



# IOWA CHAPTER OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS

Serving all of Iowa's children

Fall 2017  
Newsletter

## *A word from the Executive Director...*

### Greetings from your outgoing Director-

After a hot and dry summer I am happy to say welcome to Autumn! But most importantly, I am very pleased to welcome Kacey Peterson as your new Chapter Executive Director. I hope you get the opportunity to meet her soon and welcome her to the wonderful world of Child Advocacy. It has been a gift and a pleasure to work with all of you. I have never met such a giving, sharing and caring team of individuals and agencies. Excellence abounds in this work and I have been proud to serve in the Chapter capacity. I'll miss you!

My best to all and stay in touch.

-Nancy Wells

### A message from your incoming Director-

Hello everyone! It is with a full heart that I introduce myself to you as the Iowa chapter's incoming Executive Director. I want to thank all of you that have taken the time to reach out and welcome me to the team! I am incredibly humbled and honored at the opportunity to expand the capacity of the organization and to advance ICCAC's mission of supporting the development, growth, and best practice of our centers here in Iowa.

A little bit about me, as a Licensed Mental Health Counselor and play therapist I have worked with children and families in crisis for over ten years treating varying degrees of childhood trauma, PTSD, and exposure to adverse childhood experiences. I am the former Clinical Director of an Iowa-based, nationally accredited substance abuse and mental health agency, and for the last few years have owned and operated a private, school-based mental health practice in rural Iowa providing outpatient therapy services, nonprofit governance and compliance consultations, and serving on multiple nonprofit boards and committees at the local, state, and national level. I am confident these experiences have given me the expertise needed to serve in this new role and hope you will feel the same as we get to know each other in the coming months.

I am looking forward visiting your centers and familiarizing myself with all the amazing work you are out there doing every single day and just want to thank you again for all the kind words!

Sincerely,

-Kacey Peterson, MS, LMHC

kpeterson@iowacacs.org

### **PLEASE SHARE!!!**

If you come across upcoming trainings, new research, pictures, or anything **at all** that you'd like to share in this newsletter, please email it to Nancy, Kacey, or to [Victoria.hilton@mercyhealth.com](mailto:Victoria.hilton@mercyhealth.com).

We want to be sure we are including as much relevant and up-to-date information as possible! You all are our best resources.  
Thank you! ☺

Rachael Jorgenson completed EMDR Training! In addition, ACPC will host an MDT Training in the Spring. Plans are under way and more details to come!

We sadly bid farewell to Lisa Jurgensen, RN as she moves on to a new position with UnityPoint at Home. With that, we welcome our new nurse, Kortney Taylor, who comes to us from Allen ED! She will begin at ACPC on October 16th, and we all look forward to getting to know her!

In July, we were all impacted by the sad news that the young son of one of our MDT members had been fatally injured in an ATV accident. Through organ donation, Logan Luft touched as many as 50 lives. We joined his family in their message to support organ donation by purchasing t-shirts and wearing them proudly. #LuftTuff

In September, leadership and several UPH Allen staff members were invited to hear Rich Bluni speak. He shared stories of compassion and dedication, and in the end, asked the question, "What keeps you coming to work each day?" Given the brevity of our work, it is a good question we would like to share with each of you! What is it that keeps you doing the work you do each day? (We even posted ours in the breakroom!)



Left: ACPC staff sporting their #LuftTuff shirts. For more information on organ donation, visit <https://www.donatelife.net/>

## Calendar

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### Allen Child Protection Center-Waterloo:

- ❖ Look for upcoming information regarding training from ACPC

### Child Protection Response Clinic-Davenport:

- ❖ Look for upcoming information regarding training from CPRC

### Mercy Child Advocacy Center-Sioux City:

- ❖ *Protecting Families Spring Conference*  
4/27/18

**Patty Wetterling**- "How I wonder where you are" and "Don't give up your dreams"

&

**Kevin McNeil**- "Abuse is everyone's problem"

<http://www.mercysiouxcity.com/professional-education>

### Mississippi Valley Child Protection Center-Muscatine:

- ❖ *Annual Children Exposed to Violence Conference*  
3/15/18

- ❖ *Phil Chalmers' Homicide in America Training* in Burlington, IA  
10/27/17

[www.eventbrite.com](http://www.eventbrite.com)

### STAR Center-Des Moines:

- ❖ Look for upcoming information regarding the *Spring workshop series* from the STAR Center

### St. Luke's Child Protection Center-Cedar Rapids:

- ❖ Look for upcoming information regarding training from St. Luke's CPC

## Child Protection Response Center Updates

- ❖ CPRC hired a second Forensic Interviewer, Stephanie Dorton. She is finishing up her Masters Degree in Social Work at St. Ambrose University and is working part time to learn the interview process and help out where necessary. She is being mentored by our long time Forensic Interviewer, Michele "Maddog" Mattox. Michele has a bit of news of her own in that, since she began with CPRC, she has completed 992 Forensic Interviews.... 1000 is right around the corner and CPRC is extremely proud of her accomplishment and dedication.

- ❖ CPRC has big news on the horizon, so stay tuned-CPRC will have lots to report in the next newsletter!

# Mercy Child Advocacy Center Updates

-Congrats to Sherrie Schweder, Forensic Interviewer, who has been with the CAC for 10 years! Alison Boughn, Therapist, also celebrated her 1 year anniversary with the CAC. Bobbi Jo Wright, SANE-P, has been with Mercy for over 20 years and is celebrating her 1 year anniversary with us as well!

-We celebrated the Blessing of our new center on July 11<sup>th</sup> and had our ribbon cutting ceremony on July 13<sup>th</sup>! We were overwhelmed with all of the support and well wishes. Thank you to all who reached out!

-Great article detailing the opening of our new center! [http://siouxcityjournal.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/new-mercy-child-advocacy-center-opens-in-sioux-city/article\\_811deed7-0142-5a06-91f5-d46f7f6487df.html?utm\\_source=dlvr.it&utm\\_medium=facebook](http://siouxcityjournal.com/lifestyles/health-med-fit/new-mercy-child-advocacy-center-opens-in-sioux-city/article_811deed7-0142-5a06-91f5-d46f7f6487df.html?utm_source=dlvr.it&utm_medium=facebook)

-The Mercy CAC has put out a "Call for art" to the Siouxland community. We are looking to fill our new space with artwork for, and created by, local artists. Submissions are due October 25<sup>th</sup> and we can't wait to pick out the art for our child and professional spaces! Copy and paste this link for more information: <https://www.facebook.com/mercychildadvocacy/posts/1422883517781374>

-We have started implementing the Mental Health Screeners on each child that comes through our door! Our process continues to improve and we are excited to offer this service to our families.

-Katie Connell, FBI Forensic Interviewer, will be our speaking at our upcoming MDT training on November 2<sup>nd</sup>. We are looking forward to having her!



**Left:** Ribbon cutting ceremony at the new Mercy CAC.

**Center:** Some of the Mercy CAC staff at their open house.

**Right:** Mercy CAC staff thanking MDT members for their support.

Have you heard about the Yellow app? Follow this link to learn more about this new app that our teens are using to connect!

<https://www.webwise.ie/parents/explained-what-is-yellow/>

Check out the article detailing SF401, signed into law in Iowa on May 10<sup>th</sup>, 2017. This gives sexual assault survivors more options and increases their safety from abusers!

([HTTP://WWW.IOWASTATEDAILY.COM/NEWS/POLITICS\\_AND\\_ADMINISTRATION/SF401/ARTICLE\\_59E851BC-3505-11E7-846D-E391166EC18F.HTML](http://WWW.IOWASTATEDAILY.COM/NEWS/POLITICS_AND_ADMINISTRATION/SF401/ARTICLE_59E851BC-3505-11E7-846D-E391166EC18F.HTML))

\*Don't miss out on the August 2017 Newsletter from the **National Children's Alliance!**

<http://mailchi.mp/nca-online/a9na5hr6ob-993389>

\*Also check out their series on Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior to access videos, fact sheets, and webinars

<http://www.nationalchildrensalliance.org/psb>



The MVCPC recently hired on our first full-time SANE-P, Stacy Swon! Stacy has contracted with us for the last several years to provide medical examinations on an as needed basis and we are very excited that she is moving forward with us as a full-time employee. She is extremely passionate about her work and is proving to be a valuable asset as we are providing more medical services and education for children and families than we ever have. Welcome Stacy!

As the MVCPC has continued to receive referrals for juvenile offender interviews from DHS and Law Enforcement, as we all know that many juvenile offenders were or are victims themselves, the topics of youth culture, understanding juvenile offenders, and generational issues have been brought up as potential training topics needed for our MDT and the communities we serve. The MVCPC reached out to national speaker/trainer Phil Chalmers, as he is considered an expert in youth culture and the dangers facing the younger generation. The MVCPC will be hosting Phil Chalmers' Homicide in America Training on October 27th in Burlington, IA. The training will focus on several different topics, some of which include: school safety, youth culture, current trends, online dangers and violent media. If you are interested in registering for this training and/or learning more information visit [eventbrite.com](http://eventbrite.com) and search "Homicide in America".

The MVCPC had another successful Yardsale Fundraiser this past summer, thanks to the support from the MVCPC team, Muscatine Community and MDT.

**Left:** Wishing a warm welcome to Stacy Swon, SANE-P, at MVCPC!  
**Right:** Another successful MVCPC yardsale for 2017!



## For your reading enjoyment:

- ❖ "Assessing Parental Understanding of Sexualized Behavior in Children and Adolescents" by Marriage et al.
- ❖ "Caregiver Report of Child Symptoms Predicts Attrition in Abuse-Specific Cognitive Behavioral Therapies" by Tebbett, Brown, & Chaplain
- ❖ "Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Opportunities: Parenting, Programs, and the Reduction of Risk" by Rudolph, Zimmer-Gembeck, Shanley, & Hawkins
- ❖ "Comparing Female- and Male-Perpetrated Child Sexual Abuse: A Mixed-Methods Analysis" by Burgess-Proctor, Comartin, & Kubiak

\*All of these articles are available through the CALiO library (<https://calio.org/>)

## STAR Center Updates

- ❖ Along with a new name, the STAR Center has hired many new members. Kayley Hakeman is our new care manager for the Foster Care Clinic. Kayley received her undergraduate BSN at Mount Mercy University and received her master's degree in nursing from Grand View University. Kayley's initial interest in the clinic was in helping get the foster care clinic up and running to help kids receive medical care and services.
- ❖ Katie Scott has been hired as a nurse practitioner. Katie received her BSN from Grand View University and recently graduated from the Doctorate of Nursing Practice from the University of Iowa. She will be working with Jen Sleiter, MSN, ARNP in the CAC and DEC clinics as Dr. Ken McCann transitions over to working full-time at the Foster Care Clinic.
- ❖ And lastly, Renae Jones is our new therapist at the Foster Care Clinic. Renae has been doing therapy for three and a half years. Prior to conducting therapy, Renae worked in domestic and international adoptions as well as advocacy. Renae has a master's degree from Drake in mental health counseling and a bachelor's degree in psychology from City University in Seattle. Renae is excited to provide therapy to children at the Foster Care Clinic who have had unfortunate circumstances in their lives.

The STAR Center Updates on Human Trafficking:

- ❖ Last newsletter we discussed the MDT working on a human trafficking response protocol. This has been completed and each respective county is scheduling meetings with partners in working to disseminate information further. Additionally, the STAR Center received a grant from the Iowa Attorney General's Office to develop a MDT screening tool and database for human trafficking victims. The MDT just went out to Colorado to shadow a screening and intervention program and we will be working to implement that back in our area over the next year.

## St. Luke's Child Protection Center Updates

The staff at the St. Luke's CPC were excited to welcome Katie Burrell back from maternity leave on September 20th. Her son, Kai, is absolutely adorable!

Our Family Advocate, Nancy Scheumann, was appointed to serve on the Early Childhood Iowa Board of Directors of Linn County. The Board oversees six early childhood initiatives in Linn County. Nancy has been asked to serve a three year term.

CPC is making final preparations for the opening of our CARE Program on November 1st. CARE stands for childhood assessment, referral and early intervention. The CARE Program will serve children from birth to age 17 who have had positive drug screens, as well as any siblings within the home. Every child seen at the CARE Program will have a medical exam with a developmental screen. The CARE Program will provide a place for children who have been drug endangered to have medical follow-up, as well as follow-up support for the parent/caregiver of the child.

Meet Kai,  
son of Katie  
Burrell!  
What a cute  
addition to  
St. Luke's  
CPC ☺



## Iowa Chapter of Children's Advocacy Centers

**Contact Information:** • • •  
Nancy Wells/Kacey Peterson  
Executive Director  
Iowa Chapter of Children's  
Advocacy Centers  
505 Fifth Ave. Suite 1001  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
515-401-9897 (Phone)  
515-401-9873 (Fax)  
[nwells@iowacacs.org](mailto:nwells@iowacacs.org)  
[kpeterson@iowacacs.org](mailto:kpeterson@iowacacs.org)

**Mailing Address:**  
ICCAC  
505 Fifth Ave.  
Suite 1001  
Des Moines, IA 50309  
<http://www.iowacacs.org>