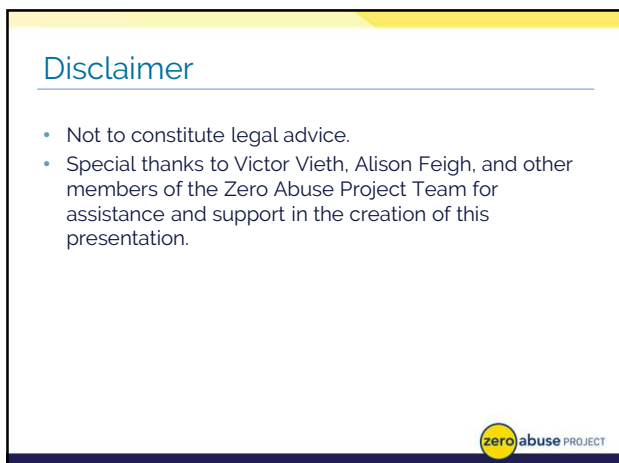




1



2



3

This type of thing never happens here!



4

Look for the Helpers



5

The agenda

- Ten things we need to know
- CDC Best Practices Overview
- Ten things we need to do



6

Ten things YSO's need to know



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7

1. Sex offenders are drawn to YSOs

"Any situation that provides ideal conditions for pedophiles will draw them, and it will be very difficult to distinguish them from their nonpedophilic and entirely moral colleagues...boarding schools, overnight camps, male choirs—any setting that puts groups of kids regularly together under the supervision and care of a 'counselor' or other adult for overnight trips will draw pedophiles..."

— Dr. Anna Salter

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8

2. Faith based YSO's are attractive to sex offenders

"If children can be silenced and the average person is easy to fool, many offenders report that religious people are even easier to fool than most people."

Anna Salter

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9

3. Grooming and Manipulation

Grooming/seduction is defined as a variety of techniques used by a sex offender to access and control potential and actual child victims. This process takes **access, time, and interpersonal skill**. How much time depends on the needs of the child and skills of the adult.

The greater the skill of the offender in selecting and seducing vulnerable victims, the more successful the acquaintance molester is and the longer he avoids discovery.

Lanning, 2010. Child Molesters: A Behavioral Analysis
For Professionals Investigating the Sexual Exploitation of Children. NCMEC/FBI



10

did not want you to. You manipulated me, and confused me , and hurt me in so many ways I will never be able to explain. I remember the day you first reached out to me , I was with one of my friends and I was going through a lot as always .

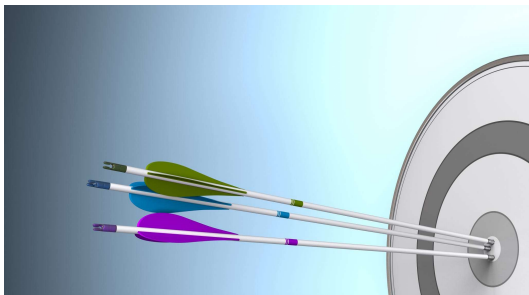
You were told to message me to help me, to be somebody I could talk to , someone I could trust. You said you wanted to help me , help me and be there for me . I was so young and I have really never had someone to talk to whenever I was feeling sad and going through all of the things I had to.

- K.S., 17 years old



11

4. Offenders select the easiest target



12

6 Q. If children are in a chaotic environment and they
7 find some stability, what is their response to that?

8 A. Typically that's something they would gravitate
9 toward. It's that human desire for attachment, that human
10 desire for acceptance. We like to get positive praise from
11 people, we like to get positive attention from people.

12 Q. If there's something that happens in the course of
13 that relationship that makes children uncomfortable, is it
14 difficult for them to walk away from that stability?

15 A. It's probably not likely that they would walk away
16 from it, because if they've grown up in a chaotic environment
17 and they have even some stability, again, some is better than
18 none, so we kind of weigh out in our minds what we're willing
19 to either give up or sacrifice for kind of the positives that
20 we perceive.

13

6 Q. Is it problematic to have parents in and out of the
7 lives of children as they're growing up?

8 A. Definitely.

9 Q. Why?

10 A. Children need structure, consistency, stability,
11 and when the adults who are supposed to be their caregivers
12 are in, out, absent, emotionally absent, that sends so many
13 messages to the children about their worth to parents as these
14 kids are looking for caring, nurturing relationships. That is
15 what every kid is looking for. It's scary to them, and when
16 parents are in and out it's uncertainty, it's fear, they don't
17 know what's coming next.

14

7 Q. How important are adults in teaching boundaries in
8 relationships to children?

9 A. We expect the grownups in our world to set limits
10 for us, to set the boundaries for us, to help us know what is
11 safe and unsafe.

12 Q. If adults are not setting appropriate boundaries
13 for children what can happen?

14 A. There could be a lot of blurring of boundaries,
15 which certainly for adolescents becomes much more dangerous
16 because they are trying to become more independent anyway.
17 And so if they are not armed with what limits are safe, what
18 boundaries are going to give you the best opportunity to
19 navigate difficulties, very vulnerable to dangers of the world.

15

5. Offenders may act even if others present

- 54.9% of child molesters offended when another child present (The Tricky Part by Martin Moran)
- 23.9% offended when another adult present Underwood, et al, *Do sexual offenders Molest when Other Persons are Present?* 11(3) Journal of Research and Treatment (1999)
- Note—it may be subtle (under the blankets)
- Why? Increases power over child, the chance of getting caught enhances arousal, etc.



16



17

Act When Others are Present

February 5, 2017

6:51 PM

From: (618)-806-6919 (Ana)

To: (618)-567-4045 (Defendant)

"What's the problem babe? Why did u send Bella to take a bath? I thought they were watching a movie together?"



18

6. Most child abuse cases are never reported

- Only 40% of maltreatment cases and 35% of the most serious cases known to mandated reporters are reported
 - Finkelhor (1990)
- 65% of social workers, 53% of physicians and 58% of physicians assistants do not report all cases of suspected abuse
 - Delaronde, et al. (2000)
- 2001 study of 197 teachers: only 26% would report familial abuse & only 11% at hands of fellow teacher
 - Child Abuse & Neglect (2001)



19

7. Even when reported, cases are not investigated

- Five obstacles to ending child abuse:
 - 1) Many children suspected of being abused are not reported into the systems.
 - 2) Even when reports come into the system, most children will never have their cases investigated.
 - 3) Even when cases are investigated, the investigators and other front line responders are often inadequately trained and inexperienced.
 - 4) Even when an investigation successfully substantiates abuse and gets a victim into the system, the child is typically older and it is more difficult to address the physical, emotional and other hardships caused by the abuse.
 - 5) Because the child protection community lacks a unified voice in communicating the needs of maltreated children, these victims receive an inadequate share of our country's financial resources.

Unto the Third Generation: A Call to End Child Abuse in the United States
Within 120 Years. Vieth, Victor, Journal of Public Law & Policy, 2006.



20

7. Even when reported, cases are not investigated

- "I believe we can end child abuse in the United States within three generations. If we start the clock ticking from this moment, this gives us 120 years to get the job done."
- "We can...end cyclical child abuse and reduce from millions to thousands the number of children victimized over the course of any decade."

Unto the Third Generation: A Call to End Child Abuse in the United States
Within 120 Years. Vieth, Victor, Journal of Public Law & Policy, 2006.



21

8. Most children are abused in the home

- Percentage of children abused by biological parents or non-biological parent or partner
 - 100% of neglected children
 - 93% of emotionally abused children
 - 91% of physically abused children
 - 60% of sexually abused children
- NIS 4 (2010)
- 22% of sexually abused children were abused by someone in authority (clergy, teacher, YSO) (Huot 1999)



22

Possible Motivation for Torture



- Abusers are often not child's first degree relative but were girlfriends/boyfriends, aunts/uncles, grandparents, adoptive parents, step-parents, etc.
- Child appears to be scapegoated within their family.
- Religious motivations?
- There may not be a "reason".



23

9. If we primarily focus on CSA, we won't protect the majority of abused children

- Neglect – 78.3%
 - Physical Abuse – 17.8%
 - Psychological maltreatment – 17.6%
 - Sexual Abuse – 9.5%
 - Medical neglect - 2.4 %
- Percentages exceed 100% because report may have more than one type of maltreatment

U.S. Dept. Health & Human Services, Children's Bureau, Child Maltreatment Report 2009, (last visited 8/2011)



24

10. Abused children frequently experience Poly-victimization

Poly-victimization refers to experiencing multiple types of victimization (e.g., child maltreatment, witnessing family violence, sexual violence) and not just multiple episodes of the same kind of victimization (i.e., revictimization).

Source: Mitchell, Moschella, Hamby & Banyard, Developmental Stage of Onset, Poly-Victimization, and Persistence of Childhood Victimization: Impact on Adult Well-Being in a Rural Community-Based Study, Child Maltreatment, Vol. 25(1) 20-31, 2020.



25

Poly-victimization

- Children who have experienced poly-victimization are at particularly high risk of negative psychological and physical symptoms and are overrepresented among youth exhibiting problems such as school failure, delinquency, substance abuse, entanglement with juvenile justice or child welfare systems.
- The strong negative impact of poly-victimization on coping and well-being may result from the fact that the victimizations and threats to safety are experienced across a wide range of relationships and environments.

Source: Mitchell, Moschella, Hamby & Banyard, Developmental Stage of Onset, Poly-Victimization, and Persistence of Childhood Victimization: Impact on Adult Well-Being in a Rural Community-Based Study, Child Maltreatment, Vol. 25(1) 20-31, 2020.



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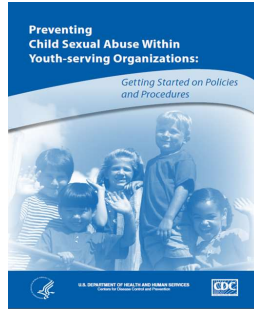
CDC Guidelines and Standards



27

CDC Standards

- Screening/selection of employees & volunteers
- Guidelines on interactions
- Monitoring behavior
- Ensuring safe environments
- Responding to inappropriate behavior
- Training of employees, caregivers, youth



Source: cdc.org/violenceprevention/childsexualabuse/preventingcsa-in-yso



28

Screening And Selection

- CDC recommends five pre-employment screenings:
 - Informing applicant of policies, requiring written acknowledgment, and asking questions
 - Written application with questions pertinent to abuse
 - Personal interview with additional questions about reporting, etc
 - Verbal, not just written references



29

Screening Questions

- What type of supervisory situation do you prefer?
- What makes you a good candidate to work with youth?
- What other hobbies or activities do you enjoy?
- Scenario based questions



Source: Pixabay



30

Background Checks

- Criminal background checks (but note that most predators have never been caught—Abel study, etc)
- Social media/online account presence
- Google search and search newspapers where counselors/employees may have worked



31

Policies and Guidelines

Balancing positive and negative

Find a balance between encouraging positive and appropriate interactions and discouraging in appropriate and harmful interactions.

Adopt strategies with this balance in mind to ensure that youth benefit from your program without risk of sexual abuse or harm.



32

Monitoring Behavior

- Responding to what is observed
- Clear reporting structure within organization
- Documentation that monitoring has occurred



33



34

1. Education and Training



- CDC recommends training for:
 - Employees/volunteers
 - Children
 - Parents
- Start the uncomfortable conversation.

Source: PP stock images



35

Include training on Emotional Abuse & Physical Abuse




36

Why this is important

- Physical signs of abuse may be easier to detect—particularly in YSO's where much of the child's body is visible (swimming, gymnastics, track, etc)
- If we detect physical abuse and report it, evidence of other forms of abuse may be discovered by the authorities



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Prevalence of Emotional Maltreatment

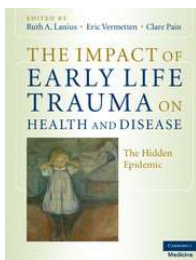
- Verbal abuse was more detrimental than physical or sexual abuse in terms of victims' self-directed anger and pessimism about their futures
- "Recent research has implicated emotional abuse as a strong, possibly stronger, predictor than physical abuse of internalizing disorders, externalizing disorders, social impairment, low self-esteem, suicidal behavior, psychiatric diagnoses, psychiatric hospitalizations, and long-term psychological functioning."

Ney, 1986, Child Abuse & Neglect; Hamarman, 2022, Child Maltreatment



38

Still More Research



Adverse Childhood Experience research found that irrespective of the maltreatment, including neglect and emotional abuse, "the ACE categories turned out to be approximately equal to each other in terms of impact."

Felitti & Anda (2012)



39

The Impact of Emotional Abuse/Neglect

- In a review of 5,616 children with histories of physical abuse, sexual abuse, or emotional abuse/neglect, researchers concluded psychologically abused/neglected children face **similar or worse outcomes** than children enduring other abuse.

APA (2014)



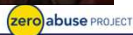
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2. End the veil of secrecy

- Those who abuse children count on our silence and they know most adults will look for any excuse not to make a report.
- Fear Freezes. Education moves us to act



41



42

3. Understand the Demographics

- Child Abuse can happen anywhere
 - Race
 - Religion
 - Income
 - Urban vs. Rural



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4. Create an Inter-Org Reporting Process

- Written policy
- Policy applies to all members of the organization
 - Employees
 - Volunteers
- Clear, concrete process
- Confidentiality as needed.

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5. Implement Policies And Guidelines

- Separate sleeping accommodations for counselors and children (if overnight trips, etc)
- Limit or prohibit events at workers homes
- Appropriate attire (no skinny dipping, etc)
- Windows and open doors
- Sexual comments, jokes, and behaviors around children strictly prohibited
- Prohibiting corporal punishment
- Limiting cameras, imaging, digital devices
- Bullying prohibited

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6. Focus on Behavior, NOT Relationship

- Youth have image in their head of a "stranger"
- Mixed Messages
- We want children and teens to know how to ask for help. They should be taught HOW to talk to strangers.
- Children and Teens are much more likely to be victimized by someone they know



46

7. Research the children in our YSO



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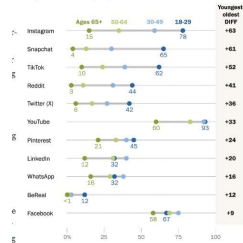
8. Get tech savvy



48

Social Media Use

The youngest U.S. adults are far more likely to use Instagram, Snapchat and TikTok; age differences are less pronounced for Facebook.



49

Video Games

- Discord
 - Becoming big for solicitation
- Chat sessions and videos
- "Talk, chat, hang out, and stay close with your friends and communities"



50

Video Games

- "What started in 2015 as a haven for gamers has quickly morphed into a virtual meeting spot where sexual exploitation and abuse thrive. Now, exploiters go to Discord to groom children for sexual abuse or sex trafficking, and to trade pornography—including child sexual abuse materials, non-consensually recorded and/or shared pornography, and more."
- The Discord platform is a widely used text, video, and audio chat app that can be found on computers, browsers, and mobile phones. Originally designed for video game users to chat with each other while playing online games, the app has gained popularity even outside of the gamer community, with over 30% of users claiming they use Discord for activities other than gaming.

Source: Discord is a Haven For Gamers-And Sexual Exploiters. Summer Porter, National Center on Sexual Exploitation (2023).



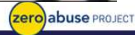
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8. Get Tech Savvy

- Include digital communications in all policies.
- Parental consent for communications
- Is direct communication necessary?
 - How is this being monitored
 - Who has access to the messages/conversations



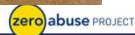
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9. Own your Gut Instinct

"You have the gift of a brilliant internal guardian that stands ready to warn you of hazards and guide you through risky situations."
 — Gavin de Becker, *The Gift of Fear: Survival Signals That Protect Us from Violence*



54

10. Look for the Helpers



BalladHealth
Newberry Children's Network

EAST TENNESSEE STATE
UNIVERSITY
HELP SARA
ADVOCATE FOR CHILDREN AND YOUTH
FOR ABUSE, NEGLECT OR SEXUAL ABUSE/TRAUMA

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