

The Advocacy News

Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

May 5, 2009

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Champions for Children Walk

The second annual Champions for Children Walk will be hosted by the Child Advocacy Centers of Illinois on May 14th through May 17th. The walk will take us across the state. The McHenry CAC will be walking in Quincy on Thursday while other centers will kick off in Belleville or Charleston. Then its off to Springfield on Friday, Dixon on Saturday and



a Chicago Finale on Sunday. In Chicago the walkers will be joined by Governor Pat Quinn, a faithful supporter of Illinois Child Advocacy Centers. This year all three McHenry County CAC staff members will be walking and Board Vice Chairperson Jane Abramson will be joining the County team on Sunday the 17th in Chicago.

We would like to thank all of you who have already donated to the Center and those who are walking. 80% of all proceeds raised will be returned right back to the McHenry County Child Advocacy Center. 20% will be donated to the Child Advocacy Centers of Illinois chapter to recoup expenses used to host the 2009 Champions for Children Walk. Please keep those donations coming in! You can make donations by making checks payable to CACI and mailing them into the CAC at 1780 S. Eastwood Drive, Woodstock, IL 60098.

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MDT Updates

The multidisciplinary team is a very necessary part of the Child Advocacy center. We would like to thank everyone for their extra efforts and their dedication to the team and the mission of the Child Advocacy Center.

You may have noticed a few new faces at the recent case reviews. We'd like to welcome Laurie Parisi, Andrea Menzimer and Melissa Nolan from Centegra Memorial located in Woodstock. Their medical knowledge has already been a great asset to the case reviews. Please also welcome Carol Fetzner from Northwest treatment Associates.

Although the Child Advocacy Center has had a long standing relationship with Carol, she has just recently agreed to represent the mental health field and point of view at the Case Reviews. She is always a great resource for us at the Child Advocacy Center.

Thank you to all the new team members and to all those withstanding members keep up the good work.

Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

Mark your calendars



for the children

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United Way
of McHenry County



NATIONAL
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Future Case Reviews

Monthly case reviews are currently held at 10 a.m. on the last Friday of the month at the DCFS Field Offices in Woodstock. The next case review will be May 29th. A reminder is sent out a week before each case review to all Multidisciplinary team members, if you would like more information please contact Anna Krause at the CAC.

Tentatively future dates are set for:

May 29

June 26

July 31

August 28



NCA Site visit

The National Children's Alliance will be visiting the Child Advocacy Center on a date to be determined in October of 2009. They will request to sit in on a Case Review and speak with MDT members. Please let us know if you are interested in helping us out that very busy and critical day.

Midwest Conference on Child Sexual Abuse

The 25th annual Midwest conference on child sexual abuse is set for October 19-22, 2009 in Middleton, WI. Guest speaker this year will be Dr. Bruce Perry the author of *The Boy Who Was Raised as a Dog*. The CAC will have further information in July, be on the look out.

From the Director's Desk:

James Wiegand, Executive Director Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

I hope you enjoy our first issue of the Advocacy News. Our intention is to provide information including center updates, news of upcoming events/trainings, and relevant issues regarding our work.

2009 is an important year for the Child Advocacy Center as our accreditation through the National Children's Alliance is due for renewal. The process includes an extensive written application and a visit from two site reviewers chosen by NCA. Our application has been submitted and the site visit is scheduled for October. Being accredited demonstrates compliance with 10 required standards of practice set by NCA as well as eligibility to receive a \$10,000 annual grant. Accreditation must be renewed every 5 years. In the following column I have listed the first five standards and will continue with 6 through 10 in the next issue of the Advocacy News. Each standard has multiple criteria that must be met, both essential and rated, in order to pass that standard.

1. A child advocacy center provides a comfortable, private, child-friendly setting that is both physically and psychologically safe for diverse populations of children and their families
2. A multidisciplinary team for response to child abuse allegations includes representation from the following: Law Enforcement, Child Protection Services, Prosecution, Mental Health, Medical, Victim Advocacy, and the Children's Advocacy Center.
3. A designated legal entity responsible for program and fiscal operations has been established and implements basic sound administrative policies.
4. The CAC promotes policies, practices, and procedures that are culturally competent....the ability to appreciate, understand, and interact with members of diverse populations within the local community.
5. The CAC promotes forensic interviews that are legally sound, of a neutral fact finding nature, and are coordinated to avoid duplicate interviewing.