



Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana

Annual Report 2006-2007

General Information about Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana

Mission: to prevent the abuse and neglect of Louisiana's children

Vision: Louisiana will be a state which values its children, protects them from harm and does not tolerate their abuse and neglect

Core Values: Valuing Children, Strengthening Families, Engaging Communities

State affiliate of Prevent Child Abuse America, headquartered in Chicago

Founded in 1986 as Louisiana Council on Child Abuse

Name changed to Prevent Child Abuse (PCA) Louisiana in 1998

Fifteen (15) full-time and two part-time staff, including six regional directors with offices in

- Alexandria
- Lafayette
- Lake Charles
- Monroe
- New Orleans
- Shreveport

Twenty-nine (29) members on the Board of Directors, representing each region of the state

Operating budget of \$1.025 million

Organizational Expenses (FY2007)

- 50% parents and children's programs
- 26% public education and advocacy
- 16% fundraising
- 8% administration

General Information about Child Abuse and Neglect

Number of victims of child abuse and neglect:

| | |
|--------------------|---------|
| U.S. (FFY2005) | 899,000 |
| Louisiana (FY2007) | 17,061 |

Number of children who died as a result of abuse or neglect:

| | |
|------------------|-------|
| U.S. (FFY2005) | 1,460 |
| Louisiana (2005) | 30 |

76.6% of the children killed in the U.S. (1,118) were under the age of four.

Approximately 76.6% of the perpetrators were parents of the victims.

Forms of Abuse:

Physical – any use of excessive physical force which threatens the health or well-being of a child

Sexual – the exploitation of a child for the sexual gratification of a perpetrator

Verbal – the use of insulting, belittling language to scold or harshly revile a child

Emotional – a pattern of behavior that attacks a child's emotional development and sense of self-worth

Neglect – the failure of a caretaker to provide a child with the basic necessities of life

* Physical neglect is the lack of food, shelter, clothing, medical care and education

* Emotional neglect is the failure to provide love, support and guidance

* Prenatal neglect is the unlawful use of controlled dangerous substances during pregnancy

About Child Abuse Prevention

Protective Factors are conditions in families and communities that, when present, increase the health and well-being of children and families. Research has demonstrated there are five important factors that can help families protect children from the risk of child abuse and neglect.

Protective Factors

Parental nurturing and attachment – the importance of early bonding between a parent and infant, as well as nurturing throughout childhood

Knowledge of parenting and child development – information about what to anticipate as children develop, developmental stages and skills for effective parenting

Parental resilience – how parents' ability to cope and problem-solve affects their ability to deal effectively with everyday stress or a major crisis

Social connections in the community – identifying ways to help parents expand their social networks in order to build a broader base of parenting support

Concrete supports in times of need – finding out what resources are available in the community for families and how to access them

Common Risk Factors for Child Abuse & Neglect

Unrealistic expectations of children

Lack of knowledge about child development or different methods of discipline

Domestic violence

Substance abuse in the home

Unmet needs or low self-esteem in parents

Social isolation

Stress and difficulty handling it

Mentally and/or physically challenged child or adult

Behavioral problems such as ADHD, ADD, temper tantrums

Inability to cope with feelings constructively

Depression

Cultural and social myths about children

History of child abuse in the family

Prevention Services: Programs

KIDLINE, 1-800-CHILDREN (1-800-244-5373) – a statewide, toll-free telephone program offering crisis intervention, support, parenting information and referrals to community resources. The service is available from 8 a.m. to 8 p.m. every day.

KIDLINE offers a safe, confidential atmosphere for individuals who may be hesitant to seek face-to-face counseling. Staff and trained volunteers answer a variety of calls from stressed parents, victims and survivors of abuse, families in crisis, professionals working with families, third-parties wanting to report abuse and individuals wanting information to improve their parenting skills.

KIDLINE volunteers go through 29 hours of initial training and commit to working 12 hours per month for six months.

How does KIDLINE help prevent child abuse and neglect?

The variety of calls that come in to KIDLINE allow volunteers to address all protective factors and several risk factors.

Protective Factors strengthened: Concrete support in times of need; parental resilience to stress; social connections in the community; knowledge of parenting and child development; and parental nurturing and attachment

Risk Factors addressed: stress; cultural and social myths about children; lack of knowledge about child development; unrealistic expectations and unmet needs of parents; social isolation; and the cycle of abuse or neglect

KIDLINE served 511 callers in FY2007

Nurturing the Families of Louisiana™ – a structured, weekly program designed to help parents and children reduce dysfunction and build healthy, positive interactions

Nurturing the Families of Louisiana™ volunteers act as facilitators for parent and children groups. The parents and children are placed in separate groups and given activities tailored to their needs. Topics covered during the adult sessions include anger management, self-esteem, positive communication, child discipline and child development.

Prevention Services: Programs

Nurturing the Families of Louisiana™, *continued*

The program lasts 16 weeks. Each block of sessions has the capacity to serve eight to 10 parents and 12 to 15 children.

Nurturing the Families of Louisiana™ can be held in fathers-only or mothers-only groups upon request.

Volunteers go through 16 hours of initial training and commit to leading two programs or a minimum of six months.

How does the Nurturing the Families of Louisiana™ Program help prevent child abuse and neglect?

Protective Factors strengthened: parental nurturing and attachment; knowledge of parenting and child development; parental resilience to stress; social connections in the community; and concrete support in times of need

Risk Factors addressed: stress; anger; unrealistic expectations and unmet needs of parents; inability to cope with feelings; low self-esteem; depression; lack of knowledge about child development; lack of knowledge about different methods of discipline; the cycle of abuse or neglect; and domestic violence

Nurturing the Families of Louisiana™ served 541 individuals in FY2007

Circle of Parents – a program where parents meet weekly to share their concerns and gain support from each other.

Circle of Parents groups provide places for parents to build their own sense of competence and power. They do this by building relationships and connecting with other parents who share common experiences, successes and challenges.

Through weekly group meetings co-led by parents and professionals, participants:

- gain a sense of belonging and relief as they learn that their family dynamics and their child's behavior are typical, and that the challenges a parent faces can be overcome
- become resources to each other inside and outside of the group by sharing coping strategies and parenting skills from parents who have been there
- advocate for themselves and other parents as they give and receive help while

Prevention Services: Programs

recognizing that seeking help is a sign of strength, not weakness

Volunteers go through 8 hours of initial training and commit to leading a Circle of Parents group for one year.

How does Circle of Parents help prevent child abuse and neglect?

Protective Factors strengthened: concrete support in times of need; parental resilience to stress; and social connections in the community

Risk factors addressed: parents' social isolation; unmet needs; stress; anger; cultural and social myths about children; lack of knowledge about child development; and lack of knowledge about different methods of discipline

Circle of Parents served six individuals in FY2007

Prevention Services: Public Education & Training

PCA Louisiana's series of presentations and trainings provide information about our programs, the issue of child abuse and neglect and prevention to professionals, agencies, volunteers and the community.

"Kids Are Worth It!" Conference on Child Abuse and Neglect – PCA Louisiana's annual statewide conference attracts social workers, child protection workers, law enforcement officials, day care workers, teachers and others who work with children. The topics discussed in the plenary and break-out sessions increase attendees' knowledge base of child abuse prevention and treatment programs.

The "Kids Are Worth it!" Conference attracted 287 attendees in FY2007.

Mandatory Reporter Training – PCA Louisiana staff train teachers, guidance counselors, doctors, day care workers, Scout leaders and others who are required by law to report suspected abuse or neglect. The training includes a review of the signs and symptoms of abuse and neglect, as well as the procedure for reporting a suspected case of child maltreatment.

Mandatory Report Trainings reached 3,134 individuals in FY2007.

Prevention Services: Public Education & Training

Nurturing Parenting Series-Ten individual parenting lessons each 60 to 90 minutes long; designed to help parents learn the basic philosophy and practices of Nurturing Parents in raising healthy, caring children and the importance in making time to nurture themselves.

Other Public Education Offerings - PCA Louisiana also offers workshops on general child abuse and neglect information and informative presentations about who we are and what we do.

Parenting lessons and workshops attracted 7,268 attendees in FY2007.

How do these trainings and presentations help prevent child abuse and neglect?

By sharing basic information about child abuse and neglect with the general public, and by furthering the training of those who work with children, PCA Louisiana is creating greater awareness of the issue and the need for prevention. Risk factors addressed include stress, lack of knowledge and unmet needs in parents.

Advocacy

Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana is a leading voice, at both the state and local levels, in advocating for child abuse prevention as a public policy priority.

PCA Louisiana advances its advocacy efforts in the following ways.

- Continuing to address the needs of Louisiana's children discussed in the *Platform for Children and Youth*
- Serving on governmental task forces and committees that examine policies, laws and programs relating to child abuse and neglect and prevention
- Advocating before the Louisiana Legislature and other public officials for policies and programs that prevent child abuse
- Working with public and private youth-serving agencies to increase collaboration and services to benefit children and families
- Taking a leadership position in the *Louisiana Partnership for Children and Families* in order to unite community-based efforts statewide to improve outcomes for children and families

Advocacy

- Educating and informing our grassroots network about child welfare issues

Development

Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana works to strengthen its financial resources in the following ways.

- Holding annual *Night of the Child* fundraising events in every major city
- Soliciting individual and corporate donations
- Renewing annual state-funded contracts
- Submitting grant requests to private and public foundations
- Exploring new avenues for federally-funded contracts
- Holding miscellaneous fundraising events regionally
- Selling Blue Ribbons, Blue Bows and other Company Store items

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