

**North Iowa Domestic & Sexual Abuse Community Coalition
Cerro Gordo County Citizens Review Panel
Annual Report**

The North Iowa Domestic & Sexual Abuse Community Coalition/Cerro Gordo County Citizens Review Panel meets 10 times/year in Mason City, Iowa. The members of the Coalition also attend conferences and trainings throughout the year related to the work of the panel and their individual discipline. The Coalition also seeks to encourage public outreach and input in assessing the impact of current Iowa law, policy, and practice on families and the communities in which they live. The Coalition will provide an annual written report outlining activities and making recommendations for changes. The team will make this report available to the public to allow for input.

Summary of Panel Activities

In the past year, the meeting format was adapted to facilitate work towards opening a satellite child protect center in Mason City. The Coalition meetings were scheduled and/or held during SFY 2016 (July 1, 2016-June 30, 2017) on the following dates, from 11:15 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. in Mason City, Iowa.

Date	Presenters, Activities, and /or Topics Covered
07/14/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council is collaborating with the Coalition to open a Child Protection Center in Mason City. A workgroup will meet every month prior to the regularly scheduled Coalition meeting to discuss site, services and funding. • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training in the spring of 2017. • Two individuals from Fort Dodge attended the Coalition meeting to learn more about our process and work.
08/11/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council met to continue work on the Child Protection Center. Primary work is focused on site selection/prep, services & ongoing funding. • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training in the spring of 2017.
09/08/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council met to continue work on the Child Protection Center. Primary work is focused on site selection/prep, services & ongoing funding. • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case

	<p>reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training the third week of March 2017. There will be an intensive 3-day training for up to 20 investigators, then two 1-day trainings open to multi-disciplinary attendees.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Attorney General’s Crime Victim Assistance Division will hold their Victim Justice Symposium on September 12 & 13 in Des Moines. • Allen Child Protection Center is hosting a Multi-Disciplinary Team training on September 15th in Waterloo. • CIS, the Mason City Youth Task Force and Iowa Sheriff’s Association will be co-hosting a train the trainer training on anti-trafficking curriculum on September 22nd (flyer attached) • Crisis Intervention Service will be hosting a balloon release in honor of the National Day of Remembrance for Murder Victims on September 24th from 6:00-7:30 p.m. at East Park (flyer attached)
10/13/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council met to continue work on the Child Protection Center. Primary work is focused on site selection/prep, services & ongoing funding. • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training the third week of March 2017. There will be an intensive 3-day training for up to 20 investigators, then two 1-day trainings open to multi-disciplinary attendees. • The Coalition did not meet, but focused time and effort on promoting Domestic Violence Awareness Month. Activities included a media blitz, proclamation signings and the Remember My Name ceremony. • The North Iowa Trauma Initiative sponsoring a several community workshops for target sectors: Business & Industry, Health Care & Community Services, Public Policy, Education, First Responders & Emergency Management, Culture & Advocacy.
11/10/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council met to continue work on the Child Protection Center. Primary work is focused on site prep, services & ongoing funding. • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training the third week of March 2017. There will be an intensive 3-day training for up to 20 investigators, then two 1-day trainings open to multi-disciplinary attendees. • The Coalition review October-Domestic Violence Awareness Activities. • The Coalition finalized plans for the December fundraiser. • The North Iowa Trauma Initiative is sponsoring a Psychological First Aid Training on November 29 & 30 in Mason City.
12/01/16	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council met to continue work on the

	<p>Child Protection Center. Primary work is focused on site prep, services & ongoing funding.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training the third week of March 2017. There will be an intensive 3-day training for up to 20 investigators, then two 1-day trainings open to multi-disciplinary attendees. • The election of officers will be held in January. • The Coalition toured the local CPC, which included an explanation of the entire process from checking-in to interviewing. There will be an interviewer, nurse practitioner, nurse, and then the Crisis Intervention Service advocate at the site. Allen Hospital will be in charge of all scheduling. They will offer the first appointment available regardless of location and will only schedule appointments two weeks out.
01/12/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Child Abuse Prevention Council met to continue work on the Child Protection Center. Primary work is focused on site prep, services & ongoing funding. • The Sexual Assault Response Team continues to meet monthly for case reviews and educational opportunities. The group is currently planning to host a Forensic Experiential Trauma Interview training the third week of March 2017. There will be an intensive 3-day training for up to 20 investigators, then two 1-day trainings open to multi-disciplinary attendees. • Officers were elected • Results of December fundraiser were shared with the group.
02/09/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Four Oaks will be ordering Child Abuse Awareness materials for April. There will be pinwheels displayed representing the number of child abuse cases that Cerro Gordo County had during 2016. President Hugi will remind Robin about available funds through the Mason City Exchange Club. • Taylor walked the council through the case review process that now has to be completed either biweekly or quarterly for Cerro Gordo County. The case reviews will typically be just over an hour long and will include law enforcement, DHS, prosecution, the Crisis Intervention Service advocate, a mental health provider, and the CPC staff. Only individuals involved in the case can attend due to confidentiality. There will be confidentiality agreements that have to be signed at every meeting. Cases that will be presented are either open cases or new cases. They will look in-depth at the interview and medical exam along with discuss concerns and provide updates on what the CPC is doing. • The Coalition received a \$2,000 grant from the First Citizens Charitable Foundation to support the FETI training.

03/09/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update on the CPC center • Review final plans for FETI training • Review plans for Child Abuse Prevention Month • Review plans for Sexual Assault Awareness Month
04/28/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First local case review at CPC • CPC Open House
05/09/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Meeting
06/13/17	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Scheduled Meeting

Annual Recommendations of the Cerro Gordo County Citizens Review Panel

This past year has been a struggle for the coalition in regards maintaining or expanding the functions of the Citizens Review Panel. In the past year, the Cerro Gordo County Attorney's office has formed a multi-disciplinary team. The dual groups have caused some confusion and duplication of efforts. The Coalition group (CRP) has since taken a lesser role in an effort to allow the alternate group to establish themselves. Going forward we plan to evaluate the benefits and challenges of continuing both groups in the next several months.

Due to the struggles noted above the Coalition group has not been as active around the identification and formation of yearly recommendations as in the past. As a result, it was decided to again put forward the recommendations that have been made previously as the group as a whole continues to support these recommendations.

Recommendations of the Coalition are as follows:

- Enhance training on best practices related to the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.
- Resume quarterly case reviews.
- Increase individual case consultations.
- Expand panel membership

Progress and Implementation of Prior Recommendations

The team was originally organized to provide a coordinated community response to domestic violence and sexual assault, with a primary interest in adults. Approximately seven years ago, the scope was broadened to include children. The team completed a countywide safety &

accountability audit that examined how child witnesses of domestic violence were identified by intervening organizations and whether the interventions help or hinder the child.

A Safety and Accountability Audit is designed to examine, in an inter-disciplinary way, whether institutional policies and practices enhance victim safety and enforce offender accountability. The premise behind the process is that workers are institutionally organized to do their jobs. In other words, workers are guided in how they do their jobs by the forms, policies, philosophy, practices and culture of the institution in which they work. A Safety and Accountability Audit, therefore, is not a performance review of individual employees. It examines the local and/or State institution or system in terms of the practices, policies and procedures in regard to handling domestic violence cases. Safety and Accountability Audits involve mapping the system, interviewing and observing workers and analyzing paperwork and other text generated through the handling of domestic violence cases.

The team will comply with the requirements set forth by the Child Abuse Prevention and Treatment Act. The team will identify strengths and weaknesses of the child protective service system in Iowa (Iowa Department of Human Services) and those of community-based services and agencies. Within the scope of its work the team will review these child protective systems in Iowa by clarifying expectations of these agencies by reviewing consistency of practice with current policies, and analyzing current child abuse trends. The team will provide feedback to the state and local agencies and the public at large as to what is, or is not working, and why, and recommend corrective action if needed.

Some members of the team formed a sub-group to conduct a safety & accountability audit to look specifically to increase accountability of the system to better protect victims of domestic violence, hold batterers accountable, and to integrate the concerns and expertise of African Americans into domestic violence prevention and intervention. This audit was completed in October 2007.

Coalition members continue to represent a broad range of stakeholders and they are dedicated to ensuring that the varied interests of North Iowa's children and adults are heard when making local decisions, as well as, public policy recommendations.

Future Direction and Focus of the Coalition

The Coalition plans to continue to work to raise local awareness of the intersection of domestic violence, sexual assault and child abuse.

The Coalition suspended case reviews in the past year, as we focused on securing a local child protection center. Our vision is to continue with quarterly case reviews and consultations (as needed), in an effort to enhance victim safety and hold offenders accountable.

Membership

Child Protection	Allen Child Protection Center	Katie Strub
		Sandy Kahler
	Department of Human Services	Becky Heilscov
		Doug Sedgwick
	Iowa Child Protection Centers	Nancy Wells
Community	Business	Cheryl Kurtzleben
	KIMT	Jerome Risting
	Pastor	Stephen Wolfe
	Retiree	Barbara Kellogg
	United Way of North Central Iowa	Jen Butler
Jodee O'Brien		
Corrections	Department of Corrections	Diana Kellar
		Mike McGuire
		Thomas Gayther
Education	North Iowa Area Community College	Bridget Schultz
		Kay Long
		Lisa Vance
Law Enforcement	Cerro Gordo County Sheriff's Office	David Hepperly
		Kevin Pals
	Clear Lake Police Department	Pete Roth
		Deb Ryg
		Jim O'Keefe
	Mason City Police Department	Arron Onder
		Jeff Brinkley
		Duane Kemna
		Jason Hugi
		Mike McKelvey
	Rich Jensen	
Medical	Mercy Medical Center	Luann Engels-Hepker
		Patti Peterson
Prosecution	Cerro Gordo County Attorney's Office	Andrew Olson
		Carlyle Dalen
		Deb Angell
		Gina Jorgensen
		Nichole Benes
Service Providers	Four Oaks	Robin Schwickerath
	Iowa Legal Aid	Diane Wilson
		Evelyne Ocheltree

	Lutheran Services of Iowa	Leah Wilhite
	North Iowa Community Action Organization	Lori Brandt
		Mindy Watters
	Parent Partners	Jeremy Simerson
	Therapist, Private Practice	Rebecca Fayer
		Bridgid Christianson
Victim Services	Crisis Intervention Service	Hillary Snow
		Mary J. Ingham
		Mary Beyerhelm Huey
		Theresa Price
Youth Organization	Mason City Youth Task Force	Marti Hendrickson
		Mary Schissel
	Youth & Shelter Services	Amber Lawrence
		Yolanda Harden