

THE CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION COUNCIL

A close-up photograph of two young children's faces. The child on the left is slightly behind and to the side, looking towards the camera with a gentle smile. The child on the right is in the foreground, looking directly at the camera with a neutral expression. Both children have light skin and blonde hair. The lighting is soft and warm, highlighting their features.

Presented April 13, 2010

Child Abuse Prevention Month



Child Abuse Prevention Month





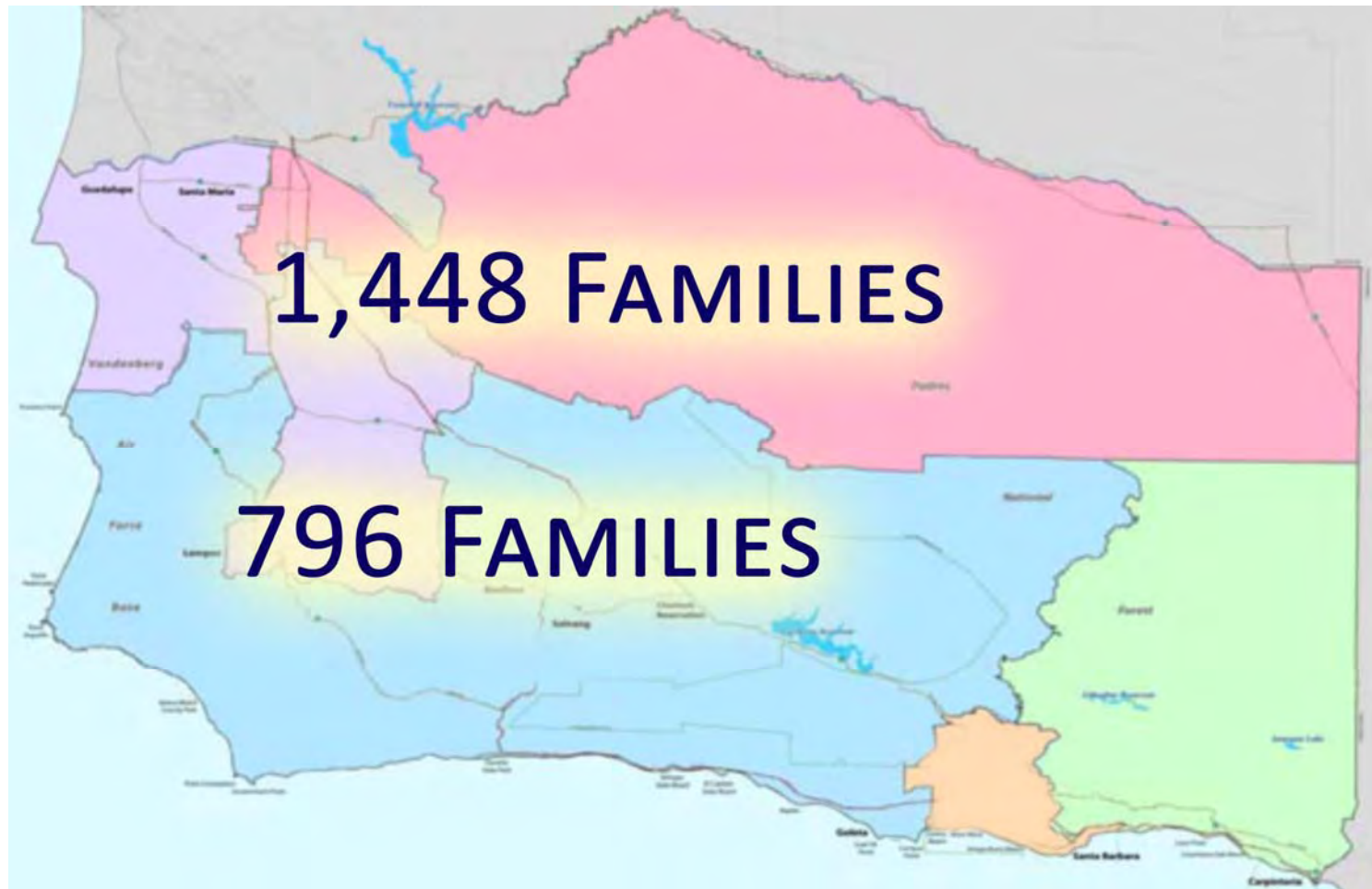
Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals Investigated in Santa Barbara County, by Region

Child Welfare Services: Referrals Investigated in the Year 2009

1,448 FAMILIES

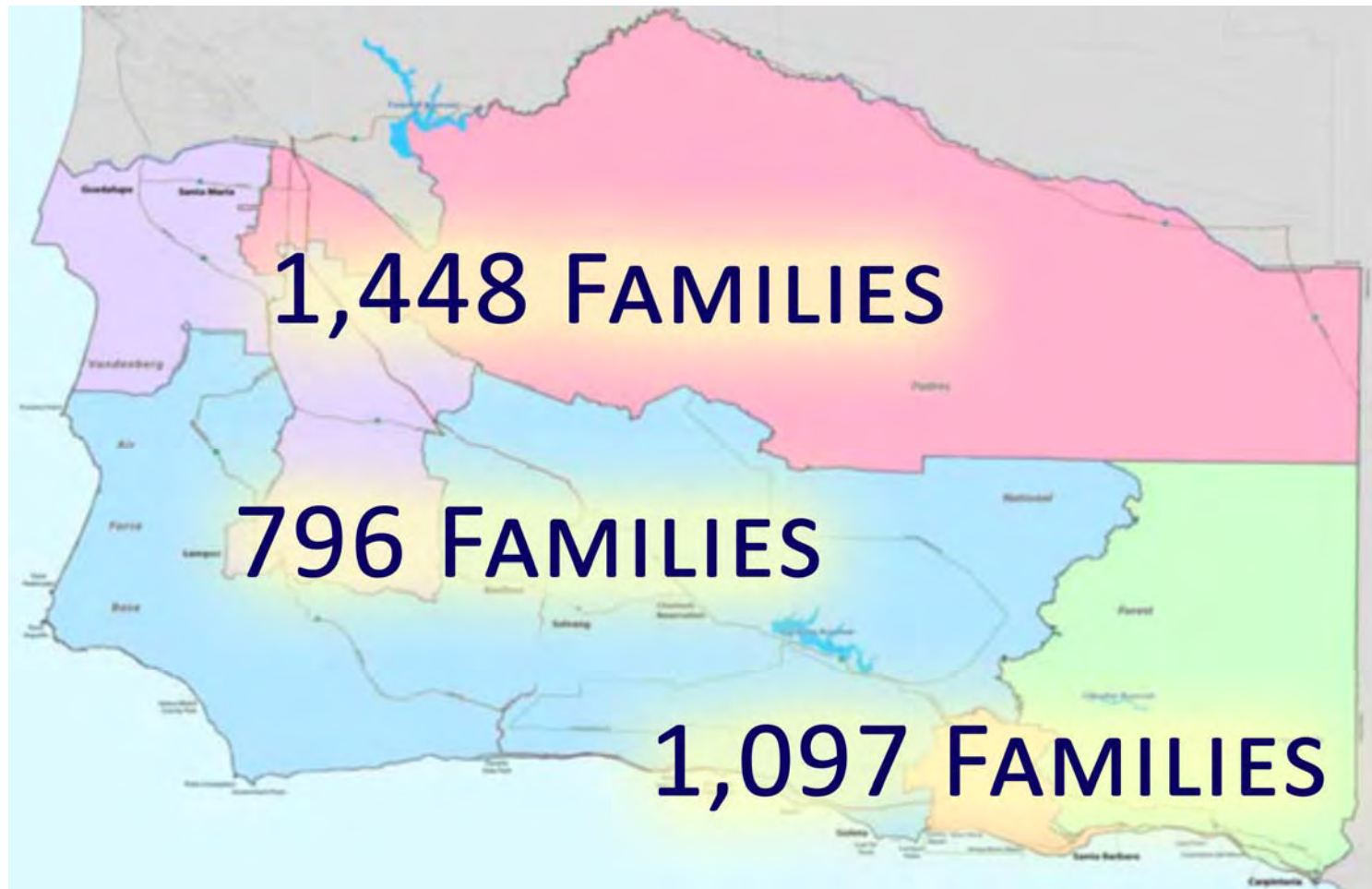
Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals Investigated
in Santa Barbara County, by Region

Child Welfare Services: Referrals Investigated in the Year 2009



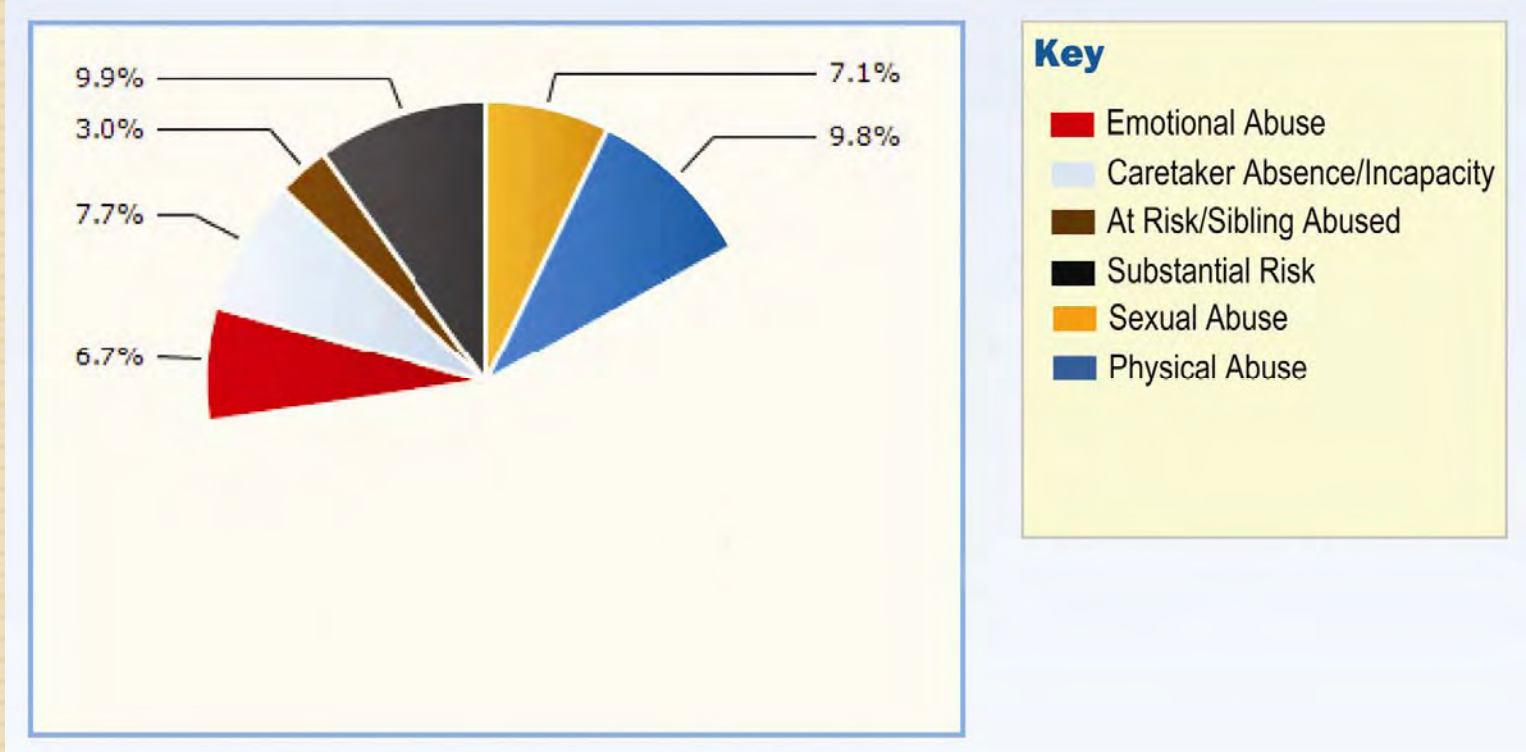
Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals Investigated
in Santa Barbara County, by Region

Child Welfare Services: Referrals Investigated in the Year 2009



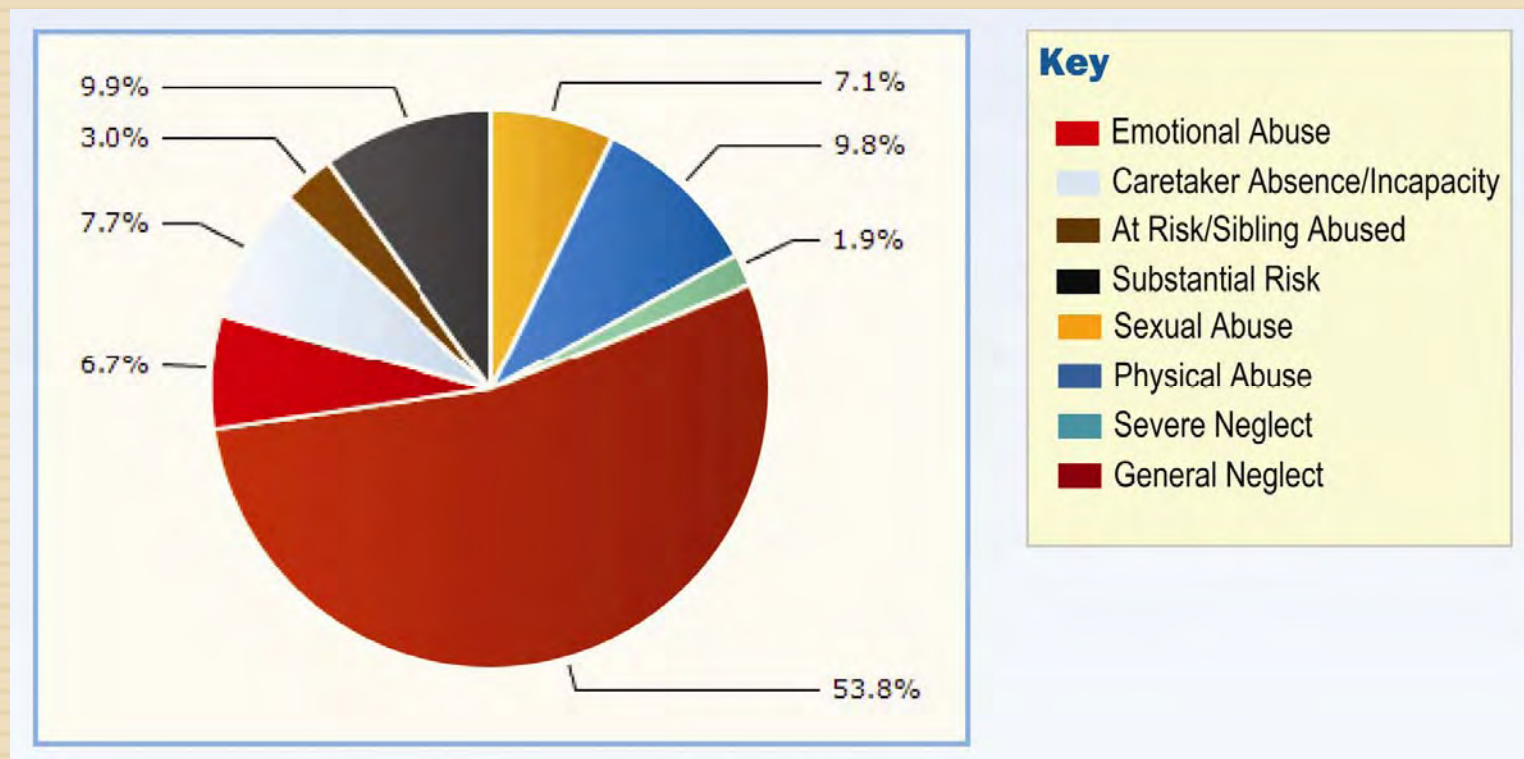
Child Abuse and Neglect Referrals Investigated
in Santa Barbara County, by Region

Child Welfare Services: Referrals Investigated in the Year 2009



Over 55% is

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Type
2009 Child Welfare Data



Over 55% is **Child Neglect**

Substantiated Cases of Child Abuse and Neglect, by Type
2009 Child Welfare Data

Child Abuse: A Community Issue



Three Most Prevalent Safety Threats

- ❑ Child's immediate needs not met
- ❑ Failure to protect
- ❑ Caregiver substance abuse

Child Abuse: A Community Issue



Three Most Frequent Priority Family Needs

- ☐ Parenting Skills
- ☐ Mental Health / Coping Skills
- ☐ Substance Abuse / Use

Child Abuse Prevention: A Community Effort

N
u
r
t
u
r
e

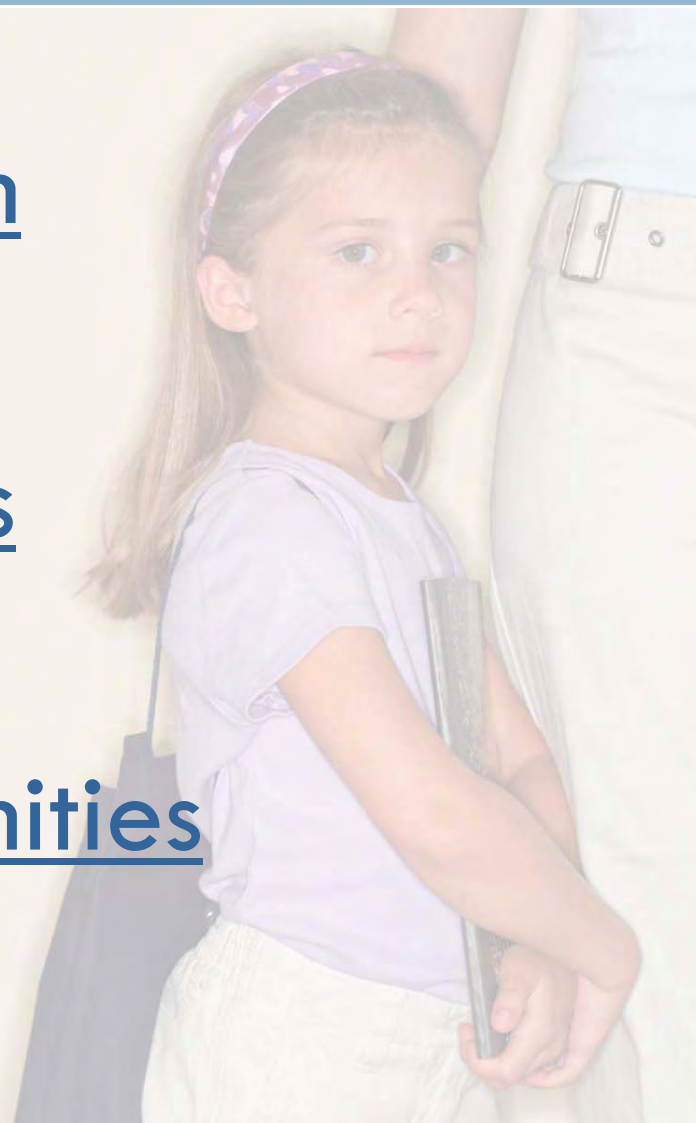
- Nurture children
- Nurture families
- Nurture communities



Child Abuse Prevention: A Community Effort

P
r
o
t
e
c
t

- Protect children
- Protect families
- Protect communities



Child Abuse Prevention: A Community Effort

P
r
e
v
e
n
t

- Prevent damage to children
- Prevent damage to families
- Prevent damage to communities



Alcohol, Drug and Mental Health Services

NURTURE.

Sojourn, Inc.

Department of Public Health

Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc.

Parents

Community Action Commission

Child Abuse Listening and Mediation

Community Members

Santa Maria Healthy Start

Human Services Commission

Santa Barbara Family Care Center

Child Welfare Services

PROTECT.

St. Vincent's PATHS

Vandenberg Air Force Base Family Advocacy

Dorothy Jackson Family Resource Center

North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

Guadalupe Family Services Center

Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People

PREVENT.

Family Strengthening and Early Childhood Health Initiatives

Public Awareness and Education



- Educated 100+ students and community members through Child Abuse Prevention Academy at Allan Hancock College
- Reached over 400,000 people with Child Abuse Prevention Month activities

Public Awareness and Education



- Trained 750+ Mandated Reporters
- E-mailed 2,000+ copies of the CAPC Connection
- Launched CAPC Website

Community Engagement



- Prepared and supported eleven parents in attending a leadership conference.
- Gathered over 100 North County Community members and public agencies to work together on Prevention.
- A North County Workgroup continues to meet.

Streamline Child Abuse Services



- Participated in the County Self Assessment and the Child Welfare System Improvement Plan.
- Coordinated with CWS to create the Three-Year Plan for Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.

- 
- 30-second Video



NURTURE.

PROTECT.

PREVENT.

Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council Roster 2009-2010

VOTING MEMBERS

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address
Vicki	Book	Human Services Commission	vickibook@sbcglobal.net
Pauline	Chui	VAFB Family Advocacy	Pauline.Chui@vandenbergh.af.mil
<i>Carolyn</i>	<i>Contreras</i>	Community Action Commission	Ccontreras@cacsb.com
Sandra	Copley	Public Health	Sandra.Copley@sbcphd.org
Sandy	Fahey	ADMHS	sfahey@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Barbara	Finch	CAPC Chair; St. Vincent's PATHS	bfinch@sv-sb.org
Flo	Furuike	Community Member	setsuko_furuike@yahoo.com
<i>Michelle</i>	<i>Graham</i>	SB Family Care Center	mgraham@sbfcc.org
Alma	Hernandez de Wilson	Guadalupe Family Services Center	ahwilson@sbceo.org
Brenda	Herrera	Dorothy Jackson Family Resource Center	brendah@fsacares.org
Deborah	Holmes	Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM)	dholmes@calm4kids.org
Teressa	Johnes	Family Strengthening & Early Childhood Health Initiatives	trjohnes@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Nancy	Madsen	Public Health	Nancy.Madsen@sbcphd.org
Alma	Marquez	Santa Maria Healthy Start	amarquez@smbdsd.net
Ann	McCarty	North Co. Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center	amccarty94@verizon.net
<i>Nora Ivette</i>	<i>Melendez</i>	Community Action Commission	Nleer@cacsb.com
LuAnn	Miller	Isla Vista Youth Projects, Inc.	luannm@ivyp.org
Frank	Montoya	Community Action Commission	fmontoya@cacsb.org
Cindy	Nott	Child Welfare Services	c.nott@sbcsocialserv.org
Chana	Ortiz	Parent Representative	chana@californiamail.com
Rebecca	Robertson	Sojourn, Inc	RRobertson@sojournservicesinc.org
Arcelia	Sencion	Santa Ynez Valley People Helping People	arcelia@syvphp.org
<i>Carolyn</i>	<i>Stinson</i>	Public Health	Caro.Stinson@sbcphd.org

EMAIL DISTRIBUTION LIST

First Name	Last Name	Organization	Email Address
Celeste	Andersen	Deputy County Counsel	Cander@co.santa-barbara.ca.us
Shannon Rose	Chavez	North Co. Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center	schavez83@verizon.net
Karen	Dominguez	Santa Maria Bonita Unified School District	kdominguez@smbbsd.net
Lisa	Fraser	San Luis Obispo County Child Abuse Prevention Council	lfraser@slocap.org
Deborah	Hartman	Child Welfare Services	d.hartman@sbcsocialserv.org
Melissa	Hoesterey	Child Welfare Services	m.hoesterey@sbcsocialserv.org
Ken	Jensen	Department of Social Services	k.jensen@sbcsocialserv.org
Valerie	Kolstad	Child Care Planning Council	kolstad@sbceo.org
Maria	Long	Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA)	maria@sbcasa.org
Sheila	Martinez	Child Welfare Services	s.martinez@sbcsocialserv.org
Pam	Miller	Santa Maria Valley Youth and Family	pmiller@smvyfc.org
Jason	Montgomery	211	jasonm@fsacares.org
Delfino	Neira	Child Welfare Services	d.neira@sbcsocialserv.org
Karin	Powers	North Co. Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center	karinpowers@verizon.net
Anne	Rodriguez	Child Welfare Services	a.rodriquez@sbcsocialserv.org
Cecilia	Rodriguez	Child Abuse Listening and Mediation (CALM)	crodriguez@calm4kids.org
Rosalinda	Rodriguez	ASPIRAnet	rrodriquez@aspiranet.org
Freya	Schultz	Child Welfare Services	f.schultz@sbcsocialserv.org
Ashleigh	Randell	Family Service Agency	ashleigh@fsacares.org

Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)



Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)

April 2009

Questions may be directed to the Office of Child Abuse Prevention (OCAP) at (916) 651-6960

Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs)

I. Purpose

The Child Abuse Prevention Councils (CAPCs) are community councils whose primary purpose is to coordinate the community's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

Councils should be incorporated as nonprofit corporations, or established as independent organizations within county government, or comparably independent organizations as determined by the Office of Child Abuse Prevention.

The CAPCs were created in response to the Legislature's findings of the following:

- Child abuse is one of the most tragic social and criminal justice issues of our times.
- Victims of child abuse and their families face a complex intervention system involving many professionals and agencies.
- Coordination by child protection agencies and personnel improves the response to a victim and his or her family.
- The prevention of child abuse requires the involvement of the entire community.

II. Funding

Each county shall fund the CAPC from the county's children's trust fund. Councils are required to provide a local cash or in-kind match of 33 and 1/3 percent. Councils unable to raise the full match for the maximum allocation are provided a partial grant in the amount of three grant dollars to each match dollar. In addition, councils must develop a protocol for interagency coordination and provide yearly reports to the county Board of Supervisors.

A county may also utilize their Child Abuse Prevention, Intervention, and Treatment (CAPIT) program, Promoting Safe Stable Families, Family Support Services funds, Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) program or Kids Plate funds to financially support their CAPCs.

III. CAPC Functions

Child Abuse Prevention Council functions include:

- provide a forum for interagency cooperation and coordination in the prevention, detection, treatment and legal processing of child abuse cases
- promote public awareness of the abuse and neglect of children and the resources available for intervention and treatment

- encourage and facilitate training of professionals in the detection, treatment and prevention of child abuse and neglect
- recommend improvements in services to families and victims
- encourage and facilitate community support for child abuse and neglect programs

Additionally, Councils may form committees to carry out specific functions, such as committees for interagency coordination, multidisciplinary teams, professional training, public awareness, service improvement, advocacy and/or fundraising committees.

IV. Council Participants

Child Abuse Prevention Councils work in collaboration with representatives from various disciplines, including: public child welfare, the criminal justice system and the prevention and treatment services communities. Councils shall include representation from the county child welfare or children's services department, probation department, licensing agencies, law enforcement, district attorneys offices, courts, coroner and community service providers such as medical and mental health services, community-based social services, community volunteers, civic organizations, tribes and faith-based communities.

V. Resource

Welfare and Institutions (W&I) Code Sections 18963; 18980; 18981-18981.1; 18982-18982.4; 18983-18983.8

The CAPC Connection



A publication of the Child Abuse Prevention Council of Santa Barbara County — because their world depends on us!
Member of the Coastal Tri-Counties Child Abuse Prevention Council

When In Doubt, Talk It Out!

While the legal responsibilities around reporting *any reasonable suspicion* of child abuse and neglect for the Mandated Reporter are clearly outlined in the statutes, many reporters still face complicated emotions and doubts regarding how to proceed when confronted with a situation that appears to be child abuse and neglect.

The top five reasons that make reporters hesitate to act on their suspicions of child abuse or neglect are:

- fear of making a mistake, uncertainty about the situation or a sense of not being an “expert” or “qualified” to make the decision
- denial about what is happening with the child or in the family
- fear of being identified by the parent, of retaliation or incurring a liability
- the assumption that someone else (possibly with more authority) will make the report

- lack of faith in that the Child Welfare System will act in the best interest of the child

Let's take a closer look at each of these reasons.

“I prefer to stay out of it in case I am wrong. I am not sure how this works anyway.”

While none of us like to be embarrassed by making a mistake or much less cause undue hurt to a family, consider the consequences of not making a report. Imagine finding out later that something happened to the child that your report could have prevented. Maybe whatever triggered your concerns turns out not to be due to child abuse or neglect, but you will be sure that the child's issues do not go unnoticed. **Also, always keep in mind that your role is not to investigate or prove and that by reporting you are not accusing or blaming the parents. You are raising a legitimate concern about a child's well-being and calling on the professionals who have the training, authority and responsibility to investigate.**

“This can't be happening at my school, in that family, to the doctor's kid, ...”

One of the most pervasive myths still surrounding child abuse and neglect is that it only occurs among certain groups of people or only in certain families. While there are certain risk factors that may exacerbate a stressful situation, the data shows that child abuse and neglect occurs among families from all socio-economic backgrounds, language groups or ethnicities regardless of the parents' education level or profession.

“What if the parents found out it was me who made the report and try to get back at me?”



While Child Welfare Services never gives out any information about who made a report, parents often make assumptions about who reported them, and may present you with their assumptions as facts. Many parents may be frustrated or angry. You are not required to divulge any information regarding reporting and should not engage with angry parents in any discussions that may confirm their assumptions. Your response should be a neutral statement such as “all professionals in contact with your family are Mandated Reporters.” Also remember that there are legal safeguards in place for Mandated Reporters that protect them from liability.

“I am sure the school counselor (or other “trained” professional) will notice that something is wrong. It's probably better handled in-house anyway.”

While it might seem like a good idea to leave reporting up to an “expert” or “management,” the law states that you are personally responsible to



report any suspicion of child abuse and neglect. If you choose to discuss your concerns with a colleague or your principal, you may decide who will place the report. However, you remain responsible for making sure that the report was completed. It is important that you discuss your concerns with the CWS hotline. Not only will your call be answered by someone trained in making decisions on whether a suspicion needs to be investigated, but he or she will also be happy to answer any questions you may have on reporting procedures.

"Nothing ever happens anyway when you make a report. It only serves to upset the family."

Child Welfare Services is an **intervention, rather than prevention** agency and operates under strict legal guidelines. While sometimes it may appear as if there was no follow-up to a report, each call is logged in a data-base and evaluated based on a structured decision-making tool. Sometimes it takes several calls for a social worker to have enough information to warrant an investigation, and sometimes families are connected to voluntary services, but choose not to take advantage of them. However, only through your calls can Child Welfare Services attempt to help a family and try to resolve or avert a crisis situation by connecting a family to available resources.

While making the actual report is a fairly straightforward process that involves talking to a trained social worker at the hotline number and completing a simple form, figuring out what is going on with a child who shows indicators of suffering or a family that appears to be under stress remains a challenging situation for any professional. Yet, your actions can and do make the difference in the life of a child.

"When in doubt ... talk it out!"



How Much Do You Know?

Sometimes, what we don't know can hurt us and tragically hurt others. For some, the only time they hear about child abuse is when a story is sensationalized in the media. Unfortunately, children are being abused at a far greater rate than what the media portrays. Below is an awareness quiz to see how much you know about child abuse.

Information on all of the topics below can be found at: <http://www.childwelfare.gov/can/>

- In the United States, approximately how many children die each year as a result of abuse or neglect?**
 - 80
 - 180
 - 800
 - 1,800
- What is the number one cause of substantiated child abuse cases in all age groups, locally and nationally?**
 - Physical abuse
 - Sexual abuse
 - Emotional abuse
 - Neglect
- Which of the following could be an example of child neglect?**
 - Delay in health care treatment
 - Inadequate supervision
 - Permitted chronic truancy
 - Inattention to special education need
 - Exposure to chronic or extreme domestic violence
 - All of the above
- As a mandated reporter, it is irresponsible of me to make a report unless I am certain abuse is occurring.**
 - True
 - False
- Child abuse and neglect generally do not affect school performance or academic achievement.**
 - True
 - False
- Which of the following actions can help stop child abuse and neglect?**
 - Helping a stressed parent by baby-sitting, making a meal for their family or lending an understanding ear.
 - Learning the signs and symptoms of child abuse to better recognize possible indicators.
 - Reporting known or suspected child abuse to the police or local child welfare services agency.
 - All of the above.

ANSWERS: 1. a) 1,800; 2. d) Neglect (nearly 60% of all cases); 3. f) All of the above are examples of potential physical, emotional or educational neglect; 4. b) False. All you need is a reasonable suspicion. If you suspect, REPORT; 5. b) False. Among its many long-term devastating affects on children, maltreatment increases the risk of lower academic achievement and problematic school performance; 6. d) All of the above.

Members Corner

As a CAPC we are busy in our communities working with parents and children. From time to time CAPC members will contribute stories related to what their organizations are doing and how you can utilize them as a resource. The following was written by CAPC member Ann McCarty and highlights the work of the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center.

About the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center

For over 35 years, the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center has been providing services in northern Santa Barbara County. With the agency's administrative office in Lompoc and a branch office in Santa Maria, the organization touched the lives of over fifteen thousand people last year. The vast majority of these were children from pre-school through high school in seventy different north county schools who received the agency's ChildSAFE program in their individual classrooms. The education/prevention programs provided by the Center are such an important part of the work being done because the more aware children are of these issues, the less likely it is that they will be victimized.

Many components make up the education/prevention programs, but when it comes to child abuse prevention, the agency's ChildSAFE program is the shining star. ChildSAFE consists of two- to three-day workshops available to all schools in the north county. The workshops are designed to teach children personal safety skills in a fun, non-threatening way. School-aged children are provided workshops appropriate to their ages and grade levels. The agency targets various grade levels so that children receive the information every two to three years. The program is adjusted for different grade levels, using puppets to act out skits for younger children, and interactive discussion and exercises for children in upper grades. The program has been successful in part due to support from school administrators and teachers. Recognized as a valuable tool in keeping children safe, ChildSAFE has received high marks because of its empowering message as children learn how to recognize and get help in dangerous situations. Children are given an opportunity throughout the day when presenters are on campus to speak privately with staff. Giving children the opportunity to talk with someone and possibly disclose abuse has helped many children over the years bring an end to terrifying situations in their lives. As mandated reporters, ChildSAFE presenters make sure that all students know that they will make a report to Child Welfare Services or law enforcement if abuse is disclosed. To date, countless lives have been positively affected by the ChildSAFE program.

In addition to the ChildSAFE program, the Center also offers other educational opportunities in the form of Mandated Reporter training, SART in-services, and community presentations regarding awareness and prevention. Some of the topics available to members of the community in-



clude child abuse, elder abuse and senior safety, internet predators and cyber safety, sexual assault, dating violence and sexual harassment. Center staff speak to community organizations, churches, and youth groups, among others, as a means to educate the community and provide prevention skills to as many people as possible.

Intervention programs offered by the Center are also expansive. The agency operates 24-hour hotlines in both Lompoc and Santa Maria which are covered by staff and volunteers. Calls range from neighbors reporting child abuse or homelessness, to survivors' immediate reports of sexual assault. Intervention services are not limited to the hotline, as advocates are also available to support survivors during forensic medical legal examinations at SART facilities, law enforcement interviews and court accompaniments. Counseling is an important part of the healing process, and the Center is available to help with these needs as well. Offering individual sessions as well as support groups gives survivors and their family members options as they travel through their journey to healing. Last year, over seven hundred people received intervention services, ranging from anonymous hotline calls to individual counseling and support group participation over a period of several months.

To learn more about the North County Rape Crisis and Child Protection Center, please call 805.736.8535 or 805.922.2994 or email Ann McCarty: amccarty94@verizon.net.

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

30 Ways to Strengthen Families During National Child Abuse Prevention Month

1. Create a comfortable place for families to meet and talk.
2. Invite a community partner to present a new resource for families.
3. Help a parent "catch their child being good."
4. Create a calendar of community events for families.
5. Train your staff on how trauma and loss affect children.
6. Learn about parenting practices of a different culture.
7. Help parents set goals and solve problems.
8. Host a potluck or cultural celebration.
9. Update your resource directory.
10. Create a board game library for families.
11. Remember something special about every parent you serve.
12. Teach kids to resolve conflicts peacefully.
13. Talk to parents in your program about discipline alternatives.
14. Recognize parent accomplishments.
15. Encourage parents to support each other through phone trees, car pools or play groups.
16. Create a handout for families with community resources linked to each protective factor.
17. Ask children who's important to them.
18. Create opportunities for parents to contribute.
19. Add children's books about feelings to your program's library.
20. Praise good parenting when you see it.
21. Make "How are you?" phone calls to families in the program.
22. Organize "stroller walks" with new parents. Talk about their challenges as you walk.
23. Let parents use the center's computers for personal business (e.g., writing resumes, email).
24. Host a play date for parents and children. Point out how the activities build connections.
25. Hold your next event or support group at the local laundromat.
26. Role play emotions with kids—what do you do when you're happy, sad or frustrated?
27. Have parenting tips handy for parents dealing with a challenging issue.
28. Invite someone in to help parents learn about managing stress.
29. Create a "positive parenting club" where parents can share their success stories.
30. Visit a program where you refer families, so you'll know what it's like.

For a calendar version of this list, and for other prevention month activities and resources, visit <http://www.childwelfare.gov/preventing/preventionmonth/>.

**NURTURE.
PROTECT.
PREVENT.**



The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council has created decals to increase awareness and spread a positive message of prevention to the community. If you would like a decal to place on your car or display elsewhere to show your support, please email your address to j.thomas@sbcsocialserv.org. Thank you for helping prevent child abuse and neglect in our community!



Reporting Child Abuse or Neglect

If you are a Santa Barbara County mandated reporter and you suspect child abuse or neglect, **YOU MUST ADHERE TO THE FOLLOWING PROCEDURES:**

1. Immediately call Child Welfare Services at:
800.367.0166 Santa Barbara County Hotline
805.683.2724 After Hours
In the case of an emergency, please call 911.
2. Complete and file a Suspected Child Abuse Report, Form #SS8572 (www.CTC-CAPC.org/SCAR)
3. Retain a legible copy of the SCAR Report.
4. **YOU** are responsible for making this report. **DO NOT ALLOW** your supervisor/principal to make the report for you or assume because another co-worker has some of the same information that they will make the report.
5. Do not attempt to investigate, conduct interviews or interfere with the information you hold.
6. Remember that you are to report **SUSPECTED** abuse—you are not required to have witnessed or have complete proof of the incident. You are obligated by law to report what you observe or what you are told that caused suspicion the child is being physically, sexually or emotionally abused or neglected. When in doubt, call CWS or law enforcement and get their input about the scope of your report.

The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council welcomes your feedback, ideas and requests for training and resources.

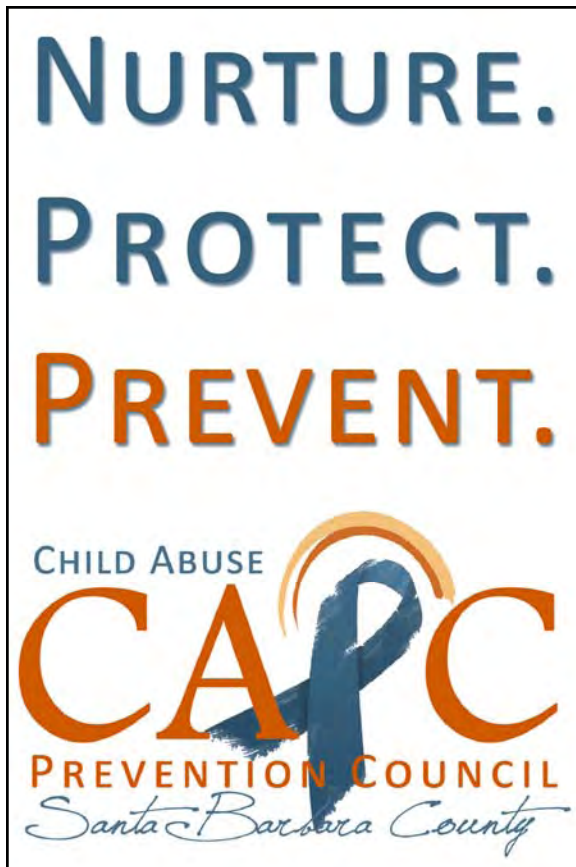
Email us at:

capc.newsletter@gmail.com

The CAPC meets the third Thursday of every month (except August and December) from 10am-12pm at the Santa Ines Mission. All meetings are open to the public. To receive agendas or more information, call the KIDS Network at 346.8222, or email j.thomas@sbcsocialserv.org.

The CAPC Connection is compiled by Santa Barbara County CAPC member Ann McCarty.

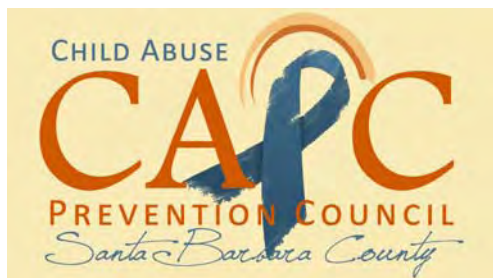
Desktop publishing by Joy Thomas.



Instructions for applying decal:

1. Peel the backing off to expose the adhesive.
2. Carefully place the decal on a **clean, dry surface**.
3. Smooth out any creases or bubbles.
4. Remove the protective cover from the front.

*Thank you for your support in preventing
child abuse and neglect in our community!*



Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council

WHAT?

The Child Abuse Prevention Council (CAPC) is a **community council** with the primary purpose of coordinating Santa Barbara County's efforts to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect.

WHO?

The Santa Barbara County's CAPC is open to anyone who is interested. Current membership includes representatives from public and non-profit agencies, community groups and parents.

HOW?

The Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council works to:

- Raise community awareness about child abuse and neglect;
- Provide resources and education to organizations and community groups to assist parents and educate the public;
- Encourage and facilitate public and community support for child abuse and neglect prevention that responds to local needs;
- Educate service providers working with families about the Mandated Reporting Law, Risk and Protective Factors for families and how to prevent child abuse and neglect; and
- Engage parents as leaders in child abuse and neglect prevention activities.

The CAPC meets regularly in order to allow members to share information and identify and prioritize projects for the CAPC. Members volunteer time and resources to execute and implement the selected projects.

WHEN?

Every 3rd Thursday of the month (except August and December) at the St. Ines Mission, 1760 Mission Drive, Solvang from 10:30 a.m.—12:30 p.m. All meetings are open to the public and everyone is welcome.

For more information or to be added to the e-mail distribution list, please contact:

KIDS Network

2125 South Centerpointe Parkway
Santa Maria, CA 93455

Phone: (805) 346-8222 / FAX: (805) 346-8366

E-mail: K.zulliger@sbcsocialserv.org



Member of the Coastal
Tri-Counties CAP Coalition

Protective Factors strengthen families and help to lower the risk of abuse and neglect

- **Nurturing and Attachment**—Parenting strategies at any age that promote bonding and attachment
- **Knowledge of Parenting and Child and Youth Development**—Developmental Challenges and Disciplinary Techniques
- **Parental Resilience**—Stress Management and How and Where to Access Help
- **Social Emotional Competence of Children**—Manage Emotions and Interactions Successfully
- **Social Connections**—Parent Groups and Social Networks
- **Concrete Supports for Parents**—Food, Housing, Medical Insurance

Child Abuse and Neglect **Prevention**

Effective Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention must:

- Reduce risk factors, such as poverty, stress, substance abuse, isolation and unsafe environments.
- Promote protective factors, such as understanding child development and developing parental resilience.
- Requires collaboration by institutions, agencies and individuals that interact routinely with children and their families.
- Provide adequate services for at-risk populations and help build safe and nurturing communities for all children.

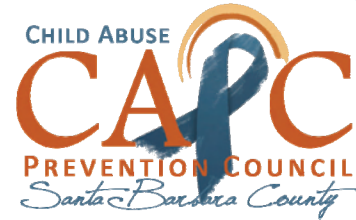
Child Abuse and Neglect **Partners**

Child Welfare Services' primary responsibility is to investigate and respond to allegations of child abuse and neglect. Their function is to protect children by intervening in situations that are unsafe for a child. Child welfare services social workers operate under strict legal mandates and are only able to respond formally after a child is in danger. While they can and should partner with the community, **Child Welfare Services is not a prevention agency.**

Collaborations, such as the Child Abuse Prevention Council, are responsible for educating the public about the importance of the community's role in child abuse and neglect prevention, inform local agencies and policy makers about effective prevention strategies for at-risk families, advocate for prevention funding and provide information about child abuse and neglect-related mandates or campaigns, such as Mandated Reporting or Shaken Baby Syndrome.

Community-based agencies, child care providers, schools, faith-based groups, medical professionals and parent groups are able to support families that are at-risk for child abuse and neglect before a child is in danger. Every interaction with a family offers an opportunity to assess risk, connect parents with resources, create opportunities for social connections and provide information and education on parenting, child development and stress management.

All partners can work together to achieve prevention on a community-level, which includes safe, affordable housing, a selection of quality childcare, after-school and enrichment programs, employment opportunities for parents, access to health care, and clean and safe parks. Community-wide prevention also includes providing adequate services that address risk-factors such as substance abuse, developmental delays or domestic violence.



Child Abuse Prevention Academy

*Sponsored by the Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council
and the Allan Hancock College Early Childhood Studies Department*

9AM-12PM FRIDAY, MARCH 19, 2010

ALLAN HANCOCK COLLEGE FORUM, SANTA MARIA

AGENDA

Welcome and Introductions

Liz Regan ♦ Allan Hancock College Early Childhood Studies Professor
Barbara Finch ♦ Santa Barbara County Child Abuse Prevention Council Chair

Mandated Reporters and the California Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Law

Ann McCarty ♦ North County Rape Crisis & Child Protection Center Associate Director

Medical Aspects of Child Abuse

Nisha AbdulCader, MD, FAAP ♦ Suspected Abuse Response Team Medical Director,
Martha's Place Children's Assessment Center Pediatric Consultant,
Juvenile Service Center Supervising Physician

♦ BREAK ♦

How the Child Welfare System Engages Families

Cindy Nott, MS, MFT ♦ Santa Barbara County Child Welfare Services Division Chief

Effects of Violence, Neglect and Abuse on the Developing Brain

Deborah Holmes, LCSW ♦ Child Abuse Listening and Mediation Associate Director

Risk and Protective Factors for Child Abuse and Neglect

Teressa Rodriguez-Johnes ♦ First 5 Santa Barbara County Program Officer
for Family Strengthening/Early Childhood Health Initiatives