

Coalition for Child Safety A Year in Review

Milestones:

July 31, 2002: First meeting at City Hall in Independence. Community partners introduced themselves and described what services and resources are provided by their respective agencies.

August, 2002: Coalition meeting at Independence Regional Health Center

Affirmation of purpose statement and objectives

Presentation of DVERT Program

Formation of sub-committees:

- Community Awareness/Education

- System Improvement

- Data Review

- Financial Resources

- Communication Linkage (merged with other groups)

- Problems & Solutions

Independence Police Department and Division of Family Services collaborate to create a communication tool that informs IPD when DFS opens a case/investigation. The address and name are flagged at IPD dispatch, so that if an officer is sent to that address for any reason, the responding officer takes special care in assessing the condition of all children in the home.

November, 2002

Community Education Committee members discuss training for mandated reporters, which now includes ministers (as of September, 2002).

December, 2002

'How to Handle Holiday Stress' presentation was made to the Coalition, and was videotaped and shown on City 7 throughout December.

The Examiner has agreed to donate space for a monthly educational article about child abuse prevention.

January, 2003

Never Shake, a shaken baby syndrome prevention video produced by Children's Trust Fund was distributed by the Coalition to hospitals, Parents as Teachers, WIC, day care providers and other community agencies.

City Council pledges \$1500 to Coalition and challenges citizens to support child safety efforts

March, 2003

First Responder Cards are printed and distributed to AMR staff, IPD personnel, and IFD staff in effort to provide accurate resources to persons who are responding in critical situations.

Three Coalition members met with the Family Support Group from the 1139 Military Police Unit at Richard Gebauer to assess their needs, provide possible resources, and present a stress management exercise. (This unit was deployed just days before our presentation.)

April, 2003

'Keeping the Children Safe' fair at Independence Center, sponsored by the Coalition for Child Safety, a multi-partner event promoting the safety, health, and well-being of children

Family Resource Guides listing service agencies and emergency services were distributed for Independence families.

Blue Ribbon Campaign; to raise awareness about child abuse/neglect and solicit individual commitments to promote the safety of children

One Church, One Child presentation by DFS to the Coalition to raise awareness of the critical need for foster and adoptive families in the KC area

The Coalition for Child Safety was approved as a Children's Trust Fund partner, enabling the Coalition to receive funds for CTF plate registrations when we are designated on the application

IPD sends an officer to all medical emergencies involving a child, as these injuries are often the result of undetected abuse

Never Shake video aired on City 7

June, 2003

IPD, CAPA, the Independence School District, and IHD met to discuss a class for 8th grade boys addressing child safety, shaken baby syndrome, and anger management.

IPD has attended 96 assist DFS calls.

Through collaboration with DFS, IPD has flagged 300 addresses as high risk for violence involving children.