



# Children's Response Center

EASTSIDE SERVICES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TRAUMATIC STRESS

# NEWS

Winter 2002

## Second CSOM Summit Held in Yakima

The Washington Coalition of Sexual Assault Programs held the second statewide summit on Community Sex Offender Management (CSOM) on November 15-16, 2001. The CSOM teams are unique because they address the issues communities face regarding sex offenders by involving a number of professionals. Washington State is the first state to address sex offenders in this multidisciplinary way.

The goal of this summit was to foster relationships established during the first summit in June, to build collateral knowledge between professions, and update team members on recent developments affecting sex offenders.

An issue discussed was victim advocate involvement in unconventional settings, such as participation in victim empathy groups with sex offenders or assisting victims when a sex offender is released. Since June, Center staff have become active in providing prevention strategies and resources at community notification meetings on sex offenders.

During the Summit the teams discussed challenges that may occur when a sex offender resides on tribal land, legislative changes increasing sex offender registration requirements and sentencing.

King County professionals continue to meet every six weeks to address activities and focus for the teams. Goals for the future include encouraging additional CSOM team involvement from various disciplines, establishing relationships with school districts in the county, and increasing community education.

Children's Response Center staff attended the second summit along

with several colleagues from King County. A total of six King County teams attended including prosecutors, corrections officers, sex

offender treatment providers, law enforcement personnel, and victim advocates. Our local county team has more than doubled in representation since the first summit in June.

Among those in attendance at the summit were: Shelly Weaver, Children's Response Center; Kerry Todd, Harborview Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress; Lisa Johnson and Scott O'Toole, King County Prosecutors; Dr. Bill Lennon, Bellevue Sex Offender Treatment Provider; Detectives Andrea Alexander and James Beaumont, King County Sheriff's Department; and Bruce Harris, Department of Corrections.

**Washington is the first state to address sex offenders in a multidisciplinary way.**

## Trauma in Children

By Susan Peterson, LICSW

Over the years, Children's Response Center therapists have become familiar with the various ways in which violent traumatic events can impact children and teens. Through experiences with child victims of sexual abuse, physical abuse, abductions, severe accidents, domestic violence, suicide, homicide, or other violence, therapists have observed and treated many behavioral and emotional reactions to trauma.

These reactions have included Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder symptoms (flashbacks, intrusive thoughts, avoidance, numbing of emotions), as well as a whole spectrum of possible behavioral manifestations and emotional responses, from extreme anger to profound sadness and withdrawal.

After the events of September 11, therapists (as well as everybody else) were faced with a new level and type of traumatic event. After this incident, children, and adults, with no personal connection to the victims were experiencing a number of effects and responses. This new type of traumatic event was different, in a number of ways, from incidents that happen directly to a child or his/her family member. The scale of the disaster was impossible for anyone, child or adult, to fully

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Children's Response Center  
SERVICES FOR SEXUAL ASSAULT AND TRAUMATIC STRESS

### Services

Crisis Intervention  
Assessment and Evaluation  
Individual/Family Recovery Counseling  
Specialized Treatment Groups  
Legal Advocacy  
Medical Advocacy  
General Advocacy  
Information and Referral  
Consultation  
Community Education  
Professional Education  
System Coordination  
Prevention  
Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

### Advisory Board

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Beverly Chabot  
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Wilma Fountroy  
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Rachel Quesinberry (Secretary)  
Molly Shen  
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### Staff

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Debbie Doane, LICSW

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Connie Au, LICSW  
Johnna Lehr, BA  
Sarah Matthews, LICSW  
Susan Peterson, LICSW  
Shelly Weaver, MSW/Legal Advocate

#### Education and Prevention

Gayle Zeller, MA

#### Program Support Supervisor

Linda Hueckstedt

#### Patient Services Representative

Dana Wilson

#### Volunteer Manager

Mary Ann Carlson

#### Newsletter Contributors

Yessica Bolanos, Editor  
Mary Ann Carlson  
Debbie Doane  
Susan Peterson  
Rachel Quesinberry  
Molly Shen  
Shelly Weaver

## Speaking Out



## In Memory

In the fall of 1991, Jane Brunt completed the Center's volunteer training and embarked on a commitment spanning over seven years. She was a whirlwind of enthusiasm and experience, bringing her talents to many difficult projects. Her optimism prevented acknowledgement of limitations from our donated computer equipment or crowded space, and she routinely accomplished challenging assignments. In 1994 she was nominated for Harborview's Volunteer of the Year award, and was voted first runner-up. When she retired, Jane traveled to Zambia and enjoyed time with her family and grandchildren. She died January 2, 2002, and will be missed by all who knew her.

## Thanks PCL!

On November 8<sup>th</sup>, 2001, 200 people attended PCL Construction's Casino Night at the Bell Harbor Conference Center, Pier 66 in Seattle. This special fun-filled annual event is PCL's way of showing their appreciation to all subcontractors and suppliers who've helped in the successful completion of many construction projects throughout the Puget Sound area.

In conjunction with this event, PCL held a silent auction that generated \$3,665, donated to the Children's Response Center in Bellevue and the Ryther Child Center in Seattle. Auctioned items were donated by PCL's subcontractors and suppliers.

## Volunteer Core Training Held in Fall

Children's Response Center, along with co-sponsors Bellevue Probation, Child Protective Services (DCFS), King County Kids Court, and King County Mentoring and Life Skills Project, provided a Volunteer Core Training Program on November 3. This annual training is required for all new volunteers and Advisory Board members. Ten new Center volunteers attended along with volunteers from the other programs.

The program included presentations by: Lauren Slovic, MSW, CRC – *Understanding the Basics: Defining and Identifying Child Abuse & Child Sexual Abuse*; Florence Wolfe, MA, Sexual Offender Treatment Specialist – *Profile of The Sexual Offender*; Detective Anne Malins, Linda Webb, Legal Advocate, Redmond Police Department and Naomi Childs, MSW, DCFS - *Police and Child Protective Services Investigation Process*; Detective Andrea Alexander, King County Sheriff's Office - *Sex Offender Community Notification Program*; and, Connie Au, MSW, and Susan Peterson, MSW, Children's Response Center - *Therapy & Treatment for Child Victims of Sexual Abuse and Traumatic Events*.

### *New Volunteers*

Children's Response Center welcomes these new volunteers:

*Advisory Board members:* Yessica Bolanos (also assisting with newsletter and annual report production); Phyllis Franklin; Kim Harlan; Lisa Olsen; and Rhea Kelley.

*Luncheon committee volunteers:* Natalie Kimball; Tressa Powers; and April Schoen.

*Computer Assistant Volunteer:* Kathy Steine.

Thanks to the continuing efforts of these volunteers:

*Webmaster:* Eric Adler.

*Office Assistant:* Maddy Connolly.

*Child supervision during parent group:* Miki Moriya, Rachel Quesinberry, and Shelly Thorn.

We are very grateful to all Children's Response Center's volunteers and Advisory Board members. Without your generous commitment of time and talent, fulfilling our mission would be more challenging. Thank you.

Also, thanks to Caitlin Dundon, One Heart Studio, for the lovely handpainted boxes CRC gave as a thank you to their volunteers and Advisory Board Members for the past year.

## New staff member

Shelly Weaver is the newest addition to the Children's Response Center team.



Shelly Weaver

Shelly joined the staff in September as the new Legal Advocate. In this position, she hopes to increase the program's legal advocacy functions.

Shelly graduated with a bachelor's degree from Pacific Lutheran University in 1999. She went on to receive her Masters in Social Work with a general focus in contemporary social problems from Columbia University in May 2001.

Her previous experience includes serving at a sexual abuse agency while attending PLU. In this setting, Shelly participated in small groups where survivors discussed their experiences, as well as self-esteem and safety issues.

While working on her Master's she interned for a crime victim treatment center at a major medical center in New York.

## Special Thanks To These Community Supporters

Children's Response Center would like to thank the following organizations for their support:

INFOSpace Foundation  
Harrington-Schiff Foundation  
Byron W. and Alice L. Lockwood Foundation  
Gottschalks (Sale of Santa Pandas at Forest Park, Factoria, & Issaquah Stores)

Betcher Family Foundation  
Dain Rauscher Foundation  
The Crest (Neighborhood) Golf Tournament  
Bellevue Community College Sociology Class

# Adopt A Family Program A Success

Given the recent events in September and the downturn in our economy, the program was gratified to see the wonderful response to families in need this past holiday season. About the middle of October, earlier than previous years, people began calling to “adopt” a family served by Children’s Response Center. Our community was very spirited and concerned that each and every adult and child identified by the program experience a wonderful holiday season. In all, 21 families and extended families, including 24 adults and 39 children, felt the caring of our community. Heartfelt thanks on behalf of the Center staff and Advisory Board to these generous donors:

Real Estate First, A division of  
Arthur J. Gallagher of Washington Inc.  
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Jill Miller Family and Friends  
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Diane Lin  
LUMEDX Employees  
Mothers and Others

Overlake Teens In Service  
PCL Construction Employees  
Spacelab  
(Sales Support Department)  
United Way of King County  
United Way of King County  
( Eastside Office)  
Jason and Debbie Wall  
WatchGuard Technologies  
Employees

## Coming Events

Child Abuse Prevention Month  
Sexual Assault Awareness Week

“Your Voice Counts. Silence about Sexual Violence Hurts Us All”

National Crime Victims Rights Week  
“Bringing Honor to Victims”

April 2002

April 7-13, 2002

April 21-27, 2002

## Harborview Classic Continues to Provide Support



The ninth annual **Harborview Classic** golf tournament presented by **Philips Medical Systems**, broke previous records and raised over \$196,000! Festivities at the September 10th event at Bear Creek Country Club in Woodinville included a banquet dinner and silent and live auctions.

The annual fundraiser provides support to several Harborview programs including the Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress. As a beneficiary of the tournament, **Children’s Response Center** will receive \$40,000. Thanks and appreciation to all involved in this year’s event.

## SAVE THE DATE

10th Annual  
**Harborview Classic**  
Golf Tournament

Wednesday, September 4th  
Golf Club at Newcastle

Details coming soon!

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comprehend. The entire country was affected and in mourning. Adults could no longer promise to provide safety or make everything better for their children. Fear, disbelief, anger and sorrow persisted for a long time, and were heightened by anthrax scares.

A great deal of discussion about the effects of such an event on children soon followed.

There was a proliferation of information providing tips for parents in managing their own responses, communicating with their children, and helping their children cope. At our Center, clients and their parents shared information regarding the ways in which children with a trauma history perceived and responded to this event. School counselors and teachers provided information regarding the response of children without trauma histories. All of us were able to observe the children in our lives coping and reacting after September 11.

As might be expected, children's responses ran the gamut from severe to minimal. Despite the assumption that children with a trauma history would have a more difficult time coping with the attacks, school counselors reported that some children without trauma history were also reacting strongly. Perhaps, like many adults, their concept of the world as a safe place was suddenly and irrevocably shattered.

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### **A number of children with histories of serious trauma lost ground in therapy.**

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Several examples from parents and children at our Center might serve to show the varied and unique ways in which children with trauma histories responded to the disaster. A number of children with histories of serious trauma lost ground in therapy. Some regressed to experiencing earlier

symptoms such as fear, which had previously significantly abated.

For example, children who had learned to tolerate sleeping alone, or being alone in a room of their house,

suddenly insisted on being by their mother's side constantly. The gains these children had made in feeling safe were temporarily lost. Some very young children created an association between the terrorists and their own offenders, lumping them together as "bad guys", seemingly making an assumption that their own trauma was somehow connected with, or led to, the national event. Other children linked the terrorist event to last February's earthquake, expressing a view that the world had begun to become exceptionally unsafe and unpredictable at that time.

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### **Adults must be aware that we have entered uncharted territory.**

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Other children who utilize elaborate strategies to avoid talking about their sexual abuse histories suddenly became quite talkative in expressing their feelings on the terrorist attacks. For some unknown reason, they were able to address this shared trauma

much easier than they had been able to face their own personal trauma. Some children expressed nonchalance and a lack of concern about the event. Their feelings and reactions became apparent in other ways; they would mention the event frequently in the context of written "feelings" exercises, at times expressing complex and deep-seated feelings and reactions. Conversely, there were children with trauma histories who were, for a variety of reasons, able to weather the event well.

In thinking about children's reactions, adults must be aware that we have entered uncharted territory. Events are possible that shatter the assumptions and well-being of both adults and children. These events can be unpredictable, prolonged, and are terrifying in a way that is new to many in our society. As such, therapists (and adults in general), must cope with their own individual reactions AND help children deal with their reactions.

This is an unprecedented situation, and there are no guarantees that we will be free from such situations in the future. Perhaps we can benefit from what we have recently learned. There are many areas of the world in which people

currently, or historically, have navigated similar territory. Much can be learned from the examples and stories of those who have succeeded.

# Sheriff Reichert is Luncheon's Speaker

Preparations are well underway for the Children's Response Center's 12th annual "To Heal a Child's Heart" fundraising luncheon.

Sheriff Dave Reichert will deliver the keynote address. Sheriff Reichert is well-known as a dynamic speaker with a passion for protecting children. "I can't think of a more noble cause than the welfare of children," he says. "We have to protect those that need protecting; love those that need loving—and seize every opportunity to teach our kids those basic values that make a civil society function. It seems so simple, but so often.... we make it all too hard."

Sheriff Reichert will speak more on his views regarding children's welfare. Many remember Reichert as the lead detective on the Green River Task Force

and involved with the recent arrest in the case. His perspectives on such crimes of violence will be shared.

Luncheon guests will be treated to entertainment by pop and jazz singer Nadine Shanti. Shanti has performed throughout the world, and most recently with the Everett Symphony.

The luncheon's emcee will be Emmy award winner John Curley of KING-TV's Evening Magazine. Curley, a favorite local television personality, promises to bring his sharp wit to the program.

The Children's Response Center is fortunate to once again have corporate sponsorship from **Pro-Sports Club** in Bellevue. Additional sponsors would be welcome. For more information, call (425) 688-5130.



2002 Luncheon Keynote Speaker: Sheriff Dave Reichert

**Save the date!**

**"To Heal A Child's Heart"  
Luncheon**

**Bellevue Hyatt  
Friday, April 26th  
Program starts at noon**

**Keynote Speaker:  
Sheriff Dave Reichert**

**Emcee:  
John Curley**

*Harborview Medical Center*

*Managed by the Center for Sexual Assault and Traumatic Stress-*

Overlake Hospital Medical Center  
925 116th Avenue NE, Suite 211  
Bellevue, WA 98004 - 4601

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**Children's Response Center**



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