



Inspired Every Day

To Continue The Fight Against Child Abuse

A WORD FROM OUR CEO

Uplifting, educational, and hopeful. Those are the three words I would use to describe PA Family Support Alliance's first Child Abuse Prevention Symposium, held at the downtown Hilton Harrisburg in September.

In honor of our 40th anniversary, our team brainstormed ideas on how to celebrate PFSA's history. One idea made perfect sense: to host a large-scale symposium where professionals from all the across the commonwealth could gather for child abuse prevention training. This training for awareness and prevention is PFSA's core mission — and, for those of us who work in this profession, our calling.

Our morning started with Liz Murray's keynote address. Author of the best-selling memoir *Breaking Night*, Murray shared her deeply

personal story of extreme poverty, parents who battled substance abuse, and, ultimately, personal successes made possible by a teacher who changed the course of her life.

Almost 200 attendees also participated in breakout sessions from Liz and two nationally known child abuse prevention experts, Victor Vieth and Jane Straub.

Jane, Victor, and Liz exceeded our expectations. Their trainings focused on topics such as:

- ▶ Steps every organization needs to take to protect children
- ▶ The ripple effects of sexual harm
- ▶ How to identify satisfaction, fatigue, and vicarious trauma



It's crucial for professionals in our field to not only focus on prevention methods and techniques but also develop the tools to care for ourselves. Working in this profession is not easy — if it were, everyone would do it! It's truly a calling, and I'm the first to say, this work is not a sprint, it's a marathon.

A Message From The PA Attorney General: **NO ONE IS ABOVE THE LAW**

Our day concluded with Pennsylvania Attorney General Josh Shapiro's remarks. The Attorney



Angela with speakers (L to R) Victor Vieth, Liz Murray, and Jane Straub.

"I learned a tremendous amount today! I am a stronger advocate. Thank you!"

— Symposium Attendee

General and his staff work zealously to protect children, and just hours before our symposium began, the Attorney General charged (now former) State Senator Mike Folmer with possession of child pornography. Until last month, Folmer was a powerful member of the State Senate and chairman of the Senate Government Committee.

In the past, secrets were kept, children suffered in silence, and our leaders ignored the problem. But on the day of our symposium, Attorney General Shapiro assured us: "No one is above the law — no one," and for that I am hopeful. I am hopeful we now live in a time when, regardless of an individual's position or authority, child abuse will not be tolerated.

We gathered and celebrated this measure of progress together, and we emerged from the day as committed to the protection of children and the prevention of child abuse as ever.

— **Angela Liddle** | PFSA President and CEO

COGI Joins CBCAP

PFSA is thrilled to welcome Clinical Outcomes Group, Inc., to the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) network. COGI is located in Pottsville, PA, and has been helping the community since its inception in 1997 by Dr. David A. Zanis.

COGI focuses on behavioral health issues, such as substance abuse, mental health, domestic

violence, tobacco control, workplace wellness, and family services.

COGI develops and implements innovative programs through partnerships with communities and employers and establishes policies that focus on a system of change. Everyone here at PFSA looks forward to working with COGI to make PA safer for kids.

Saluting SPHS Monessen Family Center



PFSA would also like to highlight the fantastic work of SPHS Monessen Family Center, led by Kim Egidi and Jessica Anderson under the banner of Southwestern Pennsylvania Human Services, located in Monessen, PA. The Monessen Family Center provides services for children and families with children prenatal to age 14.

Its program topics include:

- ▶ Parents as teachers
- ▶ Fatherhood
- ▶ Pregnant and parenting teens
- ▶ Time-limited family reunification
- ▶ Incredible years

Even while running numerous programs, the team still finds time to sponsor community events. One, Get FIRED (Focus Inspire Reach Educate Dream) Up, used a mini-conference structure with a variety of speakers, including parents who have lost children to overdoses, DEA special agents, and former Pittsburgh Steeler Charlie Batch.

The staff also put together a Back to School Bash, partnering with the Monessen Police to collect school supplies and backpacks distributed at this 3rd annual community event. They distributed more than 100 backpacks full of supplies! Thank you to Kim, Jessica, and all of the amazing staff at SPHS Monessen FC for their incredible work on keeping kids safe in PA.



PFSA Offers Support During National Recovery Month

September is national recovery month, a time to educate Americans that substance use treatment and mental health services can enable those with a mental and/or substance use disorder to live a healthy and rewarding life.

It's also a good time to remind those who work in treatment programs or community-based agencies serving families to contact PFSA for more information on *Families in Recovery*, a seven-week parenting program aimed at parents who want help balancing their recovery



work and parenting responsibilities. PFSA can help you bring this cross-system training to parents you serve through a comprehensive Train-the-Trainer program.

To learn more, contact Kay Kressler at 717-238-0937 or toll-free at 800-448-4906, or reach her via email at kkressler@pa-fsa.org.

UPCOMING TRAINING

Mandated Reporter Train-the-Trainer

For curriculum titled "Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse"

This is an opportunity for organizations to develop their own quality, cost-efficient, in-house training program on child abuse recognition and reporting for employees. With the 3-year contract, PFSA provides two days of initial instruction for approved applicants, reporting of CEs directly to the PA Departments of State and Education, and offers on-going technical assistance.

COST

\$1,000 per trainer entering into a 3-year contract with PFSA
(Payment can be broken down by year: \$400/year one, \$300/years two & three)

DATES

November 6 & 7, 2019 • 9 a.m. – 4 p.m. both days with a one-hour lunch break
PFSA Office • Harrisburg

REGISTER

You must pre-register for this training by going to pa-fsa.org/calendar and filling out the webform for the training you want to attend. Once your registration has been processed, you will receive a confirmation email, which will include the address for the training location.

HELP CHANGE THE STORY FOR PA'S KIDS Show how important it is to #ProtectPAKids this month by making a gift matched by your workplace or as a member of a family, club, or place of worship. Each gift we receive makes a difference in our mission to provide education, training, and support to PA families, helping children grow and thrive without fear of abuse. Donate today! Visit pafsa.org or reach out to Ann Moffitt, ACFRE, Director of Development at 800-448-4906 or amoffitt@pa-fsa.org.