

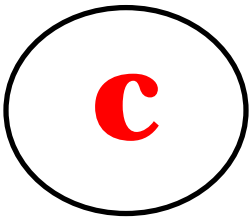
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Child Abuse Network News

*Stop the hurt...
begin the healing*

Forensic Interviewing

By Jaime Vogt



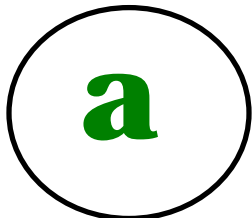
The Child Abuse Network provides many services to the community including forensic interviewing. The forensic interviewer is a child specialist who has been trained in child development, trauma impact on children, child abuse dynamics, and specialized interviewing techniques. This training allows the interviewer to conduct an interview, at the request of an investigator that is compatible with our legal system and sensitive to the needs of the child.

I am constantly amazed at the resiliency of children. Many children live through horrific experiences with a profound ability to cope. Unfortunately, some children struggle a lifetime with chronic mental health disorders. Due to the nature of what many of these children experience, I am continually astonished that all of these children don't suffer terrible long-term effects.

Special Events:

- ✓ **Pennies From Heaven**
 - March 21 – May 29, 2004
 - At Burger King and Taco Bueno Locations

I am also fascinated by the way children describe their experiences. Unlike most adults, they have not been "trained" by society to build up their defenses and filter what they say. For instance, after a four-year-old girl finished recounting her experience to me during an interview, I tried to excuse myself. I told the child that I was going to step out of the room for a minute to speak to the investigator. I asked the child if she was ok and she shook her head back and forth and said, "I don't think it's a good idea to leave a kid alone in this room." She was absolutely right.



*How we ask
the question
is as
important as
what children
tell us.*

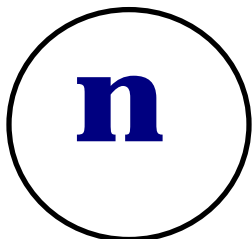


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Anyone who works around children has observed that children see the world differently than adults. What may be important to adults is not necessarily important to a child. For example, when an adult asks a child to get dressed for the day, the child may put on a long sleeved sweater, shorts and mismatched socks. The child completed the task they were given; yet the final result is not what the adult wanted. A forensic interviewer is trained to communicate with children in a way they understand. How we ask the questions is as important as what children tell us.

Children also tend to be very sensitive to their own needs and the needs of others. In another interview I asked a 4 yr old girl to tell me what happened to her. She said, "Ok, but this will be sad. Do you want to hold my doll?"



Forensic Interviewing has evolved because children are often held to a higher standard of credibility than adults. In an effort to meet the demands of the "burden of proof" in our legal system, we have also attempted to meet the therapeutic needs of children. The Child Abuse Network is first and foremost committed to meeting the needs of the children.

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**From the Desk of
The Executive Director**

By: Barbara Findeiss


In our last newsletter, I wrote about our Board Chairman, David Holden, who was about to receive the Tulsa People Volunteer of the Year – Leadership Award. This quarter I have the great honor to write about another remarkable individual who is associated with the Child Abuse Network – Penny Grant, MD.

Dr. Grant and her husband, Lee Cohen, moved to Tulsa in 1999 in order to join the Center's medical team. In particular, she was interested in the partnerships we had developed and was intrigued as to the challenges that a community based child abuse response system would offer. It did not take her long to find her personal niche and career challenge – drug endangered children.


Thanks to the co-location of the Tulsa Police Department's Child Crisis Unit and the energy of Detective Danielle Bishop, Dr. Grant was quickly involved in the problems of children who have been exposed to drugs. From news accounts one knows what a growing concern this is, but what we don't know, the long term effects of drug exposure, is even more alarming.

In just a few short years, Dr. Grant has immersed herself in the issues of drug-endangered children and become nationally renowned for her work. She is on the National Drug Endangered Children Alliance Committee and is chair of its Medical Child Evaluation subcommittee. She is the local Principal Investigator of the Infant Development, Environment and Lifestyle (IDEAL) Study, a multi-site longitudinal development study funded through the National Institute of Health (NIH). She is one of the few certified examiners in the nation for substance-exposed infants neurobehavioral exams. I could go on and on, but it would take several more issues.

Thanks to the dedicated staff at the Center, CAN is an invaluable resource for the region. Thanks to the team approach at CAN, we challenge each other to look beyond the immediate.

Thanks to individuals such as Penny Grant CAN is beginning to achieve national recognition. 

**CAN is a Community Partner
With Albertson's**

Thanks to all of you who have been participating in the Albertson's Community Partners Program to benefit the Child Abuse Network. We appreciate your support. If you have not yet requested your card or if you would like more information, please contact Nancy Hatfield at 918-831-4550. 

**Everyone knows . . .
You CAN Be A Kid Again
March 19th & 20th
2nd Annual Event**

**This year's event was a
BLAST!!**



**Don't miss next year's
event!**

**Heartfelt “thanks” to the following
Individuals and organizations for their contributions:
October 1, 2003 – December 31, 2003**

David & Rita Adams
All Things Organized
Trisha Allen
Anchor Gasoline
Sheila Asher
William & Susan Athens
Auto Crane
Billy & Linda Baldwin
BAMA Companies
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Tulsa Horse Show, Inc.
Howard Twilley
Ky Vargas
Rick Verity
Arnold S. Wood
Zarrow Family Office

2003 CAN Services Statistics

October through December

383 new children were served at CAN

Ages of these children were:

➤ 0-6 years	227
➤ 7-12 years	100
➤ 13-18 years	55
➤ Unknown	1

These children were seen for:

➤ Sexual Abuse	208
➤ Physical Abuse	158
➤ Neglect	17
➤ Witness to Violence	6
➤ Other	5

Children may have been seen for more than one type of abuse.

**April is Blue Ribbon
Month**



Did you know that approximately 3 million children are reported abused and neglected in this country each year?

April, Spring’s beginning, is also Child Abuse Prevention Month. So, as you breathe in the fresh air of spring, renew your sprit by helping to lessen the hurt of a child who has been harmed or neglected.

Contact CAN at 918-831-4550 to find out how you can start fresh by making a donation, volunteering your time or participating in one of our fund raising events.

c a n

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Fax: 918-831-4579

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CAN is Tulsa's

Children's

Advocacy Center

CAN is a Charter

Member of

The National Children's Alliance



Pennies From Heaven

Proceeds Benefit

**The Child Abuse Network
918-831-4550**

What: A fundraiser to benefit the Child Abuse Network

When: March 21, 2004 – May 21, 2004
(April is Child Abuse Prevention Month)

**Where: All Burger King & Taco Bueno
Locations in Tulsa**

*and
Many Local Businesses
plus "At Your Location"*

For more information contact: Nancy Hatfield @ 918-831-4550