



Three Questions to Ask a Child-Serving Program

Every child deserves to grow and thrive free from abuse and neglect. Our children rely on us to protect them, and we should do everything we can to ensure that happens. Here are some questions you can ask your child-serving programs to find out what they are doing to #ProtectPAKids.

1) Do all the staff and volunteers working with children have their child abuse and criminal background clearances?

In many instances, criminal background clearances are required by law for those working or volunteering with children. Know the laws and consider going beyond the

minimum legal requirements to ensure that all of those who have contact with children have no history of abusing children.

2) Do you have a child protection policy?

Child-serving programs should have child protection policies that use known prevention strategies. For example, ensuring that two adults are always present with a child helps to ensure accountability and reduce the opportunity for abuse. PAFSA has a [sample child protection policy](#) and is open to reviewing such policies to ensure known prevention strategies are being used.

3) What training do the staff and volunteers receive regarding child abuse identification and reporting?

Child-serving programs should provide comprehensive training for both staff and volunteers on child abuse identification and

reporting, so they know what to do when they suspect child abuse. PFSA provides free training on how to recognize and report child abuse, with scenarios that are relevant. Click [here](#) to schedule a free onsite training today.

The focus must always be on zero tolerance for the maltreatment of children, which requires a high level of honesty and transparency throughout the organization. Our children are worth it!



PA BLUE RIBBON
CHAMPIONS
for **SAFE KIDS**

Call for Nominations!

In recognition of National Child Abuse Prevention Month in April, PFSA will honor several individuals from across the Commonwealth with a PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids award, bestowed upon recipients for exceptional contributions to the prevention of child abuse and neglect. We want to recognize those professionals, volunteers and everyday heroes among us who keep our children safe.

PA Blue Ribbon Champions for Safe Kids award winners are shining examples of people working in Pennsylvania to prevent child abuse and neglect. These awards are an opportunity to honor champions for children across the state who work tirelessly, often without fanfare or recognition, to improve the lives of our most vulnerable residents.

PFSA welcomes nominations for this honor from schools, government agencies, community organizations, private practitioners, churches, and other concerned individuals and groups. We look forward to recognizing each individual in April as a Blue Ribbon Champion for Safe Kids.

The nomination deadline is November 13, 2024, by 5:00 p.m.

Know someone who deserves to be recognized?

Fill out [this form](#) to submit your nomination today!

Get involved and follow us on social!



REGISTER FOR THE 2024

PA Child Abuse **PREVENTION SYMPOSIUM**

This unique event delivers content and resources that meet the current needs of families while shining a light on new and emerging trends. Participants attending this symposium will have an opportunity to learn, engage and network with expert speakers from across the country presenting on innovative topics that intersect with family support and child abuse prevention practices.



NOV 7th 2024

CREDITS
ACT 48 | CEUs
CLEs

The PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium takes place virtually via Zoom. All participants will have an opportunity to attend each session during the event.

THIS YEAR'S SPEAKERS, SESSIONS & EVENT DETAILS

Virtual Meeting Room Opens at 8:30 a.m. Lunch break is from 11:30 a.m. – 12:00 p.m.



KIM ECKEL

9:00 a.m. – 10:20 a.m.

Creating Concrete Supports for Families and the Confusion Between Poverty and Neglect

Kim Eckel

CEO | Footbridge for Families

Clare Anderson

Senior Policy Fellow | Chapin Hall at the University of Chicago

Concrete supports are essential for families in times of need and are also identified as one of the Strengthening Families Protective Factors. This presentation will walk participants through a deep understanding of how concrete supports can positively impact families and provide a bridge to resources and resilience. Additionally, presenters will examine the differences and confusion around poverty and neglect and the role that concrete supports play in each. Finally, presenters will examine these areas from both a local and state level as well as a national perspective.



CLARE ANDERSON



CHARLES T. STREIGHTIFF

10:30 a.m. – 11:30 a.m.

Introducing the Huntingdon Endangered / At-Risk Youth Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.)

Charles T. Streightiff

Chief of Police | Huntingdon Borough Police Department

Every child should have the opportunity to experience a safe and healthy childhood free from exposures to illegal substance abuse and influence, child abuse and neglect and unnecessary trauma. They should feel in areas of trauma-informed care, mental health and other environmental influences. The mission of the Huntingdon County Endangered and At-Risk Youth Response Team (H.E.A.R.T.) is to create an early warning “handle with care” alert between Law Enforcement, Children and Youth Services, and local school districts to provide timely and valuable information about concerned youth that otherwise would go undetected and unreported. H.E.A.R.T. collaboratively combines the expertise and resources of multiple professionals, agencies and communities to improve interventions for children and families.



MICHELLE MCDYRE

12:00 p.m. – 1:00 p.m.

Prevention Made Possible: Collaborative Strategies for Child Abuse Prevention

Michelle McDyre

Director of Prevention Education and Outreach
Mission Kids Child Advocacy Center (CAC)

This workshop provides a comprehensive understanding of the multifaceted nature of child abuse, what it takes to prevent these crimes and empower children to speak out against abuse. Michelle McDyre founded the CAC’s first-ever prevention education department in 2018 and has since led efforts to educate over 48,000 students in the past six years. Participants will learn evidence-based prevention strategies, the vital role of CACs in community response, and the importance of a multidisciplinary approach involving various stakeholders.



DR. CYNTHIA NAJDOWSKI

1:00 p.m. – 2:00 p.m.

Race, Social Class and Child Abuse: Content, Strength and Impact of Stereotypes on Medical Decision-Making

Dr. Cynthia Najdowski, Ph.D.

Associate Professor | Department of Psychology at the University of Albany

Black and poor children are overrepresented at every stage of the child welfare system, from suspicion of abuse to substantiation. This workshop focuses on stereotypes as a source of bias that leads to these disparities through two studies that examine the content and strength of stereotypes relating race and social class to child abuse as viewed by medical professionals. The first study identified stereotype content by asking doctors, nurses and other medical professionals to list words associated with the stereotype that either (a) Black or (b) poor children are more likely to be abused by their parents. Responses were organized into construct groups. The second study determined stereotype strength by asking a separate sample of participants to rate how strongly the constructs generated by the first study's participants related to either the race-abuse or social class-abuse stereotype. Altogether, this research documents the existence, content and strength of stereotypes that link race and social class to child abuse. The findings also help illuminate how race may lead to different outcomes in cases of potential child abuse while demonstrating potential pathways through which racial disparities in misdiagnosis of abuse and subsequent miscarriages of justice can be prevented.



JUSTIN DONOFRIO

2:00 p.m. – 3:00 p.m.

Shifting from Digital Diligence to Digital Wellness

Justin Donofrio

Prevention Services Manager | Pennsylvania Family Support Alliance

PFSA's Family Digital Wellness initiative is built on the foundation of the Digital Diligence framework, which provides parents, caregivers and families a starting point for creating safe and healthy interactions with technology. However, as more professionals begin working with families around this important mental health topic, they are learning that balancing digital wellness requires going beyond digital diligence skills and focusing on the human side of technology. In this presentation, Justin Donofrio will walk through the process of tapping into how our behaviors and relationships can positively impact our interactions with technology and our family relationships.

REGISTRATION & PRICING

NEW THIS YEAR: TWO registration options! Participants have the option to attend the live session (eligible for continuing education credits) or purchase the recording only (not eligible for continuing education credits). For either option, the recording will be made available the week after the event concludes, and access will be granted for one month.

- ▶ Live (virtual) attendance and recording access: \$125
- ▶ Access to recording only: \$50
- ▶ CBCAP Network member discount: 10% discount when using code, which can be applied to either registration option
- ▶ Continuing education credits: All live attendance registrations are eligible for CEUs, CLEs, or Act 48 credits.

REGISTER & GET INFO!

To learn more about the event sessions and speakers, visit our **PA Child Abuse Prevention Symposium webpage**. Please direct any questions to **info@pafsa.org**.

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 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: October 22 & 23, 2024 (*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

Register for a virtual session [here](#).

INDIVIDUAL ONLINE, ON-DEMAND

Cost: \$30

Sign up to take any time [here](#).

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: October 22 & 23, 2024 (*virtual*)

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.



Help us support families and communities across Pennsylvania by donating to PFSA today. Your gift will help PFSA continue to deliver successful training, education and ongoing support to PA families and children.

Visit pafsa.org/donate

Welcome New CBCAP Network Member Agencies!

PFSA welcomes a new member of the Community-Based Child Abuse Prevention (CBCAP) Network: **Jefferson-Clarion Head Start, Inc.** PFSA is proud to partner and collaborate with diverse, dedicated and committed organizations that advance the important work of preventing child abuse and neglect. Thank you for your commitment and dedication!

To find out more about CBCAP Network benefits or to learn more about becoming a CBCAP Network member, visit our website [here](#).



Visit Our Store

PFSA has educational resources available in our online store. You can find informative materials covering a wide range of topics designed to assist caregivers, parents, and professionals in an effort to protect children. Please visit pafsa.org/store to learn more!

Read Our Blog

Our blog is the best way to get timely information on ways to help stop child abuse, our latest staff developments, and prevention strategies. Our July blog entry includes important water safety tips for this hot month. Read more at pafsa.org/blog.

