

# OHIO PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY ON THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN

AN INDEPENDENT AFFILIATE OF THE AMERICAN PROFESSIONAL SOCIETY ON THE ABUSE OF CHILDREN



# The Focus

Editor: Mark McMillian

Fall 2010

## A LETTER FROM THE PRESIDENT



From my perspective, one of the greatest advantages to membership in APSAC/OHPSAC is the access to professional publications! Child Maltreatment is the authoritative voice of evidence-based, peer-reviewed articles in our profession. The multidisciplinary approach consists of articles on prevention and treatment of all forms of maltreatment including neglect, sexual abuse, physical abuse and psychological maltreatment. It is available on-line with your membership ID, saving you postal costs and space on your library shelves. Another publication is the APSAC Advisor with practice-oriented articles that provide real-time information, the latest developments in policy, succinct literature reviews, and announcements of upcoming conferences. Also, Sage Publications has made the Jane Doe's videotaped recollection of childhood sexual abuse published in the 1997 Child Maltreatment available through the APSAC.org website, along with accompanying commentaries (including one co-authored by Ohio's own Dr. Erna Olafson). Practice standards are also available for members for Ethics and the Glossary of Terms and the Interpretations of Findings for Child Sexual Abuse Evidentiary Examinations.

The APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment, Third Edition (edited by John E. B. Myers, University of the Pacific) was recently released. It includes chapters on multidisciplinary topics by the recognized experts in our field. This edition includes a test bank for instructors and supplemental journal articles for students. Whether you are new to the profession or have years of experience, you will find this publication to be informative and timely.

Last but not least is OHPSAC's own semi-annual newsletter, The Focus. Past newsletters are posted on our website under the resources tab and the current version is sent to you via email. I want to acknowledge the wonderful editorial composition of the newsletter by Kristen Johnson. She took on the challenge of being the first editor, organizing a professional offering for all Ohio members. Kristen is leaving us for new and more challenging professional endeavors and her contributions will be sorely missed. I hope you will join me in thanking her for her extraordinary efforts. We also recognize the contribution for the circulation of The Focus, by Brian Wear, the Director of the East Central Ohio Regional Training Center, Cambridge and greatly appreciate his continuity in producing the newsletter.

We now welcome Mark McMillian as the new editor of The Focus. Mark has over 25 years of experience in social services. He has worked at the Cuyahoga County Department of Children and Family Services for 13 years, the last seven as the administrator of the Professional Development Department. We welcome your ideas and contributions to The Focus including original articles, opinions, literature reviews, and announcements. Please contact Mark at: Mark\_mcmillian@sbcglobal.net.

My warmest regards, *Linda Lewin*

All of these publications are a complementary benefit to your membership.



Editor: Mark McMillian  
Publisher: Brian Wear

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# *OHPSAC Spotlight: Julie Kenniston, MSW, LSW*

*By Chris Julian, J.D.*

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The talent and expertise of the OHPSAC board members never ceases to amaze me, and this newsletter's featured member, Julie Kenniston, is no exception. She is exceptional! Her most recent accomplishments include becoming Executive Director of The Center for Family Solutions (Butler County's developing child advocacy center) and also completing her Masters of Social Work degree this past June. Julie managed to accomplish these goals while working in her current full-time position as the Director of Training and Education at Butler County Children Services in Hamilton, Ohio, where she trains and mentors caseworkers. Congratulations, Julie!

A little background - Julie received her undergraduate degree from the University of Dayton and her master's degree from the University of Cincinnati. She is married with two children whom she thanks and credits for being her best teachers! Julie is well-known and respected throughout Ohio, the United States, and internationally. She trains in the area of forensic interviewing and many related areas. She has trained in 39 states, half of the provinces of Canada, and South and Central America – in such interesting places like Belize!

Julie has worked as a sexual abuse investigator with the Hamilton County Department of Job and Family Services and has interviewed over 3,000 children and their parents. She trains with the Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention (OJJDP), the Childhood Trust in Cincinnati (with fellow APSAC member/OHPSAC board member and last issue's featured member Dr. Erna Olafson), APSAC, Finding Words Ohio/Child-First, and the Ohio Child Welfare Training Program (OCWTP).

Julie has developed curriculum and has co-authored articles. Her mentor, Anne Graffam Walker, Ph.D., is a linguist who has written one of the most influential books on the subject of interviewing children – [The Handbook on Questioning Children: A Linguistic Perspective, 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition](#). Dr. Anne Graffam Walker and Julie Kenniston will be working together to write the 3<sup>rd</sup> edition of this handbook, which will apply this valuable information to the interviewer.

Julie credits Barbara Boat from Cincinnati for sparking her interest in working in the area of domestic violence. She also acknowledges appreciation of the expertise of her colleagues particularly at meetings of the Ohio Network of Children's Advocacy Centers (ONCAC) directors.

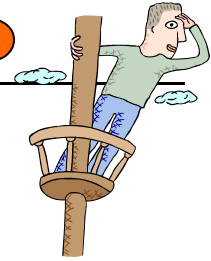
Julie's favorite part of APSAC/OHPSAC membership is the networking opportunity and the many wonderful and experienced people she has met throughout her career. She has been an APSAC member since 1993 and serves on the board at both the national and state chapter levels. Being a member of a multidisciplinary organization has broadened her horizons by helping her learn more about how other professionals approach child abuse and family violence. Her second favorite membership perk includes the publications such as [The APSAC Advisor](#), [Child Maltreatment](#), and [The APSAC Handbook on Child Maltreatment, 3<sup>rd</sup> Edition](#) by John E.B. Myers. She appreciates the fact that they include informative, current research with a focus on evidence-based practice.

Julie's motto is that there is no such thing as the perfect interview – but we should always do our best for the kids we interview. Another mantra is "maximize information, minimize trauma." In daily practice she has learned that "The more I own that I am flawed, the more humble I am, and the better I can serve. Too often people expect us to have all the answers. I really appreciate what I learn when I am comfortable not knowing and asking questions."

Thanks to Julie Kenniston for her hard work and dedication and sharing her knowledge and expertise with others so that we can all work together to help children! Her training has helped us to help others and that has indeed made the world a better place. :)



# Legislation in Ohio



## HB 10 Child Protective Orders

(Brown, E. - D)



Introduced to House: February 17, 2009

Passed House: June 24, 2009

Current Status: Law Signed by Governor Strickland, June 2010

HB 10 provides civil protection orders for children in violent dating relationships. It also includes foster parents under the scope of domestic violence laws.

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## HB 371 CHIPS

(Pillich, C. - D)

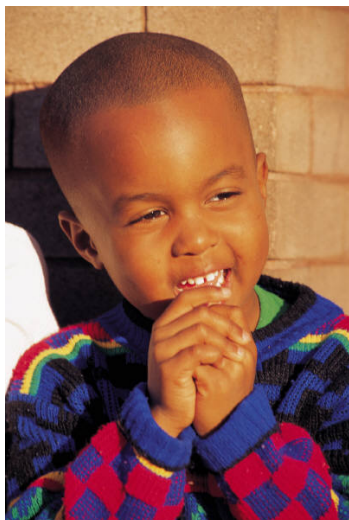
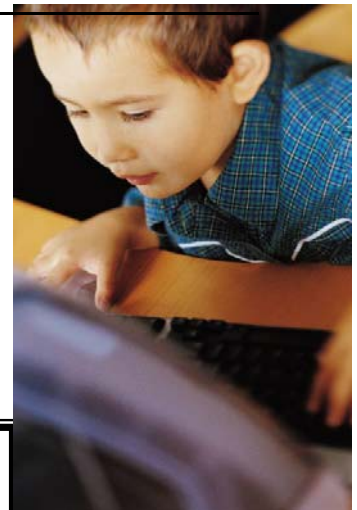


Introduced to House: November 17, 2009

Assigned to: Civil and Commercial Law

Current Status: In House Committee

This legislation would refocus limited child protection resources on the needs of Ohio's children, strengthen families, and maximize consistent treatment of families through risk-based alternative case management system (minimizing state intervention and maximizing child protection); establish new, clearer definitions of circumstances to intervene in order to protect a child from harm.

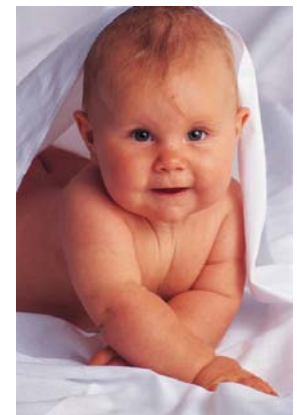


OHPSAC Board meets at the Center for Child Advocacy Building near Nationwide Children's Hospital, Columbus, Ohio. Join us! Our meetings are open, and we welcome your input.

**Next Meeting:** December 9, 2010 (10 a.m. to 12:00 p.m.) **TELECONFERENCE**

\*Contact Linda Lewin if you wish to call in and take part in the meeting- [lcl7@case.edu](mailto:lcl7@case.edu)

\*Future meetings will be announced on our website under the event tab—[www.ohpsac.org](http://www.ohpsac.org)





## **Can CAC Staff Testify About What Children Tell Them? Is the Glass Half-Empty or Half-Full After State v. Arnold?**

**By Alice Robinson-Bond, Assistant Licking County Prosecutor and OHPSAC Board Member**

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The Ohio Supreme Court told us in *State v. Muttart*, 116 Ohio St.3d 5, 2007-Ohio-5267 that a hospital social worker (also the assistant director of the hospital's abuse unit) could testify about a child's statements made for purposes of diagnosis and treatment. There, the social worker interviewed the child to obtain a medical history, then relayed it to the treating physician. In finding a medical purpose for the child's statement, the Court considered the child's age and whether 1) the questions were suggestive; 2) there was any motive or ability to fabricate; 3) the child recognized the need to be truthful; 4) the child's statements were consistent; and 5) an interview protocol was used. Multidisciplinary teams and advocacy centers applauded that decision, but the Courts did not find that it addressed every issue. This summer, the Court decided *State v. Arnold*, 2010-Ohio-2742. There, the Supreme Court found that a social worker at a hospital-based CAC occupied dual roles (forensic interviewer collecting information for police use and medical interviewer collecting information for medical purposes). As such, each of the child's individual statements must be analyzed: those made for investigation were inadmissible, as "testimonial" and in violation of the Confrontation Clause; those made for diagnosis and treatment were not "testimonial" and the social worker could repeat them in court.

Certain information, including: suspect's identity and age; type of abuse; body parts involved; and abuse time-frame, were deemed medicinal, to determine the need for STD and other tests. Alternately, the Court found some details "likely were not necessary for medical diagnosis and treatment" and were primarily for law enforcement purposes, including: the door was locked; the location of family members; description of clothing and manner of removal; and a description of genitalia. Absent an on-going emergency, the child's statements regarding these facts were inadmissible.

As such, the glass is both half-empty and half-full: a CAC staffer will generally not be permitted to testify regarding a child's particular statements, where there is no evidence it was gathered for medical purposes, yet the staffer can testify to those statements that can be tied to a diagnosis and treatment primary purpose.

### **Practice pointers:**

While *Arnold* primarily addressed the interviewer's purpose, prosecutors and interviewers will want to concentrate on putting forth evidence of the *child's purpose*. That purpose, particularly with younger children, will almost never be for the purposes of a criminal investigation. Instead, the *child's purpose* in informing the medical professional of details is so that the professional can provide medical assistance, regardless of whether the information is provided for physical or emotional medical concerns.

Statements originally appearing to be investigative may still be admissible, if a prosecutor initially asks foundational questions, to establish why the answer to a question influences physical or mental health diagnosis and treatment decisions. Video/audio recordings that might otherwise be used at trial will have to be cut-and-pasted, to remove statements primarily investigative in nature. Transcriptions of statements might be easier to redact, but they lack the body language and emotional impact of recordings.

Keep in mind, *Arnold* only applies where children do not take the stand. If you want "testimonial" statements included, sometimes the easiest way is to have the children testify, even if they now say they don't know or can't remember.

Note: In its decision, the Court almost exclusively looked at these purposes from the viewpoint of the interviewer, not from that of the child. Further, it almost exclusively looked at medical purposes in light of physical injuries, rather than psychological.



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# **D**omestic Violence Awareness Month Should be Every Month



Domestic violence affects the lives of many Americans, including children. Children are affected by domestic violence in a variety of ways. Domestic violence can result in an unwanted pregnancy due to forced sexual intercourse or refusal to allow the use of birth control. Domestic violence is often given as a reason for obtaining an abortion. Physical violence during pregnancy can result in miscarriage, pre-term delivery, low infant birth weight, and/or fetal injury.

Domestic violence also affects children after birth. Children often are the inadvertent victims of violence between

adult family members. Domestic violence in the household is often accompanied by other major developmental risk factors for children such as poverty, female-headed household and low education level of primary caregiver. Domestic violence within the family places a child at increased risk for sexual and physical abuse. Living in a violent home increases the child's risk of being a victim of physical abuse; especially if the domestic violence began or escalated during pregnancy. The batterer of the mother is typically the abuser of the child; however, mothers in violent relationships are more likely than mothers in non-violent relationships to physically or emotionally abuse their children. Fear of domestic violence may make a mother less aware of sexual abuse occurring in her home or make her less likely to confront the sexual abuse when she is aware that it is occurring.

Children living with domestic violence are at risk not only physically but also psychologically and emotionally. First of all, children tend to be more aware of the violence than their parents are aware. Children respond to witnessing domestic violence in a variety of ways. Some appear relatively unscathed while others exhibit a host of behavioral/emotional issues. Post-traumatic stress disorder is the most common psychological diagnosis presenting in children exposed to domestic violence. We as professionals working with children need to be aware that timely identification of domestic violence coupled with appropriate intervention is crucial in minimizing the effects on children and other family members.

**By: Gail Hornor, RNC, MS, CPNP; Nationwide Children's Hospital**



# Bulletin Board

## **OHPSAC** **BOARD MEMBERS**

*Linda Lewin, Ph.D., PMHCNS-BC,  
Board President; Case Western Reserve  
University*

*James Landon, MBA-Board President Elect;  
The Supreme Court of Ohio*

*Amy Deverson-Roberts, BA-Board VP;  
Ohio Network Of Child Advocacy Centers*

*Jonathan Thackeray, MD, FAAP  
Board Past-President;  
Nationwide Children's Hospital*

*Chris Julian, J.D.;*  
*Franklin County Prosecutors Office*

*Julie Kenniston, MSW, LSW;  
Butler County JFS*

*Jill Kilanowski, Ph.D., APRN, CPNP;  
Case Western Reserve University*

*Erna Olafson, PhD, PsyD;  
Cincinnati Children's Hospital*

*Alice Robinson-Bond, J.D.;*  
*Licking County Assistant Prosecutor*

*Mark McMillian, M.Ed., MPA, CPM;  
Ohio Child Welfare Trg Program*

*Beth Ann Rodriguez, MSW;  
The Institute for Human Services*

*Gail Hornor, RNC, MS, CPNP;  
Nationwide Children's Hospital*

*Brian Wear, MSHCS;  
Ohio Child Welfare Trg Program*

**APSAC national website features:** [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org)

- Publications such as the APSAC Advisor which is a world class publication on leading edge research for child welfare and multi-disciplinary information.
- Employment opportunities from across the nation!
- National Conferences for MDT Teams!
- Research Based discussion on topics related to Abused Children!
- A network of professionals to lean on and share challenges and successes to make your job and mission more successful!

**Look for our table at  
your next conference—  
we would love to talk  
with you about the  
benefits of  
becoming an APSAC  
member!!!**



*Strive not to be a  
success, but  
rather to be of  
value.*

*-Albert Einstein*

**Join APSAC at [www.apsac.org](http://www.apsac.org)! Benefits include:**

- automatic membership to the state chapter
- access to the APSAC library - a great resource!
- access to the Child Maltreatment Journal
- JOBS—special job announcements just for members!

Become a member! We would love to have you!!! See our state website at [www.ohpsac.org](http://www.ohpsac.org)!

# Employment Opportunities

## Websites for Employment related to Protection of Children:

- Child Welfare Jobs: <http://www.pcsao.org/Employment.htm>
- Federal Govt. Jobs: [www.usajobs.gov](http://www.usajobs.gov)
- APSAC Career Center:  
<http://www.apsac.org/mc/page.do?sitePagelId=68249&orgId=apsac>
- Law Enforcement Jobs: <http://www.jobcop.com/>
- University/College Jobs: <http://www.higheredjobs.com/>
- State of Ohio Job Site: <http://careers.ohio.gov/>
- Nursing Jobs in Ohio: <http://www.nursingjobs.org/ohio>
- American Humane Employment: <http://www.americanhumane.org/about-us/work-for-us/>

## FEATURED JOB:



### ASSISTANT DIRECTOR

*Franklin County Children Services*, where we are Protecting Children by Strengthening Families, is seeking an Assistant (Deputy Director) responsible for directing, managing, and providing leadership to child welfare programs within Program and Placement Services; assisting in developing agency programs and policies; acting in the absence of the Executive Director and serving on the Executive Council. The employee will work to establish partnerships with community provider agencies in an effort to take advantage of funding streams and continuity of services. Employee will work with the Director of Planning, Information Systems and Evaluation to ensure that outcomes and measures remain at the core of our planning and will contribute to the Agency's Guiding Principals. The successful candidate should have a Master's or PhD degree in social work or related field; coursework in management and leadership; knowledge of child welfare, abuse/neglect, unruly/delinquent, risk management; minimum of 5 years related human service experience; demonstrated experience at a key administrative level with significant supervisory experiences; and demonstrated commitment to cultural competence and diversity. Competitive salary and excellent benefits. Send resume with references and salary requirements to:

Franklin County Children Services Human Resources Department - 855 W. Mound Street, Columbus, OH, 43223 or email to [fccshr@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us](mailto:fccshr@fccs.co.franklin.oh.us). AA/EOE

# Trafficking of Persons

TRAFFICKING IN PERSONS HAS RECENTLY BEEN HIGHLIGHTED AS ONE OF THE TOP CHALLENGES IN OHIO. The Ohio Attorney Generals Office has posted a report produced by a diverse research group in reference to a report titled: **Report on the Prevalence of Human Trafficking in Ohio**

For the full report go to:

**<http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/TraffickingReport>**

## Missing Kids in Ohio

### KIARRA ROBINSON



Missing from: Hilliard, Ohio  
Missing since: 10/30/2010  
Current age: 17

### WHITNEY YODER



Missing from: Fredericktown, Ohio  
Missing since: 10/24/2010  
Current age: 16

### SASHA JOHNSON



Missing from: Grove City, Ohio  
Missing since: 10/24/2010  
Current age: 15

### MAUISA PAQUETTE



Missing from: Columbus, Ohio  
Missing since: 10/24/2010  
Current age: 17

### SHIA JENKINS



Missing from: Columbus, Ohio  
Missing since: 10/23/2010  
Current age: 17

### JOSHUA GRIFFIN



Missing from: Salem, Ohio  
Missing since: 10/13/2010  
Current age: 17

**SOURCE: OHIO ATTORNEY GENERAL: <http://www.ohioattorneygeneral.gov/>**