CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
PROGRAMS IN THE COMMUNITY

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I. Gaining Community Support

Child abuse and neglect is not a simple problem. Presentation of child abuse and neglect to the community should reflect its complexity and seriousness. Public understanding must be based on knowledge rather than on myth. This knowledge is difficult to deliver to the public, but the benefits of solidly based community support make the effort worthwhile.

A. First Steps

The following materials provide both general and specific information on planning a public awareness campaign on child abuse and neglect:


Available from:
National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
P.O. Box 1182
Washington, D.C. 20013


General communications and public relations handbooks also may be helpful. An example is:


B. Sources and Information on Materials

A wide selection of materials is available to help you present your message to the public. Among them:

1. Pamphlets

Child abuse and neglect pamphlets are available from a variety of sources. To be useful in your campaign, pamphlets should include the following elements: an explanation of child abuse; an explanation
of locally applicable legislation; a description of what is being done locally about child abuse and neglect; local policies and procedures; and specifics about how and when to report abuse or neglect. Examples of general pamphlets which are available are:


Available at 35¢ each from:
Parents Anonymous
2810 Artesia Blvd.
Suite F
Redondo Beach, Calif. 90278


Available at 35¢ each from:
Public Affairs Pamphlets
381 Park Ave. South
New York, N.Y. 10016

Your state department of protective services should be able to provide copies of your state's child abuse and neglect legislation, including specifics on definitions, how and where to report, etc. It may also be able to supply other materials, including statistical studies; information on the department's homemaker and other services to families in need of help; adoption and foster care; volunteer work; services to the handicapped; day care licensing; and posters aimed at informing various professionals and the general public about reporting suspected cases of abuse.

2. Films

Films often are available at the local level through community councils and public, school, and university libraries, and at the state and national levels through a variety of sources. Films should be carefully previewed for content and audience impact. Contact your state department of protective services or the following other sources:

National Center on Child Abuse and Neglect
P.O. Box 1182
Washington, D.C. 20013

National Committee for Prevention of Child Abuse
111 E. Wacker Dr.
Chicago, Ill. 60601
3. Other Media

Child Abuse: Who Suffers, Who Cares?

A series of 12 radio programs on various aspects of child abuse and neglect. For information, contact Protective Services Resource Institute, Rutgers Medical School, P.O. Box 101, Piscataway, N.J. 08854.

II. Planning and Needs Assessment

To be effective, child abuse and neglect programs must address local problems and local needs. The following materials provide both general and specific information on planning and needs assessment:


Available from Maryland Conference of Social Concerns, 22 W. 25th St., Baltimore, Md. 21218.


III. The Multidisciplinary Approach

Recent research indicates that our greatest hope of successfully combatting the problem of child abuse and neglect lies in total community involvement. The following materials explore various aspects of the multidisciplinary, multiagency approach to CAN:


One criterion for inclusion in the survey was that a multidisciplinary approach be utilized at the site. Programs described include Cook County (Ill.) Children's Hospital, National Center for Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse and Neglect (Denver), William Beaumont Army Medical Center (El Paso), Kauikeolani Children's Hospital (Honolulu), University of Iowa Child Development Clinic, Children's Hospital of Los Angeles, New York Foundling Hospital, Children's Hospital of Pittsburgh, and Saint Paul-Ramsey County (Mich.) Mental Health Center.


Description of the Children's Protective Services Center at Kauikeolani Children's Hospital in Honolulu.


Description of development and operation of the Child Abuse Project of Sinai Hospital in Baltimore.


Includes chapters on organization, functional definition of roles, dynamics,
in-service training, and evaluation. Also includes a selected bibliography. A concise summary of knowledge in this area.


Discusses need for legal advocacy and coordination of social, medical, and legal professionals.

Child Abuse/Child Neglect Project of Ingham County, Michigan. [Project Description.] Lansing, Child Abuse/Child Neglect Project of Ingham County, 1975.

Includes multidisciplinary case management component and description of coordination network.


Contains chapters on interdisciplinary intervention, management, and formation of Children's Advocates, a multidisciplinary advocacy committee.


Description of multidisciplinary treatment programs at New York Foundling Hospital.


General overview and detailed prescription for multidisciplinary approach
utilizing hospital or community based child protection team in emergency, diagnostic, acute, and long-term treatment phases.

Available at 80¢ each from U.S. Government Printing Office, #017-090-0020-8.


Program includes, "The World of Abnormal Rearing," "Making the Diagnosis of Abuse and Neglect in Small Children," "The Diagnostic Process," "Developing Community Programs."

For information, contact Dr. Ray E. Helfer, Department of Human Development, College of Human Medicine, Michigan State University, East Lansing, Mich. 48824.


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Authors' abstract: "The number of recognized cases of child abuse or neglect increased dramatically after formation of a Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) team at Mott Children's Hospital, University of Michigan Medical Center. Cases doubled in 1975 without a change in demographic factors, but associated with a doubling of the local unemployment rate. Unusual problems have been encountered in cases involving sexually assaulted children, infants of addicted mothers, adolescents, parents who mishandle their infants, and child-inflicted injuries. Team function, protocols and problems are described."


Recommends a team approach to diagnosis and management.


Description of a program offering integrated services to neglected and neglecting families.


Chapters of interest include: Helfer, Ray E., "The Center for the Study of
Abused and Neglected Children; Delnero, Harriet, "The Medical Center Child Abuse Consultation Team"; and Helfer and Kempe, "The Consortium: A Community Hospital Treatment Plan." The three objectives of the book as a whole are: 1) to suggest a child abuse treatment plan which, if implemented, should prove helpful in either a large or small community; 2) to demonstrate that many people of a variety of backgrounds and experiences can be helpful both to the abused child and his family; and 3) to provide these individuals with a practical "how-to" and "what-to-do" approach to the many problems that arise when one attempts to provide this help.


Brief program description.


Review of current literature on teamwork. Discussion of authority, professional domains, and decision-making. Calls for study of effectiveness of teams, modes of organization, and relation of this approach to manpower problems.


Volume 1: An Overview of the Problem contains background material on child abuse and neglect. Volume 2: The Roles and Responsibilities of Professionals contains a chapter on multidisciplinary diagnosis. Volume 3: The Community Team: An Approach to Case Management includes a wealth of material on various aspects of the multidisciplinary approach, plus descriptions of four programs operating in various settings and an extensive bibliography.

Available from the U.S. Government Printing Office: Volume 1, $1.50 each, #017-092-00018-9; Volume 2, $1.90 each, #017-092-00017-1; Volume 3, $2.60 each, #017-092-00019-7.


Brief but comprehensive and clear exposition of issues related to the problem and its management. Proposes fourteen attributes of model systems for the prevention and control of child abuse and neglect.

Journal Abstract: "Social service personnel from one public and two voluntary agencies were integrated into a consultation group in an academic pediatric hospital, leading to a reduction in the actual cost of medical services and the risk of re-injury subsequent to the diagnosis of child abuse...."


Basic overview. Contains fourteen attributes of model systems for control of child abuse and neglect.


Journal Abstract: "This paper reports the demographic findings and the experience of a three-year multidisciplinary group psychotherapy program...."


Calls for an interlocking of a variety of services to which many disciplines can contribute, and furnishes a brief description of the Bowen Center.


Discusses goals and operation of the Committee for Child Protection at the University of Virginia Hospital.


Discusses team at DeWitt Army Medical Hospital and comments on the advantages of the team approach.


Description and history of the Advisory Committee on Child Welfare of Milwaukee Children's Hospital.


IV. Evaluation

The following materials may be helpful in evaluating child abuse and neglect programs:


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