



# CAP ACTION EBLAST



*Do Something! Do One Thing! One Thing Counts!*

The Child Abuse Prevention Action Committee is a professional collaborative involved in the planning and promotion of child abuse prevention efforts throughout Oklahoma.

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## Child Abuse Prevention and Community Partnerships!

Community Partnerships are critical to making a sustainable, long term, significant difference in the state of our children. In Oklahoma last year, there were 9,842 abused and/or neglected children according to the Oklahoma State Department of Human Services. There are many risk factors that contribute to putting a family more at risk to become abusive including economic wellbeing, education, health, and family and community. Just think what we could do to change those numbers if every child had a team of at least one representative from each of those categories working on their behalf!

**What are Community Partnerships?** Collaboration is mutually beneficial. It is a well-defined relationship entered into by two or more individuals/organizations to obtain results that are more likely achievable by working together rather than alone. Community partnerships shape their strategies and build a network of services based on their own cultures, needs, and resources.<sup>1</sup>

While it is imperative and sometimes routine to work together with formal partners (public or private agencies that work with families and children as well as other typical stakeholders), the work can be broadened and enriched by adding informal partners as well (faith-based organizations, neighbors, community leaders and the business sector). Community partnerships can be extremely useful, if not vital, to building a culture that cares about children and community.

### **An example:**

The Oklahoma City County Health Department (OCCHD) has developed a CHAT – Community Health Action Team. This team includes a nurse, outreach worker, child development specialist, suicide prevention specialist, environmental specialist, tobacco use prevention coalition coordinator and health promotion specialist from school health. The group shares resources, makes referrals, finds services for families and problem-solves regarding community issues and is well aware of all services available. This is a richly diverse group of people who have stepped outside of the silo of their own discipline. The OCCHD CHAT, although intra-agency is an excellent model of community partnerships. [www.occhd.org](http://www.occhd.org)

Ask yourself, what can you do today to be a part of the bigger picture? **Community engagement!**



### **Related Resources**

<sup>1</sup>**Community Partnerships: Improving the Response to Maltreatment**  
[www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/partners/partners.pdf](http://www.childwelfare.gov/pubs/usermanuals/partners/partners.pdf)

**Smart Start Communities** [www.smartstartok.org](http://www.smartstartok.org)

**Oklahoma Commission on Children & Youth Partnership Boards**  
[www.okkids.org](http://www.okkids.org) (website currently under construction)

**Oklahoma Turning Point Council** <http://www.okturningpoint.org/>

## **Do just one thing! Your one thing counts!**

### **BUILDING COMMUNITY!**

- ✓ Show up in a kid's life! Be a community hero!
- ✓ Agree upon common community values and transmit them across the community (on menus, on grocery bags, at schools, at faith organizations, and on sports fields).
- ✓ Create a community vision describing what a community that values kids looks like, sounds like, and feels like.
- ✓ Have a community youth day, honoring all those who help youth, publicly recognize them and have youth give out the awards!
- ✓ Develop or join interagency coalitions/task forces and invite a colleague to join your efforts!

Source: *Stopping at Every Lemonade Stand*, James Vollbracht

## **Agency Spotlight**

OCCHD Child Guidance serves families with children under 13 years old in Oklahoma County. Developmental, Speech and Language, Behavioral services include screening, evaluation, intervention and therapy. Parent education individually or in groups are available as well as child care consultation and parenting support groups. Fees are charged on a sliding scale and ability to pay; Medicaid is accepted. Families can call (405) 425-4412 for more information or to schedule an appointment.

*Not in Oklahoma County?* There may still be services close by. Check this link to see if your local health department has Child Guidance:  
<http://www.ok.gov/health2/documents/cgs.cgp.ChildGuidanceCountyMap.pdf>.

## **Upcoming Events**

Next CAP ACTION meeting – Wed, August 21<sup>st</sup>, 10:00am  
**Oklahoma Turning Point Annual Conference and Policy Day** – September 10-11, 2013

**CAP Day at the Capitol** – Tuesday, April 8, 2014

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**2014 Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Action begins now! [Sign Up](#) today to join efforts!**