
KENTUCKY CHILD ABUSE & NEGLECT
PREVENTION BOARD

ANNUAL REPORT
2022



**REPORT OF THE CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION BOARD
PURSUANT TO KRS 15.925**

The Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention (CANP) Board was formed in 2022 by KRS 15.905 for the "coordination and exchange of information on the establishment and maintenance of prevention programs." (KRS 15.920) The Board also oversees the Child Victims' Trust Fund (CVTF), a non-profit program that provides local communities with funding for child abuse prevention programs and reimbursement for the portion of child sexual abuse medical exam expenses not covered by Medicaid or private insurance. Pursuant to KRS 15.905, the Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Board is an autonomous agency within the Office of the Attorney General.

The Goals of the Board are:

- To promote public and professional education on the nature and scope of child abuse and related issues, indicators, laws, roles, and resources.
- To raise awareness that it is adults' responsibility to provide a safe community for children.
- To reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse by promoting, supporting and/or funding effective programs; and
- To establish procedures to generate and oversee the effective and efficient use of CVTF monies.

The Board utilizes four (4) committees to advance specific goals. They are:

- Marketing and Development Committee
- Grants Management Committee
- Strategic Planning Committee
- Operations and Finance Committee

KRS 15.925 directs that, "The state board shall by December 1 of each year report to the Governor and the General Assembly recommending changes in state programs, statutes, policies, budgets, and standards that will reduce the problem of child sexual abuse and exploitation and child abuse and neglect, improve the conditions among government and private agencies that provide prevention services and improve the condition of children and parents or guardians who are in need of prevention program services."

Because the reporting requirement is new, having become effective April 2022, the Board does not have a full year of data and information to present in this 2022 Report. However, the Board has endorsed and financially supported several programs that are working across the Commonwealth. These programs reduce child sexual abuse and exploitation as well as child abuse and neglect and improve the coordination among the various agencies, governmental and private that provide prevention services and improves the condition of children and parents or guardians who are in need of prevention program services. Continued support and funding for these programs and others like it are essential for CANP to reduce the incidence and impact of child abuse and neglect in the Commonwealth.

The programs chose for support by the CANP are:

Child Advocacy Centers of KY:

All Kentucky children have access to one of fifteen Children’s Advocacy Centers. Each child advocacy center provides specialized child-friendly interviews, medical exams, therapy, and advocacy to children entering the justice system as part of an investigation of abuse. Law enforcement or the Department for Community Based Services may refer a child to one of Kentucky’s child advocacy centers when they believe a child has been abused.

Impact - 2022 Fiscal year – Child advocacy centers served 7,523 children and 4,609 caregivers. Child Victims’ Trust Fund provided partial reimbursement to the centers for 561 child sexual abuse medical exams during previous fiscal year.

Prevent Child Abuse KY:

The mission of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky is to prevent the abuse and neglect of Kentucky children through advocacy, awareness, education and training.

Impact - April 1 – June 30, 2022:

3376 parents served through parent education

551 individuals trained in preventing child abuse and neglect

22,338 prevention education materials distributed statewide

Are They Good for Your Kids campaign focused on educating caregivers on child safety issues. This campaign had more than 5,141,268 impressions.

Child Watch Counseling and Advocacy Center – CASA of West KY:

Established in 1984, the mission of Child Watch is to provide children and families in Western Kentucky with education, advocacy and treatment that prevents child abuse, encourages family stability, promotes healthy relationships, enhances individual wellbeing and cultivates safe, nurturing communities.

Services provided free of charge by the Center include individual sessions for child abuse victims and family members, therapy and education services for parents and caregivers, and monthly caregiver support groups. Child Victims’ Trust fund award supports the Center’s “Totally Awesome Super Important YOU” abuse education and prevention programs that are provided in elementary schools in Western Kentucky.

Impact –

The Center delivered in-person presentations for 17 schools and 7 preschools during the 2021-2022 fiscal year to reach 6,117 students and 10,582 parents/caregivers. Weekly presentations were made at the Kentucky Sheriffs’ Boys & Girls Ranch in July 2021 and June 2022. The Center provided 1,186 teachers and staff with information reviewing the principles of recognizing and reporting abuse.

Kentucky Kids on the Block:

Using life-size puppets in the performance of seventeen topics, the mission of Kentucky Kids on the Block is to provide ongoing education and prevention through puppetry for children and the community at large. The program is designed to help children understand and cope with sensitive issues and to help children develop an attitude of understanding and acceptance toward others.

Relevant age-appropriate school programs offered:

Child Abuse I (K -2) and II (3 – 6) teach what child abuse is, teach children they can say “no” to an adult, and they should confide in a trusted adult if they are being abused.

Impact –

Each year 300 programs are given to 30,000 children in at least 20 different KY counties.

From July 1, 2021, to June 30, 2022, they trained 6,148 children on child abuse prevention programs within schools across Kentucky. 26 child abuse disclosures were made following these trainings.

Exploited Children’s Help Organization:

For over 30 years, Exploited Children’s Help Organization has provided education, advocacy, and support services to children and families in Metro Louisville. Exploited Children’s Help Organization is dedicated to preventing and reducing the incidence and impact of child abuse through an evidence-based education program, the Monique Burr Foundation for Children. The comprehensive program educates and empowers children and adults with strategies and safety rules that apply to all types of child abuse.

Impact:

From July 2021 to June 2022 in Jefferson County, ECHO has provided child abuse prevention training to 3,620 children and 1,229 adults.

Family Nurturing Center:

Family Nurturing Center’s mission is to end the cycle of child abuse by promoting individual well-being and healthy family relationships. The agency was incorporated as Northern Kentucky Citizens Against Child Abuse in 1979, became Committee for Kids, Inc. in 1987, and Family Nurturing Center in 1993. Today, the agency is one of the largest affiliates of Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, a United Way Partner Agency, and an affiliate of Family Nurturing Center, National. Each year, more than 10,000 children and engage in the agency’s services. The Center, located in Northern Kentucky, offers holistic support and wellness activities, parenting programs, training and education, treatment services, and safe visitation services for non-custodial parents.

Impact:

From July 2021 to June 2022, Family Nurturing Center provided training to approximately 2,000 individuals and conducted almost 200 Stewards of Children training to adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse. Stewards of Children is an evidenced

based program designed to teach adults to prevent, recognize, and react responsibly to child sexual abuse.

BOARD MEMBERSHIP

Consistent with KRS 15.910, the Board is comprised of the following members and their designees if applicable:

- Chairman of the Board, Attorney General Daniel Cameron, Designee: Heather Wagers
- Education & Workforce Development Cabinet, Secretary Jamie Link
- Cabinet for Health & Family Services, Secretary Eric Friedlander, Designee: Mary Carpenter
- Justice and Public Safety Cabinet, Secretary Kerry Harvey, Designee: Mona Womack
- Kentucky State Police, Phillip J. Burnett, Commissioner, Designee: Captain Bradly Stotts
- Kentucky Youth Advocates, Terry Brooks, Designee: Shannon Moody
- Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky, Jill Seyfred
- Kentucky Court Appointed Special Advocates Network, Inc., Andrea Bruns
- Children's Advocacy Centers of Kentucky, Caroline Ruschell
- Children's Alliance, Michelle Sanborn
- Kentucky Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics, Dr. Jaime Pittenger
- Kentucky Association of Regional Programs, Steve Shannon
- Administrative Office of the Courts, Laurie Givens, Designee: Eboni Thompson
- Member of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House, David Meade
- Member of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, Julie Raque Adams