



Welcome to the Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center's "Behind the Badge" newsletter. This E-Blast will go out monthly to our first responder community that work with the CAC.

In the newsletter you will find upcoming trainings, conference scholarship opportunities, maltreatment information, needed on call numbers and much more. For all newsletter submissions please e-mail: Mackenzie.garrett@gulfcoastcac.org

child abuse PREVENTION MONTH



April is child abuse and sexual assault awareness month!

During these unprecedented times, this is even more crucial. Parents have lost their jobs, having to become teachers to their children and not being able to have social interaction with family and friends. Due to these stressors, children are more susceptible to experience an increase of abuse.

Typically, there is a decline in the amount of calls to the hotline when school is out because there are fewer eyes on the child to identify the abuse. Also, children do not have an outlet to be able to inform a safe adult about the pain that they are experiencing at home from a love one.

However, it has been stated that there is an influx of calls to the Department of Children and Families abuse hotline since quarantine has been initiated. Our Child Protection Team (CPT) is always available to schedule and conduct forensic interviews in a child-friendly environment with a trained interviewer. A family advocate will be assigned to guide the family throughout the entire criminal case and assure that basic needs are being met. Law enforcement and DCF can call the CPT hotline at (850) 541-4560 to schedule an interview.

Three ways to report child abuse to the Department of Children and Families:

Phone: 1-800-96-ABUSE (22873)

Law Enforcement ONLY Number: 1-800-532-2873

Fax: 1-866-886-4342

Online by completing a one-page document of the abuse and/or by just uploading the police report by clicking the link in the top paragraph. -<https://reportabuse.dcf.state.fl.us/Child/ChildForm.aspx>

With the stressors that adults are dealing with, sexual assaults are more likely to occur, as well. As a reminder, sexual assaults can also be with a significant other too. The Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center (GCCAC) has a SANE nurse and sexual assault exam rooms to provide safety and comfort for the victim. If the victim needs additional medical care, our SANE nurse and

advocate can accompany the victim at a local hospital for completion of the exam. A sexual assault advocate will be assigned to be that support that victim from the beginning to the end of the criminal case. For sexual assault services, please call the sexual assault hotline at 866-541-4560.

Any of the clients that become established with GCCAC, can receive trauma therapy to help them overcome the victimization that they have experienced. GCCAC finds the safety of our clients and staff as our top priority. During this pandemic, GCCAC is following all CDC recommendations by practicing social distancing and limiting face-to-face encounters; however, when contact is needed, Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is available and will be utilized at all times.

The Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center is always here to support and provide services to our law enforcement partners. It takes a team to combat child abuse and sexual assault. We applaud and appreciate everyone who chooses to make a difference in these victims' lives. It is not easy but it can be very rewarding. However, it can be hard to cope with. That is why GCCAC provides trauma therapy to first responders. It is completely anonymous. Contact Trauma Therapy (T4) at (850) 739-1110.

#bethelight



IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS:

Child Protection Team On Call 850-541-4560

Sexual Assault On Call 866-218-4738

DCF LEO Reporting 866-532-2873



UPCOMING TRAININGS

*****Could Potentially Be Rescheduled or Cancelled Due to COVID-19*****

Gulf Coast Children's Advocacy Center Trainings

Maltreatment/Risks and Caregiver Protective Capacities

Training Facilitators - Monique Gorman, Christie Bazemore, Natasha Woodham

APRIL 21, 2020 - 8:30am - 12:00 pm

This training will define Child Maltreatment per Florida Statue and review all maltreatment types. Participants will learn about the physical and emotional signs and symptoms of abuse, how to take a disclosure and reporting abuse to the appropriate authorities. Advocates will gain an understanding of risk factors and caregiver protectives capacities and how both play a significant role in child safety and well-being along with other potential dangers children are face.

Join Zoom Meeting

<https://zoom.us/j/7691255775>

Meeting ID: 769 125 5775

National Criminal Justice Training Center (NCJTC)

<https://ncjtc.fvtc.edu/training>

Death Investigation Academy

May 11-15 | Miami, FL | \$595

AMBER Alert Best Practices - Law Enforcement Field Guide (WEBINAR)

May 14, 2020 | 2:00 PM - 3:15 PM EST

Conducting Unexplained Child Death Investigations

May 11 - 14 | Birmingham, AL | NO FEE

Managing the Media Message: Your Agency's Story and How You Tell It

June 8-9 | Miami, FL | \$195

Conducting Child Abuse Investigations

Sept 28- Oct 2 | Tampa, FL | NO FEE



August 5th-7th, 2020

Krimes Against Kids Conference

Disney's Coronado Springs Resort, Lake Buena Vista, FL

Registration will open March 2020.

