CW 1002
Introduction to Child Sexual Abuse

Presented by: Jim Marks
• Name, County, Scope of Practice, How Long You Have been Employed with CWS. etc

• Have you worked a case involving child sexual abuse?

• What do you need from this workshop?

Refer to Resource Information in the Booklet Provided
Intro to Child Sexual Abuse

THE BIG SEX QUESTION!!!!
AGENDA

Day One
- Pre-Test
- Values, beliefs, myths & facts
- Types of Sexual Abuse
- Normal Sexual Behavior

Day Two
- Siblings & Resiliency
- Non-Offending Parents
- Adult & Juvenile Offenders
- Worker Issues
- Post-Test
Competencies (Handout 1)

- Become familiar with the Legal/Clinical definitions and the range of behaviors/activities that may constitute sexual abuse of a child.
- Physical, behavioral and emotional indicators that children of various ages display.
- Understanding the roles and responsibilities of CSW, LE, DA, MH, etc.
- Making sure that you are aware of how your personal biases may impact your ability to work SA cases.
Components and purpose of the investigation

- Increasing abilities to assess future risk of sexual abuse.
- Case planning activities, e.g., assisting the family in accessing needed resources.
- Understanding how cultural factors may impact the investigation.
GROUP AGREEMENT

Children
Sexuality
Victimization

How can we make this a safe place to discuss such a highly charged and emotional topic?
Values/Beliefs Survey

Please complete the Values/Beliefs survey in your handouts. (Handout #2)

Total Group Exercise: Sexual Abuse Knowledge Quiz.
Many decisions made in CSA cases are complicated, no clear “right” answer.

Though we are involved in the same profession, we have differing opinions, values and beliefs.

Other professionals we work with will have differing views as well.

We must be careful not to let our own values/beliefs cause us to miss or manufacture cases of CSA.
Most of what is known in the area of CSA applies to male perpetrators.

All types of sexual crimes are under-reported especially CSA.

Female perpetration is just as serious, just less understood.

Boys are less likely to disclose especially if abused by a female. Sexual victimization is seen as a “female experience”.
Definition of Sexual Abuse

- Detailed under Department of Human Services Policy OAC 340:75-3-120

- **States: "Sexual abuse"** means any sexual activity, including sexual propositioning between the PRFC and child or any acts committed or permitted by the PRFC, for the purpose of sexually stimulating the child, PRFC, or others, and includes:
  - (A) rape;
  - (B) sodomy;
  - (C) incest; and
  - (D) lewd or indecent acts or proposals to a child
Definition of Sexual Abuse

OAC 340:75-3-120

Sexual exploitation:

- (A) prostitution, as defined by law, by a person responsible for the health, safety, or welfare of a child; or
- (B) lewd, obscene, or pornographic, as defined by law, photographing, filming, or depicting of the child in those acts by a person responsible for the health, safety, and welfare of the child.

(Please see ITS #37 in 340:75-3-120)
In general, sexual abuse is any sexual activity, including sexual propositioning between the PRFC and the child or any acts committed or permitted by the PRFC for the purpose of sexually stimulating the child, the PRFC, or others.

Refer to Page 9 Child Sexual Abuse Treatment: Intervention and Treatment Issues... Faller, 1993
Various Types of Sexual Abuse
Handout # 4

- Sexual Exploitation-use of children for monetary or other tangible items
- Incest/ Intra-familial Sexual Abuse- perpetrated by a biological or psychological family member
- Extra-familial Sexual Abuse- perpetrator known by the family but not related.
- Stranger Sexual Abuse
Grooming

- Targeting and victim selection
- Engagement
  - Play games, give rides, buy treats/gifts
  - Offer a sympathetic ear
  - Find and fill voids in the child’s life
  - Introduce secrecy
    - Bribery
    - Threat of harm to the child/family
    - Threat of harm to the offender
Grooming

- withdrawal of affection
- break up of the family
- manipulating the child’s innocence
- develop an emotional bond that leads to physical contact
- a well groomed child does not disclose
“Children require the protection of adults, usually from adults. Their fear of people is not yet developed, their intuition not yet loaded with enough information and experience to keep them from harm.”  *Gavin de Becker*

“When we blindly surrender responsibility for our children to others without question, we invite trouble. Parents should know their children’s teachers, coaches, day care providers, youth leaders and other significant adults in their lives.”  *Gregory M. Weber*
According to Suzanne Sgroi (1981)

- “Sexual activity between an adult and a child may range on a continuum from exhibitionism to intercourse, often progressing through a predictable spectrum of behavior.”

- This process is known as “conditioning”.
“Parents are partly to blame if they don’t tell their children about sexual matters, I used that to my advantage by teaching the child myself.”

“It’s harder to trick a child who knows what you are up to”

“Parents are so naïve. They worry about strangers when they should be worrying about their brother-in-law. They just don’t realize how devious we can be”

Question: What are some characteristics that lead some children being more vulnerable than others???
Factors That May Increase Vulnerability

- Low self esteem
- Social isolation
- Unmet dependency/affection needs
- Children with developmental delays
- Children who have already been victimized
- Children with a history of certain behavioral problems
Factors Which May Indicate Sexual Abuse--Handout #7

- **Physical Indicators**
  - medical confirmation is not the norm.

- **Behavioral Indicators**
  - 80% of child victims display behavioral indicators
Behavioral Indicators

- Some may be present in children who have not been abused
- No one symptom alone will positively confirm sexual abuse
- Look for a change in the child’s behavior and a pattern of multiple symptoms that last over time
Factors Which May Indicate Sexual Abuse (cont)

- Substantiation is most often based on the history presented by the victim and a comprehensive assessment of the family dynamics and individual characteristics.
Is it normal?
Cavanagh-Johnson Booklet

End of Day One
Remember

- Every child will handle sexual abuse differently (degree of harm) (resiliency)
- Assess each child carefully
- Child will be affected by how the disclosure was handled, the quality of the child’s relationship with significant others and the perpetrator, and what has happened since the disclosure.
Every sibling must be evaluated:

- may be a current victim
- may have corroborating information
- will have strong feelings good/bad about the victim/perpetrator
- may be a past victim
What long term effects/issues seem to be present?
What were the reasons the victims did not disclose in childhood?
What were some factors in the NOP’s life that prevented her from coming forward?
Non-Offending Parents

1996 Research by Jessica Heriot in the Journal of Interpersonal Violence indicates:

Most believe, support and take some form of protective action (57-82%)
Non-Offending Parents

More likely to believe when

- Perpetrator was an extended family member
- There was digital or oral contact with child’s genitals vs. penetration
- Mother was not home at the time
- Young child vs. adolescent
Non-Offending Parents

- Less likely to believe/protect when:
  - victim was an adolescent
  - children were also physically abused
  - offender was known to abuse alcohol
- Can also be influenced by
  - own sexual abuse experience
  - passivity/dependency/fear/homeless
  - poverty/domestic violence
Non-Offending Parents

- A small percentage of NOMs know of the abuse and tolerate it.
- May have mental health issues or believe that it is a normal part of childhood.
- Very small percent may participate in the abuse or establish a new relationship with another perpetrator.
- Can not assume that just removing the perpetrator will keep the child safe.
Characteristics of NOMs who filed for divorce:

- their children were younger
- their attachment to child greater than to husband
- physically abused by spouse
- no role reversal with child victim
- not socially isolated
Consider this:

- It is normal for the NOP to question the validity of the allegation.
- They need to hear the whole story and be given time to digest the information.
- To admit that CSA happened in their home is to admit that they have failed as a parent.
Consider this:

- CSA can mean the “destruction” of the family unit. Expect to see stages of grief; denial, anger, bargaining, depression and then acceptance.
- Don’t overlook or discount actions the NOP may have taken to stop the abuse.
- Give them info on CSA, details about the abuse, and info on the possible long term effects of CSA.
• very diverse economic, occupational, geographic and educational backgrounds
• research does indicate some basic facts about adult offenders:
  • Average number of victims: 7
  • 44% of incest offenders also offend outside the family
  • Most began offending in adolescence
  • Marital difficulties, alcohol addiction, and stress are NOT the cause
Adult Offenders

The Sexual Offense Cycle – handout
We condemn sexual abuse and all forms of coercion. Freely-chosen relationships differ from unwanted sex. Present laws, which focus only on the age of the participants, ignore the quality of their relationships. We know that differences in age do not preclude mutual, loving interaction between persons. NAMBLA is strongly opposed to age-of-consent laws and all other restrictions which deny men and boys the full enjoyment of their bodies and control over their own lives.
as shown in the video, they are intelligent
they are Master Manipulators
they are very adept at leading double lives
they will look you in the eye and lie
ruminative- fixed pattern of thinking
most will not stop on their own
More pre-teen and adolescent sexual involvement with younger siblings is now being recognized as a serious offense, previously it had been thought of as “curiosity, experimentation”

Accessibility and opportunity are prerequisites. The family setting is the perfect environment for offending.
Although the dynamics involved often parallel those of the adult sexual offender (pattern of progression, use of threats/bribes, power and control issues), there are also several differences:

- Adolescent offenders are more responsive to treatment.
- Most are not sexual predators.
- Typically engage in less serious or aggressive behaviors.
- Females under the age of 18 account for approximately 7% of juvenile arrests for sex offenses.
Juvenile Perpetrators

- Approximately one-third of sexual offenses against children are committed by teenagers.
- Sexual offenses against young children, under 12 years of age, are typically committed by boys between the ages of 12 to 15 years old.
Juvenile Perpetrators

Assessing the juvenile offender:

- Sexually reactive vs. sexual offender
- Was there a power differential, a knowledge differential, or a gratification differential?
- remove the perpetrator not the victim
Considering the individual dynamics we have discussed, how might you expect the family to look?

- Family roles and relationships
- Communication within the family
- Family Boundaries
- Who makes the rules / enforces them
- Outside involvement
Characteristics of families where CSA is present:

- father is often a strong patriarch
- offending parent manipulates entire family by setting up rules, expectations, routines, and other aspects of family function with his own protection in mind
- offender is usually the chief disciplinarian
- often uses violence or threat of violence to control
Characteristics of families where CSA is present:

- NOP may be powerless
- rigid family system
- common for substance abuse to be present
- weak emotional bond between the NOP and the children
- low self-esteem in NOP and the children
- family is isolated (inside and outside)
Goals of the Investigation:
- determine if a child has been sexually abused
- protect the child from further harm and intimidation
- protect evidence of the abuse
- develop a safety plan for the child and other family members as needed
- reduce the trauma associated with disclosures of sexual abuse
Ingredients of a good CSA investigation

- thorough review of the referral information
- thorough review of any past history
- consider culture
- plan your interviews: who, where, when, who else
- collaboration
Effects of CSA Investigation

- It opens the family up to outsiders, reveals their secret
- Family fears unfair investigation, permanent removal, or harsh penalties
- Creates a crisis within the family
- May lose financial support
- Will feel guilt, regret, hopelessness
- Separation and possible incarceration
Reducing the Trauma:

- Strategies for reducing the trauma
  - careful investigative planning
  - quickly accessing needed services
  - education regarding CSA
  - strengthening family bonds
  - cultural sensitivity
  - be under control of your own feelings and emotions
In a perfect world:

- Credible history presented by child
- Medical findings - physical indicators
- Physical evidence from the scene
- Corroborating info: collaterals
- Behavioral indicators
- Psychological reports
- Admission/confession
Risk assessment is an ongoing task from the time of the initial referral, through the investigation process, continuing through the treatment phase and case closure.

In cases of CSA it is recommended that the entire family successfully engage in and complete a treatment program.
Case Management is driven by risk assessment. For every concern identified in the risk assessment, an intervention should be identified in the case plan.

Risk Assessment – Handout 12
Considerations for CSA cases

- provision of immediate referral for crisis intervention to help stabilize the family unit
- removal of perpetrator
- referral for emergency financial assistance if needed
- medical follow-up for the child victim
- take measures to ensure no unsupervised contact between victim/perp unless court ordered
Considerations for CSA cases

- secure specialized mental health services for the child victim, siblings, NOP
- secure specialized assessment and treatment for the offender
- prepare child victim, siblings, and others for legal proceedings
- remember, sometimes the perpetrator will return home
It is easier to build strong children than repair broken men —

Frederick Douglas
Social Worker Jailed After Admitting to Sex With Juvenile Delinquents