Is Your Community Prepared to Deal with Child Sex Abuse?

From The Sex-Wise Parent, by Dr. Janet Rosenzweig

A fully prepared community has professional staff with appropriate training, formal coordination among systems and sufficient resources to serve a child and family in crisis and prevention resources. Use this checklist to assess your own community:

Prevention Efforts

Does your community support any comprehensive prevention programs?

Child Assault Prevention    _____ yes    ___ no
Darkness to Light           _____ yes    ___ no
Every Person Influences Children _____ yes    ___ no
The Green Dot               _____ yes    ___ no
Prevent Child Abuse America _____ yes    ___ no
Stop It Now!                _____ yes    ___ no
Others?                    _____ yes    ___ no

__________________________________

Do prevention programs move beyond targeting children to involve the entire community?

_____ yes    ___ no

Do your educational, faith-based or other community institutions offer support for parents to become both skilled and comfortable speaking with their children about sexuality?

_____ yes    ___ no

Staff Training:

Are all of the people who work with children in any capacity trained to recognize and report abuse?    _____ yes    ___ no

Have any Child Protection Staff completed specialized training in human sexuality and child sexual abuse? _____ yes    ___ no

Are workers with this training the only ones assigned to investigate sexual abuse cases?

_____ yes    ___ no

Do law enforcement investigators have specialized training in human sexuality and forensic interviewing of children?

_____ yes    ___ no
Do the treatment professionals who purport to specialize in child sexual abuse have specialized training in child development, human sexuality and child sexual abuse?

____ yes  ____ no

Have the medical professionals assigned to provide crisis intervention and forensic medical examinations have completed specialized training in child sexual abuse?

____ yes  ____ no

**Coordinated Professional Systems:**

Do investigation protocols exist between CPS and Law Enforcement to minimize the number of time child victims are interviewed?

____ yes  ____ no

Is there a liaison between the family/civil court and the criminal court to coordinate services?

____ yes  ____ no

Have professionals in your community formed a multi-disciplinary team comprised at a minimum of law enforcement, medical p, child protection services and treatment professionals to plan an intervention to protect the child, sanction the offender and support the recovery of the victim and family?

____ yes  ____ no

**Adequate Resources:**

Are there enough investigators with specialized training in child sexual abuse so that one is always available?

____ yes  ____ no

Is there a pediatric forensic medical examination facility in your community?

____ yes  ____ no

If no, are there arrangements to use a child friendly medical facility in a nearby community?

____ yes  ____ no

Are treatment services affordable without regard to income or health insurance status?

____ yes  ____ no

Are treatment services available in a location accessible by public transportation?

____ yes  ____ no

Are treatment services provided outside of the 9-5 workday?

____ yes  ____ no