



MASSACHUSETTS CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

Healing, Hope and Justice: An Advanced Conversation Workshop Descriptions

Working with Child Victims of Commercial Sexual Exploitation: The Important Role of Children's Advocacy Centers

Presenters: Lisa Goldblatt Grace, MPH, MSW, LICSW
Susan Goldfarb, MSW, LICSW

Commercial sexual exploitation of children (CSEC) is a form of child abuse, yet CSEC victims often do not receive the benefits of the comprehensive, multidisciplinary response provided to other child victims. Children's Advocacy Centers are in a unique position to coordinate services for this vulnerable population. This workshop will address understanding CSEC and its impact, the importance of interagency collaborations, and how CSEC can be integrated into a CAC program.

Lessons from Kids and Families in the Treatment of Developmental Trauma

Presenter: Margaret E. Blaustein, Ph.D.

There is perhaps no greater current issue in the field of traumatic stress than the accurate understanding, diagnosis, and treatment of children and families who have experienced complex / chronic early trauma. In this workshop, we will discuss 10 lessons learned from real kids and families about how to understand their experiences, support them, and ultimately, build resilient outcomes.

Child-to-Child Sexual Abuse: How One CAC Responds

Presenters: Sharman Nathanson, MSW, LICSW
Janis Lynch, MS, LCSW



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Reports of children engaging in sexual behavior with other children within their families, neighborhoods and schools pose unique challenges to the multidisciplinary team. Our CAC collaborates with our multidisciplinary partners to focus on these cases that can often “fall through the cracks” of the system. Incorporating case examples, we will discuss our CAC’s response and the challenges to effectively address children’s sexual behaviors.

A Clinical Perspective on Delayed Disclosure: Considerations for Investigators

Presenters: Jackie Humphreys, LICSW
Sarah Marcotte, LCSW

It is rare to find a child able to speak about sexual abuse immediately after the event. A delay in disclosure can often be a critical issue in investigation, prosecution and clinical treatment. In this workshop, we will review the literature, facilitate discussion, and provide case examples regarding the variables that contribute to a child’s delayed disclosure.

Case Review: The Strength of Interdisciplinary Collaboration Revealed

Presenters: Janet Fine, MS
Anne Lynn, ACSW

CAC’s interdisciplinary partnerships promote reliable investigations and comprehensive service delivery beyond the initial investigation. The strength of the investigation and intervention is enhanced when interdisciplinary partners share case information, contribute their own particular expertise to each child’s case, train one another, make informed case decisions based on input from partner agencies and



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focus on a child-centered approach. While case information is shared among MDT partners in a variety of ways and at a variety of times, formal case review conferences are an essential element indicative of truly meaningful and effective interdisciplinary collaboration, the hallmark of a Children's Advocacy Center.

This workshop will give participants an opportunity to be self-reflective and analytical about their overall response to child victimization, but specifically regarding this core multidisciplinary team component of the CAC. Participants will engage in interactive discussion with colleagues and workshop leaders about the elements essential to an optimum case review process that will both achieve compliance with accreditation standards and, most importantly, best serve children and families.

Child Pornography: How it is used by offenders and its impact on victims

Presenters: Retired Detective Captain Thomas Kerle
Sergeant Pi Heseltine

This workshop will examine many aspects of child pornography. First, it will discuss how child pornography is thought of by the legal system and by the public. Next it will examine the proliferation of child pornography resulting from recent technological advances. It will move into a discussion about how child pornography is used by offenders and the impact of child pornography on victims of abuse. Finally, the workshop will look at how the investigation of child pornography offenses can help identify offenders who are abusing children. During the workshop, the scope of the problem will also be discussed.