



Child Neglect

Child neglect is the most frequently identified type of child maltreatment in the United States. In Pennsylvania, up to 80% of all reports made to ChildLine contain a concern of child neglect.

If permitted to continue, child neglect situations are likely to affect the child's intellectual, physical, social, and psychological development or functioning detrimentally. Examples of child neglect include inadequate food, clothing, shelter, supervision, education, and/or medical care.

A concerning trend in Pennsylvania is the rising cases of neglect that result in the child's death

or a near-fatality status at a hospital. Up to 90% of these cases involve children under the age of 5 and most commonly include these types of neglect situations:

- ▶ Inadequate supervision
- ▶ Delay in medical care
- ▶ Malnutrition and dehydration

To address the issue adequately, intervening in the lives of neglected children and families must become a shared community concern. No single agency, individual, or entity has all the necessary knowledge, skills, or resources to provide the assistance neglected children and their families need.

While public child welfare agencies have legal mandates and primary responsibility for responding to child abuse and neglect, other service providers working with children and families — along with community members — play important roles in supporting families and protecting children.

Addressing this complex problem effectively demands the combined expertise and resources of interdisciplinary agencies and professionals.

In addressing child neglect, it is important to understand that:

1) Most parents want to be good parents.

The belief that people have the strength and potential to change their lives underlies intervention measures. We need to search for and strengthen the inner resilience in families that provides the foundation for change.

2) The community's response must demonstrate respect for every person involved.

All people deserve to be treated with respect and dignity. Understanding and addressing implicit biases will help us grow in our ability to show respect to all parents and caregivers. For example, we must not judge people in poverty, since that is often systemic and involves circumstances outside of their control.

3) Services must be individualized and tailored.

Factors will vary from family to family, necessitating a customized response to reflect each family's circumstances, strengths, and needs.

4) Interventions need to be sensitive to the culture, beliefs, and customs of all families.

We must first understand ourselves and the effects of our own backgrounds on our values, behaviors, and judgments about others. When working with children and families different

Join us in raising awareness across the commonwealth during **National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April!**

PFSA will host several events and activities during the month to call attention to the prevalence of child abuse and how private organizations, public entities, and individuals can work together to prevent and stop it. Stay tuned for more details and information about events throughout April — coming soon!



from us, we need to be aware of the context of that family's culture and background to provide access to culturally relevant services and solutions.

5) Prevention programs are necessary to strengthen families and reduce the likelihood of child neglect.

To reduce the occurrence of child neglect, communities should develop and implement prevention programs that support children and families psychologically, socially, situationally, and societally.

Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance is committed to providing further training on this topic of child neglect in 2023. Be on the lookout for information on a new training titled *Recognizing and Responding to Child Neglect* and a spotlight speaker on the topic of child neglect in April 2023.

SAVE *the* DATE

PA Child Abuse **PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM**

Mark your calendar and plan to join us on **September 13, 2023** for PFSA's annual **PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium!**

This all-day **virtual event** will feature acclaimed speakers and presentations on current topics and emerging trends relevant to a variety of professionals and organizations that provide services to children and families. *Additional information coming soon!*



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Welcome back to our members in the **CBCAP Network!**



PFSA would like to take an opportunity to welcome back all the current **Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network** members!

We are proud to partner and collaborate with such a dedicated and committed group of organizations that advance the important work of preventing child abuse and neglect. **Thank you for your commitment and dedication!**

To find additional CBCAP Network events or learn more about becoming a CBCAP Network member, visit our website at www.pafsa.org.

Visit our blog!

Stay up-to-date on ways to help stop child abuse, learn more about our staff, and gain knowledge about prevention topics by reading our blog at pafsa.org/blog.

UPCOMING PFSA TRAININGS

Families in Recovery New Facilitator Training

This research-based program is a great resource for parents, guardians, and caretakers recovering from substance use disorder. The program aims to teach healthy coping and parenting skills while balancing the needs of recovery.

New facilitators of the Families in Recovery (FiR) program will be fully prepared to implement the program and provide training after attending a two-day comprehensive session consisting of content, education, and application instruction of the curriculum. FiR facilitators come together to share program implementation experience, ideas, and insights following initial training.

All organizations interested in implementing the Families in Recovery program are required to enter an agreement contract with PFSA and participate in the evaluation requirements of the program. FiR contracts include ongoing technical assistance, program development, facilitator calls, and assistance with data collection procedures.

Dates: January 24 & 25, 2023 (*virtual*) **OR**
April 18 & 19, 2023 (*virtual*)

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: Email Justin Donofrio, Prevention Services Manager, at jdonofrio@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.

Mandated Reporter Training

PFSA has several options for mandated reporter training for staff and volunteers. Certificates are provided to the participants, and, upon request, we will upload confirmation of your training to the Departments of State or Education for CE fulfillments under Act 31 and/or Act 48. CLEs are also available for attorneys.

LIVE IN-PERSON/VIRTUAL

Cost: Free

How to register: Find and register for a virtual session here: pafsa.org/mandated-reporter-training

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Take anytime: pafsa.org/on-demand-online-training

TRAIN-THE-TRAINER

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program for employees on child abuse recognition and reporting.

Dates: January 10 & 11, 2023 (*virtual*) **OR**
April 20 & 21, 2023

Time: 9:00 a.m.-3:00 p.m.
(*half-hour lunch break*)

Cost: \$1,000 per trainer, entering into a three-year contract with PFSA. Email Haven Evans, Director of Programs, at hevans@pafsa.org for the paperwork or to ask any questions.



Support the Cause, Support PA Kids!

Consider giving a gift to PFSA to make a difference in the lives of PA kids and families.

Your gift will advance the mission of PFSA to provide education, support, and training to make Pennsylvania safe for children. All donations help us continue the successful delivery of training, development of educational materials, and ongoing support for community-based agencies.

Visit pafsa.org to donate and learn more about our services.

