

# Southern Connections

## Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center Newsletter - Spring 2014

*The Southern Regional Children's Advocacy Center is a project of the National Children's Advocacy Center, funded by a grant from the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. We work collaboratively with the other Regional CAC's, NCA, and our Chapter Organizations in establishing and strengthening Children's Advocacy Centers. This project was supported by Grant No. 2012-CI-FX-K001 awarded by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention, Office of Justice Programs, US Department of Justice. Points of view in this document are those of the author and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the USDOJ.*



### SOUTHERN HAPPENINGS Cym Doggett, Project Director

Spring has finally sprung! It has been a long cold winter with incredible cold, snow and ice but now the azaleas and dogwoods are trying to bud out and the polar vortex has morphed into warm sunny days. Spring tends to put a little bounce in our step and now is a good time to focus on your own care as you continue to do this work.

While we have become more aware of the need for our *services* to be trauma informed, I am not sure we have fully embraced the need for our *organizations* to become more trauma informed. We all readily agree we should be cognizant of, educated on and responsive to the impact of trauma on the children and families we serve, but we need to stop and ask ourselves if we are just as dedicated to understanding the impact of this work on ourselves and our staff. Do we take our responsibility to support our colleagues as seriously as we do our responsibility to serve our clients?

#### See What's Inside!

**Polyvictimization: Implications for Practitioners, Policymakers, and Researchers. Don't miss our two white paper summaries on pages 4 and 5. You will also find a link to NCAC's new Polyvictimization Training Series on page 6.**

As spring arrives with new life and new hope, I urge you to take a look at your organizations. Look at the physical facility...is it a safe, calm and secure environment? Look at the culture of the organization...does it embrace diversity; does it support honest, trusting relationships? Look at the professional development of workers...what training regarding trauma is needed? Look at your policies and procedures...do they recognize the impact of trauma on staff?

Social Media is an easy and inexpensive way to collaborate, connect and get much needed feedback. Like Us!



Things to ponder for new spring growth!

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# Southern Regional CAC 2014 CORE TRAINING SCHEDULE

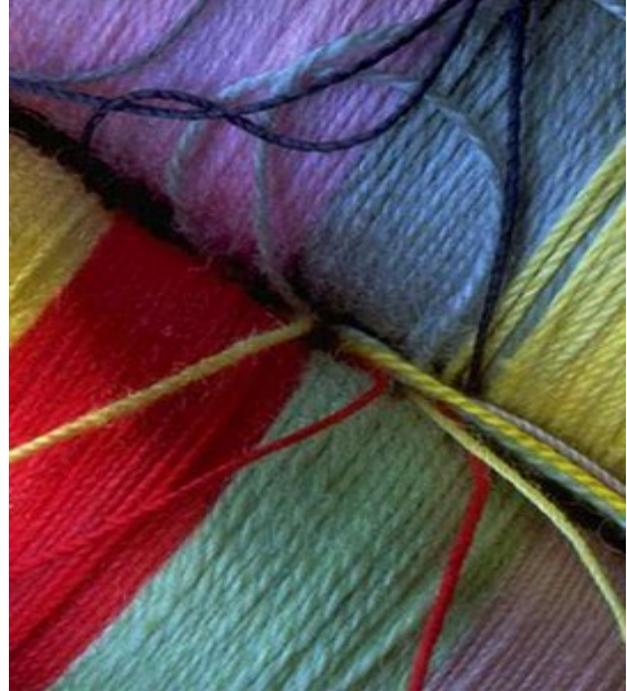
Team Facilitator 101  
July 15-17

CAC Management  
August 12-15

Accreditation Boot Camp  
August 26-27

Advanced CAC Director Academy  
October 20-24

Medical Court Preparation  
Nov 20-22



VISIT OUR WEBSITE TO FIND OUT MORE: <http://www.srcac.or>

## IMPROVING SERVICE DELIVERY TO RURAL POPULATIONS THROUGH THE IMPLEMENTATION OF A MOBILE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER

Jennifer Wilkerson, Executive Director  
Upper Cumberland CAC

The Upper Cumberland Child Advocacy Center, located in Cookeville, Tennessee, provides services to victims of abuse throughout the entire 13th Judicial District in the State of Tennessee. The 13th Judicial District is the largest judicial district in the State of Tennessee and is stretched across seven very rural counties. It is an indigenous area with very little resources available. While the center is situated in the middle of the district, travel through the rural and mountainous area is often times very difficult for the children and families coming from the outer lying areas. views, counseling and medical location in the heart of the dis-

The UCCAC is the large ge-  
tion of the center in Cookeville  
travel a considerable distance to  
changed recently!

Fundraising efforts successfully  
RV and have it built to include  
an observation room. This major  
mobile Child Advocacy Center.  
the rural counties to provide im-

their non- offending family members. Our mission is to provide a brighter future for these children of the 13th Judicial District and It is our hope that we will be able to positively impact more families that may have not been able to travel to Cookeville. Now the UCCAC can go to their clients and provide forensic interviews in all 7 counties.



The center provides forensic inter-  
exams on site at their primary  
trict. One of the challenges facing  
graphic area it serves. The loca-  
requires many of their clients to  
receive services. But all that

enabled the UCCAC to purchase a  
digital recording equipment and  
acquisition now will serve as a  
This mobile unit will travel out to  
portant services to children and

## Resource Rapp By Darlene Woodard

“Everyone can take steps to make communities more supportive of families”.

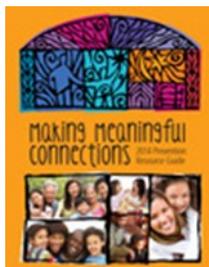


## April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

### *Making Meaningful Connections*

If you're looking for ways to engage your community during Child Abuse Prevention Month, visit the Child Welfare website for tips and ideas. Child Welfare released their 2014 Prevention Resource Guide that is full of information on ways to make meaningful connections with community partners, dads, your teens, caregivers and even the media.

This 92 page guide provides information on how to promote your Prevention Month events/activities, and offers advice on the importance of strengthening the family. You can access templates to help you write a press release, tip sheets written by various experts who provide prevention and well-being to children and find suggestions on how to promote the work you do in the community through the use of social media. The resource guide is available for free download in English or Spanish.



Download your free copy!

### **Simple Tips for Parents to Keep In Mind**

**Have family meals.** If it's impossible to do every night, schedule a regular weekly family dinner night that accommodates your child's schedule.

**Share "ordinary" time.** Look for everyday opportunities to bond with your teen. Even times spent driving or walking the dog together offer chances for your teen to talk about what's on his or her mind.

**Get involved, be involved, and stay involved.** Go to games and practices when you can. Ask about homework and school projects. Learn about your teen's favorite websites and apps. Look for chances to join in your teen's latest hobby.....download the resource guide for more tips to share in your community.



## **Poly-victimization: Childhood Exposure to Multiple Forms of Victimization Summary of Key Points**

*Heather Turner, Sherry Hamby, and Victoria Banyard*

Far too many children are exposed to abuse, violence, and crime. A new emphasis on what is being called “poly-victimization” can help professionals identify the most endangered children and youth, provide the most appropriate interventions, and protect them from additional harm.

**Poly-victimization refers to the experience of multiple victimizations of *different kinds*, such as sexual abuse, physical abuse, bullying, witnessing family violence, and exposure to community violence (versus experiencing a single form of victimization).**

### ***Evidence indicates that:***

- Many children routinely identified as victims of child abuse or bullying or other single forms of violence are in fact poly-victims who have experienced many different types of victimization.
- Half of sexually victimized youth are also poly-victims.
- Poly-victimization is more highly related to trauma symptoms than experiencing repeated victimizations of a single type.
- Poly-victimization explains most of the psychological consequences of victimization. Surprisingly, this is true even in comparison to commonly considered more severe forms of violence such as sexual and physical abuse.

### ***Why the powerful effect of poly-victimization? Poly-victimization:***

- Represents a life condition of victimization rather than a set of events.
- Creates threats to safety, stability, and nurturance in multiple life domains (home, school, community).
- Damages resources (e.g. social support, coping, self-esteem, social competence) that would normally help buffer the impact of victimization.

### ***Implications for practitioners:***

- All providers, no matter their focus, should inquire about victimization experiences in all the major settings of a child's life: home, school, and neighborhood.
- Practitioners can use poly-victimization assessments to better understand and promote treatment effectiveness. To learn how to assess poly-victimization see the NCAC White Paper titled “Poly-victimization: Childhood Exposure to Multiple Forms of Victimization”.
- Interventions that focus on only one form of victimization, such as sexual abuse, without attention to other types of violence exposure, may fail to identify the contexts placing children at greatest risk.
- Poly-victimization points to the importance of moving towards a more holistic and child-centered approach to evaluating and responding to victimized youth which is completely consistent with the Chil-

# How to Assess Poly-victimization in Your Work: Approaches & Tools

## Summary of Key Points

*Sherry Hamby, Heather Turner, and Victoria Banyard*

Poly-victimization refers to experiencing multiple different types of victimization, such as physical abuse by a caregiver, bullying at school, and witnessing an assault in one's neighborhood. Poly-victimization is the strongest predictor of psychological symptoms in multiple national studies. Accurate assessment of the true burden of victimization can improve your work and be integrated into your practice.

### ***How to incorporate the assessment of poly-victimization into your work***

- The JVQ or other instruments which assess multiple victimizations can be incorporated into intake assessments to obtain a more comprehensive and accurate picture of a child's victimization exposure.
- Poly-victimization assessment can enhance needs assessment by documenting service priorities in a community or sometimes for a special population, such as children in foster care.
- Poly-victimization assessment can be a key component of program evaluation by increasing the scope of outcome measures, and can help track program effects that may be overlooked.
- Poly-victimization assessment can advance existing basic research on maltreatment and other forms of victimization.

### ***Assessing poly-victimization***

There are numerous measures available that can be used to assess poly-victimization.

#### ***Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ)***

The Juvenile Victimization Questionnaire (JVQ) is a freely available and widely used tool for assessing poly-victimization. The JVQ is used in the National Survey of Children's Exposure to Violence (NatSCEV), which is the nation's primary surveillance mechanism for youth victimization and the largest nationally representative dataset on youth victimization. Careful word-by-word attention was given to every item to make sure each item expressed each type of victimization in simple, straightforward language that can be understood by as many youth and parents as possible. The JVQ has established reliability and validity and several different forms are available, see <http://www.unh.edu/ccrc/jvq/>.

#### ***Other Tools That Assess Multiple Forms of Youth Victimization***

- North Shore Trauma History Checklist
- Childhood Experiences of Violence Questionnaire
- Adverse Childhood Experiences Scale

### ***Conclusion***

Ensuring the safety and well-being of children is the primary mission of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) and all of the organizations and multidisciplinary professionals that are part of the CAC. Incorporating poly-victimization assessment into the work of CACs will help us identify the true burden of victimization and offer the hope of more child-centered, holistic and effective services that will better ensure the safety of all children.

The research reported in these publications was produced by the Crimes Against Children Research Center of the University of New Hampshire with funding by the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention. Production and dissemination of this publication is supported by the National Children's Advocacy Center under Grant No. 2012-VF-GX-K010, Awarded by the Office for Victims of Crime, Office of Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice. The opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in these materials are those of the contributors, and do not necessarily represent the official position or policies of the U.S. Department of Justice. For more resources on poly-victimization visit <http://www.nationalcac.org>

# NCAC's Poly-victimization Training Series

NCAC is proud to partner with subject matter experts on Poly-victimization to deliver cutting-edge research to CACs, MDTs, first responders, and other professionals serving child victims.

Through funding from The Office for Victims of Crime, the National Children's Advocacy Center (NCAC) is providing resources to raise awareness of child victims who suffer from poly-victimization. Poly-victimization, also known as complex trauma, describes the experience of multiple victimizations of different types. Research shows that the impact of poly-victimization is much more powerful than even multiple events of a single type of victimization, and this issue is strongly integrated into the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative which addresses children's exposure to multiple types of violence. The resources offered are designed to equip child maltreatment practitioners with the skills they need to assess and assist poly-victims. All materials are devoted to filling the gaps in knowledge and understanding of child poly-victims and provide resources for appropriate response, reaction, and questioning for all professionals working with children, throughout the nation and beyond. For the following resources and materials visit

<http://www.nationalcac.org>

- White Papers & Summaries
- Bibliography
- Research
- Podcasts
- Webinars
- Community Resources
- Technical Assistance

## *Did you know...?*

**Q:** Where can you find evidence-based research, webinars, White Papers, slide presentations, podcasts, and other resources covering poly-victimization issues?

**A:** In the [Poly-victimization](#) section of the Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO™).

Research shows that the impact of poly-victimization is much more powerful than even multiple events of a single type of victimization, and this issue is strongly integrated into the Attorney General's Defending Childhood Initiative which addresses children's exposure to multiple types of violence. The resources offered in CALiO are designed to equip child maltreatment practitioners with the skills they need to assess and assist poly-victims. All poly-victimization resources are freely available in full text and may be shared without restriction for training and education purposes.

The Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO™) is a unique online library created specifically to serve the needs of professionals serving victims of child maltreatment. Resources include bibliographies to the evidence-based literature, best practices and guidelines, research to practice articles, resources for child serving professionals, and much more. Additionally, the library comes with a built-in research librarian for your convenience. The librarian can be reached at [mwells@nationalcac.org](mailto:mwells@nationalcac.org) or 256-327-3854.

Find out what CALiO can do for you at [www.nationalcac.org](http://www.nationalcac.org) or [www.calio.org](http://www.calio.org)

**Be Sure to Register Your Center for CALiO - Child Abuse Library Online  
Complete the Form on Page 7 and Fax to 256-327-3859** →

**CALiO – Child Abuse Library Online  
CAC User Agreement/Registration Form**

This agreement form constitutes a working agreement between the National Children’s Advocacy Center and the CAC named in the agreement, pertaining to access and use of restricted-access resources within the digital library collections of the NCAC Research Library. ***This form must be completed and signed by the Executive Director of the CAC.*** (Please print clearly so faxed form will be legible)

Name of Child Advocacy Center: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City, State, ZIP: \_\_\_\_\_

Name of Executive Director: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Email of Executive Director: \_\_\_\_\_

**TERMS OF AGREEMENT:** EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MUST INITIAL EACH OF THE STATEMENTS TO INDICATE THAT THE CAC AGREES TO THE FOLLOWING TERMS:

\_\_\_\_ One Username and Password will be provided for use by the CAC. ***The CAC agrees not to give out the Username and Password beyond the professional staff of the organization and MDT Members.*** The Username and Password are not to be distributed to other CACs, or to other organizations or individuals.

\_\_\_\_ You may designate any members of your multidisciplinary team or CAC professional staff for access to the system. There is no limit to the number of individuals within your organization who can access the system. However, volunteers, temporary staff, and positions with high turnover should not be given the Username and Password. ***The CAC agrees to inform every person to whom the Username and Password are given about the importance of observing guidelines for sharing documents and protecting your Username and Password.***

\_\_\_\_ Restricted-access documents (like journal articles in PDF or HTML form) are subject to U.S. copyright laws. Electronic distribution of these documents beyond the organization via e-mail or posting on Web sites can violate copyright laws. ***The CAC agrees to observe these guidelines for sharing published documents beyond the CAC organization members: a copy may be sent only by printing out a document and mailing the paper copy.***

How many individuals in your organization do you anticipate will be given access? \_\_\_\_\_

***Violation of the terms of this agreement can result in termination of access to the digital resources that are granted under these terms.***

Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

**Signature of CAC Executive Director**

**Fax Completed Form to Muriel K. Wells 256-327-3859**



# BOARD BRIEF

## BOARD BRIEF

Yvette Roszell

### Board of Directors: Basic Roles and Responsibilities

To prevent frustration within the agency, it is important for board members and staff to have a clear understanding of their own and each other's roles and responsibilities. Although many of these responsibilities will be assigned within the strategic plan, and board members and staff will often work together and create strong partnerships, board and staff each have primary responsibilities. Generally, if it's a matter of what is to be done or where the organization is going, the board is responsible; if it's a matter of how the work is to be accomplished, the staff is responsible. More specifically, the roles and responsibilities of the board can be categorized into the following five general groupings:

1. Policy Making
2. Legal/Liability Issues
3. Financial Issues
4. Planning and Evaluation
5. Community Relations

#### Policy Making

It is the responsibility of the board to define the agency, its process of governance, and the nature of the workplace, while providing a stable framework for organizational change. The board determines who the agency serves and what services are provided.

#### Legal/Liability Issues

The board works together to develop articles of incorporation and bylaws, obtain and guard 501(c)(3) tax-exempt status, and ensure compliance with all laws and regulations. The board must also approve and safeguard all legal documents, maintain records (i.e., minutes, audits, and annual reports), and hire, evaluate and support the executive director. The board does not manage staff but does set staff compensation levels. By using good judgment and common sense, attending meetings and staying informed, making well-considered decisions, and avoiding conflicts-of-interest, the board can reduce the risk of liability by performing duties in a good faith manner. Due care should be exercised by making decisions and recording votes, reviewing financial statements and audits, supervising the executive director, and bonding

employees who handle funds. It is also important to obtaining directors' and officers' liability insurance, and remember to include an indemnification clause in the bylaws to protect individual board members as required by accreditation standards. Beware of instances of conflict of interest. Normally, these situations involve well-intended board members and staff who may not realize their conduct is a conflict of interest i.e., local doctors who sit on the CAC's advisory committee and receive payment for medical exams performed there.

#### Financial Issues

Not only is the board responsible for raising funds to meet the budget, but the board must also ensure that resources are well managed by approving the final budget, monitoring fund balances and cash flow, and reviewing the annual audit. Fiscal policy is set by the board through investment decisions, fee policies, approved contracts, cash reserves, and the wage scale and fringe benefits.

#### Planning and Evaluation

One of the most important responsibilities of the board is to create a strategic plan based upon external opportunities and challenges and internal strengths and weaknesses. Even after the board has determined who is to be served, to what end, and at what cost, it is advisable to review/revise the mission statement periodically. All proposals and activities should be evaluated for compliance with the mission and their long-term impact. By assessing what is being accomplished and how well it is being accomplished, the board monitors progress toward meeting goals.

#### Community Relations

All board members enhance the visibility of the organization as good will ambassadors. It is the responsibility of the board to provide ongoing information and represent the agency to the public, develop community coalitions and partnerships, and authorize spokespersons to deal with media and the general public (usually board chair and executive director).



# National Children's Advocacy Center

## 2014 COURSES OFFERED AT THE NATIONAL CAC TRAINING CEN- TER LOCATED IN HUNTSVILLE, ALABAMA:

### Forensic Interviewing of Children

Apr 7-11  
Jun 9-13  
Jul 28 - Aug 1  
Sep 29 - Oct 3  
Dec 8-12

### Advanced Forensic Interviewing

Jun 17-19 (Providence, RI)  
Oct 7-9 (Kansas City, MO)

### Extended Forensic Interviewing

Apr 22-24 (Charlotte, NC)  
Sep 9-11 (Salt Lake City, UT)

### Victim Advocacy

May 6-8  
Nov 4-6

### Adapting the NICHD Forensic Interview Model to Special Populations

Aug 5-6

## ONLINE TRAINING COURSES:

Online Training Courses are offered at no charge to participants! Visit the website [www.nationalcac.org/onlinetraining](http://www.nationalcac.org/onlinetraining) to participate. Sessions Include:

### I'll Show You Mine if You Show Me Yours: Treat- ing Child Sexual Behavior Problems

Paris Goodyear-Brown

### Most Common Mistakes in Forensic Interviews and How to Fix Them

Linda Cordisco-Steele & Heather Stewart

### It's About Time: Children's Ability vs. The Team's Need To Know

Andra Chamberlin

### Children With Disabilities: Challenges, Strate- gies, and Resources

Harold Johnson

### Homicide: A Practical Guide to Working With Families of Homicide Victims

Heidi Porter & Keri Wallace

### Opening Statements and Closing Arguments in Child Sexual Abuse Cases

Jeffrey Brickman, JD

## ASK THE EXPERT SESSIONS

### Promoting Sex-Wise Parenting: The Role of Intra- Family Sexuality Education in Keeping Kids Sex- ually Safe and Healthy

Janet Rosenzweig

### Managing Vicarious Trauma

Jon R. Conte

### Adolescents Who Sexually Abuse: Helpful Infor- mation For Professionals

Jacqueline Page

## WEBINARS

### Consensual But Unlawful

Andra Chamberlin

### Sexually Transmitted Infections in Sexual Abuse

Karen Farst

### The NCAC Extended Forensic Model: Rational and Key Components

Linda Cordisco-Steele

### Understanding How Social Networking Sites Are Used

Mike Duffy

## National Children's Alliance—Accreditation Corner



# Online Accreditation Boot Camp Understanding the NCA Accreditation Standards

Online Accreditation Bootcamp will provide you with an overview of the accreditation process, a framework for developing your application and what to expect during your site visit.

**Who can register?** This course is specifically designed for CAC Directors and MDT members with the direct responsibility for developing the application, however the modules are designed so that you can share them with your MDT members and engage them in the process and revisit modules if needed. This is a great course for new employees and board members seeking to learn more about NCA and the different components that make up the CAC model.

Accreditation BootCamp is designed to provide an overview of the accreditation process, provide participants with a framework for developing their application, and help them understand what to expect during a site visit. Topics to be covered include: history of the accreditation process; NCA accreditation procedures; overview of NCA standards for Accredited Members; putting standards into practice; common challenges centers face in meeting standards; what to do when current practice may not meet the standard; engaging your team in the process and creating a “plan of attack”; preparing your application; and what to expect from a site visit.

To learn more, go to <http://www.nca-online.org>

### CONGRATULATIONS TO OUR RECENT NEWLY ACCREDITED CENTERS!

Children's Advocacy Center of the Blue Ridge  
Blowing Rock, NC

Onslow County Partnership For Children  
Jacksonville, NC

Robin's Nest  
Lenoir, NC

McDowell County CAC  
Marion, NC

Dragonfly House CAC  
Mocksville, NC

Kaleidoscope CAC, Help, Inc.; Center Against Violence  
Wentworth, NC

Valley Children's Center  
Staunton, VA

Membership in National Children's Alliance (NCA) is offered to developing and established Children's Advocacy Centers as well as individuals and programs wishing to support the mission of the organization. Go to <http://www.nca-online.org> to learn more about the different levels of NCA membership.

## SAVE THE DATE!

NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE®



Leadership Conference

June 1<sup>st</sup> - 4<sup>th</sup> 2014  
Washington, DC