



Prevent Child Abuse America's  
**2001 State Advocacy Review**





Published by  
**Prevent Child Abuse America**

Prevent Child Abuse America  
200 South Michigan Avenue  
17th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604.2404  
312.663.3520  
mailbox@preventchildabuse.org  
www.preventchildabuse.org  
www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org

Principal Author:  
**Hume An**, *Policy Analyst*

Editor:  
**Michael J. Brogioli**, *Director of Advocacy*

Contributors:  
**Michelle Rieff**, *Senior Policy Analyst*  
**Julie Rowe**, *Marketing and Communications Specialist*  
**Eric Stepien**, *Manager of Graphic Design and Production*







## Introduction

Prevent Child Abuse America is pleased to offer our *2001 State Advocacy Review*, an overview of advocacy activities from Prevent Child Abuse America's three national networks: State Chapters, Healthy Families America (HFA), and the National Family Support Roundtable. In 2001, leaders from 35 states provided information on their advocacy efforts. We hope that this guide will facilitate information sharing, spur collaboration among Chapters, HFA, Roundtable programs, and peer organizations, and lead to increased state level advocacy.

The *2001 State Advocacy Review* is a joint effort between Prevent Child Abuse America and its affiliated networks. We applaud their ongoing efforts on behalf of children and families, and thank them for sharing information on their advocacy activities over the past year.

The Review is made up of four sections:

1. A summary of legislative priorities and results by topic area. *(pages 1-8)*
2. Thirty-five state legislative priority profiles. *(pages 9-27)*
3. A "Notable Advocacy" section including additional information on states that have either achieved successful advocacy outcomes, created innovative initiatives, or forged important partnerships with other organizations in the field. *(pages 28-38)*
4. A primer on the basics of advocacy that includes sample letters, brochures, and other tools used by States. *(pages 39-45)*

## SUMMARY

### Legislative Overview

PCA America state advocates continue to place a high priority on increasing and protecting funds for **home visiting programs**, with nine out of the 35 states placing it on their agendas. Two states, Connecticut and Illinois, have experienced real gains. Other states either maintained funding or suffered cuts.

Advocating for **child abuse prevention** (*a broad category of programs excluding home visiting*) also continues to be a high priority, with nine states including it in their legislative agendas. Advocacy efforts in this area, on the whole, have been more successful than those for home visiting. Iowa and Montana increased funding for their prevention programs. Connecticut successfully advocated for a Prevention Bill (*HB 7013*), which establishes a prevention framework for the state, recommends a comprehensive prevention plan, and requires a prevention report from the governor's budget. North Carolina, meanwhile, passed an infant homicide prevention bill (*HB 275*).

Improving **child protective services** has also been an important issue this year, with seven states including it on their agendas. Advocacy efforts on this issue have been quite successful, with all seven states achieving their objectives. Notably, Georgia successfully lobbied for \$32 million for the Department of Children and Family Services for more caseworker positions and increased salaries.

Passing legislation for creating "**safe havens**" for **abandoned babies** emerged as an important issue in 2001, with five states including it on their legislative agendas. In addition, states addressed: child welfare issues, child death reviews, justice issues, corporal punishment, child endangerment, sexual abuse, domestic violence, mandatory reporting, victims' services, statewide initiatives, and research.

### Advocacy Methods

PCA America state advocates used a variety of methods in their advocacy efforts. Twenty-seven utilized letters to and meetings with legislators. Twenty-five states engaged in bill monitoring. Twenty-four states participated in coalitions, 15 states created public awareness campaigns, and 14 states organized "lobby days." States with the most impressive advocacy outcomes tended to use a combination of these methods. Most important to successful advocacy are relationship building with key policymakers and mobilizing strong grassroots networks. Seven of the strongest state advocacy efforts are chronicled in the "Notable Advocacy" section of this guide.

### Political Climate

Across the board, state advocates reported that constrained budgets largely accounted for either cuts or lack of funding increases. Some states cited opposition either from the governor's office or a contingent of the state legislature, while other states experienced success in passing bills through their state legislature, only to have these bills vetoed by their governor. Many state advocates have subsequently adjusted their objectives; *maintaining* stable funding, in many cases, was considered a victory.



## Top Advocacy Issues for 2001

State	Home Visiting	Child Abuse Prevention	Child Protective Services	"Safe Havens" for Abandoned Babies	Child Welfare and Other Welfare Issues	Child Death Review	Corporal Punishment	Sexual Abuse
AL								
AK								
CA			X			X		
CO								
CT	X	X			X			
DC								
FL	X	X				X		
GA	X	X	X	X				X
HI								
IL						X		
IA	X	X	X	X				
KS	X				X			
KY								
LA	X		X					
ME		X						
MD							X	
MA	X							
MI								
MN								
MO								
MT		X	X					
NH	X							
NJ								
NY	X							
NC		X						
ND	X			X				
OH								
TN		X		X				
TX								
UT								
VA			X	X			X	
VT								X
WV								
WI		X						
WY			X				X	X

## 2001 ADVOCACY ISSUES BY TOPIC AREA

### Home Visiting

#### **Connecticut:**

*Expansion of Healthy Families Connecticut (HB1 5098):* Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut added six sites over a two-year biennial budget period.

#### **Florida:**

*Appropriations Bill:* Healthy Families Florida retained its funding, but did not receive the full amount requested.

#### **Georgia:**

*Budget for FY 2002 (HB 175):* Prevent Child Abuse Georgia successfully lobbied legislature for \$500,000, but was vetoed by governor.

#### **Illinois:**

*Expansion of Healthy Families Illinois:* HF Illinois received a \$1 million increase to bring to a total of \$11 million for FY 2002.

#### **Kansas:**

*Appropriations Bill:* No movement on Healthy Families Kansas funding due to a state budget crunch.

#### **Louisiana:**

*The General State Appropriations Bill (HB1):* Unable to get funding for either Healthy Families Louisiana or nurse home visiting programs.

#### **Maine:**

*Start ME Right:* Successfully preserved home visiting funds previously allocated from Tobacco Settlement Money

#### **New York:**

*Healthy Families New York Funding:* Pending, but expect to maintain last year's funding at \$16.4 million.

#### **North Carolina:**

*Intensive Home Visiting Funds (HB 627):* Did not pass.

### Child Abuse Prevention

#### **Connecticut:**

*Prevention Bill (HB 7013):* The bill establishes a prevention framework for the state, recommends a comprehensive prevention plan, and requires a prevention report from the Governor's budget. Passed, PCA Connecticut is a member of the Prevention Committee.



**Florida:**

*Appropriations Bill:* The legislature passed bill to reinstate all five child abuse prevention projects initially cut from the budget. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed all but one of them.

**Georgia:**

*Budget for FY 2002 (HB 175):* Successfully lobbied legislature for \$250,000 for Prevent Child Abuse Georgia statewide prevention programs; the bill was vetoed by the governor.

**Iowa:**

*Expansion of the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) and the Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success Program (HOPES):* ICAPP received a \$250,000 increase; HOPES received a \$200,000 increase from last year.

**Maine:**

*Additional responsibilities given to the Maine Children's Trust (LD27):* Assigned Trust to be the lead in child abuse prevention activities/coalitions throughout Maine. Passed.

**Montana:**

*The State Budget Bill (HB 2):* Passed, with an allocation of \$500,000 in new money for the Children's Trust Fund.

**North Carolina:**

*Infant Homicide Prevention (HB 275):* Passed.

**Tennessee:**

*(SB 889/HB 1334):* Provides a fee on marriages licenses to fund child abuse prevention, the parenting plan, and domestic violence. Did not pass.

**Wisconsin:**

*Universal access to parenting support services:* Did not pass.

**Child Protective Services**

**California:**

*Foster Child Bill of Rights and posting the '1-800' State Ombudsman's phone number (AB 79):* Pending.

**Georgia:**

*Budget for FY 2002 (HB 175):* Successfully lobbied for \$32 million to the Department of Children and Family Services for improved caseworker salaries and more caseworker positions.

**Iowa:**

*Child Protection Centers (HF 598):* A grant program for maintaining and establishing child protection centers. Passed.

**Louisiana:**

*The General State Appropriations Bill (HB1):* Successfully avoided dramatic cuts to child protective services by getting an amendment to HB1.

**Montana:**

*An act to revise Child Protective Services (SB 116):* Passed as amended. Final form was acceptable to PCA America's Montana Chapter.

**Virginia:**

*Acts intended to restrict Child Protective Services to act on behalf of children (HB 2166 and HB 2167):* Successfully defeated bills.

**Wyoming:**

*Child Protection Amendments (SF 0042):* Passed.

**"Safe Havens" for Abandoned Babies**

**Georgia:**

*Safe Place for Newborns Act (HB 360):* Passed House. Pending in Senate.

**Iowa:**

*Safe Haven for Newborns (SF 355):* Allows a parent to surrender an unwanted infant without being charged with abandonment, if it is within 14 days of infant's birth and is left at an institutional health facility. Passed.

**North Dakota:**

*Abandonment of a newborn without penalty (SB 2129):* Passed.

**Tennessee:**

*(SB 774/HB 774):* Allows a mother to voluntarily deliver her unharmed newborn infant aged 72 hours or younger to certain facilities. Passed.

**Virginia:**

*Abandoned baby (HB 1891):* Successfully defeated bill.

**Child Welfare and Other Welfare Issues**

**Connecticut:**

*Child Welfare Reform (HB 1287):* This bill, under the Department of Children and Families, would establish a Secretary of Children, and would separate Juvenile Justice and Prevention from protection and prevention. Did not pass.

**Kansas:**

*Child Welfare Accountability (HB 2555 and 2556):* Neither bill passed this year.

*Full Mental Health Parity (HB 2033):* Passed.

*Health Insurance for Children (SB 29):* Eliminates the month waiting period for Health Wave Health Insurance for Children. Passed.

*Workforce Development Funding (Appropriations Bill):* No significant movement due to state budget crunch.



## **Child Death Review**

### ***California:***

*Child Death Review Teams Training (SB 962):* The governor did not sign but directed OCJP to fund the project.

### ***Florida:***

*The Child Death Review:* Did not pass.

### ***Illinois:***

*To establish an Illinois Child Death Review Team Executive Council (Public Act 92468):* Council will provide leadership and oversight to the Illinois child death review team process. Passed in both the House and Senate, and signed into law.

## **Justice Issues**

### ***Georgia:***

*Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement (SB 118):* Passed.

### ***North Carolina:***

*Increased child abuse penalty (HB 904):* Pending, but expected to pass.

### ***Virginia:***

*Move to increase evidentiary standard from "preponderance" to "clear and convincing" to found a child abuse case (HB 2771):* Successfully defeated bill.

### ***West Virginia:***

*Development of a unified Court, following passage of an amendment by West Virginia voters in November 2000 (SB 5007):* Passed in special legislative session.

## **Corporal Punishment**

### ***Maryland:***

*Prohibit punishment in private schools:* Did not pass.

### ***Wyoming:***

*School Corporal Punishment:* Did not pass.

## **Child Endangerment**

### ***Georgia:***

*Creating the offense of child endangerment (HB 453):* Tabled on the House floor.

**Iowa:**

*"Boyfriend Bill" (SF 63):* Expanded the category of people who can be convicted of child endangerment. Passed.

*Methamphetamine Manufacturing and Child Abuse (HF 178):* Sanctions parents for putting children at risk by manufacturing dangerous substances like methamphetamine in their presence. Passed.

**Sexual Abuse**

**Georgia:**

*Making pimping and pandering of a minor a felony (SB 33):* Passed.

**Wyoming:**

*Sex offense age of victim (HB 0102):* Passed.

*Sex offender exploitation legislation (HB 0079):* Passed.

**Vermont:**

*\$60,000 for Safe-T-VT (a program promoting a sexual abuse free environment for teens)—\$10,000 already granted, \$50,000 is pending—it is being revisited by legislature at the governor's request.*

**Domestic Violence**

**California:**

*Domestic Violence/Child Abuse Cross Reporting (SB 961):* Will be revisited in the next legislative session

**West Virginia:**

*Recodification of domestic violence statute (HB 2199):* Passed.

**Mandatory Reporting**

**Iowa:**

*Mandatory Reporting (HF 680):* Updates the list of professionals and employees to be treated as mandatory reporters. Passed.

**Maryland:**

*Mandatory Reporting:* Did not pass.

**Victims' Services**

**California:**

*Victim Witness Fund:* Vetoed because of funding issues.

**Maryland:**

*Victim Medical Assistance:* Did not pass.





## **Statewide Initiatives**

### ***California:***

*Senate Joint Resolution 23:* Designating 2001 as the "Year of the Vulnerable Child."  
Passed unanimously.

### ***Massachusetts:***

*State Call to Action:* Prevent Child Abuse Massachusetts is looking to developing integrated, comprehensive legislative strategy to implement its Call to Action.

## **Research**

### ***North Carolina:***

*Child Abuse Study (Child care) (HB 456):* Pending, but expected to pass.

## **Miscellaneous**

### ***Georgia:***

*Creates Senate Subcommittee on Child Abuse (SR 132):* Did not pass the Senate, but was initiated by the Lt. governor through his own authority.

### ***Michigan:***

*Education's \$2 million (Appropriations bill):* Pending, but it does not look good.

*Department of Community Health (Appropriations bill):* Appropriations of \$1.7 million was vetoed by governor.

*The Family Independence Agency (Appropriations bill):* Successful in protecting \$4 million appropriation.

### ***North Dakota:***

*Safe Exchange Visiting Centers (HB 1307):* Not passed.

### ***Tennessee:***

*(SB 1558/HB 882):* Creates a 2% sales tax on services including nonprofit educational, social, and hospital or health services. Did not pass.

### ***Virginia:***

*Trigger Safety locks (HB 2348):* Did not pass.

### ***Wyoming:***

*Motor Vehicle Open Containers (SF 0027/HB 0049):* Unknown

## Alabama



Contact: Anita Drummond  
Executive Director  
Prevent Child Abuse Alabama,  
The National Family Support Roundtable  
334.271.5105 *tel*  
anitaadrum@aol.com *email*

### Legislature Meets:

The Alabama legislature meets annually. There is an organizational meeting for 10 days in January following the quadrennial election. The sessions start in April the first year, February the second and third years, and January the fourth year. Each session last 105 calendar days.

### Alabama State Legislature:

[www.legislature.state.al.us](http://www.legislature.state.al.us)



Prevent Child Abuse Alabama, Executive Director, Anita Drummond speaks at a press conference in front of the Alabama State House

## Alaska



Contact: Ann Morton  
Director  
Prevent Child Abuse Alaska  
907.276.4994 *tel*  
sbarrett@acfonline.org *email*

### Legislature Meets:

Most years the Legislative session convenes on the second Monday in January. In the year following a gubernatorial election, the legislature convenes on the third Monday in January unless that happens to fall on Martin Luther King Jr. Day, in which case it convenes on the Tuesday after. Session adjourns after a period of 120 days.

### Alaska State Legislature:

[www.legis.state.ak.us](http://www.legis.state.ak.us)

### Methods of Advocacy:

- Letters
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns
- Meetings with legislators



## California



Contact: J.B. Bell

Acting Director

Prevent Child Abuse California

916.498.8481 *tel*

626.744.9221 *direct line*

pcaca@yahoo.com *email*

jbthebizwiz@worldnet.att.net *email*

www.pca-ca.org

### Legislature Meets:

California has a biennial session starting the first Monday in December of even-numbered years and adjourns on midnight, November 30, of the next even-numbered year. The session recesses and returns the first Monday in January of the odd-numbered year. The legislature recesses again near the end of the year and reconvenes on the first Monday of the following even-numbered year.

### California State Legislature:

www.leginfo.ca.gov

### Legislative Update:

- Statewide Initiatives: Senate Joint Resolution 23:

Designating 2001 as the "Year of the Vulnerable Child"—Passed unanimously.

- Domestic Violence: (SB 961) Domestic

Violence/Child Abuse Cross Reporting—

The governor returned without signature but directed the Office of Criminal Justice Planning (OCJP) to develop protocols as a condition of funding. OCJP is working with domestic

violence and child abuse program administrators to assure a comprehensive and positive response that supports the intent of the bill. This issue will be revisited in the next legislative session.

- Child Death Review: (SB 962) Child Death Review Teams Training—The governor did not sign but directed OCJP to fund the project.

- Victims' Services: MDIC's funding from Victim Witness fund—Vetoed because of funding issues.

- Foster Child Protection: (AB 799) (Lui) mandates the foster child bill of rights and posting the '1-800' State Ombudsman's phone number in all foster placement settings so that children have access to impartial, knowledgeable guidance should a child need this resource—On governor's desk.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns
- Broadcast e-mails

## Colorado

Contact: Jennifer Richardson

Program Manger

Family Support Services at Families First

*(a program of the National Family Support Roundtable)*

303.745.0327 *tel*

jpsinge@aol.com *email*

**Legislature Meets:**

The annual session starts no later than the second Wednesday of January. Sessions are limited to 120 calendar days by the state’s constitution.

**Colorado State Legislature:**

[www.state.co.us/gov\\_dir/stateleg.html](http://www.state.co.us/gov_dir/stateleg.html)

**Methods of Advocacy:**

- Letters

**Connecticut** 

*Contact:* Susanne Santangelo

Director

Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut *(also affiliated with Healthy Families Connecticut and The National Family Support Roundtable)*

860.793.3375 *tel*

[ccpca@wheelerclinic.org](mailto:ccpca@wheelerclinic.org) *email*

[www.wheelerclinic.org](http://www.wheelerclinic.org)

**Legislature Meets:**

The Connecticut Legislature meets annually. In odd-numbered years, sessions start in January and normally end in June. In even-numbered years, sessions start in February and normally end in May.

**Connecticut State Legislature:**

[www.cga.state.ct.us/default.asp](http://www.cga.state.ct.us/default.asp)

**Legislative Update**


- Child Abuse Prevention: Prevention Bill (*HB 7013*)—This bill intends to establish a prevention framework for the state, recommends a comprehensive prevention plan, and requires a prevention report from the Governor’s budget—

Passed, Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut is a member of the Prevention Committee.

- Home Visiting: Expansion of Healthy Families America (*HB1 5098*)—This bill is intended to expand HFA statewide to all birthing hospitals, adding 13 additional sites. Enjoyed moderate success, while not adding all 13 sites as hoped PCA Connecticut was able to add six sites over a two-year biennial budget period.
- Child Welfare: (*HB 1287*)—This bill, under the Department of Children and Families, would establish a Secretary of Children, and would separate Juvenile Justice and Prevention from protection and prevention. Did not pass.

**Advocacy Methods:**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meeting with legislators

**District of Columbia** 

*Contact:* Leila Smith

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse of Metro Washington

202.223.0020 *tel*

[pcamw@juno.com](mailto:pcamw@juno.com) *email*

**Legislature Meets:**

The biennial session starts January 2nd of odd-numbered year and last through January 1st of following odd-numbered year. The Council generally meets the first Tuesday of each month.

**District of Columbia Legislature:**

[www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us](http://www.dccouncil.washington.dc.us)



## Florida



Contact: Renee Ream

Director of Community Services

The Family Source (*Prevent Child Abuse America's Florida Chapter, also affiliated with Healthy Families America and the National Family Support Roundtable*)

850.488.5437 tel

rream@familysource.org email

www.familysource.org

### Legislature Meets:

Annual session starts the Tuesday after the first Monday and lasts 60 calendar days. The Florida Legislature meets each even numbered year in organizational session the 14th day after the November general election.

### Connecticut State Legislature:

www.leg.state.fl.us/welcome/index.cfm

### Legislative Update

- Child Abuse Prevention and Home Visiting: Appropriations bill—Of the five child abuse prevention projects that were initially cut from the budget, PCA Florida was able to have all five reinstated into the Appropriations Bill. Unfortunately, the governor vetoed all but one of them. Healthy Families retained its funding, but did not receive the full amount requested.
- Child Death Review: Did not pass.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days

## Georgia



Contact: Wendi Clifton

Advocacy Director

Child Abuse Georgia (*also affiliated with Healthy Families Georgia*)

404.870.6565 tel

wendic@preventchildabusega.org email

www.preventchildabusega.org

### Legislature Meets:

The Georgia General Assembly convenes on the second Monday in January, meets for 40 legislative days, and usually adjourns in late March.

### Georgia State Legislature:

www.ganet.state.ga.us/index/state.cgi

### Legislative Update:

- Child Endangerment: (*HB 453*) Creating the offense of child endangerment. Tabled on the House floor due to a variety of concerns. First, it passed through the House Children and Youth Committee, but many members thought it should have gone through the House Judiciary Committee instead. Second, the bill went to the floor with an amendment exempting certain religious practices from penalty. Third, there was concern on the part of the domestic violence advocates that this legislation would unjustly burden victims of domestic violence. Finally, there was not enough grassroots support to pass the legislation.
- Home Visiting, Child Abuse Prevention, Child Protective Services: (*HB 175*) Budget for FY 2002—Partially successful—PCA Georgia successfully lobbied for \$500,000 for HFG, \$250,000 for PCA Georgia statewide prevention programs, and an additional \$32 million to Department of Children and Family Services for improved caseworker

salaries, more caseworker positions, increased SAAG salaries, etc. However, the governor vetoed the funding for Healthy Families Georgia and PCA Georgia statewide prevention because of a "potential economic downturn that may result in an increase in Temporary Assistance to Needy Families (TANF) applicants who qualify for cash assistance." Only the DFACS funding of \$32 million was approved by the Governor.

- Sexual Abuse: (*SB 33*) Making pimping and pandering of a minor a felony. Passed and signed into law by the governor on March 27, 2001.
- Justice Issues: (*SB 118*) Uniform Child Custody Jurisdiction Enforcement Act. Passed by the Georgia General Assembly and signed into law by the governor on April 7, 2001.

- Miscellaneous: (*SR 132*) Creates Senate Study Committee on Child Abuse—Did not pass the Senate, but was initiated by the Lt. governor through his own authority. The Study Committee has met three times in an attempt to educate and inform legislators of the issue.
- "Safe Havens" for Abandoned Babies": (*HB 360*) Safe Place for Newborns Act – Passed the House of Representatives and awaits consideration by the Senate.

#### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns



Georgia Governor Roy E. Barnes signs a proclamation making April Child Abuse Prevention Month. Behind him from left to right are: Terry Redman of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia; Carol Steele of the Georgia Children's Trust Fund; Juanita Blount-Clark, Director of the Georgia Department of Family and Children Services; Susan Meyer of the Georgia Children's Trust Fund; and Lisa Borders, President of Prevent Child Abuse Georgia.

## Hawaii



Contact: Charles Braden

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Hawaii

808.951.0200 *tel*

cbraden@preventchildabusehawaii.org *email*

### Legislature Meets:

Annual session starts the third Wednesday in January and normally lasts 60 legislative days, generally concluding in April.

### Hawaii Legislature:

[www.capitol.hawaii.gov](http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov)

## Illinois



Contact: Mary Salisbury

Director of Programs

Child Abuse Illinois (*also affiliated with*

*Healthy Families America*)

217.522.1129 *tel*

msalisbury@preventchildabuseillinois.org *email*

[www.preventchildabuseillinois.org](http://www.preventchildabuseillinois.org)

### Legislature Meets:

Annual session starts second Wednesday in January and lasts until the end of May.

### Illinois State Legislature:

[www.state.il.us/state/legis](http://www.state.il.us/state/legis)

### Legislative Update

- Home Visiting: To increase funding for Healthy Families Illinois by \$3 million to bring to a total of \$13 million. HF Illinois funding received a \$1 million

increase to bring the total to \$11 million. This is considered a significant gain, due to budget restraints this year.

- Child Death Review: (*Public Act 92468*) To establish an Illinois Child Death Review Team Executive Council to provide leadership and oversight to the IL CDRT process. Bill passed both the Senate and House, and was signed into law by the governor in August 2001.

### Letters

- Letters
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators

## Iowa



Contact: Steve Scott

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa (*also affiliated with*  
*Healthy Families Iowa*)

515.244.2200 *tel*

[iowancpca@earthlink.net](mailto:iowancpca@earthlink.net) *email*

[www.pcaiowa.org](http://www.pcaiowa.org)

### Legislature Meets:

Regular legislative sessions convene in January. The first session of a General Assembly is held in odd-numbered years and lasts approximately 110 calendar days. The second session is held in even-numbered years and lasts for approximately 100 calendar days.

### Iowa State Legislature:

[www.legis.state.ia.us](http://www.legis.state.ia.us)

#### Legislative Update:

- Child Abuse Prevention: To increase funding for Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) and Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES)—ICAPP had a \$250,000 increase from last year, while HOPES received a \$200,000 increase from last year
- Child Endangerment: (SF 63) "Boyfriend Bill"—Expanded the category of people who can be convicted of child endangerment. Intends to close a loophole that had resulted in dismissal of child endangerment charges against a live-in boyfriend. Passed.
- Child Endangerment: (HF 178) Methamphetamine Manufacturing and Child Abuse—Sanctions parents for putting children at risk by manufacturing dangerous substances like methamphetamine, in their presence. Passed.
- Mandatory Reporting: (HF 680) Updates the list of professionals and employees to be treated as mandatory reporters, adding all—not just some—social workers; certified para-educators and authorized coaches, and employees or operators of Head Start, Family Development and Self Sufficiency (FaDSS), and HOPES-Healthy Families Iowa programs. Passed.
- Child Protective Services: (HF 598) Child Protection Centers—Establishes a grant program for maintaining and establishing child protection centers. Under the new law Iowa Department of Public Health will be responsible for establishing the requirements for the grant program. Passed.

- Safe Haven for Abandoned Babies (SF 355): Allows a parent to surrender an unwanted infant without being charged with abandonment, if it is within 14 days of infant's birth and is left at an institutional health facility. Passed.

#### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns

### Kansas



Contact: Teresa Schwab

Advocacy Manager

Prevent Child Abuse Kansas (*also affiliated with Healthy Families Kansas*)

785.274.3100 *tel*

[tschwab@kcsf.org](mailto:tschwab@kcsf.org) *email*

#### Legislature Meets:

The annual session starts Monday in January and lasts approximately 125 to 145 Calendar days. The state constitution limits sessions in even-numbered years to 90 calendar days, but in recent years that provision has been regularly overridden as provided for in the constitution.

#### Kansas State Legislature Website:

[www.accesskansas.org/legislative](http://www.accesskansas.org/legislative)

#### Legislative Update:

- Child Welfare: (HB 2033) Full Mental Health Parity. Passed.

- Child Welfare: (*SB 29*) Eliminates the month waiting period for Health Wave Health Insurance for children. Passed
- Child Welfare: (*HB 2555 and 2556*) Child Welfare Accountability. Neither bill passed this year.
- Appropriations Bill
  - *Welfare Issues: Workforce Development Funding.* No significant movement due to a severe state budget crunch and much emphasis placed on cutting budgets and/or raising taxes. There was strong opposition to tax increases; therefore, many programs suffered budget cuts. This unfortunately overshadowed most of the legislative session.
  - Home Visiting: Healthy Families Funding. Ibid.

### Methods of Advocacy

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Public awareness campaigns

## Kentucky



Contact: Rashmi Adi-Brown

Director of Programs and Prevention Services  
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky (*also affiliated with the National Family Support Roundtable*)

859.225.8879 ext.228 tel

radibrown@pcaky.org email

www.pcaky.org

### Legislature Meets:

The Kentucky Legislature convenes in regular session for 60 days on the first Tuesday in January of even numbered years.

### Kentucky State Legislature:

[www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm](http://www.lrc.state.ky.us/home.htm)



PCA Kentucky Board member Debra Hembree Lambert with Governor Paul Patton and First Lady Judi Patton



Executive Director Jill Seyfred with Governor Paul Patton and First Lady Judi Patton

## Louisiana



Contact: Marketa Gautreau

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana (*also affiliated with the National Family Support Roundtable*)

225.925.9520 tel

mgautreau@pcal.org email

www.pcal.org

### Legislature Meets:

In odd-numbered years, a general session convenes in March to extend for no longer than 60 legislative days during a period of 85 days. In even-numbered years, a fiscal session convenes in April for no longer than 30 legislative days during a period of 45 days.

### Louisiana State Legislature:

www.legis.state.la.us

### Legislative Update:

● Child Protection and Home Visiting: The General State Appropriations Bill (*HB 1*)—It included TANF spending, threatened cuts to child protection and potential cuts to nurse home visitation staff. PCA Louisiana worked hard (*and was unsuccessful*) at getting Healthy Families money out of TANF funds. Unable to include TANF spending; successfully avoided dramatic cuts to Department of Children Services (*child protection*) by getting an amendment to HB1. Unable to get staffing approved in HB1 for the nurse home visitor program. The governor was devoted to cutting the number of state employees.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Press Conference



Legislators and Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana staff and board meet at a lunch at the state capitol.



Gwendolyn Hamilton, Secretary of the Department of Social Services, speaks at a lunch at the capitol to Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana staff and board.



Madeline McAndrew, Assistant Secretary, Office of Public Health, Department of Health and Hospitals, speaks at the interagency collaborative meeting of the office of Public Health (OPH) and Office of Community Services (OCS), hosted by Prevent Child Abuse Louisiana.

## Maine



Contact: Jan Clarkin

Director

Maine Chapter, Prevent Child Abuse America

207.623.5120 *tel*

mct@mint.net *email*

### Legislature Meets:

Annual session starts the first Wednesday in December following the November election in an even-numbered year and normally adjourns the third Wednesday in June of the odd-numbered year.

The next session starts the Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January of the even-numbered year and normally adjourns the third Wednesday in April of that year.

### Maine State Legislature:

janus.state.me.us/legis

### Legislative Update:

- Child Abuse Prevention: (LD27) Added responsibilities to the Maine Children's Trust, and assigned Trust to be the lead in child abuse prevention activities/coalitions throughout Maine. Passed.
- Home Visiting: Start ME Right –Intended to preserve home visiting funds previously allocated from the Tobacco Settlement money. Passed.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition

## Maryland



Contact: Gloria Goldfaden

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Maryland

410.841.6599 *tel*

gloria@preventchildabusemd.org *email*

### Legislature Meets:

The Maryland General Assembly meets each year for 90 days to act on more than 2300 bills including the State's annual budget.

### Maryland State Legislature:

mlis.state.md.us

### Legislative Update:

- Mandatory Reporting: Did not pass.
- Victims' Services: Victim Medical Assistance. Did not pass.
- Corporal Punishment: Prohibit Punishment in Private Schools. Was not introduced.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Monitoring bills
- Meeting with Legislators
- Coalitions
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns

## Massachusetts



Contact: Jetta Bernier

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Massachusetts

617.742.8555 *tel*

jetta@masskids.org *email*

www.masskids.org

**Legislature Meets:**

Massachusetts has a biennial session starting the first Wednesday in January of odd-numbered years and ending December 31 of the following even-numbered year. The General Court meets formally from the first Wednesday of January in odd-numbered years through November and from the first Wednesday in January in even-numbered years through July.

**Massachusetts State Legislature:**

[www.state.ma.us](http://www.state.ma.us)

**Legislature Meets:**

● **Statewide Initiative:** Major focus this year has been on developing and disseminating the State Call to Action. Prevent Child Abuse Massachusetts did not spend their usual time and energy on bills. They are looking to develop an integrated and comprehensive legislative strategy to implement the Call to Action for next year.

**Methods of Advocacy**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Public awareness campaigns

**Michigan**



Contact: Michael Foley  
Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Michigan (also affiliated with  
*Healthy Families Michigan*)

517.482.7533 tel

[mikfoley@aol.com](mailto:mikfoley@aol.com) email

**Legislature Meets:**

Annual session starts the second Wednesday in January and lasts all year. Usually meets through mid-June, returns in mid-September, and breaks again for Christmas.

**Michigan State Legislature:**

[www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/mich.html](http://www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/mich.html)

**Legislative Update:**

● The Appropriations bill—especially the three appropriations bills that, together, fund the zero to three Secondary Prevention Fund:

- *Education:* Education's \$2 million was reauthorized for FY 02 but is not in the budget for FY 03.
- *Department of Community Health:* Successfully advocated in both Houses of the Legislature for the continuation of the \$1.7 million appropriation, but the budget item was vetoed by the governor.
- *The Family Independence Agency:* Successful in protecting the \$4 million appropriation.

● PCA Michigan has also worked with state and local advocacy partners in the efforts that lead to a \$45 million appropriation in the Department of Education budget for an initiative called All Students Achieve Program-Parent Involvement in Education (ASAP-PIE) This was to be a program funded at \$45 million per year for three years. However due to significant budget shortfalls, the initiative received its second year appropriation for the current fiscal year, but has been "zeroed out" in the FY 03 budget



### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns

## Minnesota



*Contact:* Suzann Eisenberg-Murray

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Minnesota *(also affiliated with the National Family Support Roundtable)*

651.523.0099 *tel*

smurray@familysupport.org *email*

www.familysupport.org

### Legislature Meets:

Each odd numbered year on the first Tuesday after the first Monday in January. In the even numbered years, it convenes on a date set by joint agreement of both bodies. The state constitution limits the legislature to meeting 120 legislative days during each biennium. In addition, the legislature may not meet in regular session after the first Monday following the third Saturday in May of any year.

### Minnesota State Legislature:

www.leg.state.mn.us

## Missouri



*Contact:* Lucia Erickson-Kincheloe

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Missouri

573.634.5223 *tel*

pcmissouri@aol.com *email*

### Legislature Meets:

Annual session starts the Wednesday after the first Monday in January. Each session adjourns on May 30th with no consideration of bills after 6:00 p.m. the first Friday following the second Monday in May.

### Missouri State Legislature:

www.lib.umich.edu/govdocs/mich.html

### Legislative Update:

- Tobacco settlement—status unknown.

### Methods of Advocacy

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days

## Montana



*Contact:* Sara Lipscomb

Chief Executive Officer

Montana Council for Families *(Prevent Child Abuse America's Chapter in Montana)*

406.728.9449 *tel*

mcf@montana.com *email*

### Legislature Meets:

Montana has a biennial session starting the first Monday in January of odd-numbered years unless the first Monday falls on January 1 in which case the session begins of the first Wednesday. Normally the session lasts until near the end of April. The state constitution limits the session to 90 legislative days.

### Montana State Legislature:

[leg.state.mt.us](http://leg.state.mt.us)

### Legislative Update:

- Child Protective Services: (*SB 116*) An act to revise Child Protective Services. Passed as amended. Final form was acceptable to PCA Montana.
- Child Abuse Prevention: (*HB 2*) The State Budget Bill. Passed, with an allocation of \$500,00 in new money for the Children's Trust Fund.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition

## New Hampshire



*Contact:* Cheryl Avery Molloy

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse New Hampshire (*also affiliated with Healthy Families New Hampshire*)

603.225.5441 *tel*

[c.averymolloy@juno.com](mailto:c.averymolloy@juno.com) *email*

[www.Gran-net.com/nhtf](http://www.Gran-net.com/nhtf)

### Legislature Meets:

The annual session starts the Wednesday after the first Tuesday in January and lasts 45 legislative days or until July 1, whichever comes first.

### New Hampshire State Legislature:

[gencourt.state.nh.us/ie](http://gencourt.state.nh.us/ie)

### Legislative Update:

- Given the overriding legislative issue of public education funding this past year, there was very little accomplished in other areas.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meeting with Legislators
- Building Coalitions

## New Jersey



*Contact:* Janet Rozenwiegh

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey

732.246.8060 *tel*

[jrosenwiegh@preventchildabusej.org](mailto:jrosenwiegh@preventchildabusej.org) *email*

### Legislature Meets:

The annual session starts the second Tuesday in January and normally lasts the entire year. Special sessions are rarely held.

### New Jersey State Legislature:

[www.njleg.state.nj.us](http://www.njleg.state.nj.us)

## New York



*Contact:* Christine Deyss

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse New York (*also affiliated with Healthy Families New York*)

518.445.1273 *tel*

[ncpcanys@aol.com](mailto:ncpcanys@aol.com) *email*

### Legislature Meets:

Annual session starts the Wednesday after the first Monday in January. Major portion of work is done from January through June, however officially meets year round. Special sessions, if held, are taken up within the framework of regular sessions.

### New York State Legislature:

[leginfo.state.ny.us:82/INDEX1.html](http://leginfo.state.ny.us:82/INDEX1.html)

### Legislative Update:

- Home Visiting: *(No bill number)* Healthy Families New York home visiting for \$25 million. Pending.
- The Trust Fund's allocation is not yet known, as New York's legislature has not yet finalized an April 1, 2001 due-date budget; they anticipate very little funding for the Trust Fund this year.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days

## North Carolina



Contact: Jennifer Tolle

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse North Carolina *(also affiliated with Healthy Families North Carolina)*

919.829.8009 *tel*

[jentolle@mindspring.com](mailto:jentolle@mindspring.com) *email*

[www.childabusenc.org](http://www.childabusenc.org)

### Legislature Meets:

The North Carolina legislature congregates annually. In odd-numbered years sessions start in January and have no statutory ending date. In even-numbered years sessions usually start in May and last for four to six weeks.

### North Carolina State Legislature:

[www.ncga.state.nc.us](http://www.ncga.state.nc.us)

### Legislative Update:

- Home Visiting: *(HB 627)* Intensive Home Visiting Funds. Did not pass.
- Child Abuse Prevention: *(HB 275)* Infant Homicide Prevention. Passed.
- Justice Issues: *(HB 904)* Increased Child Abuse Penalty. Pending, but expected to pass.
- Research: *(HB 456)* Child Abuse Study *(child care)*. Pending, but expected to pass.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days
- Public awareness campaigns

## North Dakota



Contact: Kathy Mayer

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota *(also affiliated with Healthy Families North Dakota)*

701.223.9052 *tel*

[pcand@btigate.com](mailto:pcand@btigate.com) *email*

### Legislature Meets:

In odd-numbered years: biennial session starts the first Tuesday after January 3, and normally lasts until the first part of April. In even-numbered years: meets for a three-day organizational session in December. The Legislative Assembly has the option of using 80 days during the two-year biennium. However, with one exception, they have met only in odd-numbered years.

**North Dakota State Legislature:**

[www.state.nd.us/lr/homepic.html](http://www.state.nd.us/lr/homepic.html)

**Legislative Update:**

- Miscellaneous: (HB 1307) Safe Exchange Visiting Centers. Not passed because it came with an appropriation.
- "Safe Haven" for Abandoned Babies (SB 2129) Abandonment of a newborn without penalty. Passed.

**Advocacy Methods:**

- Coalition
- Public awareness campaigns



Prevent Child Abuse North Dakota  
Executive Director Kathy Mayer with North  
Dakota Governor John Hoeven, April 2001.

**Ohio**



Contact: Renee Dillon

Interim Director

Prevent Child Abuse Ohio (also affiliated  
with Health Families Ohio)

614.722.6800 tel

rdillon@chi.osu.edu email

**Legislature Meets:**

Annually starting in January. Sessions generally end in July in odd-numbered years and in June in even-numbered years. Each session officially lasts all year.

**Ohio State Legislature:**

[www.legislature.state.oh.us](http://www.legislature.state.oh.us)

**Legislative Update:**

- Ohio legislature has been very occupied with school funding for public education and the legality of the funding, so all other issues have been slow.

**Advocacy Methods:**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition

**Tennessee**



Contact: Lynne Luther

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee (also affiliated  
with the National Family Support Roundtable)

615.868.4468 tel

lluther221@earthlink.net email

[www.pcat.org](http://www.pcat.org)

**Legislature Meets:**

On the second Tuesday in January of each odd-numbered year for an organizational session of not more than 15 calendar days. Thereafter, the General Assembly sets the date for convening the regular session. The Constitution provides that the legislature can meet 90 legislative days in regular session over the two-year assembly period.

## Tennessee State Legislature:

[www.legislature.state.tn.us](http://www.legislature.state.tn.us)

### Legislative Update:

- "Safe Haven" for Abandoned Babies SB 774/HB 774—Allows a mother to voluntarily deliver her unharmed newborn infant aged 72 hours or younger to certain facilities. Passed.
- Child Abuse Prevention SB 889/HB 1334—Provides a fee on marriages licenses to fund child abuse prevention, the parenting plan, and domestic violence. Did not pass.
- Miscellaneous SB 1558/HB 882—Creates a 2 % sales tax on services including nonprofit educational, social and hospital or health services. Did not pass.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days

## Texas



Contact: Wendell Teltow

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Texas *(also affiliated with Healthy Families Texas)*

512.250.8438 *tel*

[wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org](mailto:wteltow@preventchildabusetexas.org) *email*

[www.preventchildabusetexas.org](http://www.preventchildabusetexas.org)

### Legislature Meets:

The Texas legislature meets every two years, and convenes in a regular session on the second Tuesday in January of every odd-numbered year. These biennial sessions are limited to 140 days. The constitution also allows the governor to call

additional special sessions as necessary. During a called session, which cannot exceed 30 days, the legislature may consider legislation only on matters specified in proclamations issued by the governor.

## Texas State Legislature:

[www.capitol.state.tx.us](http://www.capitol.state.tx.us)

### Legislative Update:

- SB1—The Appropriations Bill—Passed, but not at the level Prevent Child Abuse Texas wanted.

### Advocacy Methods:

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition

## Utah



Contact: Steve Franks

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Utah

801.359.3662 *tel*

[stfranks@ix.netcom.com](mailto:stfranks@ix.netcom.com) *email*

### Legislature Meets:

The Utah legislative session lasts 45 days beginning on the third Monday in January. Utah's session is an open legislative process where all committee action on bills and amendments is conducted in open session – providing the opportunity for the public to attend committee meetings and House and Senate floor sessions.

**Utah State Legislature:**

www.le.state.ut.us

**Advocacy Methods:**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition

**Vermont** 

Contact: Linda Johnson

Interim Director

Prevent Child Abuse Vermont (also affiliated with Healthy Families Vermont and the National Family Support Roundtable)

802.229.5724 tel

pcavjohnson@hotmail.com email

**Legislature Meets:**

The Vermont Legislature convenes for the biennial session, which starts on Wednesday after the first Monday in January. The session closes at the end of May.

**Vermont State Legislature:**

www.leg.state.vt.us

**Legislative Update:**

- Sexual Abuse: \$60,000 for Safe-T-VT (a program promoting a sexual abuse free environment for teens)—\$10,000 already granted, \$50,000 is pending—it is being revisited by legislature at the governor’s request.

**Methods of Advocacy:**

- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators

**Virginia** 

Contact: Steve Jurentkuff

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Virginia (also affiliated with Healthy Families Virginia and the National Family Support Roundtable)

804.359.5065 tel

sjurentkuff@pcav.org email

www.preventchildabuseva.org

**Legislature Meets:**

Annual session starts second Wednesday in January and normally lasts until mid-February in odd-numbered years and until mid-March in even-numbered years. The General Assembly then recesses for about six weeks and reconvenes for a one or two day wrap-up. Sessions are constitutionally limited to 30 calendar days in odd-numbered years and to 60 calendar days in even-numbered years.

**Virginia State Legislature:**

legis.state.va.us

**Legislative Update:**

- Miscellaneous: (HB 2348)-Trigger safety locks—Not Passed
- Defeating the following:
  - Justice Issues: (HB 2771) Defeated move to increase evidentiary standard from preponderance to clear and convincing to found a child abuse case. Successfully defeated bill.
  - "Safe Haven" for Abandoned Babies: (HB 1891) Successfully defeated bill.
  - Child Protective Services: (HB 2166 and HB 2167) Both attempted to restrict Child Protective Services authority to act on behalf of children. Successfully defeated bill.

- *Corporal Punishment*: Move by Department of Social Services to approve use of corporal punishment in foster care. Successfully defeated bill.

**Advocacy Methods:**

- Letters
- Bills Monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition
- Lobby days

**West Virginia**



Contact: Laurie McKeown

Coordinator

TEAM for WV Children (*Prevent Child Abuse America's West Virginia Contact*)

304.523.9587 ext 308 tel

team@newwave.net email

**Legislature Meets:**

Annual session starts the second Wednesday in January and normally meets until mid-March. In the first year of the governor's four-year term, the Legislature meets for one day and recesses until the second Wednesday in February. This session normally ends in mid-April. The state constitution limits an annual session to 60 calendar days unless extended by two-thirds vote of the Legislature.

**West Virginia State Legislature:**

[www.legis.state.wv.us](http://www.legis.state.wv.us)

**Legislative Update:**

- Justice Issues: (*SB 5007*) Movement toward a Unified Family Court system, following passage of

an amendment by West Virginia voters in November 2000. Replaced Family Law Masters with system of Family Court Judges who will be elected in November 2002. These Family Court Judges will hear cases involving divorce, child custody, child support and domestic violence. Passed during special session.

- Domestic Violence: (*HB 2199*) Recodification of domestic violence statute. Passed.

**Methods of Advocacy:**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition

**Wisconsin**



Contact: Patti Herman

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin (*also affiliated with Healthy Families America*)

608.256.3374 tel

wcpca@juno.com email

**Legislature Meets:**

Meets annually during biennial session according to the schedule adopted by joint resolution. The session begins on the first Tuesday after January 8 in odd-numbered years. Special sessions have been held at the rate of two or three per biennium in recent years.

**Wisconsin State Legislature:**

[www.legis.state.wi.us](http://www.legis.state.wi.us)

**Legislative Update:**

● Prevent Child Abuse Wisconsin supported a proposal brought to them by one of its board members that called for universal access to parenting support services for new parents, but it did not make it into a bill.

**Methods of Advocacy:**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators

**Wyoming**



Contact: Rose Kor

Executive Director

Prevent Child Abuse Wyoming (also affiliated with Healthy Families Wyoming and the National Family Support Roundtable)

307.635.7755 tel

pca\_wyo@msn.com email

**Legislature Meets:**

The Wyoming Legislature meets for not more than 40 days in odd numbered years in General Session. General Sessions convene at noon on the second Tuesday in January.

**Wyoming State Legislature:**

legisweb.state.wy.us

**Legislative Update:**

- Child Protective Services: (SF 0042) Child Protection Amendments. Passed.
- Miscellaneous: (SF 0027/HB 0049) Motor Vehicle Open Containers. Unknown.
- Sexual Abuse: (HB 0102) Sex Offense Age of Victim. Passed.

- Sexual Abuse: (HB 0079) Sex Offender Exploitation Legislation. Passed.
- Corporal Punishment: School Corporal Punishment. Did not pass.

**Advocacy Methods:**

- Letters
- Bill monitoring
- Meetings with legislators
- Coalition







## NOTABLE ADVOCACY

### Connecticut: Embedding Prevention into State Policy

In 2001, Connecticut passed landmark legislation that establishes a prevention framework for the state, recommends a comprehensive statewide prevention plan, and requires a prevention report from the governor's budget. The bill is predicted to impact state policy in several key ways. First, it will help Connecticut to embed prevention in a variety of state-level and local organizations to reduce crime, and to monitor specific policy, funding, administrative, and program design changes. Second, it will serve as a means to bring relevant prevention stakeholders to the table to coordinate the various aspects of prevention (child abuse and neglect, safety, health, education) under a unified and holistic approach, which will result in more strategic allocations of time and resources. Finally and perhaps most importantly, the legislation, because it is embedded in state policy, will afford prevention programs legitimacy and government-sanctioned support.

Five years ago advocates from across the state, including PCA Connecticut, sought such a law with little success. The recent success lies in the long-term efforts of prevention advocates to educate state policymakers on prevention; the leadership of the Connecticut Commission on Children and its relationship with the National Crime Prevention Council (NCPC); and the work of the Governor's Prevention Council and the findings of the Governors Blue Ribbon Commission on Mental Health Report to enhance wellness and reduce vulnerability which made recommendations for prevention that met the principles of this legislation.

*Key constituencies signed on to the legislation:* State Department Commissioners, Connecticut Education Association, Connecticut Conference of Municipalities and prevention advocates including PCA Connecticut/Wheeler Clinic. Advocates were mobilized to make phone calls to legislators, provide testimony at public hearings and write letters supporting the cost/benefit of putting resources at the front end to prevent more complex and costly crisis treatment services.

With the governor's support and the backing of the NCPC, the legislature unanimously passed House Bill 7013, "An Act Concerning Crime Prevention and a State Prevention Council," in June 2001.

*Contact:*

Susanne Santangelo, Director, Prevent Child Abuse Connecticut (*Wheeler Clinic*), Plainville Business Center, 74 East Street (*Route 10*), Plainville, CT 06062 860.793.3375 *tel* 860.793.3370 *fax* [ccpca@wheelerclinic.org](mailto:ccpca@wheelerclinic.org) *email*

## Florida's Legislator On-Call Program

In July 1999, the Florida State Legislature passed the Kayla McKean Act, a law adding new and significantly more stringent reporting requirements for child-protection workers, policemen, and other mandated reporters. Since the law was passed, the number of children who had been removed from their homes and placed in emergency shelters rose by 80 percent, while calls to Florida's Abuse Hotline increased by 53 percent. As a result of the new law, more cases of child abuse were reported, and more victims were brought to the attention of child protective services (CPS). However, there was an insufficient number of workers who could adequately address the drastic rise in reports. After the law was passed, workers in many districts became individually responsible for over 200 cases. These heavy caseloads led to a significant drop in morale and employment, further exacerbating the manpower shortage.

In response, the Florida Department of Children and Families (FDCF) acknowledged that it needed significantly more than the nine percent increase in funding and personnel it requested just three months earlier. In addition to the 326 new investigators and \$18.1 million originally requested, the Department sought 181 additional investigators and 11 hotline administrators (at a cost of \$8.2 million) to compensate for the projected increase of nearly 50,000 protective investigations for FY 2000-2001. The Florida Legislature needed proof that such increases were warranted. In response, The Family Source of Florida (PCA America's state chapter in Florida), in partnership with FDCF, launched the Legislator On-Call program to show legislators first-hand the crisis that FDCF faced.

The objective of the Legislator On-Call program was threefold: 1) to increase awareness in the legislature about the funding crisis in the child protection system; 2) to actively involve legislators so they could see firsthand what caseworkers were up against; 3) and ultimately, to gain the support of lawmakers to increase funding for the Department of Children and Families' Family Safety programs and the Family Source of Florida. In order to accomplish this, The Family Source of Florida wrote letters to all Florida state legislators requesting participation, made follow-up phone calls, met with legislators in person, and asked newspaper editorial boards to urge legislators to address the crisis. The Family Source also secured a sponsorship with Alltel Communications to provide pagers to legislators, and kicked the program off with a news conference. The Family Source reached out to legislators and arranged for them to be paged when child abuse cases are reported to investigators, spend a day traveling with a caseworker, and meet with child abuse workers to identify solutions.

The program enjoyed broad bipartisan support garnering participation from 29 legislators. The program succeeded in educating the media, and provided children and advocates a forum to express their concerns. More importantly, it was a contributing factor for the restoration of funding for the Family Source of Florida after initially recommending a cut, and a \$691.8 million Family Safety budget, which represented an increase of \$132 million, including \$28.5 million for hotline/investigations and funding for 337 permanent positions and 181 contract positions. A Kayla McKean "glitch" bill was also passed to correct problems in the original law.

### *Contact:*

Renee Ream, Director of Community Services, The Family Source, 433 N. Magnolia Dr., Tallahassee, FL 32308 850.488.5437 tel 850.921.0322 fax rream@familysource.org email



## Successful Advocacy in Iowa: A Coordinated Effort Between State and Grassroots Advocates

Due to an overall state budget crunch, many programs addressing children and family issues experienced cuts. This was not the case of the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP), a statewide prevention program that Prevent Child Abuse Iowa organizes and directs. In fact, the funding for ICAPP increased from \$731,000 in 2001 to \$981,000 for 2002 (the first increase of ICAPP funding since 1996).

What was responsible for this significant increase in ICAPP funding when so many other programs experienced cuts? One factor may be the increased public concern over child abuse spurred on by a highly visible child murder. Another may be greater legislative interest in community-based efforts to protect children. Doubtless, a crucial factor was the coordinated advocacy efforts, on both the state and local levels, of Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and its network of local child abuse prevention councils.

Each year, PCA Iowa uses a three-step plan to coordinate its advocacy efforts to increase ICAPP funding. The first step is to send out an annual report on ICAPP along with an attached note to state legislators, the governor, and other key policymakers, describing the program, and noting that additional funds will help children and families. This is usually sent either just before the start of the legislative session or shortly after its beginning. The second step is to send out PCA Iowa's legislative agenda, during the middle of the session, as a reminder to legislators of the existence of ICAPP and the importance of increasing funding. The third step, PCA Iowa's Legislative Breakfast, is the centerpiece of the plan. Scheduled before the beginning of the appropriations process, it serves as PCA Iowa's most concerted push to educate and advocate for additional funds for ICAPP.

On March 14, 2001, 73 state legislators (about half of the Iowa State Legislature) and the lieutenant governor, as well as 45 representatives of PCA Iowa's local child abuse prevention programs, attended the legislative breakfast. Here, constituents (service providers, paraprofessionals, and concerned private citizens) were given the opportunity to educate their legislators on how ICAPP funds have helped the child abuse prevention programs in their district. Through these conversations, the state legislators were better able to see their role in preventing child abuse and neglect, and gained a better understanding of the statewide cooperative aspect of the effort. Moreover, the event was successful in demonstrating to legislators that wide grassroots support for funding existed, and that PCA Iowa did not stand alone.

In addition to the three steps outlined above, PCA Iowa's advocacy efforts throughout the year were critical in increasing ICAPP funding. During the legislative session, PCA Iowa's Executive Director, Steve Scott, played an active role in building awareness by visiting the state capitol frequently, and capitalizing on opportunities to meet with legislators when they arose (i.e. approaching legislators after legislative hearings, and providing testimony on behalf of legislation). Through his frequent contacts he was able to gain support from several important legislators—including key members in the Republican Party (which then held majorities in both the House and Senate).

To foster grassroots support, PCA Iowa sent out frequent legislative updates to a network of eighty people representing approximately half of the local child abuse prevention councils in the PCA Iowa network and a dozen peer organizations including Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), foster care, pregnancy prevention, and the County Attorney's Association. PCA Iowa also sent out action alerts through the network, and provided talking points and technical assistance to people who sought to contact their representatives. In addition, members of the network met with their legislators during legislator-sponsored "Coffee Sessions" hosted in their districts. These meetings allowed network members to become better acquainted with their legislators and provided them with opportunities to advocate on behalf of ICAPP and child abuse prevention in general.

The substantial increase in ICAPP funds was largely a result of ongoing coordination between state and local advocates. With a plan in place to set direction, a significant presence at the capitol to provide state level representation and gain up-to-date information, and a strong, broad-based network of grassroots supporters, PCA Iowa and its local councils were able to impress upon legislators the importance of ICAPP in preventing child abuse. Absent their efforts, the increased allocation of ICAPP may never have occurred.

*Contact:*

Steve Scott, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa, 550 – 11th St., Suite 200, Des Moines, IA 50309 515.244.2200 *tel* 515.280.7835 *fax* sscott@pcaiowa.org *email*



Iowa Lt. Governor Sally Pederson hands Governor Vilsack's proclamation designating April as Child Abuse Prevention month to Stephen Scott, Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Executive Director.



Iowa Representative Dave Heaton visits with prevention council representatives at Prevent Child Abuse Iowa Legislative Breakfast in March 2001. Seventy-two other legislators attended the event.

## Advocacy the Montana Way

Seven days before the end of Montana's state legislative session, the Appropriations Subcommittee announced that an allocation of \$500,000 in new money would be awarded to the Montana Children's Trust Fund. This came as a very pleasant surprise to Montana chapter CEO Sara Lipscomb, since she had asked for only \$220,000, and was warned by reliable sources to expect nothing. What accounted for this extraordinary turn of events? Was it an amazing instance of serendipity? Perhaps. A more plausible explanation lies in the ongoing advocacy efforts of Sara Lipscomb and the Board of Prevent Child Abuse America's Montana chapter.

Montana's legislature is citizen-run, and meets only 90 days every two years. Due to the relative brevity of the legislative session, much of Sara's advocacy work began before the session started driving across the state and educating key legislators. Her message was simple and powerful: 1) child abuse and neglect is deadly and expensive; and 2) prevention works. This message was chronicled in *A Prevention Works Storybook*, a publication created by the Montana Children's Trust Fund, detailing both high profile child fatalities due to child abuse and neglect and success stories of parents who participated in prevention programs.

The Storybook helped open doors and minds for Sara, especially to more conservative politicians who deemed prevention programs intrusive and "anti-family." By showing the economic costs associated with child abuse and the cost-effectiveness of prevention programs, The Storybook effectively framed prevention as an issue of fiscal responsibility, thus winning conservative support.

Having laid the necessary groundwork during the interim, Sara was prepared to advocate during the legislative session. The bulk of her days was spent at the Montana State Legislature, meeting with and educating key legislators about child abuse and neglect prevention. Due to Montana's informal political character, access to legislators was not difficult to attain. Sara took full advantage of this, and met with several key legislators, including the Senate President, the chair of the Senate Finance and Claims Committee, and the Speaker of the House. More importantly, Sara took the initiative to develop relationships through friendly informal meetings, e-mail correspondences, and additional conversations. Because of these relationships, Sara was able to gain a more sympathetic and attentive ear from the legislators when it came time to present her message and ask for their support.

In addition, Sara was able to build relationships with high powered lobbyists, members of influential coalitions, and other advocates as she sat and waited in "Vulture Alley", the hallway separating the House and Senate where lobbyists and advocates congregate. Sara shared her message with these lobbyists and advocates during downtime between floor hearings, votes, etc. They soon became very sympathetic to Sara's message. Over time this sympathy turned into commitment, and finally into action as she was able to garner the support of several lobbyists on a pro bono basis.

These lobbyists were instrumental in two ways. First, using their insider knowledge of the budgeting process, they kept Sara apprised of the status of bills (whether they were alive, dead, or being killed), and where the money attached to defunct bills was going. Second, the lobbyists joined Sara in advocating for these freed-up funds, and even attempted to defeat certain legislation so that funds would be freed up for her program.

The \$500,000 appropriation was the result of careful planning, strong messaging, and nuts-and-bolts relationship building. Had Sara not formed critical relationships with legislators and lobbyists, the money would most likely not have been awarded. The success of PCA America's Montana Chapter is further proof that the key to successful advocacy is building and maintaining relationships, delivering the right message when the relationship is built, and keeping at it even when the odds seem long.

*Contact:*

Sara Lipscomb, CEO, Montana Council for Families, PO Box 7533, Missoula, MT 59807  
406.728.9449 tel 406.728.9459 fax mcf@montana.com email



(Left to right) Sara Lipscomb, Montana Council for Families; Governor Judy Martz; and Mary Gilluly, Montana Council for Families



## Healthy Families New York: Holding Its Own in the Face of Troubled Times

Healthy Families New York (HF New York) seeks to maintain all \$16.4 million of its FY 2001 funding in FY 2002, despite the enormity of the state's projected \$9 billion deficit. As a result of the looming fiscal crisis, many state-funded human service programs will suffer deep budget cuts. What accounts for HF New York's positive support? The answer lies in HF New York's strategic plan, its relationship building efforts and responsiveness to policymakers, and statewide support from peer organizations through The Healthy Families New York State Home Visiting Council.

In March 1999, a group of service providers and advocates convened a meeting with Healthy Families NY to discuss how to improve and expand home visiting services in New York. Key staff of PCA America and Healthy Families Massachusetts participated in the meeting and presented information on the advocacy activities of several well-established HFA state systems and conveyed a set of best practices.

Arising from this meeting, The Healthy Families New York State Home Visiting Council (comprised of HF New York and other service providers and advocates) was formed and held its first meeting in June 1999 to develop and implement a strategic plan to establish home visiting services in every community in New York State. The plan identifies HF New York's long-term goals to prevent child abuse and promote healthy families, and provides strategies and steps on how to achieve its goals. The plan has been instrumental in garnering political support for HF New York by establishing and maintaining on-going relationships with key policymakers within the executive and legislative branches.

In addition, guided by the New York State Government's timetable, HF New York reached out to state agencies, the governor's office, and the legislature when it was time to address budget and program issues. HF New York directed its message specifically to leaders of both houses in the legislature, chairs of the relevant committees, and key staff of the governor's office. Recognizing that successful advocacy requires cultivating these relationships, HF New York maintained contact with policymakers on a regular basis and apprised them of new developments in its program.

HF New York also attuned its messages to the political climate. HF New York stressed that one of its goals was to increase the self-sufficiency and financial independence of its participants, thereby reducing the need for public assistance. In addition, knowing that legislators require proof of a program's effectiveness before they support it, HF New York highlighted the program's positive outcomes. In order to put a human face to these statistics, HF New York staff told policymakers stories of families who were helped by its programs, and brought workers and participants on visits to legislators.

The Healthy Families New York State Home Visiting Council played a crucial role in expanding the program throughout the state. The Council, consisting of over 40 public and private organizations throughout the state, advocated on behalf of legislation (including testifying) that made the program permanent and enabled expansion to more communities. This broad show of support was instrumental in assuring state policymakers to continue investment in the HF New York home visiting programs.

*Contact:*

Andy Buchan, Executive Director, Healthy Kids, 2215 Burdett Avenue, Troy, NY 12180  
518.217.3923 *tel* 518.271.7219 *fax* Buchana@nehealth.com *email*







## Healthy Families Virginia: Successfully Protecting Its State General Dollars from Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) Supplantation

Healthy Families Virginia (HF Virginia) successfully preserved its state funding of \$3.8 million dollars in the face of a state budget crunch and an executive branch intent on supplanting its \$3 million in state general funds with federal TANF dollars. Since state general funds can be used as match to draw down other funds such as Title IV-E funds, while TANF dollars can not, their replacement would have been tantamount to a budget cut. How did HF Virginia manage to keep its funding when so many other social service programs suffered both cuts and replacement of state general funds with less desirable TANF dollars? The answer lies in the advocacy efforts of HF Virginia and its network of grassroots supporters.

HF Virginia's advocacy efforts are ordered along a three-step plan. The first step is a strategic planning process through which HF Virginia assesses the legislative priorities, level of support, and overall mood of key legislators and staff. Given the economy and the legislature's emphasis on budgetary savings, HF Virginia's goal was to maintain the previous year's funding levels while protecting its state general fund dollars. To help convince legislators, HF Virginia's message focused on demonstrating that when state money is used to leverage federal funds, it is cost-effective because it significantly shifts the financial burden of programs like HF Virginia to be shared by the federal government. HF Virginia also showed that prevention services were cost-effective, and could over time reduce the cost of treating and addressing child abuse and neglect on the back-end.

With its basic messages in place, HF Virginia began advocating to legislators and staff through its bipartisan Legislative Advisory Board, which is made up of 35 state legislators, including the key members of the Senate Finance Committee and the Health Appropriations Committee. The Board sought to mobilize fellow legislators on behalf of HF Virginia, and serve as a platform to educate legislators about HF Virginia and its relationship to child abuse issues in general. The Board first convened during the first day of the General Assembly's session where they received briefings on the HF Virginia evaluation results. Here, HF Virginia test-ran the messages, and solidified support. Moreover HF Virginia convinced members of the Board from each House to sponsor a budget amendment that reflected HF Virginia's financial needs, and persuaded the remaining Board members to cosponsor it. In addition, HF Virginia convinced members of the House Appropriations Committee and the Senate Finance Committee to cosponsor the amendment as well.

HF Virginia also communicated its messages to legislative staff, particularly staff of the House Appropriations and Senate Finance Committees. Gaining access to staff required only a phone call and a request to meet. Over time, a mutually beneficial relationship developed between staff members and HF Virginia in which staff members influenced legislators on behalf of HF Virginia and educated HF Virginia on the political process, while HF Virginia served as a resource on child abuse and neglect issues. Moreover, due to the relationship, HF Virginia was given the opportunity to provide testimony during legislative hearings throughout the year, which afforded HF Virginia further opportunity to meet with legislators.

While HF Virginia enjoyed wide support from the legislature, it received far less support from the executive branch, which continued to pursue HF Virginia's state general funds. In response, HF Virginia successfully mobilized its grassroots base, through its extensive e-mail network, to write, phone, and e-mail the governor and the commissioner of social services to maintain HF Virginia's state general funds. Because of this upsurge of support, the executive branch finally relented, leaving the funds intact.

*Contact:*

Johanna Schuchert, Director, Healthy Families Virginia, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia,  
4901 Fitzhugh Ave, Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23230 804.359.6166 *tel* 804.359.5065 *fax*  
jschuchert@preventchildabuseva.org *email*





## Prevent Child Abuse Virginia: Hiring a Lobbyist

In 2001, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia hired a lobbying firm to assist with a campaign to support a budget amendment and to educate legislators. PCA Virginia's contracted lobbyist spent most of his time working on grassroots advocacy to support a budget amendment, while the remainder was spent helping PCA Virginia to strategize on and mount other advocacy efforts, including outreach to the regulatory Board of Social Services and the governor's office.

In choosing its lobbyist, PCA Virginia put together a search committee that included representatives from its affiliates, its Board, and collaborative community partners with expertise in child abuse and neglect prevention. The search committee issued a request for proposal, and advertised the position to attract the attention of lobbying firms that may not have been aware of the organization.

Hiring a lobbyist was very cost-effective for PCA Virginia, which contracted for a set dollar amount throughout the entire year, designating most of its resources during the legislative session. Knowing that advocacy is a year round endeavor, PCA Virginia retained the contracted lobbyist even during the legislative interim, but on a less intensive basis.

PCA Virginia cites three main benefits from its contract with a professional lobbyist: development of an effective strategy to approach policymakers, a means to keep current with the changing tides and winds of the legislative process, and direct access to many key policymakers. The lobbyist also helped PCA Virginia gain entry to legislative hearings, receptions, and other venues, which afforded its leadership increased chances to meet with state policymakers. With the help of a lobbyist, PCA Virginia was able to maintain funding for its Healthy Families America program, and defeat several flawed bills.

### *Contact:*

Steve Jurentkuff, Executive Director, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, 4901 Fitzhugh Ave, Suite 200, Richmond, VA 23230 804.359.6166 *tel* 804.359.5065 *fax* sjurentkuff@pcav.org *email*

# A PRIMER ON STATE ADVOCACY<sup>1</sup>

## Tips for State Level Advocacy

### 1. Build relationships with legislators through their staff.

The job of a legislative staffer is to filter through the vast assortment of information sent to the legislator by various advocates, present it to the legislator, and give advise on how the legislator should act. Legislators look to their staffers to be experts on a certain issue, and give a great deal of credence to what their staffers say. Staffers who know and support your issue can be incredible advocates on behalf your program.

Contacting a staffer is as easy as picking up the phone and calling. Ask the staffer to guide you through the political process. When you have a question regarding the legislative process, call the staffer. Offer to be a resource on child abuse and prevention issues. Keep him or her apprised of important developments in your program, and follow up again and again.

### 2. Be honest, straightforward and realistic.

These are musts for any successful relationship. Never stretch the truth of a situation or make promises you can't keep.

### 3. Timing is everything.

The earlier in the legislative process that you involve yourself, the more likely you will be able to influence the process.

### 4. Always say thanks.

Compliment policymakers who support your issues. Policymakers get hundreds of letters of criticism a day. Write letters thanking them when they support goals and policies you have recommended. Write letters to the editors in their community newspapers thanking them by name for their leadership and support. They will remember those letters and who wrote them.

### 5. Have staying power and be persistent.

Don't give up! Don't let one defeat discourage you. Changes don't happen overnight, but if you stay committed, you will succeed.

<sup>1</sup>From Prevent Child Abuse America's *Advocacy Guide* authored by Rebecca Pinkley.



## Resources for Advocacy

1. The best resource for state advocacy is your peer network. Use this State Advocacy Review as a means to connect with your peers. Use the 2001 Legislative Advocacy Grid to determine which states, if any, are facing the issues you are facing. Look at the state profiles, see how developed your peers' advocacy efforts are, and seek help from those states that are at a level that your state would like to attain in the next few years. Read the "Notable Advocacy" section of the guide for more in-depth information on notable advocates in the field. If you still have questions, contact the members in the PCA America network who you feel may be able to help you.

Your peers are a rich resource of information, advocacy tools, strategies, and advice. They are also good sources of encouragement, inspiration, and moral support.

2. Order and use the Prevent Child Abuse America Advocacy Guide. This is a valuable and comprehensive resource for advocates from all levels of expertise, and contains detailed information on what advocacy is; how to do legislative advocacy, lobbying, media advocacy, advocacy during election years, and regulatory advocacy; and how to organize your advocacy efforts. Moreover, it contains a large number of government resources, both print and on the Internet, and contains an abundance of state information.

## Samples Advocacy Tools from the Field

*The following is enclosed:*

- A letter from PCA Iowa, inviting legislators to the 2001 PCA Iowa Legislative Breakfast.
- A letter from the Montana Chapter, reminding legislators of its program.
- An editorial on Healthy Families Florida printed in The St. Petersburg Times.
- A portion of the Montana Chapter's "A Prevention Works Storybook," which articulates the cost of child abuse and the effectiveness and cost savings of prevention.

**A Letter from PCA Iowa, Inviting Legislators to the 2001 PCA Iowa Legislative Breakfast**

Feb. 16, 2001

The Honorable <<first\_name>><<last\_name>>  
Iowa House of Representatives  
State Capital  
Des Moines, Iowa 50319

Dear Representative <<last\_name\_>>:

Prevent Child Abuse Iowa would like to invite you to attend the annual child abuse prevention legislative breakfast on Wednesday, March 14 from 7:30 to 9:00 a.m. in the Legislative Dining Room of the State Capitol basement. The breakfast is co-sponsored by our organization and the Child Protection Council.

On March 14, we will discuss our legislative agenda to help prevent child abuse and protect children, a copy of which we have enclosed. In this agenda, we first urge enhanced support for the state's two child abuse prevention programs, the Iowa Child Abuse Prevention Program (ICAPP) and Healthy Opportunities for Parents to Experience Success (HOPES). These programs annually provide instruction, support, and respite care for 10,000 families and 35,000 children.

Our legislative agenda also calls for comprehensive reforms in the child protection system. We particularly support:

- Improving the detection and reporting of child abuse through better training of mandatory reporters and DHS intake staff
- Enhancing DHS staffing levels, training, and quality assurance efforts
- Protecting children better where there is substance abuse or domestic violence


Representatives from Prevent Child Abuse Iowa and many of Iowa's local councils will be at the breakfast to tell you about child abuse prevention efforts in your area and answer any questions about our ideas for change. Please feel free to come at any time during the morning, even if only for a few minutes, I would also be glad to answer any questions before the breakfast about our legislative agenda or our organization (brochure enclosed).

Sincerely,

Stephen Scott  
Executive Director

Enclosure

*A chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America*



**A letter from the Montana Chapter, reminding legislators of its program**

Dear Senator,

I would like to take this opportunity to re-introduce you to the Montana Children's Trust Fund.

In 1985, the Montana legislature created the Trust Fund to provide support to local child abuse and neglect in Montana. The Trust Fund is comprised of seven volunteers appointed by the Governor and who represent different regions of the state. The Trust Fund has no executive director, no office, no phone, and no staff. The mission is to provide grants and technical support to community-based organizations for innovative child abuse and neglect prevention, education and support programs for parents, families and abused or neglected children. For example, for the past four years, we've been funding an innovative program for children of incarcerated parents in cooperation with staff at the Montana Women's Prison. All the programs we fund are strictly voluntary. Parents must be involved in the design, implementation and evaluation of all programs. All programs require a community match and an evaluation of the services.

The Children's Trust Fund is a public/private partnership located within state government, governed by citizen volunteers. Funding comes from voluntary contributions, the Montana income tax check-off for child abuse prevention, monies from divorce filing fees, a Federal Prevention Grant and other voluntary contributions.

Prevention works! Effective prevention programs in Montana have reduced the abuse and neglect rate from 20 percent to 4 percent for high-risk families.

For more information on the Montana Children's Trust Fund and the projects we currently fund, please contact Kirk Astroth at 406.994.3501 or visit our web site at [www.montana.edu/wwwctf](http://www.montana.edu/wwwctf)

Sincerely,

Kirk Astroth, Chair  
Montana Children's Trust Fund

***Prevention Works!***

## From the Montana Chapter's "A Prevention Works Storybook"

### Prevention Works Storybook Executive Summary

Are you concerned about how your tax dollars are being used? Child abuse is costing us all- in misery, in dollars wasted and in wasted potential. Each year, in the United States, an estimated three million cases of suspected child abuse and neglect are reported to Child Protective Service agencies, and more than three children die each day from child abuse and neglect.

Abused or neglected children suffer physical and emotional damage that can affect them throughout their lives. They are also likely to become abusing adults who do harm to their own children or spouses. The U.S. Department of Justice has found that being abused and neglected as a child increases the likelihood of arrest for a violent crime by 38% and the National Institute of Justice reports that 68% of incarcerated adult male felons reported some form of child abuse and 23% experienced multiple forms of abuse and neglect. Also, in a forty year follow up of abused or neglected children, half had been convicted of serious crimes, became alcoholic or mentally ill, or died at an early age. The actions of abusers inflict costs on society that must often pay the health costs of the victims and the incarceration costs of the convicted abusers. However, the cost of prevention is much lower than the costs of health care for the victims and the cost of incarceration for the convicted abusers.

The legislature in 1985 created Montana Children's Trust Fund (CTF) to provide grants to local child abuse and prevention efforts in Montana. CTF's mission is to provide grants and technical support to community-based organizations for innovative child abuse and neglect prevention, education and support programs for parents, families and abused or neglected children. The Children's Trust Fund is a public/private partnership administratively located within state government, governed by citizen volunteers. Funding comes from voluntary contributions, the Montana income tax, check-off for child abuse prevention (10% of the total CTF budget), a portion of the divorce filing fees (10% of the total CTF budget), a Federal Prevention Grant (79% of the total CTF budget) and other voluntary contributions.



*"A Prevention Works Storybook" (continued)*

**Children's Trust Fund Program in Region V**

Janelle, a pregnant teen, was living in substandard housing, without water or a toilet, when she was referred to our program.

We contacted Janelle and engaged her in services. Staff referred her to the food pantry where she obtained food. Our staff encouraged Janelle to obtain prenatal care. We gave her information about local prenatal health care providers and provided transportation to the provider of her choice. We made a referral to parent education classes. She attended 11 of the 12 parent education classes offered. Janelle has been matched with a mentor. She now is in a stable home where she can meet her basic needs. She has consistently obtained prenatal care and W.I.C and participated in parent education classes.

***Total Children's Trust Fund Dollars spent to help Janelle and her family: \$242***

Did you know the Montana Children's Trust Fund is a board of seven volunteers with no office or staff. More than ninety percent of their budget goes to direct services to prevent child abuse and neglect.

**The Cost of Shaken Impact Syndrome  
February 1998**

Douglas Franklin Thee Jr., of Great Falls, was charged with the death of his girlfriend's son, Kevin Gefroh, who was one year of age. He testified that Kevin tried to crawl away while having his diaper changed, and then the child urinated on him. This caused Douglas Thee Jr. to pick Kevin up and bang his head on the floor twice, resulting in the shattering of the left side of the boy's skull. Kevin was rushed to Benefits Hospital in Great Falls where he died two hours later.

The approximate two hour stay at the hospital (*ICU not factored in*) is \$2,300.00.

Following the autopsy it was found that Kevin had previously sustained two leg-bone breaks, three broken ribs, a broken collarbone, and two fractured arm bones. Douglas was found guilty of killing Kevin Gefroh and is serving 10 years at Montana State Prison. The approximate cost of 10 years at Montana State Prison is \$211,955.50.

***Public Funds spent during Kevin's first year of life: \$214,255.50***

*\*Cost may have been higher, but ICU costs are not calculated separately.*

*Editorial on Healthy Families Florida from the St. Petersburg Times*

September 19, 2001

## Keeping children safe from abuse

Healthy Families Florida, the voluntary program that provides home visits to parents at risk of abusing their newborns, is at a critical juncture. Three years after its creation, Healthy Families may have to cut its services dramatically – one casualty could be a promising local outreach project in Hillsborough County – unless Gov. Jeb Bush and Florida lawmakers intervene next session.

This will be the biggest test yet of the state's commitment to child-abuse prevention. With the backing of Bush, Healthy Families was launched in 1998 to great fanfare, and it has been an unqualified success. But even now, Healthy Families workers are able to counsel less than one-third of the high-risk new parents needing their services. The program deserves to be expanded, not scaled back, so that it can become a permanent and a healthy partner in the transition to community-based care and in the protection of Florida's young lives.

Healthy Families' base funding has been \$22.2-million, and that's all the Department of Children and Families, recognizing the new budget realities in Tallahassee, has requested for next year. But that amount is no longer sufficient to cover even those families currently participating in Healthy Families, much less to begin serving the 24,000 new parents who desperately need its services. Unless Healthy Families receives an additional \$12-million this session, program leaders say, it will have to drop more than 1,500 families now being served and close its doors to new, at-risk families.

Despite all the pressures on the slate budget and economic uncertainty, Bush and lawmakers have good reason to shore up the program. A new study this summer documented its success in preventing abuse. That comes as no surprise to those counties, including Pinellas, that pioneered the home-visitation model. Home visits to

prevent abuse cost \$3,200 per family each year, while the investigation and foster care necessary to respond to abuse costs \$20,000 per child annually, according to department figures. With communities soon to assume the lead in child-welfare under Bush's community-based plan, Healthy Families will be a key element in keeping costs down and in keeping children safe.

Now is the wrong time to be denying families this vital state support, given the direct relationship between financial woes and the risk of abuse or neglect. The budget pressures fell in the halls of Tallahassee are only magnified in the homes of Florida's high-risk parents, especially those with the added responsibilities of a new baby. As the economy weakens, stress can build and, along with it, the possibility of abuse or neglect.

Using a nearly \$1-million grant from lawmakers, Hillsborough's Healthy Families is making a new effort to sign up all at-risk teen moms, even those living outside zip codes now being served. The problem is, the funds awarded were non-recurring welfare-reform dollars, and there's no guarantee they will be made available next year or beyond.

State Rep. Sandra Murman, R-Tampa, who worked hard to win the grant for Hillsborough (as part of the Suncoast region), is optimistic. "I think the likelihood is very good the program will be able to continue on," she said. "That money's certainly on my priority list." We hope the governor and other lawmakers share her view. With 83 Florida children last year lost forever to abuse or neglect, and another 85,000 children harmed, how can Florida afford not to make Healthy Families, and the parents and newborns it serves, a state priority?

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**Prevent Child Abuse America**  
200 South Michigan Avenue  
17th Floor  
Chicago, Illinois 60604.2404  
312.663.3520 *tel*  
*mailbox@preventchildabuse.org*

*www.preventchildabuse.org*  
*www.healthyfamiliesamerica.org*