

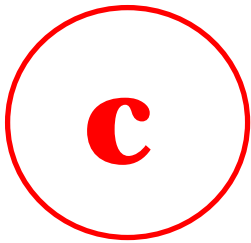
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Child Abuse Network News

DHS MOTTO: STRONGER FAMILIES
GROW BRIGHTER FUTURES

By: Robert W. Plank

Stop the hurt...
begin the healing



Special Events:

- ✓ You CAN Be A Kid Again
- April, 2005



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The Department of Human Services Child Welfare Unit, housed at the Justice Center, is the "social work" partner of DATF in Tulsa County. There is ten DHS staff members housed at the Justice Center. Including a Child Welfare Supervisor, eight Child Welfare Specialists and one Case Technician. They are charged with investigating referrals alleging abuse or neglect of children and work under an assigned protocol.

JUSTICE CENTER PROTOCOL

Includes these type of cases:

- All child death and near death reports as defined by DHS policy
- All day care referrals
- All foster home referrals
- Sexual abuse referrals involving children 12 years of age and younger.
- Physical abuse referrals involving children 12 years of age and younger including:
 - Emergency room or hospitalization
 - Serious abuse and neglect that resulted in significant injury such as burns, fractures, head trauma, genital injuries, extensive deep bruising on multiple sites of the body, or internal injuries
- All hospital referrals involving drug/alcohol exposed infants
- All referrals involving the removal of children, by Law Enforcement, from a methamphetamine lab
- All "high profile" and media cases

In Tulsa County, the Department of Human Services receives an average of approximately 300 referrals per month. Of that 300, about 12% have legal intervention, with the balance requiring either social services or the family being "cleared" of the allegations.

At this time, about 20% of referrals are assigned to the Justice Center. The remaining 80% are assigned to the Investigative Units in the Tulsa County Human Service Centers.

It is important to note that although the workers at the Justice Center are often involved in criminal investigations and prosecution, the Center should not be seen as a "prosecution center". Many families are either cleared of the allegations or receive community services and assistance to correct the conditions reported in their homes. To quote DHS policy, "The Child Welfare worker keeps in mind that the purpose of Child Protective Services (CPS) is to protect children and rehabilitate families, not criminal prosecution." Therefore, not only do the DHS workers utilize law enforcement, medical services, and the DA's office, they also rely heavily on the interviewing and mental health services and community referrals provided by CAN.

MISSION:

The mission of the Oklahoma Department of Human Services is to help individuals and families in need help themselves lead safer, healthier, more independent and productive lives.

The Child Welfare Unit at the Children's Justice Center is proud to be included in the District Attorney's Task Force, and utilizes each and every partner to meet the mission of the Department.

Robert W. Plank is the Tulsa County Director and coordinator for Child Welfare Services in Tulsa. He has been on the CAN Board for eight years as the DHS Liaison. He was the 2003 recipient of the Distinguished Service Award given by the members of the CAN Board. ☒

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From the Desk of The Executive Director



Barbara Findeiss

In late November I was honored to learn that the Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth had appointed me to the State's Child Abuse Training and Coordination Council (CATCC) as the representative from the Children's Advocacy Centers of Oklahoma. CATCC, which meets monthly, currently consists of 22 voting members. Space limits my listing all the organizations, but here are some that may be familiar to you – the Council on Law Enforcement Education and Training (CLEET), Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA), District Attorney's Council (DAC), Oklahoma Bar Association, Oklahoma Coalition Against Domestic Violence and Sexual Assault, Oklahoma Indian Child Welfare Association, Oklahoma State Department of Human Services (DHS), Oklahoma State Department of Mental Health and Substance Abuse, and the Oklahoma State Department of Health.

The mission of CATCC is:

- to improve the response to child abuse and neglect and domestic violence through the promotion of multidisciplinary and discipline specific training for professionals with responsibilities affecting children, youth, and families;
- to facilitate in the development of multidisciplinary child abuse and neglect teams in counties throughout the state;
- to promote greater collaboration among individuals who serve and care for children.

I am excited about this appointment – there is much to learn. The mission is my passion and Children's Advocacy Centers can play a critical role in meeting CATCC's challenges. I will keep you informed about the Council and its projects.

2004 CAN Services Statistics

July through September

282 new children were served at CAN

Ages of these children were:

➤ 0-6 years	183
➤ 7-12 years	69
➤ 13-18 years	30
➤ Unknown	0

These children were seen for:

➤ Sexual Abuse	161
➤ Physical Abuse	101
➤ Witness to Violence	18
➤ Other	4
➤ Neglect	9

Children may have been seen for more than one type of abuse.



Congratulations and "Thank You" to Nancy Hatfield for going "above and beyond" as Volunteer Coordinator for the Tulsa Run. At the December Executive Board meeting the Tulsa Run Race Director, Jack Wing, presented Nancy an Award for Excellence. This is the first year an award of this type has been given to the Volunteer Coordinator of the sponsored not for profit agency. Great job, Nancy!

Heartfelt “thanks” to the following individuals and organizations for their contributions: July 1, 2004 – September 30, 2004

Albertson's
Melannie & Robert Anderson
Gayle & D.L. Atwell
BancFirst
Bank of Oklahoma
Jodie & Ben Benner
Carrie Berry
Robert & Sharon Block
Scott Bogie
Kristen & John Brightmire
Lori & George Brown
Marilyn & Charles Buland
Vikki & Greg Burn
Carolyn Chamlee
Virginia Cohlma
Communicating Arts
Community Care HMO

DNA Candy
Angela & Jack Ellis
Barbara & Larry Findeiss
Friendship, Eastern Stars
Gay & Lesbian Fund of Tulsa
Gordon George
George B. Kaiser Family Fnd.
Gordona Duca
Green Country Quilters
Harvard Avenue Christian Church
Heartland Ventures
Helmerich & Payne, Inc.
Hille Family Charitable Fnd.
Kathleen & Markus Hilti
HMF Enterprises
Joyce Hogan
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Pam & Carlos Langston
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Northeastern Driving School
Eve O'Kelley
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Rhodes, Hieronymus, Jones, Tucker
Nicole & Henry Rogan
Karen Rose
SAMSON Companies
Mary Sanditen Schwartz
Judi & Jack Schanck
Bernice Sober
Summit Bank
Tulsa Christian Education
United Methodist Women Will Rogers
Will Rogers
Viking Packing Company
Jennifer & Paul Walker
Alanna Webb
Arnold Wood

✧ We apologize if we have mistakenly omitted your name. Please let us know.

CAN FILM FESTIVAL What a great Success!



TULSA RUN Makes Great Strides For CAN



c a n

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Tulsa, Oklahoma 74129

Phone: 918-831-4550
Fax: 918-831-4579

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begin the healing

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CAN is Tulsa's

Children's

Advocacy Center



NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®
ACCREDITED
MEMBER

Upcoming Events



**Patron Party –
Friday, April 15, 2005**

**Carnival –
Saturday, April 16, 2005**

**Patron Party to be held at the Oklahoma Aquarium in
Jenks, OK**

Carnival to be held at the Pavilion, Tulsa Fairgrounds

**Please contact us for sponsorship opportunities at
(918) 831-4550**