



Child Abuse Intervention Center



Member, Oregon Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers

June, 2010
Newsletter

Our Mission:

A community-wide response to the need for compassionate assessment, treatment and support of abused children and their families

The Complex Issue of Defining Neglect



By Leila Keltner, MD PhD

Medical Director of CARES Northwest in Portland, Oregon
From the MDT Quarterly Newsletter, **January 2009 Volume 57**

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Neglect has received less attention in Oregon than physical and sexual abuse. Yet neglect is far more common and may be more harmful to children's early brain development than either sexual or physical abuse.

How we define child neglect shapes our state's response to it. However, definitions of child neglect vary among states and professional disciplines--and even within disciplines. These variations are influenced by the purpose of the discipline. Legislators, researchers, and service providers responses may vary depending on the definition.

Difficulties in consistently defining child neglect have led to dissonant threads in policy, practice and research. Even the term "child neglect" has been used interchangeably with "chronic child maltreatment." Chronic child maltreatment is often used to describe the multiple types of abuse that neglected children suffer. The "chronic" descriptor illustrates the "pattern" of abuse so frequently seen in these families.

Defining neglect has been difficult because of a lack of consensus on these questions:

- What are the minimum requirements for caring for a child?
- Do these minimum requirements change over time with advances in science and changes in culture? (For example, have scientific advances in brain development in infants and toddlers changed our expectation of the minimum requirement for stimulation of the infant/toddler?)
- Does the inaction of the caregiver need to have a measurable negative impact on the child or is exposure to possible harm enough? (For example, is leaving a toddler unsupervised near a body of deep water neglect if no measurable harm occurs to the toddler?)

Definitions of physical and sexual abuse differ from neglect because neglect definitions must consider the child's developmental level. The developmental context makes it impossible to easily define what specific behaviors or inactions are always neglectful. For example, the supervision needs of a toddler are strikingly different from those of a teenager.

Juliette's House Welcomes Five New Board Members



And Says Goodbye To Two Others

After 16 years of dedicated service, our last two founding board members are leaving the Juliette's House Board of Directors.

John R. Peterson and **Dale Poteet**

leave with our thanks for their exceptional commitment to Juliette's House and the fight against child abuse, and their many years of outstanding volunteer service. They formed and believed in the concept of Juliette's House, and were instrumental in making us what we have become. We say goodbye and thank you for leaving a legacy to our community's children.

We also welcome five new members to our Board.

Beth Acevedo **Chloe Dixson** **Liz Knapp**
Michelle Graham **Subha Pathial**

They bring with them the commitment and energy to help us move into the future and continue to serve the children and families of Yamhill and Polk Counties affected by child abuse.

Our 2010-2011 Board of Directors

Chair	Leslie Brott, MD—Family Physician, Physicians' Medical Center
Vice Chair	Kourtney Ferrua—Kindergarten Teacher, Buel Elementary School
Secretary	Norma Brott—Retired Educator
Treasurer	Zoe Pearson, LCSW, Behavior Specialist, Willamette ESD
Beth Acevedo	Employee Benefit Specialist, Hagan Hamilton Insurance Services
Allie Brown	Registered Nurse, Hazelden Treatment Center
Frank Bumpus	Retired Linfield College Professor & Counselor
Kathie Bumpus	Retired Educator
Chuck Carey	HR Manager, Employee Health & Well-Being, A-Dec
Chloe Dixson	Assistant Controller, Evergreen International Aviation
Rod Dunn	Retired Pediatric Dentist
Chris Evers	Administrative Coordinator, Hagan Hamilton Insurance Services
Michelle Graham	Child Development Specialist, McMinnville School District
Bob Harris	Retired Business Owner, "D" Stake Mill
Fred Kamph	Owner, Kamph Rock Crushing
Liz Knapp	English Language Learner (ELL) Teacher, Buel Elementary School
Sabha Pathial	Computer Security Architect & Freelance Software Engineer

Our Staff

Kathleen Coleman	Executive Director
Margaret ("Peg") Miller, MD	Medical Director
Francine Fiore	Development Director
Diane Roelandt	Clinical Services Manager
Becki Pehan	Clinical Services Specialist
Karen Milton	Family Support Team Coordinator
Pam Canaday	Safe Kids (CAP) Program Coordinator

Please direct questions, comments, suggestions, to:

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Website: www.julietteshouse.com

Paul Barber 1924 — 2007	Mike Brott 1937 — 2007	Harriet Miller 1931 — 2008
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Student Interns - A Win-Win Arrangement



Jessica Denison



Kerry Hammerschmith

Each year Juliette's House trains Bachelor level students as Family Support Team interns to gain experience and college credit working with children and families on the day of assessment, and afterwards to help families connect with mental health services and community resources. Students must commit to specific times for training and also to being at Juliette's House for scheduled services throughout the school year. This year, we have been fortunate to also have two Portland State Masters level Social Work students joining us as part of their practicum study.

Jessica Denison and Kerry Hammerschmith have been working under the supervision of our Clinical Services Manager, Diane Roelandt. In addition to Family Support Team, they have helped create and assist with teen and

family support groups, conduct clinical research, plan and coordinate community training opportunities, and otherwise assist with the services we provide to children and families impacted by child abuse. One took on a role with our in-school Safe Kids (CAP) Program as well.

It has been a serendipitous partnership – students gain practical experience in their chosen field of interest by working alongside experienced and supportive staff, and Juliette's House gets an opportunity not only to maximize our resources, but also to help train the next generation of child abuse professionals.

Interns bring fresh ideas, energy and enthusiasm to the work, and make it possible for Juliette's House to expand services and maximize how our time and dollars are spent. Students learn how to apply theory and course work to practice, how to establish and sustain therapeutic relationships with clients, and how to form collaborative relationships with other professionals. They learn how to think critically, break down complex issues into manageable parts, and problem solve. Students gain an understanding of the structure and function of a social service agency, and can take advantage of valuable in-service training. At a placement like Juliette's House, students also learn how to see the work through multidisciplinary eyes, working with a variety of professionals equipped with the expertise and understanding to look at child abuse more directly and deeply than most people ever have to.

"Each brought a slightly different set of skills as well as varying interests," says Diane Roelandt. "In addition to their fresh energy and perspectives, it was invaluable to have their questions and observations...[to help] us scrutinize and improve some of our procedures, leading to more consistency and potentially better communication."

Jessica appreciates gaining not only a better understanding of child abuse and its effect on children, but how to deal with it and what she can do about it in whatever professional setting she settles into. Her internship taught her how to work as a team, identify her strengths, sharpen her skills, and have confidence in her ability to do this work. Kerry adds that she has "worked with people in recovery, where she heard about abuse histories but didn't really connect" to their stories. Now she can be more helpful because she is better able to deal with child abuse issues.

"You think it's a small organization," notes Kerry, but so many things go on here. A whole community comes together to support children."

Juliette's House Volunteers & Staff – Shining Stars!



On April 27th, we had a small reception to recognize our volunteers and staff for the contribution they make to Juliette's House and to the fight against child abuse. While we honor all those who contribute so much each year, this year we chose several to receive special recognition:

Laurent Bonczijk of the Newberg Graphic
The Michael Brott Memorial "Champion of Children" Award
For His Commitment to Highlighting Child Abuse Issues



Brian Wicks, Cascadia Landscaping
Business of the Year
For His Generous In-Kind Donation of Lawn Service



John R. Peterson Dale Poteet
Outgoing Board Members
Excellence in Service Awards



All of our volunteers and staff honor us with their service and give so much of themselves. Our annual Volunteer & Staff Recognition is one small way for us to say thank you to each and all of them.

The Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act (CAPTA) provides national definitions that are considered minimal standards for defining physical abuse, sexual abuse and neglect. Each state must incorporate the minimum standards as defined in the Act into their statutory definitions to receive Federal funds. Child maltreatment is defined by CAPTA as:

...any recent act or failure to act on the part of a 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;

The State of Oregon builds on the CAPTA definition by specifying neglect as:

Negligent treatment or maltreatment of a child, including, but not limited to, the failure to provide adequate food, clothing, shelter or medical care that is likely to endanger the health or welfare of the child.

The Oregon definition stresses several key points. Neglect is an omission in the provision of the child's care and the result can be actual or potential harm.

In the commentary "Definition and measurement of neglectful behavior: some principles and guidelines," Murray Straus and Glanda Kaufman Kantor provide a social science definition of neglect:

Behavior by a caregiver that constitutes a failure to act in ways that are presumed by the culture of a society to be necessary to meet the developmental needs of a child and which are the responsibility of a caregiver to provide.

This professional definition defines neglectful behavior based on the omission of care without commenting on the outcome. It also notes the importance of culture and the specific developmental needs of the child.

New definitions of chronic neglect focus on the child's safety and health. Chronic neglect occurs when there is a pattern of the child's basic needs not being met. Basic needs include: nutrition, health care, clothing, nurturance, protection, sleep, education, supervision and shelter. Adequate health care is assumed to include medical, dental and mental health care, and occupational, speech and physical therapy. Direct and indirect drug exposure of children would constitute omission of supervision and protection.

In Oregon, our child protection system has not been able to effectively address the issue of chronic neglect for several reasons. First, chronic neglect is a pattern of behavior with many individual events of neglect that never reach an activating threshold, while our system is designed to respond to single incidents which meet or exceed a threshold. Second, child neglect requires long-term intervention, particularly if substance abuse, mental illness and poverty are present. Our child protection system has been organized to provide short-term intervention. Because of the chronicity of neglect, short-term intervention methods are generally not effective.

If our goal is to identify chronically neglecting families to effectively intervene, we need a feasible operational criterion. One such approach discussed by Dee Wilson, MSW, Director, Northwest Institute for Children and Families, University of Washington School of Social Work and Anthony Loman, PhD, Institute of Applied Research, St. Louis, Missouri, provides a method for identifying families by frequency of encounters with CPS [child protective services]. Families for whom CPS received at least three referrals in one year, four in two years, or five in three years meet the criterion for chronic neglect. The referrals need not be founded, nor be for any specific type of abuse or neglect.

A professional and operational definition of neglect would provide Oregon with a consistent approach to defining the problem and identifying chronically neglectful families that need our services. Without such a definition, progress in reduction of neglect will be difficult, if not impossible, to achieve.

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Other Memorials and Recognitions

Oregon School Employee's Association
In Honor of the McMinnville School Board

Special Gifts, Goods and Services

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On-Going In-Kind Services

Cascadia Landscaping — Brian Wicks
Miller Technologies— Stuart Miller



Our On-Going Volunteers

Dan Bernards, Lighting Maintenance
Roger Hall, Landscape Maintenance
Jo Jarvis, Housekeeping
Carole Joa, Laundry & April Awareness
Larry Kurtz, Transcription & Data Entry
Ray Steece, General Maintenance

Family Support Team & Clinical Volunteers

Jessica Denison
Kerry Hammerschmith
Ashlee Hocket
Fatemeh Talebzadeh ("Yasi") Ordoubadi
Annie Zenn

Donations that Help...

For The Kids:

- Individually-Packaged Snacks For the Kids Such As:
Juice Bags, Microwave Popcorn, Crackers, Chips,
Fruit Roll-Ups, Pudding Cups, Hot Cocoa, Grahams
- Stuffed Animals and Beanie Babies

For The Office:

- Toilet Paper
- Reams of 20 lb Paper (White or Pastels)
- Reams of 20 lb. Cream Paper (for our newsletters)
- White 2" x 4" Multipurpose Labels
- Postage Stamps
- Manila or Colored 3-Tab File Folders

Sewers Needed...



We received donations of new "stuffing" for our kids' floor pillows, which we use in therapy and support groups. We need several volunteers to replace the old stuffing with new, and give our floor pillows new life. If you can help, please contact Francine at 503-687-1313 or francine@julietteshouse.com.

Special Thanks To...

All the vendors, donors, sponsors, service clubs, partner agencies, businesses, volunteers and EVERYONE who helped us with our



Awareness Campaign During April
National Child Abuse Awareness Month



On a Cold, Wet April 3, 2010

Thank You All



Juliette's House
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McMinnville, Oregon 97128

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June 2010 Newsletter — In This Issue...

**Help Us Save Money — Ask To
Receive Our Newsletter by Email**

New "Celebrate The Children"—16th Annual Auction October 16, 2010
First Safe Kids Fair in Newberg — June 5, 2010
How Oregon Defines Child Neglect
Announcing our 2010-2011 Board of Directors

*For nothing is fixed,
forever and forever and forever, it is not fixed;
the earth is always shifting,
the light is always changing,
the sea does not cease to grind down rock.
Generations do not cease to be born,
and we are responsible to them
because we are the only witnesses they have.*

~ James Baldwin