



Spring 2013

CAMI Regional Service Providers

CARES Northwest

Serving: Benton, Clackamas, Clatsop, Columbia, Hood River, Lincoln, Linn, Marion, Multnomah, Polk, Tillamook, Wasco, Washington & Yamhill Counties

Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County

Serving: Curry, Jackson & Josephine Counties

KIDS Center

Serving: Crook, Deschutes, Harney, Jefferson, Klamath, Lake & Malheur Counties

Kids FIRST Center

Serving: Coos, Douglas & Lane Counties

Mt. Emily Safe Center

Serving: Baker, Gilliam, Grant, Morrow, Sherman, Umatilla, Union, Wallowa & Wheeler Counties

Child Abuse Awareness Month 2013

A question came up in conversation recently, "do we (CAMI) have information that demonstrates child abuse trends in Oregon?" The question really was, what can the trends tell us? Is abuse on the rise?

As a self-proclaimed data geek, I was happy to say that we do have CAMI data, thanks to the information that MDT coordinators provide. Less happy to say that our data continues to show that demand for child abuse services continues to increase. Every year, we have more kids who need assessments, who need referrals for support, who need investigations and prosecutions and

out of home placements and funerals, because abuse happens a lot.

Our data doesn't tell the whole story though. It doesn't tell us that mandatory reporters are doing great things, seeing more red flags, making more calls. It doesn't tell us that MDT partners continue to attend specialized training despite the pressures that all of our agencies are feeling about providing funding and staff time to be out of the office. It clearly does not tell enough about how much harder child abuse professionals are working in the face of resource limitations and budget cuts so that services to child abuse victims aren't so similarly reduced like

By Mike Maryanov

some line item veto. But it does at least offer a sketch, but it still does not paint the whole picture.

Annoyingly to this data geek, the CAMI data doesn't quite show what I think we know: it doesn't show that child abuse itself increases every year. But whether abuse is on the rise, or we're recognizing more child abuse victims, one thing is certain:

Every month, every week,



2013-2015 CAMI Grants

The 2013 grant application period is now over and CAMI Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) and Regional Service Provider (RSP) grant applications have been received. This marks DOJ's second grant cycle using the E-Grants on-line grant

management system. Initial results indicate that MDT and RSP grant writers navigate the E-Grant system quite deftly. Also, early returns indicate that the 2013-2015 grant proposals are quite good. DOJ will make formal

announcements about grant awards later this summer. In the meantime, a hearty congratulations across the board for completing the process, and much thanks and kudos for doing it so well.

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Oregon Department of Justice Restitution Pilot Project

By Rebecca Shaw



“...we all want the same outcome - for the child victim to progress with healing and for the criminal offender to be held accountable”



I was recently asked to write an article for the MDT Quarterly regarding how restitution, more specifically the Restitution Pilot Project, ties into child abuse work. I thought about this for quite a long time and struggled with how these two very important jobs might somehow relate to one another. I came to the conclusion that to say there are similarities in the work would be a misstatement. However, to say we all want the same outcome - for the child victim to progress with healing and for the criminal offender to be held accountable - would be more accurate.

With this in mind I decided to write a brief history for those not familiar with the restitution pilot project and the progress that has been made thus far in the participating counties.

History of the Restitution Pilot Project

As most of us who work within the criminal justice system know, victims of crime have a constitutional right to prompt restitution. There has been an increasing focus on the ordering and collection of restitution over the years, and this focus is what drove the passing of HB 3066 in 2011. The passing of this bill authorized the Department of Justice to implement the Restitution Pilot Project which aimed at two things: increasing the number of restitution orders submitted and approved by the courts and increasing the rate of restitution collected.

As part of the pilot project the Crime Victims' Services Division (CVSD) provided \$1.8 million, taken from punitive damage awards, to fund the project. Of the money provided by CVSD, a portion went to fund grants to the participating pilot project counties. To be considered for one of the grants, counties submitting requests were required to have full participation from various agencies agreeing to work collaboratively to increase the ordering and collection of restitution. Collaborating county agencies included the district attorney offices, city and/or county law enforcement, parole and probation, community corrections and the county courts.

Grants were awarded and the Department's Restitution Pilot Project was established in five geographically dispersed counties throughout the state; Lane, Jackson, Multnomah and the collaboration of Crook and Jefferson. The project required that a Restitution Clerk be employed by each of the District Attorney's offices involved. A portion of the grant money could be used to hire a Deputy District Attorney or a Probation Officer.

Each county was required to hire at minimum a half time restitution clerk. The restitution clerks' primary responsibilities are to assist victims with the collection of any documentation that could verify a crime related loss. The clerks' responsibilities include working with victims, Deputy District Attorneys

(DDAs), and the court to ensure that restitution information is investigated and provided in a timely fashion and that restitution orders accurately reflect the victim's economic loss.

Also as part of the Project, five DOJ collection agents work within the participating counties with offenders, Community Corrections, Parole and Probation, and the courts to ensure that restitution orders are enforced and monetary obligations are collected. The Collection Agents are located within the participating District Attorney Offices or within County Parole and Probation.

The primary job for the collection agents is to start a dialogue with the defendant after the criminal money judgment has been signed by the court. The first question the collection agent should ask the defendant is whether the defendant would prefer to pay the entire judgment by check, cash, money order or credit card.

In most cases the defendant is not able to pay in full immediately after sentencing and payment plans must be developed. In order to set a payment plan with the defendant the collection agent needs to know what the defendant's financial situation looks like.

As "ability to pay" can no longer be used by the court to determine whether restitution is to be ordered, the collection agent must have an accurate accounting of



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Oregon Department of Justice Restitution Pilot Project (Continued from page 2)

the defendant's financial situation. This determines the type of payment plan that will assure victims receive restitution they deserve in a timely manner, while at the same time enabling the defendant to pay his or her monthly rent, utilities, etc.

How the Collection of Restitution and working with Child Abuse victims might relate to one another

- A child is injured as the result of abuse.
- A suspect is arrested and charged with abuse of the child victim. It is likely that the child victim requires medical and counseling services to treat injuries both physical and psychological.
- The restitution clerk would then assist the victim's family in gathering receipts, bills and possibly insurance explanation of benefits to present to the prosecuting attorney for restitution purposes.
- The suspect is convicted of the abuse and ordered to pay the victim, or the victim's parents or guardians, restitution or a compensatory fine.
- The collection agent meets with the convicted abuser after sentencing in an effort to assess whether restitution and other financial obligations can be paid in full.
- If payment in full is not a possibility, the collection agent requests that the offender fill out a financial

disclosure form to determine the amount that can be paid towards the obligation every month.

- Once the defendant and collection agent have determined an amount that can be paid monthly, the defendant gives the payment agreement information to the county court.
- The payment agreement information is then entered into the county court system (either OJIN or eCourts).
- After a defendant makes a payment towards the financial obligation the court will send payment to the victim. The amount of the payment received by the victim depends on the amount paid by the defendant and other fines and fees owed to the court.



The primary goal of the collection agent is to ensure that the restitution ordered to the victim is paid to the victim as expediently as possible.

Although the project got off to a slow start due to the state hiring freeze and the hiring

and training of staff, the Restitution Pilot Project has collected approximately one million dollars in restitution, fines and fees from criminal offenders since its inception.

The Department is looking forward to making further progress towards delivering on the state's obligation to provide victims with prompt restitution. To continue this work, the Department has requested that the Legislature extend the sunset on the pilot project to July 2015.

Testimonials by those involved with the pilot project...

“I'm seeing a real culture change in this subject [restitution] by judges.”

“The payments I'm seeing as a result of the DOJ agents efforts are larger than what we've seen in the past.”

“[The] State of Oregon deserves applause for the hard work you guys are doing. Other counties should follow your example.”

“...traumatic experiences in childhood predict maladaptive social functioning, disease, and premature death in adulthood.”

One part of one day at the Summit

The last week in April marked another exciting Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit. I'm grateful to have had the good fortune to be part of it. While the Summit is always great about bringing renowned speakers to Oregon from all over, this year's event featured a particularly exciting highlight (and I don't mean the Pub Crawl).

As we know, the Summit is about professional development and continuing education, and from that perspective, I cannot say enough about the sessions that occurred Wednesday. We had the great fortune of hearing Dr. Vince Felitti, the architect of the Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) study, present on his existing research and emerging knowledge. Talk about continuing education!

Felitti's ACE study is revolutionizing the way that medical science and social science respond to adults in distress, recognizing that traumatic experiences in childhood predict maladaptive social functioning, disease, and premature death in adulthood. His research is able to demonstrate that suffering abuse or witnessing family violence as a child will lead to myriad physical ailments in adulthood.

In a 2010 article, Dr. Felitti wrote, “The findings from the ACE study provide a remarkable insight into how we become what we are as individuals and as a nation. They are

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important medically, socially, and economically. Indeed, they have given us reason to reconsider the very structure of medical, public health, and social services practices in America and other countries.”

I agree. If we can improve our response to trauma, help child victims of abuse, neglect, domestic violence, and addiction, then we can improve the quality of life for those kids 1,000-fold as they grow into adulthood ready to be well. This is win-win stuff here. Not only might we help children have a chance to grow up healthier, but actual medical systems could improve because traumatic experiences in childhood didn't manifest into chronic health problems for adults.



While Felitti's presentation didn't delve directly into practice aspects of child abuse intervention, from a CAMI perspective the importance can't be overstated. CAMI statutes require a comprehensive response to child abuse intervention. Addressing adverse childhood experiences in childhood— safety, wellness, mental health, family dynamics, recovery, and justice— can prevent a litany of maladaptive and criminal behaviors and thus even change the world.



Dr. Vince Felitti

HOW OREGON COMMEMORATED CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH IN 2013

April is national Child Abuse Prevention Month, as declared by the United States Congress in 1983. In 1989 the Blue Ribbon Campaign to prevent child abuse was initiated by a Virginia grandmother. Oregon hosted many activities and commemoration ceremonies to mark Child Abuse Prevention month. Below is a sampling of the great activities and ceremonies that occurred throughout the month of April.

- Pinwheels for Prevention at Juliette's House in Yamhill County, which included local shops displaying pinwheels in their storefronts; each store had a little bucket with a pinwheel, pinwheel candy, and informational bookmarks for customers to take
- Lebanon organized the Community Celebration of Hope, and placed blue ribbons throughout the community
- The Children's Trust Fund of Oregon sponsored "Footsteps for Families," a walk/run to raise awareness about child abuse
- KIDS Center facilitated Bend's 2013 Blue Ribbon Campaign to Prevent Child Abuse
- The city of Newberg signed a proclamation declaring April as Nation Child Abuse Prevention Month
- Marion County decorated the tree in front of the courthouse with blue ribbons for each victim of abuse
- CARES Northwest placed 190 blue pinwheels in the Children's Healing Garden to raise awareness for child abuse prevention
- Salem's Pedestrian Bridge was lit with blue lights from April 1-5
- Astoria's Lighthouse for Kids had a booth at the annual Wine, Crab, and Seafood Festival. The Astoria Job Corps Culinary Arts students sold clam chowder (chef John Newman's special recipe) and the Lighthouse Board of Directors manned the booth to provide information about child abuse
- The Children's Advocacy Center of Jackson County facilitated a multitude of events including participating in a NBC TV news interview, hosting a movie night to show Things Behind the Sun, participating in a vigil for child abuse prevention, facilitating a Darkness to Light training, and offering a wine tasting event where information about child abuse and the CAC was presented.
- The Children's Center held a special Darkness to Light Child Steward Training and also brought Cory Jewell Jensen for a special presentation about sexual abuse. Children's Center also provided training and information to over 560 people throughout Clackamas County from educators to services clubs, to the Summit itself, handing out lapel pinwheels as they went. They also secured public service announcements that aired throughout April, and Children's Center was featured in two KOIN-TV news stories to discuss child abuse assessment centers and talking to kids about abuse.
- The Clackamas County Sheriff, in combination with a wonderful array of partners and sponsors, convened another successful Child Abuse and Family Violence Summit. Perfect way to end Child Abuse Prevention Month, bringing so many child abuse professionals together for a week.



Just a couple photos from last month's
Child Abuse Awareness Month activities



Pinwheel Bucket



A storefront display in McMinnville



Pinwheel Garden, CARES Northwest, Portland



Pinwheel lapel pin

Thanks to everyone for everything you did and everything you do for kids!

Story Ideas & Feedback

**Oregon Department of
Justice, Child Abuse
Multidisciplinary
Intervention
Newsletter**



We want to hear from you; this is your newsletter too. Do you have a great story idea? Want to write an article? Have feedback on an article? CAMI questions?

E-mail:

mike.v.maryanov@doj.state.or.us

Tera.a.widger@doj.state.or.us



Oregon Child Forensic Interviewer Training Update

We are three-fifths of the way through 2013's new Forensic Interview training program, with Portland, Pendleton, and Medford regional trainings now complete. All three trainings were full, and because class size is capped at 30 participants, some people had to be redirected to other 2013 trainings.

The next two training opportunities include Eugene in July, and Bend in September. This year, the locations were chosen based on the locations of the five CAMI Regional Service Providers – those child abuse intervention centers that developed and deliver this training.

The Eugene training already is

full and registration process is closed Eugene. The Network of Child Abuse Intervention Centers still is accepting registrations for Bend, but that too is filling quickly. Registration costs \$120, which covers material and meal costs for the three day training. DOJ, through the CAMI program, will reimburse participants for this registration cost after participants complete the program. If you have questions about registration, contact Brenda George, project coordinator, at: training@childabuseintervention.org. Once this year's trainings are complete, the training team will evaluate feedback and lessons learned, and make plans to deliver more training in 2014. The team is excited by everything that's happened so far, but even more so for how to improve the training as we move forward.

The team already has consulted with Patti Toth, a training expert from Washington, and visited the New York state Forensic Interviewer training center because that is an established program similar to Oregon's.

Not only are we on the right track, but even ahead of the curve in some aspects. Still, there is lots of room to grow, and lots to do to get better so that Forensic Interviewers across Oregon can assert with confidence, in child friendly neutral interview rooms or witness stands in court rooms, that they are trained in the Oregon Interviewing Guidelines through the OCFIT curriculum. And that will mean something!