

# The Advocacy News

## Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

The mission of the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County is to reduce secondary trauma to child victims through coordinating a timely, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary response in reported cases of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

### Protocol reminder...

The Child Advocacy Center would like to remind MDT members of the Child Advocacy Center's mission and the McHenry County protocol. As it is easy to get wrapped up in charging decisions and "catching the bad guy", the first and foremost mission of the Child Advocacy Center is to reduce secondary trauma for the child victim.

- The signed county protocol states "Effort should be made to conduct victim interviews at the Child Advocacy Center." and it is ideal to forensically interview child victims up to age 17 at the CAC. It is understandable that there may be exceptions and our hope is that MDT members will discuss alternative interview locations as a group. While the occasional forensic interview may not take place at the CAC, the Child Advocacy Center can still be an essential member in the MDT. With investigations where the interview was not conducted at the CAC, an advocate can provide the child victim and non-offending family members with much needed therapeutic resources and advocacy support for the duration of the investigation and court process.
- Reducing secondary trauma is in part accomplished by reducing the number of interviews a child victim must go through. While follow up questioning is not always avoidable it can be reduced by having all MDT present at the time of the forensic interview. In addition, CAC staff is available and willing to be present when follow up questioning is required if the child victim requests. This is especially important for the teenage victims that we all deal with. It is easy to forget that teenagers are not small adults rather children who are susceptible to feelings of intimidation and fear.



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**Lindsay Porth**

Forensic Interviewer



### Welcome

Lane Porth!

Born on August 31, 2010

9 pounds and 20 1/2 inches

Lindsay and her family are doing well and enjoying their newest addition. Congratulations Porth Family!

Climb the mountains and get their good tidings. Nature's peace will flow into you as sunshine flows into trees. The winds will blow their own freshness into you, and the storms their energy, while cares will drop off like autumn leaves.



John Muir



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United Way  
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## Mark your calendars

### Case Reviews

Monthly Case Reviews are scheduled for the last Friday of the month and are held at the DCFS Field Offices in Woodstock. Lunch is provided for all those who attend. Please inform the CAC if you would like a specific case staffing scheduled.

Tentative future dates are set for:

**September 24**

**October 29**

**November 19**



### FVCC Symposium 2010

In collaboration with the Family Violence Coordinating Council and MCC, the Child Advocacy Center is providing a one day symposium on October 28th. This year's topic will be "Child Abuse: Developing a Coordinated Multi-Disciplinary Community Approach" presented by Victor Vieth and his colleagues from the National Child Protection Training Center. Please see the attached flyer.

### Finding Words 2010

The next Finding Words Forensic Interviewer training will be October 18-22 in Springfield. The CAC will again be looking to send a full team, which will include a member from law enforcement, DCFS and State's Attorney's Office. There will be scholarships available. If you are interested in receiving this very vital training for Forensic Interviewers please contact Jim Wiegand.

## From the Director's Desk:

Jim Wiegand, Director

**\*\*\*REMEMBER: FVCC Symposium\*\*\***

**on Child Abuse, Oct. 28, 2010 at MCC**

**TEAM:** This summer when I was out of the office recovering from injuries I sustained, the CAC advocate, Julie, wrote about the value of teamwork. I want to emphasize the excellent points she made in that article. The multidisciplinary team is the key to a successful protocol in investigating and prosecuting child abuse cases. Every month the CAC sends out a notice for "Case Review." In this meeting, team members discuss aspects of open cases and determine action plans for case direction (not to mention a free lunch!!). This is a vital component of the multidisciplinary team process and I want to encourage those invited to attend these important meetings. I do appreciate those who have participated over the past year in the Case Review Meetings.

**WATCH:** for the "MDT Spotlight" in future editions of the **Advocacy News** in which we will recognize individual team members for their outstanding contributions to the fight against child abuse in McHenry County.

Case Manager and Forensic Interviewer, Anna Krause, will soon be on maternity leave and Lindsay Porth is currently on leave. **Thank You** to the team members who have expressed a willingness to help with forensic interviews during their absence.

Jim

