



Le Sueur County, MN

Tuesday, April 17, 2018

Board Meeting

Item 3

9:10 a.m. Human Services (35 min)

Staff Contact:

**Human Services Board Agenda
April 17, 2018 @ 9:10 a.m.**

100- INFORMATION/PRESENTATIONS:

- 110 - Welcome New Employees
 - Karen Fraser, Office Support Specialist - Front Desk
 - Payton Shook, Office Support Specialist - Financial Unit
- 120 - Child Protection Prevention & Awareness Month
 - Awareness Activities - Poster Contest; T-shirts/wrist bands; blue ribbons
 - 2018 Proclamation
 - State Bulletin
 - Performance Measures/CP \$ withhold criteria
- 130 - DHS/MACSSA Legislative Updates

200- CHARTS/GRAPHS:

- 210- Finance Graphs/Report;
- 220- Income Maintenance/Child Support Graphs;
- 230- Family Services Graphs-
 - 231- Social Services Team
 - 232- Child Services Team
 - 232.1- Out of Home Placement Report
 - 232.2- In-Home Family Therapy Report;
 - 233- Behavioral Health Team

300- BOARD APPROVAL ITEMS:

- 310 - Commissioner's Warrants



PROCLAMATION

April 2018

WHEREAS, referrals to state child protective services (nationwide) involve more than **6.6 million children** annually, and **3.2 million** of those children are subject to an investigated report and

WHEREAS, in 2017, **740** of those reports were in Le Sueur County in the state of Minnesota, **212** of those reports were subject to investigation. **1226** kids were reported to Child Protection in 2017 for some sort of safety concern.

WHEREAS child abuse and neglect is a serious problem affecting every segment of our community, and finding solutions requires input and action from everyone in our community; and

WHEREAS, our children are our most valuable resources and will shape the future; and

WHEREAS, child abuse can have long-term psychological, emotional, and physical effects that can have lifelong consequences for victims of abuse; and

WHEREAS, **protective factors** are conditions that reduce or eliminate risk and promote the social, emotional, and developmental well-being of children;

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention activities succeed because of the meaningful connections and partnerships created between child welfare, education, health, community- and faith-based organizations, businesses and law enforcement agencies; and

WHEREAS, communities must make every effort to promote programs and activities that benefit children and their families;

WHEREAS, we acknowledge that we must work together as a community to increase awareness about child abuse and contribute to promote the social and emotional well-being of children and families in a safe, stable, nurturing environment.

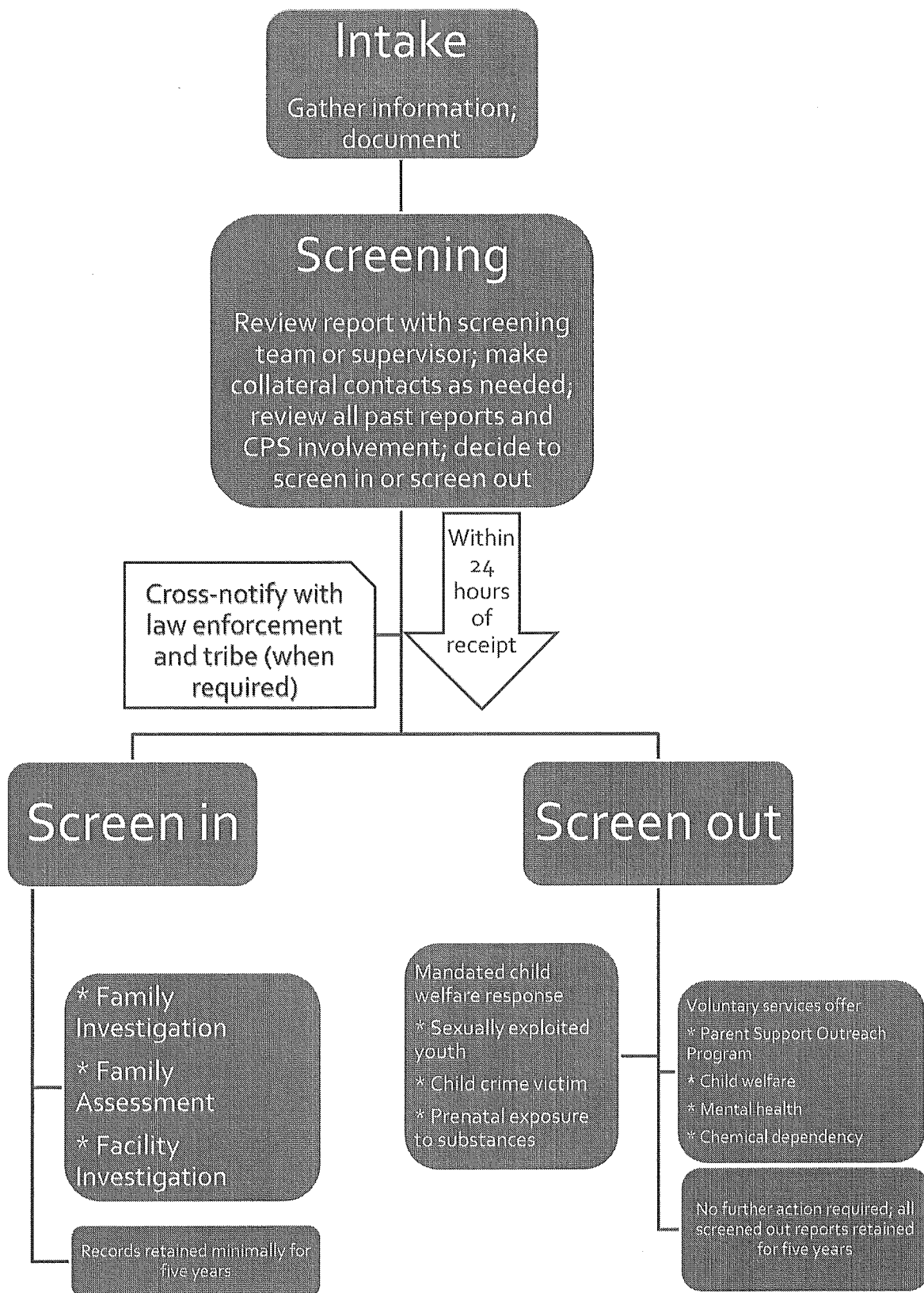
WHEREAS, Prevention remains the best defense for our children and families;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Commissioner Lance Wetzel, Le Sueur County Board Chair, do hereby proclaim April, 2018 as

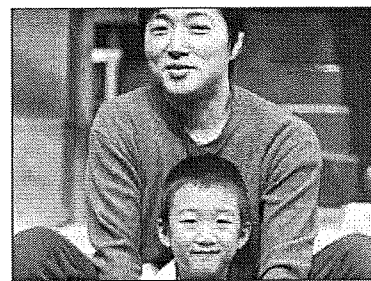
NATIONAL CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT PREVENTION MONTH

in Le Sueur County, and urge all citizens to recognize this month by dedicating ourselves to the task of improving the quality of life for all children and families.





Chapter 4: Protecting Children



Understanding Child Abuse and Neglect

When children are nurtured, they can grow up to be happy and healthy adults. But when they lack an attachment to a caring adult, receive inconsistent nurturing, or experience harsh discipline, the consequences can affect their lifelong health, well-being, and relationships with others.

This chapter provides information to help service providers and others concerned about the health and well-being of children to understand child abuse and neglect, its effects, and what each of us can do to address it when it occurs.

What Is Child Abuse and Neglect?

Child abuse or neglect often takes place in the home at the hands of a person the child knows well—a parent, relative, babysitter, or friend of the family. There are four major types of child maltreatment. Although any of the forms may be found separately, they often occur together.

Each state is responsible for establishing its own definitions of child abuse and neglect that meet federal minimum standards. Most include the following:

- **Neglect** is failure to provide for a child's basic needs.
- **Physical abuse** is physical injury as a result of hitting, kicking, shaking, burning, or otherwise harming a child.
- **Sexual abuse** is any situation where a child is used for sexual gratification. This may include indecent exposure, fondling, rape, or commercial exploitation through prostitution or the production of pornographic materials.
- **Emotional abuse** is any pattern of behavior that impairs a child's emotional development or sense of self-worth, including constant criticism, threats, and rejection.
- **Trafficking** is another type of child maltreatment. States are required to consider any child who is identified as a victim of sex trafficking or severe forms of trafficking (as defined in the Trafficking Victims Protection Act) as a victim of "child abuse and neglect" and "sexual abuse." The term "sex trafficking" means the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for the purpose of a commercial sex act. The term "severe forms of trafficking in persons" means sex trafficking in which a commercial sex act is induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act has not attained 18 years of age.

Why Does Child Abuse Occur?

Child abuse and neglect affect children of every age, race, and income level. However, research has identified many factors relating to the child, family, community, and society that are associated with an increased risk of child abuse and neglect. Studies also have shown that when multiple risk factors are present, the risk is

greater. Some of the most common risk factors include the following:

- **Immaturity.** Young parents may lack experience with children or be unprepared for the responsibility of raising a child.
- **Unrealistic expectations.** A lack of knowledge about normal child development or behavior may result in frustration and, ultimately, abusive discipline.
- **Stress.** Families struggling with poverty, unstable housing, divorce, or unemployment may be at greater risk.
- **Substance use.** The effects of substance use, as well as time, energy, and money spent obtaining drugs or alcohol, significantly impair parents' abilities to care for their children.
- **Intergenerational trauma.** Parents' own experiences of childhood trauma impact their relationships with their children.
- **Isolation.** Effective parenting is more difficult when parents lack a supportive partner, family, or community.

These circumstances, combined with the inherent challenges of raising children, can result in otherwise well-intentioned parents causing their children harm or neglecting their needs. On the other hand, evidence shows that the great majority of families who experience these circumstances will not abuse or neglect their children. Protective factors, such as the ones discussed in this Resource Guide, act as buffers to help many families who are under stress parent effectively.

How Many Children Are Abused and Neglected in the United States?

In federal fiscal year (FFY) 2016, the most recent year for which national child maltreatment statistics are available, about 4.1 million reports were made to child protective services concerning the safety and well-being of approximately 7.4 million children.

As a result of these reports, a nationally estimated 676,000 (unique count) children were found to be victims of child abuse or neglect. (Unique count is defined as counting each child only once regardless of the number of reports of abuse and neglect.) Of these children, three-quarters (74.8 percent) were neglected, more than 18 percent (18.2 percent) were physically abused, and fewer than 10 percent (8.5 percent) were sexually abused.

Child deaths are the most tragic results of maltreatment. In FFY 2016, an estimated 1,750 children died due to abuse or neglect. Of the children who died, and for whom child-specific data were reported, 74.6 percent suffered neglect and 44.2 percent suffered physical abuse either exclusively or in combination with another maltreatment type.¹

What Are the Consequences?

Child maltreatment is a traumatic experience, and the impact on survivors can be profound. Traumatic events, whether isolated (e.g., a single incident of sexual abuse) or ongoing (e.g., chronic emotional abuse or neglect), overwhelm children's ability to cope and elicit powerful

¹Statistics on this page are taken from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, Children's Bureau. (2018). *Child Maltreatment 2016*. Retrieved from <https://www.acf.hhs.gov/cb/research-data-technology/statistics-research/child-maltreatment>.

physical and emotional responses. These responses continue even when the danger has passed, often until treatment is received.

Traumatic events may impair a child's ability to trust others, their sense of personal safety, and effectiveness in navigating life changes. Research shows that child maltreatment, like other trauma and adverse childhood experiences (ACEs), is associated with poor physical health and mental health outcomes in children and families, and those negative effects can last a lifetime.

The trauma of child abuse or neglect has been associated with increased risk of the following:

- Depression and suicide attempts
- Substance use
- Developmental disabilities and learning problems
- Social problems with other children and with adults
- Teen pregnancy

- Lack of success in school
- Domestic violence
- Chronic illnesses, including heart disease, cancer, and lung disease, among others

In addition to the impact on the child and family, child abuse and neglect affect the community as a whole—including medical and mental health, law enforcement, judicial, public social services, and nonprofit agencies—as they respond to incidents and support victims. The CDC estimates that the confirmed cases of child maltreatment from just 1 year cost the nation approximately \$124 billion over the victims' lifetime.²

What Are the Warning Signs?

The first step in helping or getting help for an abused or neglected child is to identify the symptoms of abuse.

The table below lists some symptoms of the four major types of child maltreatment. The presence of a single sign does not prove that child abuse is

Maltreatment Type	Symptoms
Neglect	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Signs of malnutrition • Poor hygiene • Unattended physical or medical problems
Physical abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Unexplained bruises, burns, or welts • Child appears frightened of a parent or caregiver
Sexual abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Pain, bleeding, redness, or swelling in anal or genital area • Age-inappropriate sexual play with toys, self, or others • Age-inappropriate knowledge of sex
Emotional abuse	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Extremes in behavior, ranging from overly aggressive to overly passive • Delayed physical, emotional, or intellectual development

²Fang, X., Brown, D. S., Florence, C. S., & Mercy, J. A. (2012). The economic burden of child maltreatment in the United States and implications for prevention. *Child Abuse & Neglect*, 36(2), 156–165.

occurring in a family; however, when these signs appear repeatedly or in combination, you should consider the possibility of maltreatment.

What Can I Do If I Suspect Child Abuse or Neglect?

Anyone can and should report suspected child abuse or neglect. If you think a child is being mistreated, take immediate action.

Most states have a toll-free number for reporting. To find out how to make a report in your state, see the Information Gateway publication *State Child Abuse and Neglect Reporting Numbers*, at https://www.childwelfare.gov/organizations/?CWIGFunctionsaction=rols:main.dspList&rolType=Custom&RS_ID=5.

When you call to make a report, you will be asked for specific information, such as the following:

- The child's name and location
- The name and relationship (if known) of the person you believe is abusing the child
- What you have seen or heard regarding the abuse or neglect
- The names of any other people who might know about the abuse
- Your name and phone number (voluntary)

Reporting the situation may protect the child and get additional help for the family.

Many nonprofit, public, education, social service, and child care organizations in your community play a role in providing supports and services to children, youth, and families. Parenting education, crisis/respite care, transitional housing, and literacy programs as well as family resource centers, teen parent support groups,

On the Child Welfare Information Gateway Website

Find more information about:

- Definitions of child abuse and neglect: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/defining/>
- Risk and protective factors for child abuse: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/factors/>
- How many children are abused: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/systemwide/statistics/can/>
- Warning signs: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/identifying/>
- Responding to child abuse and neglect: <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/>

fatherhood groups, and marriage education classes support families in important ways.

How Can I Help Children Who Have Been Abused or Neglected?

Children who have experienced abuse or neglect need support from caring adults who understand the impact of trauma and how to help. Consider the following suggestions (see "Adverse Childhood Experiences and Well-Being," on page 42, and the tip sheet, "Helping Your Child Heal From Trauma," on page 93, for more information):

- Help children feel safe. Support them in expressing and managing intense emotions.

- Help children understand their trauma history and current experiences (for example, by helping them understand that what happened was not their fault, or helping them see how their current emotions might be related to past trauma).
- Assess the impact of trauma on the child, and address any trauma-related challenges in the child's behavior, development, and relationships.
- Support and promote safe and stable relationships in the child's life, including supporting the child's family and caregivers if appropriate. Often parents and caregivers have also experienced trauma. See "Working With Parents Who Have a History of Trauma" on page 44.
- Manage your own stress. Providers who have histories of trauma themselves may be at particular risk of experiencing secondary trauma symptoms. Find more information on the Information Gateway website at <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/responding/trauma/secondary/>.
- Refer the child to trauma-informed services, which may be more effective than generic services that do not address trauma.

On the Web

Adverse Childhood Experiences Resources (CDC): <https://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/acestudy/resources.html>

Impact of Child Abuse & Neglect (Information Gateway): <https://www.childwelfare.gov/topics/can/impact/>