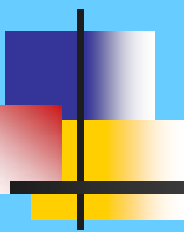


National Efforts to Address Chronicity and Cumulative Harm



Caren Kaplan, ACSW
Prepared with Sue Steib, Ph.D.
American Humane Association
Round Table on Repeat Maltreatment
Washington University in St. Louis, Missouri
February 7-8, 2008



Defining Neglect

- Physical
- Emotional
- Medical
- Education





How Big a Problem?

Year	Reports	Victims	Victims of Neglect [%]	Victims of Neglect [#]
1999	2,974,000	826,000	58.4	482,384
2000	2,796,000	879,000	62.8	552,012
2001	2,672,000	903,000	57.2	516,516
2002	2,600,000	896,000	60.5	542,080
2003	2,900,000	906,000	60.9	551,754
2004	3,000,000	872,000	62.4	544,128
2005	3,300,000	899,000	62.8	564,572

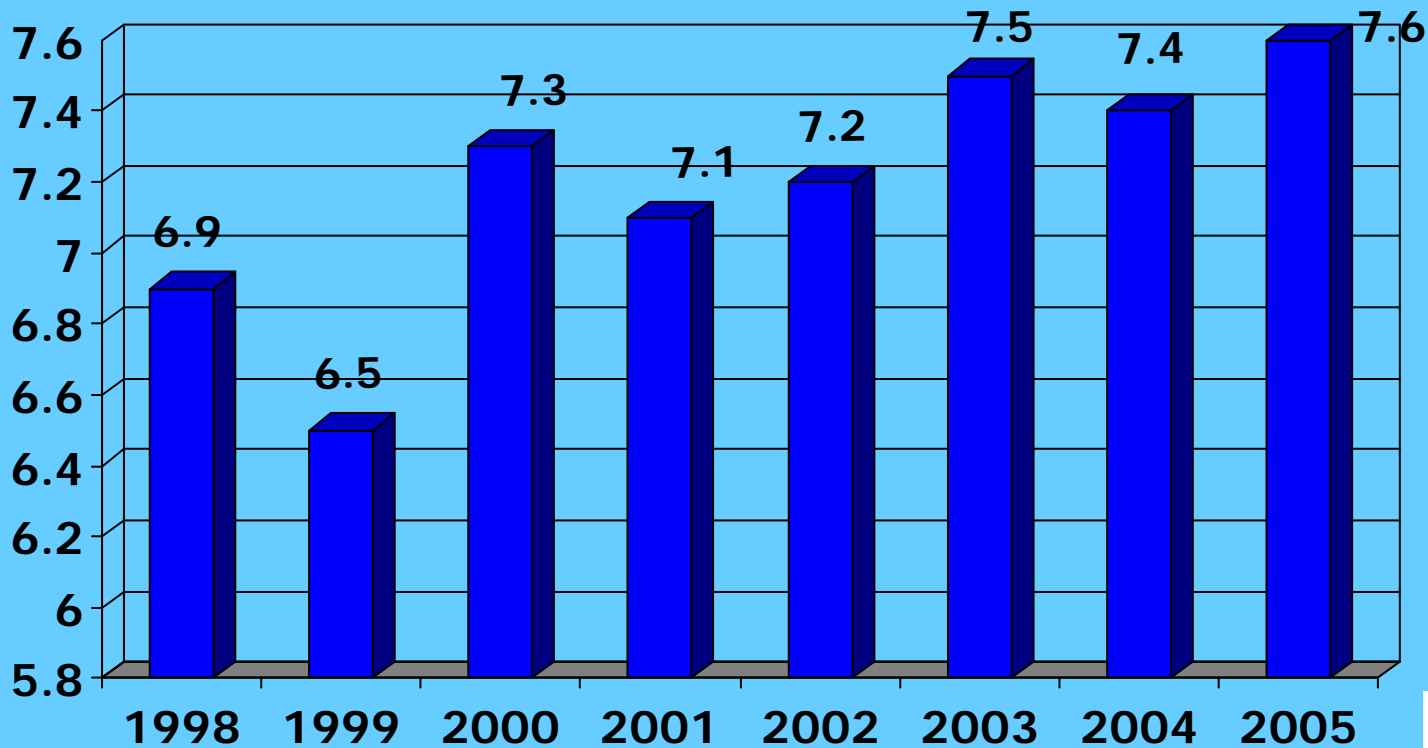




How Big a Problem? (cont.)

Victimization Rates of Neglect: 1998 – 2005

Rate per 1,000 children





Neglect and Poverty

- Children from families (CFF) with incomes < \$15,000/year compared to CFF with incomes > \$30,000/year were **44 times** more likely to be victims of neglect (NIS-3, 1996)
- Families with incomes below poverty level often cannot provide their children with adequate food, clothing, shelter, and education.
- State statutes codified child's lack of basic needs as a defining element of neglect





Defining Chronicity

- Reoccurring
- Long Term in Nature (vs. Situational)
- Pervasive (vs. Circumstantial)
- Pattern (vs. Incident)
- Intractable to Treatment





A Working Definition

Chronic Child Neglect

refers to the ongoing, serious pattern of deprivation of a child's basic physical, developmental and/or emotional needs by a parent or caregiver



AMERICAN HUMANE

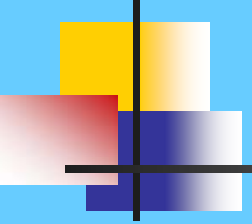
Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Identifying Chronic Neglect

- Duration of neglect
- Time period covered by multiple CPS reports
- Number of reports (not just substantiations)
- Referral for multiple types of maltreatment
- Documentation of non-adherence and in medical or school records
- Developmental Indicators





Recurrence of Neglect: Creating Chronicity

- Families initially reported for neglect = highest recidivism rates
- Children who were neglected → 46% more likely to experience recurrence than children who were physically abused (US DHHS, 2002).
- Neglect cases 52% more likely to be re-referred than sexual abuse cases (Marshall & English, 1999)
- Chronically neglecting families were encountered by the public agency about once every 11 months (IAR, 2002)



Effects on Children

- Detrimental impacts of early deprivation on brain development
- Loss of/delays in developmental capacities (e.g., physical, cognitive, language)
- Medical conditions, failure to thrive, malnutrition
- Emotional, behavioral and learning problems
- Mental health disorders
- Elevated risk for juvenile delinquency/adult criminality





Neglecting Families: Who Are They?

■ Parental Characteristics

Most Frequently Occurring (Berry, Charlson, & Dawson, 2003; Loman & Siegel, 2006)

- Social isolation
- Depression/mental illness
- Substance abuse
- Single parents (typically young mothers)
- Entrenched poverty/destitution
- Multiple, profound impairments (e.g., depression, other mental health disorders, substance abuse)





Neglecting Families: Who Are They? (cont.)

- Lacking life competencies; social skills
- Self-destructive behaviors
- Anti social traits/anger control problems
- Family violence/history of child abuse and neglect
- Criminal histories



Neglecting Families: Who Are They? (cont.)

- Family Characteristics
 - Chaotic, unpredictable, and disorganized family life
 - Fewer positive interactions
 - Fewer actual and/or perceived social supports





Neglecting Families: Who Are They? (cont.)

- Community Characteristics
 - Economically Impoverished Neighborhood
 - Socially Impoverished Neighborhood
 - Precarious/substandard housing or homelessness
 - Violence and crime



Addressing the Problem

What Has Been Done
Thus Far?



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Federal Endeavors & Initiatives

- Chronic Neglect Symposium Proceedings (June 1993)
- Child Neglect Demonstrations Programs
5 year grant funded in 1996 by CB
[e.g., Maryland's Family Connections]
- NIH RFA – [1] Stimulate development of programs of child neglect research; [2] Promote collaboration between related research & child neglect research (March 1999/15 awards granted October 2000)





Federal Endeavors & Initiatives

- NIH Program Announcement - Intended to foster ongoing programs of research on child neglect [follow-up to a 1999] (February 2001)
- CPS Response to Child Neglect – NRC CPS (August 2001)





Federal Endeavors & Initiatives

- CAPTA Research and Demonstration
FY '04 Discretionary Funds
Replication of Effective Prevention Programs
– 8 grants – all Family Connections
Replications
- Translational Research on Child Neglect
Consortium – Duke University
(September 2007)



Maryland: Family Connections

Selected Criteria:

- Geographic requisites
- Child between 5 and 11 years
- Child lived with primary caregiver for > six months and is a biological parent, step-parent or other relative.
- Family is not currently working with Child Protective Services.



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



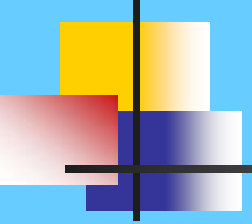
Family Connections

- Combines services with education and research

Principles include

- Providing individual assessments and services tailored to needs of each family
- Developing partnerships with all family members
- Empowering family members to have control over their own lives
- Delivering culturally competent interventions geared to achieve targeted outcomes.





Family Connections: Targeted Outcomes

- Family's ability to meet basic needs
- Parents' abilities to cope with daily stresses and achieve self-sufficiency
- Children's demonstration of developmentally appropriate functioning
- Family's ability to mobilize resources and constructively resolve family conflicts
- Family's effective use of social supports
- Parents' (and/or caregivers') demonstration of appropriate attitudes and skills related to the children's needs.





Replications of Family Connections

- Black Family Development, Inc., Detroit, MI
- Child and Family Tennessee, Knoxville, TN
- Children's Institute International, Los Angeles, CA
- DePelchin Children's Center, Houston, TX
- Respite Care of San Antonio, Inc., San Antonio, TX
- Special Service for Groups, Los Angeles, CA
- University of Maryland Baltimore, Baltimore, MD
- Youth Health Service, Inc., Elkins, WV



Oregon

- Chronic Neglect Working Conference – Portland, OR (June 2005)
- Community Child Neglect Summits – [Seven Counties: Coos, Crook, Jackson, Lane, Malheur, Multnomah, & Wasco] (April – August 2007)
- Netlink presentation (distance delivery) Intervening in neglect
- More Community Child Neglect Summits – [Five counties with focus on methamphetamine & other substance abuse.]





Washington State

Neglect (Washington State)

Citation: Rev. Code §§ 26.44.020; 9A.42.100

Negligent treatment or maltreatment means an act or a failure to act, or the **cumulative effects of a pattern of conduct, behavior, or inaction**, that evidences a serious disregard of consequences of such magnitude as to constitute a clear and present danger to a child's health, welfare, or safety, including but not limited to conduct prohibited under § 9A.42.100 [endangerment with a controlled substance].

When considering whether a clear and present danger exists, evidence of a parent's substance abuse as a contributing factor to negligent treatment or maltreatment shall be given great weight.



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Washington State

- Dee Wilson, Northwest Institute for Children and Families, **Champion** of CN Issues
- Washington Office of the Family and Child Ombudsman issued report highlighting chronic neglect (2000 & 2005 reports)
- Promising Practices and Interventions in Chronic Neglect (February 2008)
- Chronicity Calculator (in development)





Administration for Children's Services – New York City

- Working Session on Chronic Neglect (August 2006)
- Creative Solutions to the Challenge of Chronic Child Neglect (June 2007)
- Guidebook "Chronic Neglect: An Introduction for Child Welfare Workers."
- Ideas for Training and Program Development Initiatives (to be implemented)



Missouri

- Policy Guidance
- IAR Research
- CN Project
- CN Specialist Position
- Round Table



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Missouri

Missouri Revised Statutes August 28, 2007
Chapter 210
Child Protection and Reformation

Specialized foster parents, training, fiscal incentives.

Section 210.543. The division of family services shall train and license a separate category of foster parents who are able to provide special care and supervision to foster children who have special needs because of a history of sexual abuse, serious physical abuse, or **severe chronic neglect**. The training received by such specialized foster parents shall be in addition to the training required in section 210.540. Fiscal incentives for training and/or longevity may be provided by the division, subject to appropriation.



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Addressing the Problem

What Can We Do
Differently?



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877



Recognize What Doesn't Work

- Incident, allegation, or presenting problem focus
- Short-term interventions (including intensive family preservation services)
- Classroom-based parenting classes only





Selected Models

- Family Connections (DePanfilis, 2002)
- Learning About Myself (Richard, 1998)
- Nurturing Parents (Bavolek, 2000)
- Project Healthy Grandparents (Kelley, Whitley, Sipe, & White, 2002)
- Project KEEPSAFE (Macdonald, 2001)
- Project Safe Care (Lutzker, Bigelow, Doctor, & Kessler, 1998)



Selected Models (cont.)

- Project Twelve Ways (Lutzker & Bigelow, 2002; Wesch & Lutzker, 1991)
- Social Network Intervention (Gaudin, 1997)
- STAR (Dore & Lee, 1999)
- Strengthening Families Program (Kumpfer, 1999)





Role of the Caseworker

- Assessment (initial & ongoing)
- Direct Services
 - Engagement; instilling hope
 - Inclusive planning; targeting services
- Advocacy





Role of the Caseworker (cont.)

- Brokering & Networking
 - Social isolation
 - Mental health
 - Substance abuse
 - Child developmental needs
 - Parental skills deficits





Role of the Supervisor

- Support vs. Compliance
- Responsive
- Clinical Expertise
- Problem Solving
- Mentoring





Taking Action

- Recognize Prerequisites for Success
 - Differential assessment
 - Skilled staff
 - Manageable workloads
 - Service array
 - Early intervention
 - Long term intervention





Taking Action (cont.)

- Administrators
 - Use data to define extent of problem and make the case for specialized approach
 - Make caseworker/supervisor skills and workload a priority
 - Initiate/sustain formal partnerships with AOD, MH, DV housing, and economic security (TANF) providers.
 - Leverage flexible \$\$ wherever/whenever possible
 - Implement evidence-based programs
 - integrated
 - comprehensive
 - Evaluate



Taking Action

■ Supervisors

- Establish TEAM approaches to intervention
- Designate one worker to be case manager
- Monitor 'vicarious trauma' of workers

■ Caseworkers

- Build knowledge and skills in family engagement
- Focus interventions on building competencies with the families and resiliency in children's lives
- Use coordinated service package & tap diverse resources
- Include concrete resources and strategies to reduce social isolation





Taking Action (cont.)

■ Advocates

- Know the data about chronic neglect and its impact.
- Understand and inform elected officials re. cost-benefits of prevention and early identification.
- Advocate for eliminating barriers to effective service provision
 - Inadequate workforce skills and resources
 - Policies that apply arbitrary time frames to service provision
- Advocate for support for further research to identify optimal types and duration of treatment.
- Talk about the “neglect of neglect”OFTEN!





Contact Information

Caren Kaplan

carenk@americanhumane.org



AMERICAN HUMANE

Protecting Children & Animals Since 1877