

SB

472

Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc.

121 West 4th Ave. No. 11
Anchorage, Alaska 99501
907/279-0034

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Coordinator

ANCHORAGE CHILD ABUSE BOARD, INC. AND THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

DATA FOR LEGISLATION

SB 472

STATEMENTS OF PROBLEM

1. Anchorage: Highest rate of child abuse/neglect in the nation?
 - a. 300,000 child abuse reports nation-wide annually which increases to 1,000,000 if child neglect is added (this does not include data on emotional abuse/neglect of any form). (Kempe, Approaches to Preventing Child Abuse; and Gray, et. al., National Center for the Prevention and Treatment of Child Abuse).
 - b. New York City showed 27 cases reported per each 100,000 population, and Denver showed 30 cases reported per each 100,000 population (Kempe, Helping the Battered Child and His Family, 1972).
 - c. Alaska showed 880 cases reported per each 100,000 population--Anchorage population being 180,000. (Brown, et. al., "Child Abuse and Neglect in Alaska", Alaska Medicine, 1972).
 - d. Anchorage showed 1,116 cases reported to Child Protection per each 100,000 population. (Alaska State Comprehensive Mental Health Plan, Annual Review and Progress Report, Fiscal Year 1977, Division of Mental Health, Department of Health and Social Services, June 1977.)
 - e. A new system of data collection and statistical analysis was begun in September 1977 by the Division of Social Services, State of Alaska. During September, 900 cases were open in Anchorage. 40 new assessments were made. Fifty-five new reports were made. (Division of Social Services, State of Alaska, November 1977).
2. Anchorage has all of the documented indicators of high-risk of child abuse and neglect.
 - a. Social isolation from friends, extended family, and church and social groups.
 - b. Inability to make use of existing community resources and services.
 - c. Lack of availability of day-care or after-school supervision.
 - d. Alcoholism and heavy drinking.
 - e. Multiple family or individual crises or stresses.
 - f. Population doubling in seven years as result of pipeline and economic development.
 - g. High unemployment.
 - h. High tolerance of violence.
 - i. Strict religious and moral codes that encourage severe physical or emotional punishment.

- j. Rigid expectations of children.
 - k. Inability of parents to get their needs met other than through their children.
 - l. All of these indicators combine with long severe winters to contribute to the high risk of child abuse/neglect in the Anchorage community.
3. Open child protection cases and new assessments are only a portion of all reports; and likewise, reported child abuse/neglect cases are only a small portion of actual abuse/neglect.
- a. National standards recommend a child protection caseload no larger than 25. With 15 direct service caseworkers in Anchorage, the average caseload is 72, of which 55-60 cases are child protection. Under these conditions, only the most urgent cases can be assessed and referred to other agencies for follow-up and treatment.
 - b. Reported cases of child abuse/neglect represent only a part of actual abuse/neglect incidents. (Kempe, Helping the Battered Child, 1972).
 - (1) A four-fold increase in reports of child abuse/neglect resulted in New York City as a result of a series of articles in the daily newspapers. (Kempe, Ibid.)
 - (2) Two radio-television stations in Anchorage ran public service announcements regarding services to families at high-risk of child abuse (May, 1977) resulting in a deluge of calls from people asking for help to the extent that intakes at the Center for Children and Parents were closed for the following five month period and the staff spent valuable therapy time providing information and referral service to those callers.
 - c. Increased public awareness of the existence of child abuse and neglect and a resultant increase in reporting is of no value if community resources are not adequate to provide services to these abusive families.
4. There is a large group of abusive families not receiving services in the Anchorage area.
- a. During 1976, a total of 227 families received services from Anchorage programs treating abuse/neglect.
 - (1) Center for Children and Parents treated 32 families (125 individuals).
 - (2) Cook Inlet Native Association Family Aide Program served 36 Native families.
 - (3) The Anchorage Child Abuse Board served 39 families through their Parent Aide Program.
 - (4) The Psychiatric Unit of the Alaska Clinic saw 100 individuals in two group therapy programs.
 - (5) Parents Anonymous served 18-20 individuals.

b. If none of these families sought help from more than one source, a maximum of 227 of the 2,233 cases (reported in the State Comprehensive Mental Health Plan, 1977) received services.

5. Traditional psychotherapy is not the answer nor is mere removal of a child from the home. What is needed is new, more comprehensive treatment programs. (Kempe, Helping the Battered Child and His Family, 1972).

a. "It is a belabored point that battering parents tend to lack motivation toward initiating helping services. However, when the health care providers initiate an outreach approach with high-risk families, a comprehensive program can be successful." (Gray, et. al., Ibid.)

b. Child abuse/neglect has been ^{shown} to be a way of child-rearing and reaction to stress that is ~~past~~ on from one generation to another (Kempe, Ibid.; Gray, et. al., Ibid.; Brandt Steele and Carl Pollock, "A Therapeutic Approach to the Parents", 1972).

(1) Removal of the abused child from the home makes it safe for that child; however, the next child in line then becomes the potential victim of the abuse.

(2) Removal of the child from the home does not interrupt the cycle of abuse.

c. Merely removing the child--except in extreme and unsafe conditions-- is not an answer since the child is then removed from the only security he knows and is often moved from one foster home to another increasing his insecurity or is placed in an institution when that may not be in his best interest.

COMPREHENSIVE TREATMENT OF CHILD ABUSE/NEGLECT

1. History of The Center for Children and Parents

a. Formerly a project of Alaska Children's Services, The Center for Children and Parents is presently being affiliated with the Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc., in order to provide more comprehensive child abuse/neglect treatment services.

b. The Center has offered parent-skills training and family therapy to the greater Anchorage community since 1961.

c. Referrals are received from: family physicians and pediatricians, the Alaska State Child Protection Office (Division of Social Services), the Division of Corrections, the courts and court-intake, school counselors, nurses, teachers, clergy, public health nurses, neighbors, friends, and abusive parents themselves.

d. Funding

(1) Services are offered on a sliding-fee scale based on a family's ability to pay. Population served is 80% in the lower middle income bracket and therefore falls between the cracks of those able to

pay for their own treatment and those poor enough to be eligible for Medicaid or Medicare. Such families, involved in multiple crises and being unmotivated to seek help, are often impossible to collect from for services rendered.

(2) Annual budget for The Center with its present two full-time therapists and part-time graduate student and secretary-receptionist is \$100,000

e. During 1976-1977, The Center for Children and Parents operated under a grant from the Criminal Justice Planning Agency (L.E.A.A. funds) to provide services to families identified as abusive, neglectful, or at high-risk of abuse/neglect. The Center staff completed the following tasks during that time:

(1) Worked in a cooperative and non-competitive way with other community agencies.

(2) Developed an effective treatment model of conjoint family therapy--where a male and female therapist work in 90-minute sessions with all members of the family unit--home visitation, parent skills training, child therapy, and group work.

(3) 65% of families treated and that remained in therapy showed marked improvement in family relations and curtailment of abusive behavior toward their children. Duration of treatment: 6 - 18 months.

(4) Less than 10% (a total of 2 out of 32 families) required removal of the children from the home. This is considered to be very good success rate in working with very hard-to-engage, high-risk families.

f. Staff: Dr. Robert Nelson, Director of The Center for Children and Parents, is an accredited therapist and Fellow of the American Association of Pastoral Counselors. Ms. Sue Pope, M.S (Counseling-Psychology), is employed as a family-group therapist. Ms. Virginia Hadden, University Year in Action student at the University of Alaska, Anchorage, is interning in child therapy.

g. Accreditation: As a former program of Alaska Children's Services, The Center for Children and Parents and its staff received a thorough field review and evaluation by the Child Welfare League of America in the Fall of 1977 and were given a very positive evaluation.

2. Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc.

a. History: Begun in 1972 as a private, non-profit corporation, the purpose of which is to promote the health and well-being of children who may be subject to battering, abuse, sexual exploitation, or neglect.

b. Funding: The Board is funded by a grant from the United Way of Anchorage and by a contract with the Division of Social Services.

c. Structure: The Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc., provides three services to the greater Anchorage community: A multi-disciplinary consultation team, a Parent Aide Program, and in-depth community education.

(1) The multi-disciplinary consultation team, composed of a pediatrician, psychiatrist, public health nurse, psychiatric social worker, and psychologist meet weekly. The team is available to the Division of Social Services and other agencies and professional individuals in the community. The team enables professional persons to deal most effectively with the multiple emotional, medical, and social problems frequently encountered in the abusing and neglectful family.

(2) The Parent Aides are specially trained volunteers who form one-to-one relationships with an abusive parent. The role of the parent aide is to provide an opportunity in which abusive parents may establish dependency, make some changes in behavior, and move toward independence. The parent aide acts as a life-line to whom the abusive parent may turn in times of stress, rather than taking frustrations out on the child. The parent aide is often an adjunct to other forms of treatment, and it is sometimes the major means of treatment.

(3) The Board's community education programs include film presentations accompanied by speakers, formal panel discussions, and informal group discussions led by the Board coordinator and/or Board members.

(4) The Board employs one full-time staff person to coordinate all of its activities.

d. Purpose of the Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc.: The Anchorage Child Abuse Board offers important and necessary services to the Anchorage community in an effort to reduce the occurrence and re-occurrence of child abuse. The multi-disciplinary consultation team provides a professional expertise to other agencies and individuals working with abusing or neglecting families. The parent aide program provides direct supportive services to these families. Community education creates public awareness of the broad scope of child abuse and neglect in our area.

3. PROPOSED PROJECT GOAL: TO BREAK THE CYCLE OF ABUSE AND NEGLECT BY PROVIDING TREATMENT TO FAMILIES IDENTIFIED AS ABUSIVE, NEGLECTFUL, OR AT HIGH-RISK OF ABUSE/NEGLECT, REGARDLESS OF INCOME.

a. To serve 80-110 family units with family counseling.

b. To serve those families without regard for ability to pay.

c. To serve those families with the following supportive services to enhance the success of family counseling.

(1) To provide home visits to families in treatment.

(2) To conduct parent groups for abusive parents in order to foster appropriate socializing for isolated, abusive families and parent skills training in order to foster more appropriate parenting of children.

- (3) To provide after-school supervision for families in which lack of supervision to the child is part of the abuse cycle (for children ineligible for day care--being too old--and families who are unable to pay for the supervision).
 - (4) To provide child therapy to young children in abusive families
 - (5) To provide abusive families in treatment with educational materials and experience to enhance their own comprehension on the problem and alternatives to the abuse/neglect.
 - (6) To provide individual therapy for adults in families as needed.
 - (7) To provide adolescent group therapy to teenage victims of abuse.
- d. To afford opportunities for staff development toward these ends.
 - e. To provide parent aides to families that are at high-risk of abuse/neglect and that are not presently receiving other services.
 - (1) To implement increased recruitment and teaching of parent aides.
 - (2) To expand community education programs.
 - f. To provide multidisciplinary team consultation to agencies and professionals in the Anchorage community that are rendering services to abusive/neglectful families.

ANCHORAGE CHILD ABUSE BOARD, INC.

PROJECT BUDGET

PERSONNEL

Program Manager	24,500
Fringe @ 14%	<u>3,430</u>

\$ 27,930

Secretary	12,500
Fringe @ 14%	<u>1,880</u>

\$ 14,380

Personnel Subtotal \$ 42,310

CONTRACTUAL

Phones, local (combined ACAB & CCP) \$70 base x 12 months	840
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Phones, long distance (combined ACAB & CCP) \$100 x 12 months	1,200
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Training	1,500
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Evaluation	2,500
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C.P.A.	1,000
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Parent Aide travel	2,250
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Parent Aide child care	3,000
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Xerox (\$75 x 12 months)	900
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Rent (700 sq.ft. x \$1.00 x 12)	<u>8,400</u>
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\$ 21,590

Contractual Subtotal \$ 21,590

TRAVEL AND PER DIEM

Staff travel	
3 trips x \$450	1,350
Staff per diem	
15 days x \$50	750
Board travel	
3 meetings x \$450	1,350
Board per diem	
15 days x \$50	750
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	\$4,200

Travel Subtotal \$ 4,200

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Office supplies	500
Educational supplies	
Films (5 @ \$300)	1,500
Parent Aide Training	
Manuals (50 @ \$6)	300
Publications	
Journals (8 @ \$30)	240
Books, abstracts	
(10 x \$15)	150
Pamphlets (4,000 x \$.50)	2,000
Brochures (4,000)	400
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Supplies Subtotal \$ 5,090

Equipment

Bookcase	115
Metal file cabinet	140
Conference table	250
20 stacking chairs (20 @ \$47)	940
Desk calculator	250
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	\$ 1,695

Equipment Subtotal \$ 1,695

TOTAL ADMINISTRATIVE BUDGET
ANCHORAGE CHILD ABUSE BOARD

\$ 74,885

PROPOSED PROGRAM BUDGET: THE CENTER FOR CHILDREN AND PARENTS

SALARIES AND WAGES

Director/Family Therapist	\$29,500	
Family/Group Therapist	19,500	
Family/Group Therapist	19,500	
Home Visitor	18,500	
Child Therapist	18,500	
Project Administrator	18,000	
Typist (½ time)	6,000	
Employment Security Compensation	4,176	
F.I.C.A.	7,634	
		\$141,310

CONSULTANT AND CONTRACTUAL

In-Service Training for Staff	2,000	
Psychiatric consultation (100 hrs. @ \$50/hr.)	5,000	
Supervised Activities for Children after school	6,660	
Telephone (12 mos. @ \$60/mo.)	780	
Annual Toll Telephone Charges	400	
Printing		
Brochures and Stationary	800	
Office Rent (12 mos. @ \$1,000/mo.)	12,000	
Equipment Lease		
Projector (\$70)		
Typewriter (\$180)		
Video Tape Recorder (\$500)	750	
Equipment Maintenance	300	
Film Rental (1 film/mo. @ \$50 ea.)	600	
C.P.A. Consultation	500	
		\$ 29,790

TRAVEL AND PER DIEM

3 Confernces Outside State (1 Director, 2 Staff: Airfare \$500 X 3; Per Diem 7 days @ \$50/day X 3)	2,550	
6 Trips in Alaska to Workshops & Training (Airfare \$200 X 6; Per Diem 6 days @ \$60/day X 6)	3,060	
		\$ 5,610

SUPPLIES AND EQUIPMENT

Soft Supplies (12 mos. @ \$50/mo.)	500	
Educational Supplies		
Films (3 @ \$300 ea.)	900	
Parent Effectiveness Training Books (100 @ \$4.95 ea.)	495	
Other Parent Training Books	495	
3 White Board Adhesive Writing Walls	150	

Publications		
8 Journal Subscriptions (\$30 ea.)	240	
18 Books, Abstracts (\$15 ea.)	270	
Equipment Purchase		
6 Desks (\$50 ea.)	300	
6 Desk Chairs (\$20 ea.)	120	
2 File Cabinets (\$120 ea.)	240	
2 Storage Cabinets (\$50 ea.)	120	
Therapy Room Furniture	500	
Lamps	60	
Bookshelves	90	
Bulletin Board	35	
Xerox (12 mos. @ \$20/mo.)	240	
Video Tapes (12 @ \$26.50 ea.)	318	
Audio Tapes	30	
		\$ 5,103

TOTAL	\$ 181,813
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Position Paper

On

Senate Bill No. 472

"An Act making special appropriations to the Department of Health and Social Services for the Center for Children and Parents in Anchorage and the Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc.; and providing for an effective date."

The Bill provides for an appropriation for each of two agencies in Anchorage, the Center for Children and Parents and the Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc.

The Center for Children and Parents is an organization based in Anchorage which has been operating since 1970 under the auspices of Alaska Children's Services as a family counseling program whose clients are self-referred or referred by other agencies. According to information provided by the Center Director, funding for the period October 1, 1976 to September 30, 1977 was provided by a \$20,000 grant from the Law Enforcement Assistance Administration, \$10,000 from the United Way of Anchorage, \$7,500 from a local church donation, and \$4,000 from client fees.

The Anchorage Child Abuse Board, Inc. is a private, non-profit corporation established in 1972 "to promote the health and well-being of children who may be subject to battering, abuse or neglect; to establish a permanent and comprehensive resource for multi-professional consultation on child welfare problems; and to coordinate professional services among agencies, other professional and para-professional workers and the public". The agency also recruits, places and supervises volunteer parent-aides who assist abusing parents in better understanding themselves, their children, and the forces which result in their abusive action toward the goal of changing the parent's behavior.

Both agencies perform a worthwhile and needed service to the Anchorage community and are being utilized, when appropriate, as resources by the Department on a purchase of service basis.

The Department recognizes that this legislation, if enacted, will create a grant to the respective specified organization. In making the grant through the Department we assume that the Legislature directs the Department to develop an appropriate mechanism to assure fiscal accountability. Such monitoring will impact on the Department's resources and the Legislature should make provision for departmental funds for administration of the grant.

The Department recognizes that this legislation fulfills a need that should be met by the Division of Social Services. However, the large caseload ratios to social workers do not at present make this possible.

The Department is not in position to recommend that the Governor's budget be exceeded.

Recommended by: Luis M. Juvel 2/15/78
(Date)

Approved by: Helen D. Beirne 2/15/78
Helen D. Beirne, Commissioner
Department of Health and Social Services
(Date)