initiatives that reduce infant mortality and prevent child abuse and neglect. One of the goals of the state plan is to promote the coordination and the collaboration of child abuse prevention strategies at the local, regional, and state level within public and private sectors. The state planners have identified five pillars that are integral to successful child abuse prevention. Our local plan seeks to organize our objectives around these pillars.

The statewide prevention plan encompasses the following five pillars in preventing child abuse and neglect:

1. Parenting Support
2. Educational Success
3. Economic Stability
4. Early Childhood Development
5. Health Care

Child abuse continues to be a factor in too many of our children's lives. In state fiscal year 2009, there were 2,061 children that were identified as a Child in Need of Services (CHINS) by the Department of Child Services in Lake County. In 2009 alone, 855 children were removed from their homes due to substantiated cases of abuse and neglect. In Lake County, almost 10 out of every 1,000 local children is a victim of abuse and/or neglect. Based on these statistics, it is clear we will have a long way to go in protecting our county's children.

Child abuse and neglect has a profound and lasting effect on our children and impacts not only the child but the quality of our community. Strong communities promote strong and healthy families. When communities create a supportive environment for parents, children are more likely to grow up happy, healthy, and without the pain of abuse.

At the 2010 IUN Forum on Child Abuse and Neglect, James Hmurovich, CEO of Prevent Child Abuse America, argued that most communities aren't making much progress in the fight against child abuse and neglect because they don't have viable plans for preventing it. The planning group for the 2011 Forum decided to accept Mr. Hmurovich's challenge. Members of the planning group representing Geminus Community Partners for Child Safety, Prevent Child Abuse Lake County, Indiana University Northwest, Mental Health America, St. Monica Home, and the Indiana Department of Child Services, have come together to produce a prevention plan for presentation at the 2011 Forum.

It is with this goal in mind that we identify the need of a county-wide prevention plan. By integrating proven child abuse prevention techniques into all aspects of community life, from our schools and hospitals, to our churches and neighborhoods, we can strengthen our collective efforts to support families and keep our children safe. A prevention plan that highlights existing research on child abuse prevention best practices and offers recommendations on how to implement and sustain those practices in our area can be used as a road map for achieving the goal of a community that values and protects its children.

In collaboration with Lake County Department of Child Services, Lake County Superior Court, Juvenile Division, Geminus Community Partners, Indiana University Northwest School of Public and Environmental Affairs, Mental Health America of Lake County, St. Monica's Home, The Kids First Trust Fund, and Prevent Child Abuse Lake County (PCALC), a child abuse and neglect prevention plan has been developed for Lake County.

The purpose of this prevention plan is to create and nurture a community-led intervention featuring strong collaboration among child/family serving agencies to build a stronger infrastructure for children and families in Lake County.

The mission is to develop an integrated system of primary prevention and support for all families. The primary prevention effort is supported by secondary prevention that targets at-risk or over-burdened families and tertiary prevention to prevent the recurrence of abuse. These services are most effectively delivered at the most local level, closest to the family's community.

It is hoped that this prevention plan will contribute to strengthening and supporting families in Lake County. It is the goal of this prevention plan to promote local planning and implement action, engaging the public in understanding child abuse and neglect and what can be done to prevent it. It is an effort to strengthen service providers and develop and enrich the connections between and among them.

MISSION / VISION / VALUES / GUIDING PRINCIPLES

Mission

To serve as a blueprint to provide for the care, safety, and protection of all of Lake County's children in an environment that fosters healthy, emotional, social, and physical well-being.

Vision

Lake County's vision is to keep children safe and families together.

Values

We believe that children should be valued, kept safe and nurtured by their families. All services should be family-centered and community-based with the goal to empower families using a strength-based approach.

Guiding Principles

- The Lake County community is caring and responsive.
- All children and families should have access to child abuse and neglect prevention activities regardless of their income or risk factors.
- Cultural competency should be addressed in all trainings, literature, and services.
- All should work together to strengthen children, families, and service providers to help prevent child abuse and neglect.
- Neighborhoods should be safe, stable and supportive.

PURPOSE / GOALS / INITIAL OBJECTIVES

Purpose

The purpose of the plan is to incorporate prevention activities into every child/family serving agenda in Lake County. Overall, the shared vision amongst organizations will integrate prevention efforts into a long-term strategy that will promote healthier child development and stronger families, thereby reducing the risk and incidence of child maltreatment.

Goals

1. Identify strengths of current programming and identify areas of needs to help in developing local planning.
2. Establish an infrastructure and culture that integrates child abuse and neglect prevention into ongoing activities of Lake County child/family serving agencies.
3. Bring recommendations to local funding sources.
4. Engage the community in sharing responsibility with the public sector for promoting healthy child development and strong families.

Initial Objectives

- Engage the community and promote ongoing support for the shared vision.
- Build capacity for evidenced based and promising child abuse and neglect prevention programs.
- Measure the impact of the Prevention Plan on the reduction of child abuse and neglect in Lake County.
- Educate community on child abuse and neglect on prevention and prevention activities.
- To have every individual, organization and employer recognize they have a role to play in its success. We want every stakeholder to understand the plan and determine what part they can and will play.
- Create a three year action plan for countywide child abuse and neglect prevention and support.
- Further develop Lake County's efforts to prevent child abuse and neglect before it occurs, decreasing the number of children needing Child Protective Services, and eliminating child fatalities.
- Provide parents and child servicing providers with the means to locate prevention programs and other relevant services.
- Ensure that current and future public and private services are used in a most effective and cost efficient manner to provide a continuum of prevention services in Lake County.

Child Abuse and Neglect

DEFINITION OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

- Any recent act or failure to act on the parent or caretaker which results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse or exploitation; or
- An act or failure to act which presents an imminent risk of serious harm.
- Child abuse includes physical, neglect, sexual abuse, and emotional abuse of a child under 18 years of age by a parent or other caretaker.

Definitions in Federal Law

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides minimum standards for defining physical child abuse, child neglect, and sexual abuse that States must incorporate in their statutory definitions to receive Federal funds. Under CAPTA, child abuse and neglect means:

- Any recent act or failure to act on the part of a parent or caretaker that results in death, serious physical or emotional harm, sexual abuse, or exploitation;
- An act or failure to act that presents an imminent risk of serious harm.

The definition of child abuse and neglect refers specifically to parents and other caregivers. A “child” under this definition generally means a person who is under the age of 18 or who is not an emancipated minor. In cases of child sexual abuse, a “child” is one who has not attained the age of 18 or the age specified by the child protection law of the State in which the child resides, whichever is younger.

CAPTA Definition of Sexual Abuse

CAPTA defines “sexual abuse” as:

“[T]he employment, use, persuasion, inducement, enticement, or coercion of any child to engage in, or assist any other person to engage in, any sexually explicit conduct or simulation of such conduct for the purpose of producing a visual depiction of such conduct;”

“[T]he rape, and in cases of caretaker or inter-familial relationships, statutory rape, molestation, prostitution, or other form of sexual exploitation of children, or incest with children.”

FORMS OF CHILD ABUSE

Physical Abuse: The infliction of physical injury by various methods, even if the perpetrator doesn't intend harm. Physical abuse is a non-accidental injury to a child by a parent or caretaker. You may see frequent and unexplained bruises, burns, cuts or injuries; the child may be overly afraid of the parent's reaction to misbehavior.

Child Neglect: Failure to provide for a child's basic needs (physical, emotional, educational, medical).

Neglect includes both isolated incidents, as well as a pattern of failure over time on the part of a parent or other family member to provide for the development and well being of the child – where the parent is in a position to do so – in one or more of the following areas:

- health
- education
- emotional development
- nutrition
- shelter and safe living conditions

The parents of neglected children are not necessarily poor. They may equally be financially well off.

Physical neglect: A parent's failure to give the child food, clothing, hygiene, medical care, or supervision. You may see a very young child routinely left alone at home. You may know what a severe illness or injury is not being medically treated. A neighbor's child may frequently turn up at your door – inadequately dressed for the weather – saying his or her parent told him or her to stay away. Physical neglect can be hard to determine; sometimes what you see is simply poor judgment, but not neglect; sometimes what you see is the result of poverty, and not parental neglect.

Sexual Abuse: Involvement of a child in any kind of sexual act, including prostitution or pornography. Sexual abuse ranges from non-touching offenses, such as exhibitionism, to fondling, intercourse, or using the child for pornographic materials. You may see sexual behavior far beyond what is expected for the child's age; a young child might have sudden, unusual difficulty with toilet habits; there may be pain, itching, bruises or bleeding in the genital area.

Emotional Abuse: An act or omission that has caused or could cause serious behavior, cognitive, emotional or mental disorders. Emotional abuse includes severe rejection, humiliation and actions intended to produce fear or extreme guilt in a child. You may see a parent who verbally terrorizes the child, who continually and severely criticizes the child, or who fails to express any affection or nurturing.

RISK FACTORS FOR CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Child maltreatment occurs across socio-economic, religious, cultural, racial, and ethnic groups. While there is no singular, definitive cause of child maltreatment, research suggests a number of risk factors that are associated with child abuse and neglect. It is important to understand that while a family may possess a variety of these risk factors that does not mean that the parents will engage in abusive and or neglectful parenting practices. The presence of these risk factors simply makes it more likely that abuse and/or neglect will occur. The following is a summary of the research-based risk factors for child abuse and neglect:

Parent/Caregiver Factors

Personality Characteristics and Psychological Well-Being -- The following characteristics and traits have been frequently identified with parents/caregivers who perpetrate child maltreatment:

- Low self-esteem
- External locus of control (belief that events are determined by outside forces, beyond one's personal control)
- Poor impulse control
- Depression
- Anxiety
- Anti-social behavior
- Stress and distress

Parental Histories in the Cycle of Abuse -- A parent/caregiver's childhood history plays an important role in the way a person parents. As in many cases, we do what we know. Parents/caregivers whom did not have their own needs met as may have difficulty meeting the needs of their own children. Parents with a history of child abuse in their family of origin are at a greater risk to repeat these patterns.

Substance Abuse -- The research consistently supports the link between substance abuse and child maltreatment. Substance abuse can interfere with a parent's overall functioning, judgment, inhibitions, and protective capacity. A parent who is dealing with the effects of substance abuse is at greater risk to neglect their children as they may spend money on drugs instead of household expenses. Becoming involved in criminal activities can put their children's health and safety in jeopardy. Substance abuse negatively impacts a parent's discipline decisions and parenting style.

Attitudes and Knowledge -- A lack of understanding or unrealistic expectations of the child's development can lead to abuse and neglect. Studies have shown that mothers who abuse their children have more negative and higher than normal expectations of their children. A parent, who expects a child to be potty trained by the age of one, may lash out in anger and frustration when the child is incapable of meeting parental expectations. Parents with abusive risk factors may also have thoughts and emotions supporting maltreatment behaviors, which devalue the child or view them as property.

Age -- Some studies show a link between child abuse and younger maternal age at the time of the child's birth. However, this increased risk factor may also be attributed to low economic status, lack of social supports, and high stress levels associated with teen parenting.

Family Factors

Family Structure -- Single parenting is associated with a higher risk of abuse and neglect. The research suggests what common sense already tells us; single parents experience significant stress as they are burdened with the sole responsibility of caring for the family. Also, single-parent families are more likely to live in poverty, further increasing family stressors.

Families with larger numbers of children are at greater risk of child neglect, as managing the needs of large families becomes more difficult. Also, children who are raised in environments with multiple and changing adult and child components (a mother and child who go from living with parents, friends, relatives, etc.) are at greatest risk for maltreatment.

Stress -- Family stress can have a detrimental impact on family functioning. The research shows that abusive and /or neglectful parents/caregivers report more day-to-day stress than other families. Other major life events such the loss of a job, marital or relationship problems, and the death of a loved one can further increase a family's stress levels and impact their parenting practices. Parents under overwhelming stress may be more quick-tempered and experience symptoms of depression, anxiety, and hostility.

Parent-Child Interaction -- We know that a strong bond between the caregiver and his or her child is a protective factor in the fight against abuse. Families involved with abuse and neglect tend to be less supportive, affectionate, playful, and encouraging than other families. They are more likely to react harshly to their child's behavior and favor physical punishment over more positive techniques such as time outs and rewarding positive behavior.

Child Factors

Age -- While the relationship between age and abuse and neglect is not always clear, certain trends emerge. It is well accepted that small children, from birth to age 3 are at the greatest risk for abuse/neglect as they need constant care. Their small size, lack of communicative abilities, and early developmental stage makes them particularly vulnerable to the effects of maltreatment. Specific forms of abuse such as shaken infant syndrome, failure to thrive, and neglect are more common in young children. Abuse rates tend to decrease as children get older, while sexual abuse is highest amongst teenagers.

Disabilities -- Children with special needs or chronic medical challenges are more likely to be abused or neglected. We all know how challenging it can be to care for a healthy newborn. A child with medical issues or disabilities can be even more demanding to care for and parents can become overwhelmed. Also, long periods of separation due to hospitalization, coupled with a sometimes unresponsive child can interfere in the attachment process.

Other Child Factors -- Children with difficult temperaments and other challenging personality traits (attention

deficit, colic, behavioral problems) are associated with higher incidences of abuse and neglect. These attributes can be even more problematic for parents/caregivers who may have poor coping skills and lack of impulse control. These same characteristics may be exacerbated by abuse.

Environmental Factors

Poverty and Unemployment -- Poverty and unemployment are strongly associated with increased risk for child maltreatment, specifically child neglect. While it is important to understand that most poor families do not abuse their children, the stressors that accompany living in poverty place children at a higher risk. There are several theories that may help explain the link between poverty and abuse. One theory suggests some poor families may simply be unable to meet the needs of their children while raising them in high risk neighborhoods, over-crowded or unsafe housing with a lack of quality daycare, however well-intentioned they may be. Another theory suggests that other parental characteristics can lead to poverty and abuse. For example, a mother who is abusing drugs may be unable to hold down steady employment, which in turn keeps the family impoverished. Finally, families living in poverty have more contact with professionals who are trained to identify and report abuse and neglect so they may be reported at a higher rate than families who are better off financially.

Social Isolation and Social Support -- We've all heard that it takes a village to raise a child. Parents who abuse or neglect their children report more loneliness, greater isolation, and less support than other parents. This lack of support from family, friends, and the community at large can be detrimental to the parent and the child. Isolated families are also under less pressure than more connected families to conform to more accepted societal standards of parenting.

Violent Communities -- Children living in communities that are characterized as dangerous are at a higher risk for abuse and neglect. While some of this can be attributed to the poverty often associated with these neighborhoods, a culture of violence creates problems as well. It is widely recognized that people who witness violence in their everyday lives can become more desensitized to it. Concerns remain that violence may be viewed as an acceptable response to children in parents who witness violence more frequently.

Data on Factors Contributing to the Problem of Child Maltreatment -- Indiana

Economic Well-Being	Base Year (2005)	Current Year (2008)
% of Children in Poverty, Age 0-17 (CY)	25.9	24.7
% of Students Receiving free Lunches (SY)	38.1	40.5
% of Students Receiving Reduced Price Lunches (SY)	6.1	6.5
Monthly Average # of Persons Issued Food Stamps (SFY)	71,866	73,446
Monthly Average # of Families Receiving TANF (SFY)	9,767	8,742
Per Capita Income (CY)	\$29,449	\$31,833
Annual Average Unemployment Rate (CY)	6.1	6.2
Health	Base Year 2005	Current Year 2006
# of Live Births (CY)	6,872	6,937
% of Low Birthweight Babies (CY)	9.8	10.1
% of Mothers Who Received 1 st Trimester Prenatal Care (CY)	78.1	78.4
% of Mothers Who Reported Smoking During Pregnancy (CY)	13.2	12.2
Teen Birth Rate per 1,000 Females, Age 15-17 (CY)	22.7	22.5
# of Babies Born to Single Mothers Under 20 w/o HS Diploma (CY)	437	443
Non-Marital Births as a % of All Births (CY)	51.7	52.2
# Children Enrolled in Hoosier Healthwise (SFY)	43,462	60,174
# Infant Deaths, Under Age 1 (CY)	74	70
# of Child Deaths, Age 1-14 (CY)	32	24
# Teen Deaths by Accident, Homicide, Suicide, Age 15-19 (CY)	17	20
Early Childhood Education	Base Year 2005	Current Year 2008
# Children served by First Steps (SFY)	1,170	1,028
# of Head Start Participants (SFY)	1,515	1,171
# of Licensed Child Care Centers (SFY)	44	47
# of Licensed Child Care Homes (SFY)	236	248
# of Registered Child Care Ministries (SFY)	47	45
# of Licensed Child Care Slots per 100 Children, Age 1-4 (SFY)	20.8	21.7
# of Children Receiving Child Care Vouchers (FFY)	7,716	6,880
Monthly Avg # of Children on Wait List for Child Care Vouchers (SFY)	790	245

[CY – Calendar Year: Jan 1 – Dec 31 SFY – State Fiscal Year: July 1 – June 30]

PROTECTIVE FACTORS

We have defined the risk factors for abuse and neglect, explored the data and identified the consequences of child maltreatment. With this sobering information, it is important to recognize that there are actions that a community can take to mitigate the risk of abuse and neglect for children and families.

Researchers, practitioners and policy makers are increasingly thinking about attributes within children and families that can reduce risk, build family capacity, and foster resilience. The Center for the Study of Social Policy has identified five factors that appear to reduce the incidence of child maltreatment.

Parental Resilience

Resilience is generally defined as the ability to recover from adverse circumstances. Within the abuse/neglect prevention framework, it is the ability to deal with both crisis situations and the daily challenges of family life. A parent's ability to cope with these demands is related to his/her own developmental history and personal psychological resources. Resiliency literature suggests that the most important preventive factor is development of self-empathy and empathy for others through safe, caring relationships.

Social Connections

Supportive and emotionally satisfying relationships with a network of relatives or friends help to minimize the risk of child maltreatment, especially during stressful life events. Building a family's social connections reduces isolation and improves their ability to access informal resources, giving parents opportunities to engage with others in a positive manner and to share relationships with other caregivers. Research suggests social connections that help parents cope effectively are positive, trusting, reciprocal, and flexible and embody pro-social, child-friendly values.

Knowledge of Parenting and Child Development

Child abuse/neglect, especially physical abuse is often correlated with a lack of understanding of basic child development. Common events that can be potential triggers for episodes of abuse include colic, night waking, separation anxiety, exploratory behavior, negativism, poor appetite, and/or resistance to toilet training.

Concrete Support in Times of Need

Families in crisis need emergency access to a range of formal services and supports to help meet their basic needs. Compared to other protective factors, little research exists on the effectiveness of concrete supports as a mechanism for preventing abuse/neglect. But research does suggest that helping families to access critical material resources and/or behavioral health services is a particularly promising intervention strategy.

Child Social and Emotional Development

Social development entails learning appropriate skills to interact with others while emotional development involves learning to identify and manage one's own feelings and to empathize with others. By addressing behavioral problems, which often correlate with negative parent-child interactions, support for child social and emotional development can be a preventive factor. Specific child characteristics that tend to decrease the

likelihood of abuse/neglect include good health, above-average intelligence, easy temperament, positive disposition, active coping style, and positive self-esteem.

THE CONSEQUENCES OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

Some children recover from maltreatment without serious consequences while other victims who survive into adulthood experience effects that last a lifetime.

Economic, Physical and Social Consequences of Child Abuse and Neglect

Impaired Brain Development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Important regions of the brain may fail to form properly and may result in impaired physical, mental, and emotional development. • Chronic abuse can cause a “hyper arousal” response by certain areas of the brain. Results: hyperactivity, increased vulnerability to attention deficit disorder, learning disabilities and memory difficulties. • Survivors of “shaken baby syndrome” may experience mental retardation, cerebral palsy, or paralysis.
Poor Physical Health	<p>Victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are more likely to be smaller and lighter weight than non-maltreated children with long-term health problems. • May experience physical or sexual injuries, sexually transmitted diseases, HIV/AIDS. • Develop stress-related symptoms such as gastrointestinal problems, migraine headaches, difficulty breathing, hypertension, aches, pains, and rashes which defy diagnosis and/or treatment.
Social Problems	<p>Survivors:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Often cannot trust or form secure attachments to others. • May develop Reactive Attachment Disorder, a complex psychiatric illness characterized by a lack of empathy for others or remorse for wrongdoings, manipulative or aggressive behaviors, destructiveness, or cruelty to animals.
Poor Mental and Emotional Health	<p>Of young adults who had been abused:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Up to 80% have at least one psychiatric disorder at age 21. • Many exhibit depression, anxiety, eating disorders, panic disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, and suicide attempts.
Risky Behavioral Patterns	<p>Adolescent victims:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Are at least 25% more likely to experience delinquency, teen pregnancy, be a runaway, or use alcohol or drugs.
Adult Criminality	<p>Victims of abuse demonstrate a:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 28% increased likelihood of adult criminal behavior. • 30% increased likelihood of violent crime.
Abusive Behavior	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Abusive parents often have experienced abuse during their own childhoods. • Approximately one-third of abused and neglected children will eventually victimize their own children.
Social Costs	<p>Child welfare system costs \$24 billion annually to maintain.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reflect the long-term consequences of child abuse and neglect. • Include special education services, juvenile and adult criminal activity costs, mental illness, substance abuse, health care, domestic violence, and underemployment.

MALTREATMENT BY THE NUMBERS

State of Indiana Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect

Statewide there were 110,431 reports of child abuse and neglect in 2009. Of those 110,431, reports 14,931 children were found to be in need of services, with the majority of the children being victims of neglect.

In 2009, about 15.6 out of 1,000 children were found to be victims of child abuse and neglect statewide.

Reports

Reports Taken	110,431
Screened Out	15,230
Assessments Assigned	71,976
Total CHINS	14,931
Total Removals	10,519

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse CHINS	1,212
Sexual Abuse CHINS	376
Neglect CHINS	9,008

Lake County Reports of Child Abuse and Neglect

In 2009, there were 7,074 reports for child abuse and neglect in Lake County. Of the 7,074 reports, 2,061 were found to be children in need of services, with the majority of children being victims of neglect.

In 2009, 9.75 out of 1,000 children were victims of child abuse and neglect in Lake County.

Reports

Reports Taken	7,074
Screened Out	607
Assessments Assigned	4,756
Total CHINS	2,061
Total Removals	855

Types of Abuse

Physical Abuse CHINS	187
Sexual Abuse CHINS	25
Neglect CHINS	682

Lake County – Substantiated Reports and Other Data

Child abuse/neglect rate per 1,000 children engaged	6.4%
# Child neglect cases substantiated by DCS	617
# Child sexual abuse cases substantiated by DCS	75
# Child physical abuse cases substantiated by DCS	124
# Child served in Emergency Domestic Violence Shelters	361
# Termination of parental rights cases filed	466
# Children adopted	128
# Juvenile delinquency case filings	2110
# Juvenile status case filings	370
# Juvenile committed to DOC	79

CHILD FATALITIES

National Data

The National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS) reported an estimated 1,740 child fatalities in 2008. NCANDS DEFINES "child fatality" is the death of a child caused by an injury resulting from abuse or neglect, or where abuse or neglect was a contributing factor. Child Fatality Teams have been legislated across the United States over the past 10 years in efforts to address the concerns regarding the uncertain circumstances surrounding child fatalities as a result of child abuse and neglect. Every year the state of Indiana through the Department of Child Services (DCS), reviews cases where there are allegations that child fatalities occurred because of abuse and or neglect. If the circumstances surrounding the child's death appear to be sudden, unexpected, or unexplained, DCS will assess these deaths to ensure abuse or neglect has not occurred and will identify the ones in which it has.

State Data

The DCS Annual Child Fatality Report Executive Summary indicates that there were 36 abuse and neglect fatalities substantiated in State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007. Of the 36 fatalities, 17 were due to abuse and 19 were due to neglect. Physical abuse resulting in asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation and skull fracture was the primary causes of death. The second leading cause of abuse deaths was brain damage from shaken baby syndrome, accounting for 4 of the deaths. The 3 remaining abuse fatalities resulted from gunshot wound (1), poisoning (1), and bone fracture/brain damage (1). Positional asphyxiation was the primary cause of deaths due to neglect, accounting for 5 of the 19 neglect fatalities. House fires, medical neglect and lack of supervision rank as the second leading cause of neglect deaths each accounting for 3 fatalities. The 5 remaining neglect fatalities were 2 poisoning (1 alcohol and 1 methadone), 1 vehicular, 1 drug exposed infant and 1 gunshot wound.

When addressing the issue of child maltreatment, and especially child fatalities, prevention is a recurring theme. Well-designed, properly organized child fatality review teams appear to offer hope for defining the underlying nature and scope of fatalities due to child abuse and neglect. The child fatality review process helps identify risk factors that may assist prevention professionals, such as those engaged in home visiting and parenting education, to prevent future deaths. In addition, teams are demonstrating effectiveness in translating review findings into action by partnering with child welfare and other child health and safety groups. In some States, review team annual reports have led to State Legislation, policy changes or prevention programs.

The following information was gathered from the Child Abuse and Neglect Annual Report of Child Fatalities for State Fiscal Year (SFY) 2007. The report was published in March 2008 and is accessible on the Indiana Department of Child Services website.

- As noted above, there were 36 abuse and neglect fatalities substantiated in SFY 2007.
 - 17 (47.2%) were due to abuse
 - 19 (52.8%) were due to neglect

- Lake County experienced 2 of the fatalities as a result of abuse and 4 fatalities as a result of neglect for a total of 6 child fatalities in SFY 2007.
- Risk Factors involved in child fatalities include:
 - Behavioral 15
 - Drug/Alcohol 14
 - Medical 3
 - Environmental 3
 - Social 1
- Risk Factors Identified in Community Prior to Death
 - Yes 23
 - No 13
- Nine of the total 36 fatalities occurred in families with at least one prior child protective services substantiated investigation (ie. In cases known to the state).
- This includes 4 of 17 abuse households and 5 of 19 neglect households. The prior substantiation may have involved the child fatality and/or another child in the household.
- Overall, the highest causes of all substantiated fatalities were asphyxiation/suffocation/strangulation, positional asphyxiation and skull fractures.
- Increase in the primary causes of death included house fires, poisonings and an asphyxiation/suffocation /strangulation.
- There were no changes in the primary causes of child death occurring as a result of medical neglect, positional asphyxiation and drug related conditions of the child in both SFY 2007 and SFY 2006.
- Three of the 5 shaken baby deaths involved a male perpetrator who was the child's parent. Two of the perpetrators were unemployed. One of the 2 gun-related deaths involved parents experiencing marital problems. The gun-related deaths included 1 homicide and 1 accident involving an unsecured gun.

Deaths by abuse included:

- Four children ages 8, 6, 4, and 2 were found dead due to homicidal asphyxia at the hands of their mother with a history of mental illness.
- 17 month old physically abused by the mother's boyfriend died as a result of blunt force trauma to the head.
- Newborn baby found in a home wrapped in a towel cause of death positional asphyxia
Mother and child tested positive for methamphetamine.
- 3 month old who died of Shaken Baby Syndrome at the hands of his father

- 2 year old death due to blunt force trauma at hands of his mother's boyfriend
- 15 year old shot and killed by step-father; step-father committed suicide
- 18 month old poisoned by its mother with methadone
- 6 week old child died of shaken baby syndrome
- 7 week old died from blunt force injuries to the head and ribs
- 8 year old child taken on plane ride; father crashed plane into a known home; parents were having domestic issues related to separation and divorce
- 18 month old died of shaken baby syndrome
- 4 year old beaten by mother's boyfriend
- 11 month old died from Shaken Baby Syndrome at the hands of mother's boyfriend

The Indiana Department of Child Services' policy indicates that they will assess all child fatalities and near fatalities for which there is reason to believe that Child abuse and/or Neglect may be a factor. If the circumstances surrounding the child's death or near fatality appear to be sudden, unexpected, and or unexplained, DCS will assess these occurrences to determine whether or not the death or near fatality was related to child abuse and/or neglect.

Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention

DEFINITIONS OF PREVENTION TYPES

Prevention is defined as the implementation of activities that stops an action or behavior or promotes a positive action or behavior. In the past, child abuse prevention efforts have been reactive rather than proactive, focusing on preventing repeat maltreatment. Research shows that successful child abuse prevention intervention should work to reduce risk factors and promote protective factors. In order for prevention efforts to be effective, they must take place before the problem of abuse and neglect ever occurs.

Prevention efforts on behalf of our children typically take place before the problem of abuse or neglect ever occurs. In order to break the cycle of abuse, communities must develop and implement proven strategies that work to reduce the incidence of abuse and neglect by addressing risk factors. The research recognizes the following forms of child abuse prevention:

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention efforts are universally directed, meaning they are intended to reach the public as a whole. These methods include public awareness campaigns, such as billboards for prevention, public service announcements, etc. Other primary prevention strategies include supportive programs that are available for all parents such as, parenting classes, pediatric care and child care, etc.

Secondary Prevention

Secondary prevention efforts are focused on families and children who possess risk factors that make it more likely that abuse and/or neglect will occur. Risk factors such as living in poverty, young maternal age, social isolation and substance abuse are associated with abuse. Directing prevention resources towards overburdened families assists the families who need it the most. Secondary prevention methods include home visiting programs for at-risk families, parent education in the school setting for teen moms, family resource centers in low-income neighborhoods and substance abuse treatment for parents, etc.

Tertiary Prevention

Tertiary prevention efforts focus on families where abuse has already occurred, with the goal of preventing the recurrence of abuse and mitigating the negative consequences of maltreatment on the children. Tertiary prevention methods include ongoing family preservation services with trained mental health counselors, parent mentoring to support families in crisis, mental health services for children and families to improve family functioning and case management services to help families meet their basic needs, etc.

WHY PREVENTION MATTERS

Prevention saves lives and resources

Child abuse prevention works! The research supports the investment in child abuse prevention not only as a means to protect children but as a means to strengthen our community. Parent resource centers in the school setting have led to higher educational attainment and reduced incidences of child maltreatment. Home visiting programs such as Healthy Families and Parents as Teachers have proven to increase children's school readiness, reduce the incidences of child abuse and neglect, and increase positive parenting practices amongst participants. Parent education programs such as Nurturing Parenting and Systematic Training for Effective Parenting have shown to positively impact parents developmental expectations of their children, their ability to empathize with their children's needs, and their use of positive parenting techniques.

Research indicates that the impact of child maltreatment is associated with adverse physical health and mental health outcomes in children and families, and those negative effects can last a lifetime. The impact of child abuse and neglect has an impact on various systems in our communities – individuals, neighborhoods, education, law enforcement, faith-based organizations, healthcare, business and social services/family serving agencies. Childhood maltreatment is associated with chronic health problems, delinquency, criminal activity, substance abuse, and lower educational success. In addition to the personal costs for the victims of abuse, the monetary costs of dealing with the consequences of abuse and neglect reach an estimated 94 billion dollars per year. This staggering amount reinforces the needs for child abuse prevention as a means to ensure our future as a flourishing and stable community.

BEST PRACTICES

Many approaches have been developed to attempt to prevent child abuse and neglect and seek to prevent risk factors from developing. They may also seek to put protective factors in place for children and families, or strengthen protective factors that are already present in children's lives. Some strategies include universal approaches (primary prevention) meant to reach all corners of society while others are individual approaches that target at-risk groups (secondary prevention) or families where abuse has previously occurred (tertiary prevention). The following best practices are:

- Public awareness and education
- Skilled based curriculum or life skills training for children and youth
- Parent education programs
- Home visitation programs
- Family support services including respite or crisis care.

Public Awareness Activities

With the broadest reach, public awareness campaigns are one of the most common approaches to preventing child abuse and neglect. Through various methods, including public service announcements, information kits and brochures, and TV/other media content, sponsors of public awareness campaigns, can reach a broader audience to promote healthy parenting practices and inform the public about what can and should be done when maltreatment is suspected.

Skill-based Curricula

Skill-based curricula for children and youth can be provided universally or can be targeted for at risk children and parents. Skill-based curricula for children seek to teach children skills they can use to keep themselves safe, such as being able to distinguish if they have been touched appropriately or inappropriately and what they should do if they experience the latter. The Good Touch Bad Touch is one example of a skilled-based curriculum for children with the goal of preventing sexual, emotional, and physical abuse of children.

Parent Education Programs

Parent education programs provide skills and techniques to improve interaction and foster attachment, while reducing risk factors for abuse and neglect. These programs seek to help parents develop appropriate discipline techniques and to gain knowledge and understanding about age appropriate behavior and expected developmental milestones. Most programs help parents identify and access community resources. Local examples include Nurturing Parents and Systematic Training for Effective Parenting.

Home Visitation Programs

Home visitation programs are typically provided to pregnant women and families with new or young children. Through home visits and other personal contact, home visitation programs provide information about child development, positive parenting practices, and establishing social supports. Families are assessed for strengths and needs and linked with community resources. Local examples include Healthy Families, Early Head Start and Community Partners for Child Safety.

Family Support Services

Common approaches to prevent child maltreatment is respite and crisis care. Respite and crisis care services provide short term urgent services to families in crisis due to family illness or other emergency, or when a caregiver overwhelmed with stress needs a temporary place where the child can be cared for.

Community Partners provides immediate assistance to parents in time of stress. The crisis care program is available on a 24 hour basis and includes: telephone hot line, crisis counseling and contact with a counselor for immediate assistance.

Respite care is often provided in the context of family resource centers. Family resource centers can provide a wide range of formal and informal services to families in need, such as parent skill training, job training, substance abuse prevention, mental health or family counseling, and financial support services (e.g. meeting basic needs, housing, etc.). The services offered are tailored to the needs of the families it serves and the surrounding community. In Lake County, there is very limited availability for these services.

The Lake County Child Abuse Prevention Plan recognizes that the causes of child maltreatment are multifaceted. As parent, child, family, community, and sociopolitical risk factors accumulate, a context develops where abuse and neglect are more likely to occur. Strategies to prevent child maltreatment, therefore, will fall short unless they address a number of critical domains.

Borrowing from Indiana's statewide prevention plan, Lake County's prevention plan is buttressed by five pillars of success: parenting support, economic stability, accessible health care, community education, and availability of child care.

Parenting Support

This pillar includes efforts to strengthen ***parenting skills*** with the help from social and community support networks as well as offering parent education curricula that promotes attachment, healthy child development, and non-coercive/non-aggressive parenting techniques.

Economic Stability

Because poverty is one of the most prevalent risk factors for child maltreatment, programs and policies that promote ***economic stability*** for families will go a long way toward alleviating one of the primary risk factors for child maltreatment.

Access to Primary and Preventative Healthcare

Access to primary and preventative ***healthcare*** is a critical prerequisite for healthy family functioning. Sick and disabled children face a higher risk of being abused and/or neglected. Addressing healthcare needs is a necessary piece in any child maltreatment prevention plan.

Community Education

Community Education responds to the adage "It takes a village to raise a child". Efforts to eliminate child abuse and neglect will fail if their scope is simply limited to vulnerable families. Educating community members about child maltreatment and their responsibility to prevent it is a necessary strategy in Lake County's Prevention Plan. Educating the community in both prevention

High Quality Child Care

Finally, availability of affordable, accessible, flexible, quality ***child care*** is a vital element in any plan that seeks to support families and reduce risk for child abuse and neglect. Quality childcare promotes healthy child development through developmentally appropriate interaction with the child and includes parents input and support. It affords the parents ability to be employed while their child grows and develops in a healthy environment. A well adjusted child living in a financially stable home is less likely to be the victim of abuse or neglect.

The Lake County Plan

THE LAKE COUNTY PLAN -- AN INTEGRATED APPROACH

Building on the five pillars of success listed in the previous section, the Lake County Prevention Plan will involve an integrated community approach to the prevention of child abuse. The plan has identified four goals that need to be accomplished so that an integrated approach can be realized.

- Goal 1 – Identifies the strengths and needs of current programming available in Lake County.
- Goal 2 – Introduces the establishment of an infrastructure and strategies to promote the culture that integrates abuse and neglect prevention into ongoing activities of Lake County child serving agencies.
- Goal 3 – Identifies funding strategies.
- Goal 4 – Encourages engaging of the community in sharing responsibility and the public sector for promoting healthy child development and strong families.

GOAL 1 -- Identify strengths of current programming and identify areas of needs to help in developing local planning.

Strengths

Lake County's current child abuse and neglect prevention programming strengths are:

1. Many services are culturally and linguistically competent
2. Many services are either home-based or center-based
3. Many services are supportive of parents
4. Many services are Individualized and family-centered
5. Services are available to all children and families in need.
6. Services are available to families with special needs:
 - Single parenting
 - Teen parenting
 - Substance abuse
 - Domestic violence
 - At risk school age children
 - Children with special needs
7. Many services are developmentally appropriate.
8. Child Abuse trainings are conducted in a variety of community settings:
 - Schools
 - Child care centers
 - Neighborhood centers
 - Agencies
 - Social service agencies

- Recreational centers
- Health care facilities

9. Our programs for parents have focused on:

- Stress relief/stress management
- Financial counseling/budgeting
- Crisis intervention, counseling
- Linkage with other community resources
- Housing
- Parenting
- Parent support groups
- Domestic violence
- Shaken baby syndrome

10. Our programs for children have focused on:

- Sex education
- Substance abuse education
- Life skills training
- Self esteem, character development

Areas of Need

Lake County's current areas of need in child abuse and neglect prevention are:

1. Transportation
2. Job training
3. Respite care
4. Affordable day care
5. Housing
6. Services to parenting teens
7. Programs which promote financial self sufficiency
8. Cultural shift in acceptable of parent support services

GOAL 2 -- Establish an infrastructure and culture that integrates child abuse and neglect prevention into ongoing practices and activities.

The Planning Team has identified seven areas on which to focus its efforts to establish the infrastructure for Lake County child abuse prevention:

1. Education / Schools
2. Health Care Organizations
3. Faith-Based Organizations
4. Businesses
5. Social Service Organizations/Child Care Organizations
6. Law Enforcement Agencies
7. Emergency Medical Providers

Recommended activities for all of these areas are listed on the following pages.

EDUCATION / SCHOOLS

Research indicates that a child that experiences child abuse and or neglect is at risk of poor educational success. Early childhood education has proven effective in the detection of learning difficulties and prevention of their long term effects including the promotion of a child's healthy development. The benefit of an early childhood program is the potential for prevention and long term cost effectiveness. Studies indicate that a child's participation in early intervention improve their school readiness, health status, academic achievement, with a reduced need for grade retention and special education services. Emerging evidence suggests that early intervention programs may also lead to reduced delinquency and higher educational attainment.

Children and adolescents spend a large portion of their time in school, which gives educators more access to students than most other community organizations that serve children. Educators can play a vital role in identifying, reporting and preventing child abuse. While educators facilitate the learning process, children cannot learn effectively if their attention or energy is sapped by the conflicts inherent in child abuse and neglect. School personnel have a unique opportunity to advocate for their students as well as provide programs and services that can help children and strengthen families. Some examples of activities that can be facilitated within an educational setting are listed below.

Educational Activities

- Utilize child abuse prevention materials and send home with children
- Create child abuse prevention bulletin boards in the school
- Design and create blue ribbons for awareness
- Designate blue ribbon days to raise awareness
- Sponsor a teddy bear drive for your local police department or children's advocacy center for children in crisis
- Distribute child abuse prevention information in homework folders or report cards
- Engage parents and teachers as partners in abuse prevention
- Collaborate with community partners to offer programs designed to improve parenting, family communication, and children's self-image
- Link families who may be struggling to supportive service in their community
- Provide programs to train students in body safety
- Train teachers on risk factors for abuse and neglect, the signs and symptoms of abuse, and how to report suspected abuse.

HEALTH CARE

Research indicates that maintaining good health and practicing preventive measures to promote wellness are keys to living a healthy life. Unfortunately there are numerous barriers to accessing primary and specialty health care that include; cost, age, gender, illness, mental health, and availability of medical providers to those that have little or no medical coverage. Children with state funded health insurance often have limited choices of health care providers. Providers who accept government sponsored insurance programs traditionally do not receive full reimbursement for the services they render.

A parent's ability to access affordable comprehensive healthcare proactively and/or reactively is essential for the healthy development and well-being of a child and ultimately for the good of society. We know that good health is a protective factor for abuse. In addition, in the early years, health care providers have more intensive contact with children and families, which provides the opportunity to identify abuse and neglect risk factors before abuse has occurred. Below is a list of activities that healthcare organizations can get involved in for the prevention of child abuse.

Healthcare Organization Activities

- Increase the availability of low cost or sliding fee scale health care.
- Support access to medical care, including dental, and mental health services, for those least able to afford it.
- Provide targeted programs that address the health needs of special populations.
- Embed the message for health and wellness care, physical activity, nutrition and positive life choices in all health care activities and strategies.
- Promote public education and awareness of health and wellness through health fairs in the community.
- Provide information in multiple languages and in culturally appropriate formats.
- Incorporate child abuse prevention as one of the topics for your health care organizations speaker's bureau.
- Train health care providers on the risk factors associated with abuse and neglect

FAITH-BASED ORGANIZATIONS

Lake County has a vast array of Faith Based Organizations that partner with government entities and other funding sources to deliver services to Families and Children. Faith Based Organizations have a long history of providing services such as child care, mentoring, character development and tutoring to children. It is only fitting that their activities are recognized as part of the Child Abuse Prevention effort. Following is a list of activities that Faith Based Organizations can engage in to continue with efforts to Prevent Child Abuse.

Faith-Based Organization Activities

- Respite care to congregation and community members in need of short term relief from caregiving and foster care responsibilities.
- Establish a mentoring program to work one-on-one with our children and families to offer positive role models
- Provide information on child development, parental stress, and community resources for parents.
- Share information on how to report child abuse and neglect and other prevention hotlines in bulletins and newsletter.
- Sponsor on site after school programs and provide safety trainings for children-such as “good touch bad touch”.
- Train religious and lay leaders to recognize and report the signs and symptoms of child abuse and neglect along with the ability to make appropriate referrals to agencies that can work with victims and their families.
- Incorporate parenting education, child development and child abuse prevention as part of their education and outreach efforts to the community.
- Offer certified childcare instruction classes as a training program for youth in their congregation that want to be babysitters.
- Celebrate families by holding a “Family Affair Day”
- Host Blue Ribbon Day-distribute blue ribbons to church members.
- Develop a faith based child abuse and neglect prevention curriculum that can be used by area churches for the promotion of prevention.

BUSINESSES

Involving Businesses in Child Abuse Prevention Awareness is Key to aiding with Public Awareness. A Businesses involvement with Child Abuse Prevention efforts can serve a two-fold purpose of not only promoting awareness but promoting the businesses care and concern for Children and Families. Following is a list of activities that Businesses can get involved in.

Business Activities

- Designate Blue Ribbon Day- distribute blue ribbons to your employees to wear during April-Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Donate office space for Parent Education Seminars or similar type meetings.
- Implement “family friendly” policies that allow parents to make their children a priority. Such as flexible scheduling so a parent can get their child to and from school or perhaps attend a conference or school concert.
- Promote Volunteerism in child centered activities
- Provide information on child abuse prevention, including the signs and symptoms, effects and available resources.
- Adopt or sponsor you local children’s programs-through volunteerism, in-kind gifts or contributions.
- Encourage other business and related organizations such as Chamber of Commerce to hold educational awareness strategy sessions and distribute child abuse prevention information.

SOCIAL SERVICES/CHILD SERVING AGENCIES

Social services and child serving providers are used to working with families in crisis, after a problem has arisen. Our need to assist as a reactive effort will continue but it is imperative that we move forward and include a focus to service children and families where abuse and neglect has never occurred. By serving children and families in the absence of abuse and neglect we stand to promote, provide and instill a sense of family and child well-being which results in prevention.

Anything we do to strengthen and support families in our community helps reduce the likelihood of child abuse and neglect. All parents need support from their families, community, churches, and family friendly institutions. Social service providers, as the initial point of contact for families in need, are uniquely positioned to reach out to families who may be at risk for abuse or neglect and intervene before it's too late.

Social Service/Child Serving Agencies Activities

- Train staff in understanding the protective factors for abuse and neglect
- Publicize best practices in child abuse and neglect prevention
- Reach out to families who are struggling, regardless of your agency's mission
- Collaborate with partner agencies to provide wrap-around support for families in need
- Host family-friendly activities- picnics, movie nights, potlucks, etc.
- Recognize local businesses with family friendly policies
- Provide support and materials to businesses and community groups
- Participate in local child abuse prevention efforts
- Provide parenting support and training
- Offer stress management classes
- Provide safe, accessible venues for young families to socialize
- Share your information with other community sectors
- Advocate for policies that support children and families
- Create parent education programs focused on understanding child development
- Promote parent support groups that aid parents in strengthening informal supports
- Identify and report abuse/neglect when it has already occurred

LAW ENFORCEMENT

More often than not members of law enforcement are the first responders to the child victims of abuse and neglect. There is also a clear link between child abuse and future criminality. In essence, preventing abuse can go a long way in preventing crime. It is fitting that the Law Enforcement community be invited to share their experiences of such incidents and be given the opportunity to offer solutions for prevention. Following is a list prevention activity that the Law Enforcement community can utilize to assist with promoting child abuse prevention.

Law Enforcement Activities

- Train law enforcement in:
 - Objective investigation of child maltreatment, including conducting interviews of children and interrogating suspected offenders.
 - Legal requirements of reporting and investigating child abuse and neglect.
 - The importance of communication with victims, offenders, and witnesses as well as with social worker, physicians, mental health professionals, lawyers, judges and peers.
 - The importance of working with various family members, victims, witnesses and suspects.
 - Interviewing techniques with a child victim of abuse.
 - The prevalence of child abuse and neglect during a domestic violence call.
 - The ramifications of treating a call as a scene of a crime versus a scene of a social problem.
 - The importance of demonstrating support and optimism to the child victim and the family.
 - Available community resources and how to make a referral for service
 - The importance of providing the family with the officer's contact information for any questions or concerns beyond the initial investigation.
- Sponsor a Teddy Bear drive for child victims of abuse and neglect.
- Add the topic of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention to the speaker's bureau.
- Designate personnel to assist with providing law enforcement expertise in writing of grants to secure funding for prevention efforts.
- Promote child car seat safety efforts.
- Promote and participate in the areas safety village for children.

EMERGENCY MEDICAL SERVICES

Firefighters and EMS providers often witness scenes of child abuse and neglect. They have an essential role in identifying neglect and abuse in the home, at school, and in other locations.

Emergency providers are often called to the home of the child. They can have an important role in identifying and recording information. Firefighters and EMS providers are in a unique position of visiting the home unannounced and seeing the actual mechanisms of injury. They may observe child protection issues whether the child is the patient or a bystander.

Listed below are activities which the firefighters and EMS workers can engage in to facilitate recognizing, reporting and documenting child abuse.

Emergency Medical Services Activities

- EMS providers must be trained on being mandated reporters.
- Training of staff on the Child Protection System, assessment of children in different developmental stages, documentation and reporting.
- Cross training of CPS workers and physicians on the role of firefighters and EMS workers, the assessments they perform, and how they may identify abuse and neglect.
- Develop educational materials on child abuse for firefighters and EMS providers.
- Create internships for firefighters and EMS workers in which they observe child protective workers.
- Increase focus on child abuse prevention in trainings and conferences.
- Communicate with other organizations to promote the value of EMS in child protection investigations.
- Training on family interactions, children with special healthcare needs, cultural competency.
- Training on resources available to families on child abuse prevention.
- Teach providers to document the scene with photographs.
- In situations, have a checklist which indicates that a social worker assessment is needed to further look at family situation.

GOAL 3 -- Identify Funding Strategies – Make Recommendations on Funding

The planning group identified six strategies and activities for funding child abuse and neglect prevention programming.

1. Identify local funding sources that support child abuse prevention services.
2. Work with those funders to provide information on best practices in child abuse prevention in hopes that funders will have a clear idea of evidence-based interventions that have been proven effective in reducing abuse and neglect.
3. Use needs assessment to identify service gaps in child abuse prevention and report this information to local funders.
4. Encourage funders to support programs that adhere to the evidence-based principles of child abuse and neglect prevention.
5. Encourage funders to support programs that bridge gaps in services for child abuse prevention.
6. Enhance the continuum of services, from prevention to treatment – improve existing services, filling gaps, and using current resources more effectively, including those of public, private and informal support systems.

Funding

If all state, county, and private sector entities could partner in the implementation of the Prevention Plan existing funding could be maximized. The result would also lead to better integration of services and supports for families who are receiving or are eligible for programs administered by more than one public and private entity. To that end, identifying and collaborating with local funding sources has the greatest chance for success. Local funding sources are flexible and able to respond directly to the specific needs of Lake County. Below is a list of possible local funding sources for child abuse and neglect prevention services:

- Community Partners for Child Safety
- Lake Area United Way
- Success by Six
- The Anderson Foundation
- The Crown Point Community Foundation
- The Legacy Foundation
- The Foundations of East Chicago
- The Dean & Barbara White Foundation

GOAL 4 -- Engage the community in sharing responsibility with the public sector for promoting healthy child development and strong families.

The planning group identified four strategies and activities related to engaging the community in the protection of children and the promotion of strong families.

1. Identify action steps that can be taken by individuals and community members.
2. Educate community groups on what they can do to prevent child abuse and neglect in their own neighborhoods and communities.
3. Provide education materials to support grass-roots child abuse prevention efforts.
4. Develop a resource guide for all prevention services in Lake County.

Social connections with others play an important role in many aspects of our lives, from personal health, to the safety of our neighborhoods, and to the healthy growth and development of our children. Connections with others give us a sense of community and support. Today, many families feel isolated and alone. Many families are parenting in a “bubble” with no support or encouragement from trusted friends and neighbors. The research tells us that social isolation is a contributing factor in child abuse and neglect.

Listed below are some sample messages to be promoted in Lake County for home, neighborhood, and community settings.

In Your Home

- Be a nurturing parent. Children need to know that they are, special, loved and capable of following their dreams.
- Help yourself. Parenting is tough. When the big and little problems in your life pie up and you feel overwhelmed and out of control, take time out- don't take it out on your child.
- Learn what to do when your baby cries. The sounds of a crying baby can be extremely frustrating. Learn different ways to soothe your baby when he cries. Understand how to safely take time to calm yourself down. Never shake a baby.
- Monitor your child's television and video game time. Watching violent films and TV shows or playing violent video games can be harmful to your children and may desensitize them to violence in general.

In Your Neighborhood

- Know your neighbors. Introduce yourself and your family. Know the names of your neighbor's children. Offer to be a support to your neighbor. Think about reciprocal agreements where you both help each other out. Families feel safer and less stressed when support is nearby.
- Reach out to those in your community. Say hi to someone walking by. Offer a neighbor a smile or a kind word.

- Keep your neighbors safe. Offer to pick up your neighbor's mail when they are out of town and let them know you'll keep an eye on their house while they're away. Report broken windows and streetlights to the city. Work together to make your neighborhood safe and inviting for families.
- Know the risk factors: Understanding the factors that lead to abuse and neglect will help identify parents who may be in need of help and support.
- Mentor a new parent in your neighborhood. Immediately following the birth of a baby, many parents are inundated with support from family and friends. All too often, that support wanes after the first few months, which can leave a parent feeling overwhelmed. Check in with new parents often. Offer to help out by keeping the baby occupied while mom does laundry or takes a shower.
- Offer to support families. We've all heard the generic statement "call me if you need anything". Parents seldom follow-up on these offers; so be more specific. Offer to make a meal or come sit with the kids on a specific day. A little extra help goes a long way in easing the demands of parenting.

In Your Community

- Be a good role model. Take interest in children in your community, not just your own. Smile at them, talk to them, praise them when they've done something well. Be a positive reinforcement for them.
- Congratulate a parent on doing a good job. Parenting is often a thankless job, with little or no recognition. Let parents know their child is a direct reflection of their positive parenting. A sincere positive observation can raise a parent's self-esteem and lead to continued positive parenting practices.
- Be active in your community. Develop playgroups at your local community center, library, or school. Providing ways for parents and children to positively interact with each other and members of their community ultimately works to reduce abuse and neglect.
- Volunteer your time. Start a parent support group, mentor a child in need. Donate your time and/or money to programs serving families.
- Educate other parents. Look for ways to distribute parenting education materials. Many are available for free on the internet.
- Report child abuse and neglect. If you have reason to believe a child has been harmed, call your local department of child and family services or the police department.

FUTURE PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION ACTIVITIES

Evaluation

The prevention planning committee recognizes the need to develop evaluation protocols in an effort to measure the efficacy of our community interventions. The planning group will work to identify vested community members charged with creating measureable objectives that will allow us to understand what is working and to make adjustments as needed.

Community Survey

The planning committee worked to understand the attitudes and values of the community when it comes to child abuse prevention, while completing a community inventory on prevention efforts already underway. The survey was distributed to local non-profit organizations, schools, health care organizations, law enforcement agencies, and the faith-based community. Two-hundred and eighty-eight (288) people completed the survey. The results from this effort will be analyzed and used in prevention planning.

Community Participation

The Honorable Judge Mary Beth Bonaventura invited local community leaders to provide input on the prevention plan. With facilitation support from Prevent Child Abuse America and Prevent Child Abuse Indiana, participants focused on goal 2 of the plan. Attendees were broken up into sectors (Health Care, Education, Social Services, and Law Enforcement) and asked to review suggested activities for prevention relevant to their field and identify which activities were most achievable. After reporting their findings, participants were encouraged to start thinking about other stakeholders from their perspective disciplines who would be helpful in implementing these prevention strategies.

A similar community meeting will take place at the Annual Forum on Child Abuse and Neglect. Results from the community meetings will be compiled and added to the plan.

Moving Forward

Leveraging the relationships developed through the community meetings and with support from our state and national prevention organizations, the planning committee will work to bring together committed leaders in the following sectors: health care, law enforcement, education, social services, business, and faith-based. These groups will be charged with reviewing the strategies recommended by the community review meetings and devising plans for implementation.

Appendices

CURRENT CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION PROGRAMMING

Indiana First Steps is a family centered, locally based, coordinated system that provides early intervention services to infants and young children with disabilities or who are developmentally vulnerable.

First Steps brings together families and professionals from education, health and social service agencies. By coordinating locally available services, First Steps is working to give Indiana's children and their families the widest array of early intervention resources.

Family who are eligible to participate in Indiana's First Steps System include children ages birth to three years, who are experiencing developmental delays and/or have a diagnosed condition that has a high probability of resulting in developmental delay.

Contact: Northwest Indiana First Steps

Phone: 219-662-7790 or 1-800-387-7837

Healthy Families is an evidence based nationally recognized home visiting program model designed to work with overburdened families who are at risk for child abuse and neglect and other adverse childhood experiences. It's a primary home visit program designed to work with families who may have histories of trauma, intimate partner violence, mental health and/or substance abuse issues. Healthy Families services are offered voluntarily, intensively and over the long-term (3 to 5 years after the birth of a baby).

The Healthy Families goals are:

1. To systematically reach out to parents to offer resources and support.
2. To cultivate the growth of nurturing, responsive parent-child relationships.
3. To promote healthy childhood growth and development.
4. To build the foundations for strong family functioning.

Contact: Villages
3229 Broadway
Gary, IN

Phone: (219) 980-6985

Mental Health America of Lake County

Pine Island Plaza
5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN

Phone: (219) 736-4955

Northwest Indiana Healthy Start

Healthy Start is a federally funded program whose goal is to reduce infant deaths and to help women to have healthy babies. This program provides assistance with prenatal care, case management and health education classes.

Healthy Start is a program for women during and before pregnancy – and for a baby’s first two (2) years. Services are free for residents of East Chicago, Gary, Hammond and Lake Stations.

Contact: (219) 989-3939

Parents As Teachers of Lake County

Parents As Teachers of Lake County is a nationally-acclaimed early childhood parent education and family support program, serving families throughout pregnancy until their child enters Kindergarten.

Adopted from the PAT National Center model, the program translates the latest neuroscience information on how children grow and develop, as well as advice on how parents can foster learning and encourage growth in language, intellectual, physical and social emotional skills.

PAT is a free, voluntary program available to all families in the communities. As a result, PAT families come in all varieties, from all socio-economic levels, and from urban, suburban, and rural communities in Lake County. Specialized components of the PAT program focus on services for teen parents, Spanish speaking families, and parents with a special needs child.

The goals of Parents as Teachers are:

1. Increase parent knowledge of early childhood development and improve parenting practices.
2. Provide early detection of developmental delays and health issues.
3. Prevent child abuse and neglect.
4. Increase children’s school readiness and school success.

PAT programs are in Crown Point, East Chicago, Hammond, Lowell, North Township and Whiting.

Contact: (219) 554-1710

Geminus Head Start is a national program that promotes school readiness by enhancing the social and cognitive development of children through the provision of educational, health, nutrition, social and other services to enrolled children and families. They engage parents in their children’s learning and help them in making progress toward their educational, literacy and employment goals. Significant emphasis is placed on the involvement of parents in the administration of local Head Start programs.

Contact: Geminus Head Start – 1-888-893-6891

There are multiple sites in Lake and Porter Counties

Geminus Early Head Start is a federally funded program that promotes the economic and social well-being of expectant families and their infants and toddlers up to age three.

There are two types of Geminus Head Start services: Center-based and home-based. Center-based Early Head Start focuses on the child in a classroom setting, promoting peer group interactions. The Home-based Early Head Start option is when trained home visitors work with the parents in the home emphasizing their roles as first teachers of children ages birth to three.

The mission of Geminus Early Head Start is:

1. To promote healthy prenatal outcomes for pregnant women.
2. Enhance the development of young children.
3. To promote healthy functioning.

For Services in Lake County:

Contact: Parents as Teachers of Lake County
Phone: (219) 228-2490

For Services in Porter/Laporte Counties:

Contact: Dunebrook
Phone: (219) 874-0007

Geminus Community Partners for Child Safety

The purpose of this program is to provide a secondary child abuse prevention service that can be delivered which will build upon community resources. The service is for families that are identified through self referral or other community agency referrals. This service provides home based case management services to connect families to resources to strengthen the family and Prevent Child Abuse and Neglect.

Community resources include, but are not limited to schools, social service agencies, health care providers, public health, hospitals, child care providers, community mental health centers, Lake County DCS office, child abuse prevention agencies like Healthy Families and Prevent Child Abuse Lake County, faith based communities, to name a few.

Geminus Community Partners also funds over 21 community organizations to provide primary and secondary prevention programs.

Contact information: 1-866-641-7181

Geminus Community Partners' funded programs are listed in the next appendix

PROGRAMS FUNDED BY COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR CHILD SAFETY



GEMINUS COMMUNITY PARTNERS FOR CHILD SAFETY
GRANT FUNDED PROGRAMS: JANUARY 1, 2010 – JUNE 30, 2011

1. African American Achievers Youth Corps

P.O. Box 64622
Gary, IN 46401

Program: Mentoring Program

Summary: African American Achievers Youth Corps program provides mentoring, tutorial, counseling, recreation, cultural and entrepreneurial services to African American male youth, grades 6-12.

Contact: Dr. Vernon G. Smith
(219) 805-6040

E-mail: vesmith@iun.edu

2. Anew Life Youth Development Corporation

30 E. 6th Avenue
Gary, IN 46402

Program: Anew Man Fatherhood Program

Summary: Anew Life seeks to conduct secondary prevention services in the form of parenting education for teenage and young adult parents. We desire to facilitate peer support groups for male parents and expectant parents between 13-21 years old, a high risk population in Lake County with the historical risk of violence, as well as their vulnerability to gang recruitment.

Anew Life will use a combination of two (2) evidence based fatherhood curriculum: Responsible Fatherhood curriculum and a curriculum for Young Fathers.

Contact: Marvin Davis
(219) 880-2556

E-mail: mdngi2@aol.com

3. Boys and Girls Clubs of Northwest Indiana

839 Broadway
Gary, IN 46402

Program: Smart Girls

Summary: Smart Girls is a fun, engaging, and nationally proven program that provides female club members with positive alternatives. This program emphasizes how important that girls be given appropriate guidance during this vulnerable time in their lives when society is providing them with

many conflicting and confusing messages about how a young woman should present herself. The program addresses the priority area of primary prevention services, such as: healthy relationships, mentoring of parents for special populations, substance abuse prevention and teen pregnancy/sex education.

Contact: Lisa Beilharz-Tyler/Lincoln Ellis
E-mail: lbt Tyler@bgcnwi.org
Tel: (219) 881-1060

4. Center For Possibilities – Cerebral Palsy of NW Indiana

22 Tyler Avenue
Hobart, IN 46342

Program: Stop! Child Abuse and Neglect Education and Prevention Project

Summary: This program specifically addresses the needs of families raising children with disabilities which include caregiver financial strain, social support, acquiring support services, parenting skills and coping skills for caregivers. This program will address these areas and strengthen the family functioning by providing the following services at no cost to the families through relationship counseling, financial/resource counseling, referrals for drug/alcohol treatments, referrals for psychological evaluations, support group facilitation, parenting classes specific to the needs of a family with a child with a disability, special topic in-services, transition counseling, behavior modification training and education on specific disabilities.

Contact: Michelle Higel
(219) 962-5751
E-mail: mhigel1@yahoo.com

5. Community & Faith Outreach Initiative Ministry

6725 Birch Place
Gary, IN 46403

Program: “Grandparents Raising Children Conference”

The Community and Faith Outreach Initiative Ministry’s goal is to have a Grandparent and Grandchild Conference – two separate functions at the same site (First AME Church). The recent increase in grandparents raising their grandchildren in the Gary area has prompted the Community and Faith Outreach Initiative Ministry to focus on promoting the wellbeing of children and coordinating available resources and services to prepare and assist grandparents in the raising of their grandchildren.

Contact: Mary Vaughn
Tel: (219) 938-8818
E-mail: maryv24@sbcglobal.net

6. Crisis Center, Inc.

101 N. Montgomery Street
Gary, IN 46403

Program: Safely Home

Summary: Safely Home is a secondary prevention program that provides emergency shelter to children and youth who are brought to the Alternative House by area police who find them in need.

Contact: Shirley Caylor
(219) 938-7070

E-mail: scaylor@crisiscenterysb.org

7. Crown Counseling

250 N. Main Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Healthy Relationship Education

This program is for healthy relationship education, specifically domestic violence prevention education with elementary school aged students. The target audience for this project will be the 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students in Lake County.

Contact: Suzy Bonaventura
Tel: (219) 663-6353

E-mail: suzybonaventura@yahoo.com

8. Edgewater Systems For Balanced Living

1100 W. Sixth Avenue
Gary, IN 46402

Program: Child Abuse Prevention

This program targets Lake County at-risk parents who have demonstrated poor levels of parenting skills which can lead to abuse. The goal of the program is to help high risk parents to develop acceptable behaviors in their relationship skills by focusing on stressors in their adult relationships. Strength based solutions will be used to allow the parents to develop healthy relationship skills. There are three components of this program: Assessment, Prevention and Evaluation.

Contact: Ashvin Sheth
Tel: (219) 885-4264

E-mail: asheth@edgewaterstystems.org

9. Edgewater Systems For Balanced Living

Program: Alcohol Education

Summary: Edgewater's Alcohol Education program is intended to serve the youth that are referred by the Lake County Juvenile Court for conversion or alcohol possession by consumption. They will meet one time each month on the North side of our County at Edgewater Systems and one time each month on the South side of our County at Regional Mental Health – Southlake Campus. Each youth will attend one group and then receive a certificate of completion. This allows the youth to learn how to prevent this from happening again and they do not have a formal charge on their juvenile record with the court.

Contact: Ashvin Sheth
Tel: (219) 885-4264
E-mail: asheth@edgewaterSystems.org

10. Edgewater Systems For Balanced Living

1100 W. 6th Avenue
Gary, IN 46402

Program: Substance Abuse & Delinquent Behavior Prevention Program

Summary: Edgewater will provide Substance Abuse and Delinquent Behavior Support Groups

Contact: Ashvin Sheth
TEL: (219) 885-4264
E-mail: asheth@edgewaterSystems.org

11. Gary Community Improvement Association

300 W. 21st Avenue
Gary, IN 46407

Program: Training Power for Parenting Education

Summary: Gary Community Improvement will provide parenting classes to parents of school aged children, including men and fathers in local shelters and correctional facilities to make an impact for responsible fatherhood and parenting education for school aged children, pre-school to 12th grade.

Contact: Annisha Whittaker
(219) 883-0431 x22
E-mail: shug1908@yahoo.com

12. Gary Community Improvement Association

300 W. 21st Avenue
Gary, IN 46407

Program: Female Youth Summit

Summary: The Female Youth Summit's purpose is to connect young ladies with resources in their community to inspire and encourage social change. The summit will emphasize how early marriage and childbearing adversely affects youth's educational attainment, mental and physical health and their employment opportunities and economic status. The workshops at the summit will address these topics and provide participants with training, correspondence and activities that will promote better decision-making in order to make healthy choices in order to prevent pregnancy, poor self-image and low education levels.

Contact: LeVon Whittaker/Annisha Whittaker
Tel: (219) 883-0431
E-mail: levonsr@yahoo.com

13. Haven House

P.O. Box 508
Hammond, IN 46325

Program: Dating Violence

Summary: The goal of this program is for high school age students to understand what is dating violence and are familiarized with resources about helping students involved in an abusive relationship. The dating violence program is available in English and in Spanish.

Contact: Lisa Wein
(219) 931-2090
E-mail: havenhousedvs@aol.com

14. Indiana Parenting Institute

P.O. Box 14226
Merrillville, IN 46411

Program: Birth2Eighteen Parent Training Program

Through Indiana Parenting Institute's (IPI) core parenting education program, **Birth2Eighteen** (B2E), parents learn how to develop healthy parent/child relationships and acquire the skills needed (skills geared towards today's challenges) to prevent or reduce the number of children who are victims of child abuse, neglect, exploitation, or delinquency. By assuring that said program is accessible to any parent who comes to IPI, either of their own volition or referred to IPI by an agency, family and community can be strengthened.

Contact: Laura Smith-Wynn
Tel: (219) 886-1111
E-mail: ipi@indianaparentinginstitute.org

15. Mental Health America-Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Empowering Teen Parents Throughout Lake County

Summary: Empowering Teen Parent Groups will be presented in lunch and learn venue with topics covering a variety of parenting issues that will foster and promote knowledge, confidence and success in nurturing their infant/child. Additionally, the groups will focus on topics important to teen parents today, i.e. how to finish school, apply to colleges, and how to remain a teen while still being a parent. The empowering teen parent groups will be able to reach their parents within their own school settings.

Contact: William Sellers, Director
(219) 736-4955

E-mail: wsellers@mhalakecounty.org

16. Mental Health America-Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Safe Sleep Education

Summary: Goals of the program are to serve families who may be at risk for an unsafe sleeping death or defined by those who are referred by an agency as without sufficient resources to purchase a crib for their baby.

Contact: William Sellers, Director
(219) 736-4955

E-mail: wsellers@mhalakecounty.org

17. Mental Health America-Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: S.T.E.P.

Summary: This is a parenting education program.
The goals of this program are:

1. To improve 80% of parents' understanding of their children's behavior while developing an effective parenting style.
2. Reduce parental stress in 85% of participants while encouraging respect and family involvement.

Contact: William Sellers, Director
(219) 736-4955

E-mail: wsellers@mhalakecounty.org

18. Mental Health America-Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Life Skills

Summary: MHA’s Life Skills program includes “*I’m Thumbbody*” and *Making Proud Choices*. *I’m Thumbbody* is an educational program to provide our community’s children with life skills so they can make better decisions, resolve conflicts and cope with challenges, as well as improving their self-esteem and peer relationships. *Making Proud Choices* is an evidence-based curriculum designed for females as well as males. The curriculum teaches participants how to make positive choices that will reduce the risk for STD/HIV and pregnancy related behaviors, as well as positive attitudes towards their sexuality.

Contact: William Sellers, Director
(219) 736-4955

E-mail: wsellers@mhalaekcounty.org

19. New Life Family Learning Center

2823 Martha Street
Hammond, IN 46323

Program: Pathfinder Youth Program

Summary: New Life proposes to provide a program that integrates tutoring, life skills, career explanation, financial literacy and substance abuse education for 50-75 students located in Lake County who need to improve homework completion rates, may be at risk of educational failure, at risk of dropping out of school or involvement in delinquent activity. This includes students with limited English proficiency.

Contact: David Garrett, Director/Youth Programs
(219) 844-4856

E-mail: newlifeparents@sbcglobal.net

20. New Life Family Learning Center

2823 Martha Street
Hammond, IN 46323

Program: Pathfinder Boys and Girls Basketball Camp

Summary: New Life proposes to implement two (2) three-day basketball camps for 150 youth, boys and girls, ages 7-17. The camp is held in NW Indiana cities of Gary and Hammond. These camps are designed to strengthen peer relationships and will help children socialize with others successfully while learning positive social skills. Participants will also have the opportunity to assume leadership, cooperate with others, question actions and regulations and accept responsibility for their own behavior.

Contact: David Garrett, Director/Youth Programs
(219) 844-4856
E-mail: newlifeparents@sbcglobal.net

21. Prevent Child Abuse Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: "CHAIRISH" the Children Art Project for 2010 and 2011

Summary: PCALC will organize, facilitate and sponsor a community awareness art project titled "CHAIRish the Children" to be completed by April 2010 for the calendar year. Lake County middle and high school art department students will be designing a chair that artistically represents what it means to cherish our community's children. The artist's design will reflect thoughts about children, childhood and what children mean to the future of our world.

Contact: Sharon Hylek
(219) 777-7307
E-mail: smhylek@yahoo.com

22. Prevent Child Abuse Lake County

5201 Fountain Dive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Grant: 2011 Annual Child Abuse and Neglect Awareness Forum

Contact: Sharon Hylek
(219) 777-7307
E-mail: smhylek@yahoo.com

23. Prevent Child Abuse Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Billboard Campaign

Summary: PCALC is requesting to continue their Billboard Campaign through 2011. New billboard artwork was purchased to be added to existing artwork. Existing artwork encourages parents to get their children immunized, encourages men to do their part in preventing child abuse and encourages safe sleeping practices for babies. New artwork emphasizes the caring nature of fathers, links domestic violence to child abuse, and brings awareness of child abuse to the public. Artwork is done in racially diverse and racially neutral to reach a wide variety of people. Billboards are placed in highly traveled access of Lake County including along I80/94 and Interstate 65.

Contact: Gayle Vande Werken
(219) 924-4404
E-mail: gaylevw@hotmail.com/pcalc@hotmail.com

24. Prevent Child Abuse Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Shaken Infant Syndrome Presentations

Summary: PCALC will provide Shaken Infant Syndrome (SIS) presentations to students and adults with the message warning of the dangers of shaking an infant/young child and teaching adults and caregivers positive ways to deal with stress and frustration.

Contact: Gayle Vande Werken
TEL: (219) 924-4404
E-mail: gaylevw@hotmail.com/pcalc@hotmail.com

25. Prevent Child Abuse Lake County

5201 Fountain Drive, Suite 1
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Educational Materials Program

Summary: PCALC Educational Materials program seeks to get information on Parenting, Early Child Care, Health and Safety of the Children of Lake County directly into the hands of parents through educational materials handed out at community events, forum, parent groups and new parents in the area hospitals.

Contact: Gladys Van Til
TEL: (219) 972-2217
E-mail: gladysvan@prodigy.net

26. PSI Family Services of Indiana, Inc.

8120 Georgia Street, Suite D
Merrillville, IN 46410

Program: Primary and Secondary Prevention Program

Summary: PSI Prevention program will address the following needs: (a) support families for economic stability, (b) decrease parents sense of isolation, (c) build access to existing community resources, and (d) coordinate service delivery across different agencies. Agency will provide services to teen parents and parents of intact families.

Contact: Tania Aglikin
(219) 756-8201
E-mail: taglikin@psifamilyservices.com

27. Sisters 101

922 East Chicago Avenue
East Chicago, IN 46312

Program: Sisters 101 Girls and Boys Dance School

Sisters 101 Girls and Boys Dance School is a beacon of light for students who are not athletically inclined and provides them with an alternative to express their giftedness. This program has provided an outlet that fosters self-esteem and positive interactions with families, and provides a healthy atmosphere and helps build healthy relationships. The main goal of Sisters 101 is to be able to offer more services in our current population to increase a higher chance of promoting safety for children. The dance program plans to also include more cultural diverse music and dance styles.

Contact: Annie Rochelle Wilson
Tel: (219) 614-0002
E-mail: sisters101_sisters101@hotmail.com

28. Sojourner Truth House

410 W. 13th Avenue
Gary, IN 46407

Program: Child Safety Through Parental Intervention – Moms as Teachers

Moms as Teachers is a parenting group for mothers who attend the Sojourner Truth House day center program. This includes homeless mothers and those in their Outreach program. This program teaches mothers how to discipline, care for and provide a safe and nurturing environment so that their children can thrive. The mothers learn to feel empowered to change the quality of their parenting, to improve their communication skills with their children and to create healthy relationships.

Contact: Sister Peg Spindler, Executive Director
TEL: (219) 885-2282
E-mail: pspindler@sojournertruthhouse.org

29. St. Jude House

12490 Marshall Street
Crown Point, IN 46307

Program: Preventing Abuse by Promoting Respect

This program addresses a pervasive problem that affects adults and children in our community. This project will begin the important work of educating boys and men about the generational cycle of abuse, the responsibility of treating others with respect and the importance of strong, healthy relationships within the family. This project will include developing educational materials for distribution throughout the community; designing a media campaign with strong messages that increase the awareness of the attitudes and behaviors that foster violence between people, aimed primarily at a male audience; and promoting speaking engagements to schools, churches and youth-

serving organizations – with the project goal: to change attitudes and behaviors about the negative impact that domestic violence and child abuse has on our community by raising public awareness about these issues.

Contact: Joy Heminger

Tel: 662-7066 x17

E: jheminger@franciscancommunities.com

30. The Villages of Indiana, Inc.

3229 Broadway

Gary, IN 46408

Program: Safe and Strong Families – Stewards of Children Train-the-Trainer Workshops

Summary: For the funding period from January 1, 2010 and June 30, 2011, the Villages Safe and Strong Families' purpose is to coordinate on-going Stewards of Children workshops in Lake County. This includes organizing a minimum of two Stewards of Children workshops per month (total of 36). The northwest region of the Villages is part of Prevent Now – a statewide initiative to create sustainability for the Stewards of Children curriculum. The Villages Safe and Strong Families program will provide, as requested, Prevent Shaken Baby training and other primary prevention programs available through Prevent Child Abuse Indiana. The budget includes funding for staffing and materials to be given away at community events; the 4-H Fair, IUN Prevention Forum, prevention events held by Community Partners and other venues. Primary prevention information, child specific materials including character building books endorsed by Prevent Child Abuse America and Spiderman Comics and pinwheels will also be purchased. Changes in the configuration of staff time have been made to better promote and provide services. These activities address the areas of: healthy relationships, parenting for all age groups, teen pregnancy, and sex education.

Contact: Elsie Anderson

TEL: (219) 762-3465 – E-mail: eanderson@villages.org