

Establishing a Community- Based Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force

Robert Edelman, Ed.S., LMHC

Brandi Rhoden, M.A., LMHC

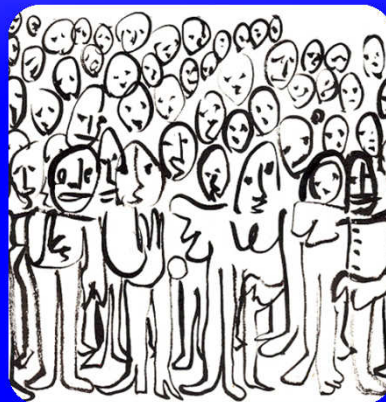
Village Counseling Center

Gainesville, Florida

www.villagecounselingcenter.net

www.childonchildsexualabusepreventionontaskforce.intuitwebsites.com

Audience and Goals



Handout available at:

VILLAGECOUNSELINGCENTER.NET

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LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Identify the **history, purpose, mission and goals** of the Child on Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention Task Force that was established in Florida.
2. **Understand the need as well as process and steps** towards developing other Child-on Child Sexual Abuse and Prevention Task Forces.
3. Learn how a **multidisciplinary, collaborative approach can improve coordination of supports and services** to children with sexual abuse and/or sexual behavior problems (SBP).



In a recent State of Florida Department of Children and Families report, “The Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force . . . is a best practice which should be replicated in other counties . . . and has been effective in reducing the prevalence of child on child sexual abuse in the areas served.”

Why?

- ◆ **Significant increase** in child-on-child sexual abuse
- ◆ Several thousand child-on-child sexual abuse incidents will occur in Florida every year, although most are not reported
- ◆ **43% of sexually abused children under 6 are molested by another child**
- ◆ **Juveniles – Account for 1/5 of rapes and 1/2 of child molestation cases**

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WHY?

- ◆ Northeast Region - from July 2005 thru March 2009 (45 months), approx. 8900 reports of Child-on-Child sexual abuse from the were made to the Hotline. This included 2,142 victims or an average of 48 victims per month.
- ◆ Underreported statistic - may be 2-3 times the number actually reported.
- ◆ No longer an issue of "Children will be Children!"

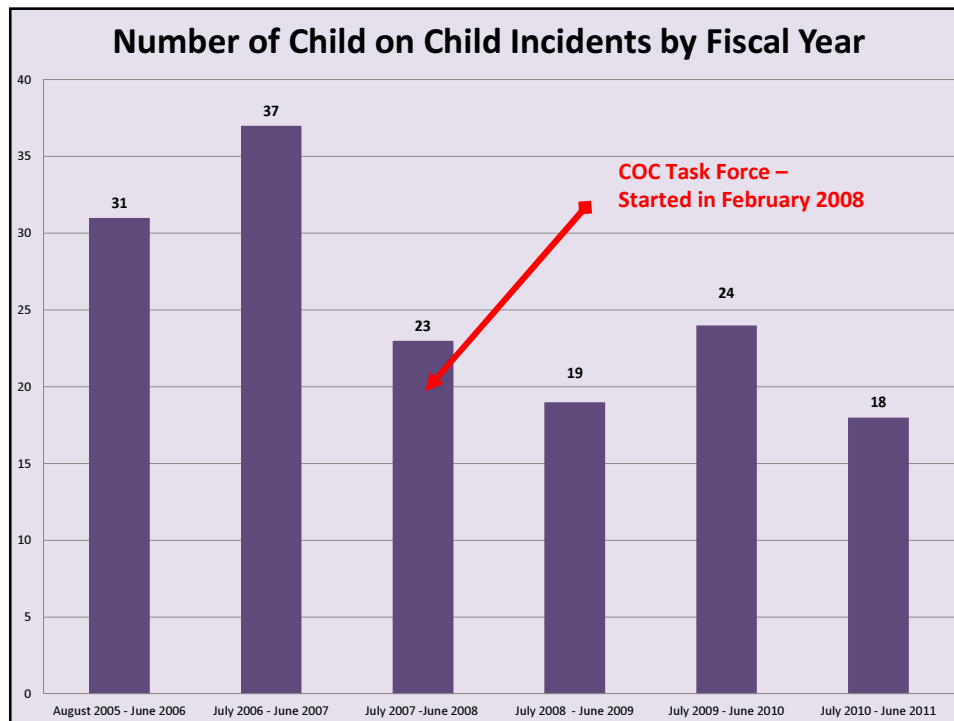
Florida – 2009 Child on Child Statistics

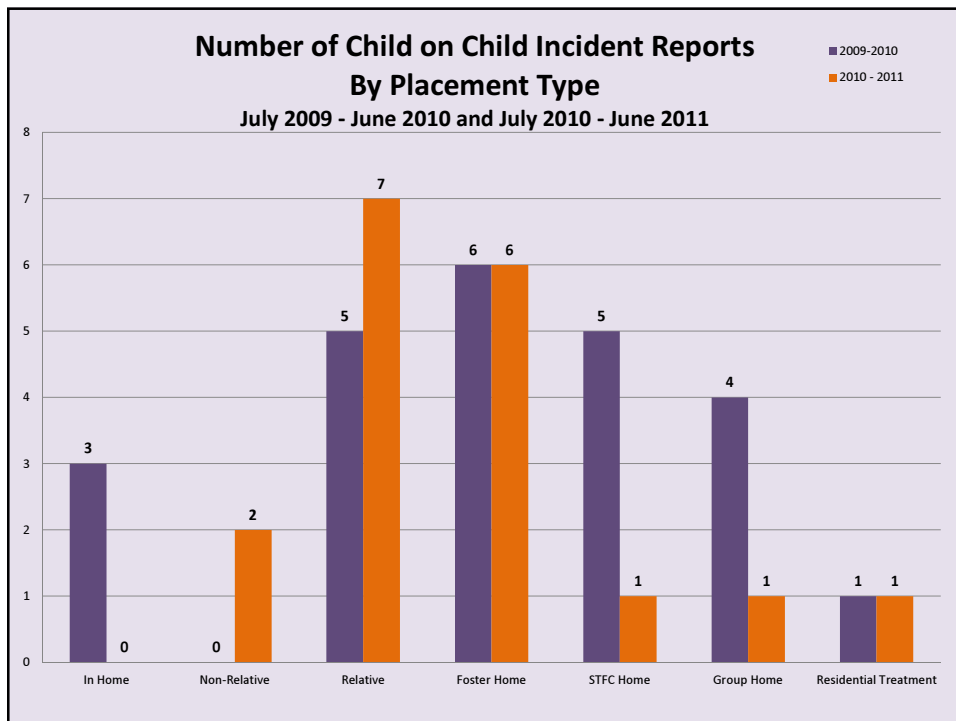
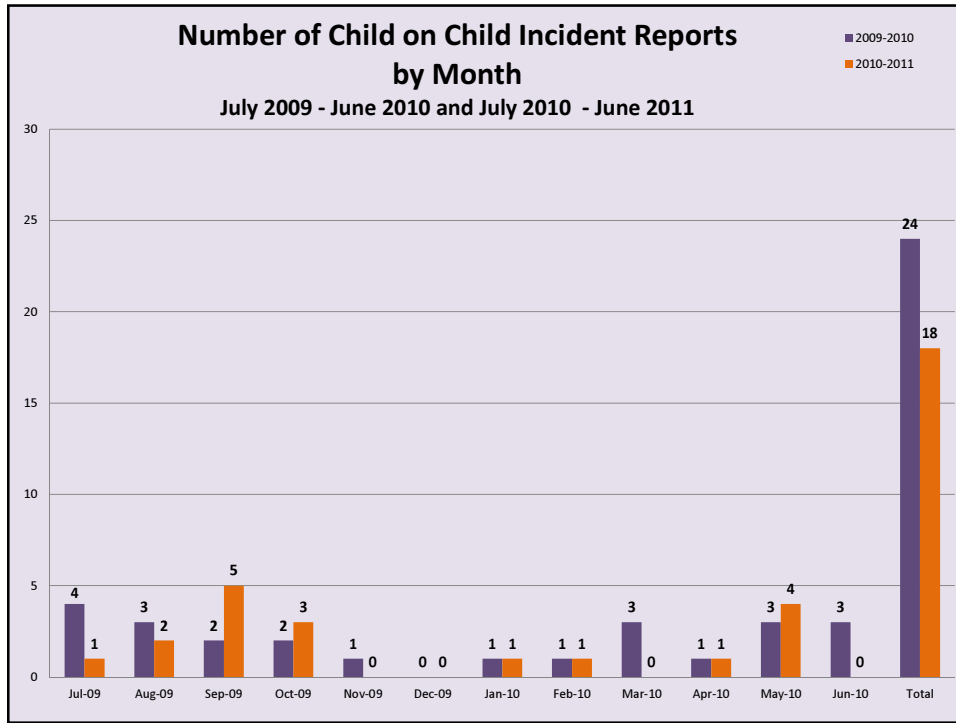
Alleged Victims	Total Number	Alleged Victim Is Substantially Younger Than Offender	Alleged Victim Is Known To Offender	Elements Of Secrecy Involved	Multiple Alleged Victims-Reference
Total	8,896	2384 (27%)	8050 (90%)	1717 (20%)	1780 (21%)

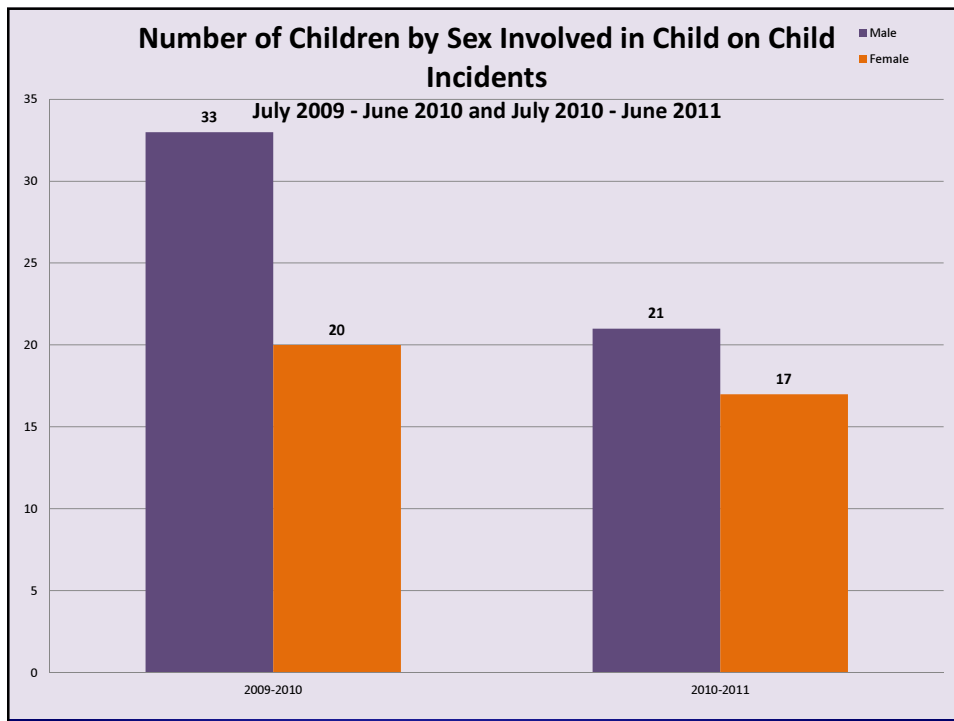
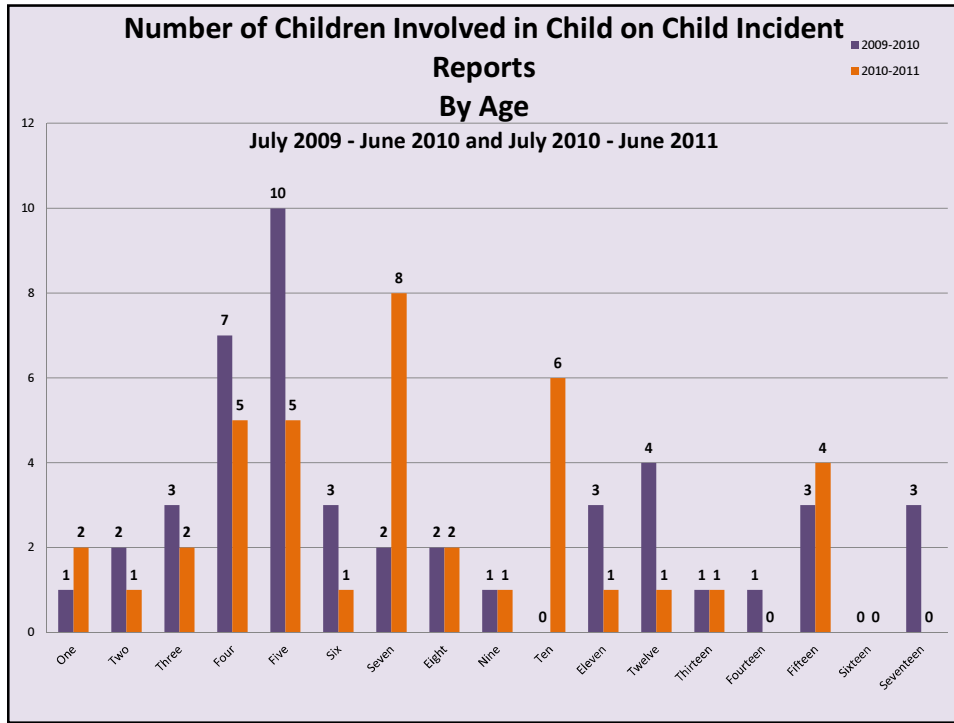
Florida – 2009 Child on Child Statistics

Alleged Offenders	Total Number	History Of Sexual Victimization	History Of Physical Abuse	History Of Neglect
Total	7,459	1270 (17%)	913 (12%)	1761 (24%)

History Of Family/ Domestic Violence	Alleged Offender's Family Has History Of Instability	History Of Physical/ Emotional Separation From a Parent	Knowledge Of Advanced Sexual Practices	Academic Difficulties	History Of Impulse Control Problems
1544 (21%)	2215 (30%)	2766 (38%)	1569 (22%)	1451 (20%)	1226 (17%)





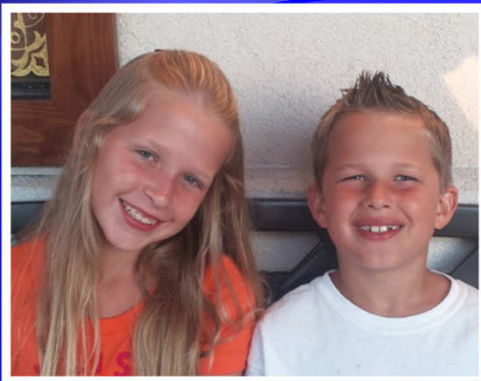


Why? Lack of Sex Education Programs



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Not Just "Normal" Kid Stuff!



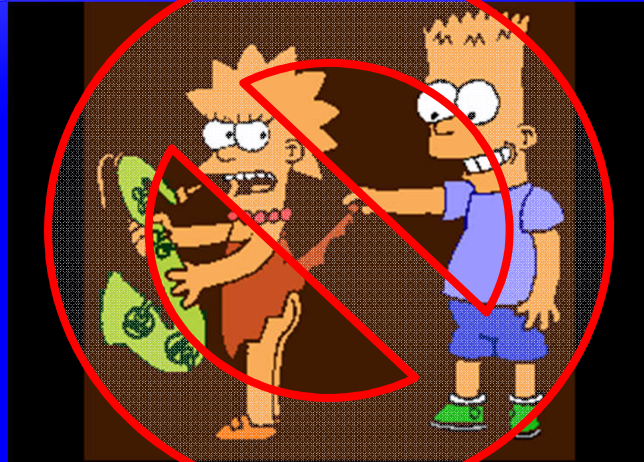
Task Force History/Time-Line

- ◆ Inspiration: Brian
- ◆ 2006 – VCC contracts with PSF to offer Staff and Foster Parents Specialized Training.
- ◆ 2007 – VCC contract with PSF – Sexual Abuse Prevention and Treatment (SAPT) Program and Additional Trainings.
- ◆ 2008 – February – Key COC Stake Holders first meeting.
August – 1st Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force Meeting.
- ◆ 2009 – Presentation at Annual DCF Conference.
- ◆ 2009 – Met with State Officials and expanded Task Force (local to regional).

Task Force History/Time-Line

- ◆ 2010 – Suncoast Region develops own Task Force.
- ◆ 2010 – Participated on the Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse and Children with Sexual Behavior Problems Strategic Planning Committee, Office of Family Safety
- ◆ 2011 – Continued participation on Child on Child Strategic Planning Committee
- ◆ 2011 – Scheduled presentations at the National ATSA Conference and this years DCF Conference
- ◆ 2011 – COC Training video to be developed by the University of South Florida - Center for the Advancement of Child Welfare Practice

Robert's Rejected Logo!!!



C/CSAP Task Force

Mission

*Reduce the incidence of child-on-child
sexual abuse through community
prevention, training and intervention.*

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Florida Northeast and Suncoast Regional Task Forces

- ◆ Quarterly Meetings
- ◆ Executive Committee
- ◆ 3 Subcommittees
 1. Clinical/Training
 2. Collaboration/Legal
 3. Placement
- ◆ Open Membership



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Task Force Membership

- ◆ Department of Children and Families
- ◆ Partnership for Strong Families
- ◆ Department of Juvenile Justice
- ◆ Foster Parent
- ◆ Local/County School Officials
- ◆ Local Mental Health Agencies
- ◆ Partnership for Strong Families – Regional Foster Care Agency
- ◆ Child Advocacy Center
- ◆ Guardian ad Litem Program

Task Force Membership

- ◆ Local Adoption Agencies
- ◆ Office of the State Attorney
- ◆ Public Defender's Office
- ◆ Children's Legal Services
- ◆ 8th Judicial Circuit Administration/Judges/Magistrates
- ◆ U.F. Child Abuse Prevention Project
- ◆ U.F./DCF Child Protection Team
- ◆ Attorneys, Children's Welfare and Legal Services
- ◆ Guardian ad Litem Program
- ◆ Village Counseling Center

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Task Force Goals

- ◆ Prevention
 1. Review local data, policy, and procedures to analyze the scope of the issue in the local system.
 2. Improve placement decisions for children in foster care who are high risk due to sexual behaviors.
 3. Help develop and institute standardized Safety Plans that can be used in a variety of settings (e.g., schools, foster care, therapeutic group homes and foster care, etc.) related to children with sexual behavior problems and/or who are at high risk for acting out sexually.

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Task Force Goals (Cont.)

◆ Prevention

4. Provide community trainings related to child-on-child sexual abuse and children with sexual behavior problems.
5. Develop core trainings related to the prevention and intervention of child-on-child sexual abuse cases for public schools.



PREVENTION
WORKS!

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Task Force Goals (cont.)

◆ Advocacy

6. Collaborate with the state to develop and institute certification requirements for DCF, foster care staff, mental health professionals and others who work directly with children with severe sexual abuse trauma and/or sexual behavior problems.
7. Research and provide recommendations regarding laws and policy issues that affect children with sexual behavioral problems and/or who have been charged with sexual offenses.
8. Establish a state-wide Child-on-Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Task Force as well as Task Forces at the local/community levels.

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Circuit 3 & 8 Task Force

- ◆ Prevention and Safety Projects
 - ◆ Developed shared Safety Plan/Contract
 - ◆ Policy and Procedure Revision
 - ◆ Training for Therapeutic Foster Parents
 - ◆ "Emergency Placement Teams" – Current Goal

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Circuit 3 & 8 Task Force

- ◆ Advocacy efforts
 - ◆ Web site
 - ◆ Meeting with DCF state administrators
 - ◆ Meeting with Governor's Chief Child Advocate
 - ◆ Presentations at DCF Annual Conferences



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Creating a Local Task Force

- ◆ Be task-oriented (ex. Task Lists)
- ◆ Invite the right people to participate
- ◆ Get the Judges involved if you can & hold meetings at the courthouse if necessary
- ◆ Be transparent and committed to change
- ◆ Gather data
- ◆ Create a web site for information dissemination and **awareness**

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Discussion and Questions



Thank You Very Much!
Go GATORS!

robert@villagecounselingcenter.net

brandi@villagecounselingcenter.net

www.villagecounselingcenter.net

