

Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center

Esther Devall, Ph.D.

edevall@nmsu.edu

575-646-1161

Shelly A. Bucher, LMSW

sbucher@nmsu.edu

575-646-1277



1990

"Child abuse and neglect in the United States now represents a national emergency... Protection of children from harm is not just an ethical duty; it is a matter of national survival."

(U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect, 1990)



- **2012: Child Abuse Injuries, Deaths On The Rise, Study Finds.** (Yale School of Medicine)
- **2013: 2 out of 3 children exposed to violence.** (Attorney General's National Task Force on Children Exposed to Violence)
 - Sexual abuse.
 - Physical abuse.
 - Intimate partner violence.
 - Community violence.
 - Psychological trauma.



New Mexico

- **6th in the nation in child deaths.** (Children's Bureau, 2013)
- **49th in the nation** (KIDS Count, 2014)
 - child economic well-being.
 - child education.
 - child health.
 - family and community well-being.



ALBUQUERQUE JOURNAL

Another Albuquerque child is fighting for her life after alleged abuse.

"It was the second time Potter was arrested on suspicion of child abuse."

Death of 4-month-old baby in Albuquerque brings new child abuse charge.

Omaree reported abuse to school a year ago.



LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

Las Cruces doctor, school official allegedly failed to report child abuse

By James Staley



"State law requires every person to report child abuse. The statute emphasizes certain professions, and two of those apply to Mercer — physician and school official. Mercer apparently didn't feel it was her place to alert authorities."



LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

Las Cruces mother charged with child abuse in death of infant July 2014

"A Las Cruces baby girl is dead and her mother has been charged after she allegedly used blankets to muffle the infant's cries."



LAS CRUCES SUN-NEWS

Imprisoned Las Crucean freed after child abuse conviction overturned

NM Supreme Court reverses conviction of intentional, negligent
child abuse; no further prosecution allowed

By Steve Ramirez

*"...the evidence offered to support the charge of
criminally negligent child abuse resulting
in great bodily harm failed..."*



Las Cruces: Three toddlers discovered wandering in street.

DEPUTIES ARREST MOTHER IN VADO TODDLER ABUSE CASE.

Chaparral man accused of negligent child abuse.

Santa Fe woman charged with child abuse.

Farmington parents arrested on suspicion of child abuse.



COURT REVERSES CHILD ABUSE FELONY OF CURRY COUNTY WOMAN.

"...there wasn't enough evidence to support conviction of negligent child abuse by endangerment."

Los Lunas

Charges filed in infant rape case

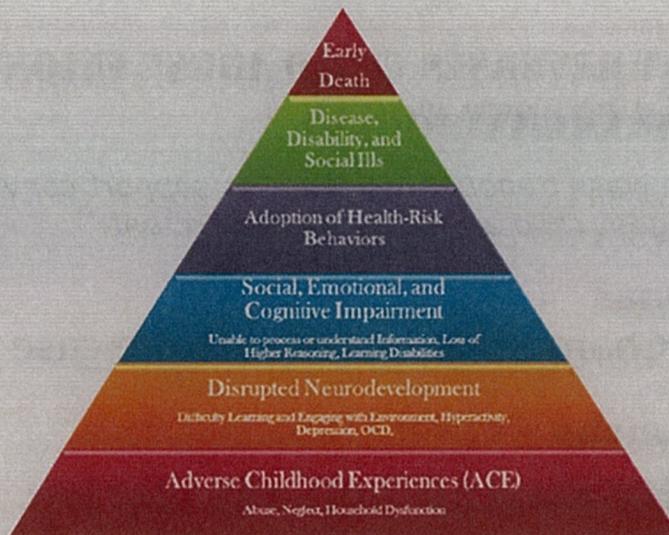
Rio Rancho

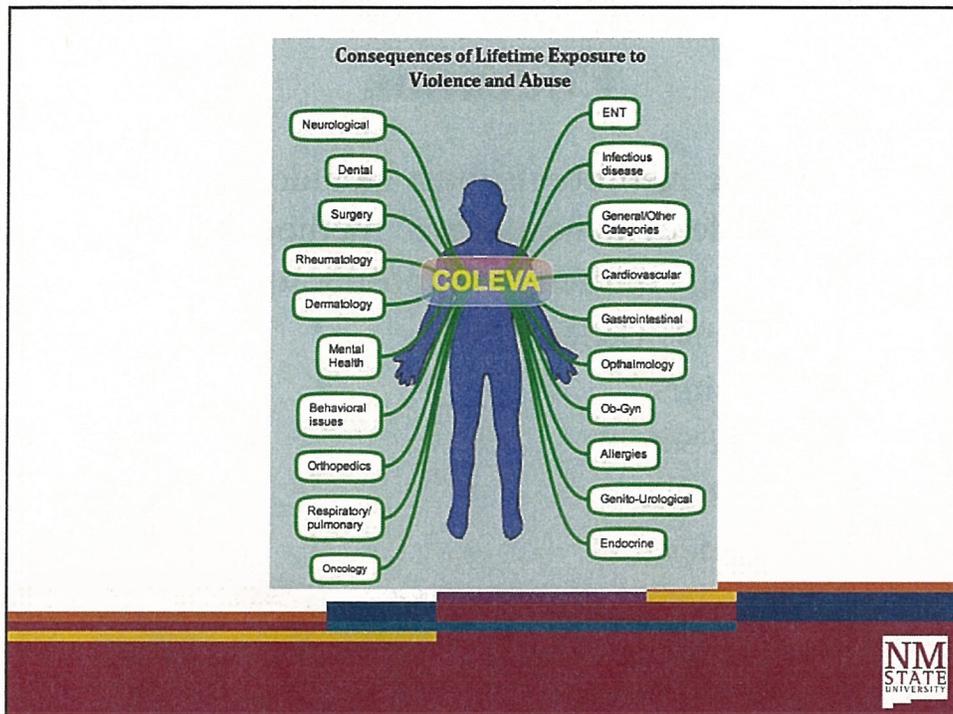
Child abuse trial ends with hung jury.



**What's done to children,
they will do to society.**

-Karl Menniger-





Research

- Undergraduate and graduate students do not receive adequate instruction on any aspect of violence.
- Professionals in the field do not have adequate training.
- Instances of violence are missed, evidence is not collected, reports are not investigated.
- Increased cost and loss to individual and society.

Education

- Academic institutions must include curricula in multiple evidenced-based methods for identifying children for exposure to violence.
 - Community Colleges
 - Universities
 - Medical Schools
 - Law Schools
 - Seminaries



***“Tell me and I will forget.
Teach me and I remember.
Involve me and I will learn.”***

-Benjamin Franklin-



Training

- Experiential.
- Facilities with labs and equipment.
- Online portals with interactive training readily available.
- Training for mandated reporters, multi-disciplinary teams, professionals in the field and parents on how to assess child & youth programs.



Southwest Region National Child Protection Training Center

Our mission is to end child abuse, neglect, and other forms of child maltreatment through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy, and the pursuit of justice.





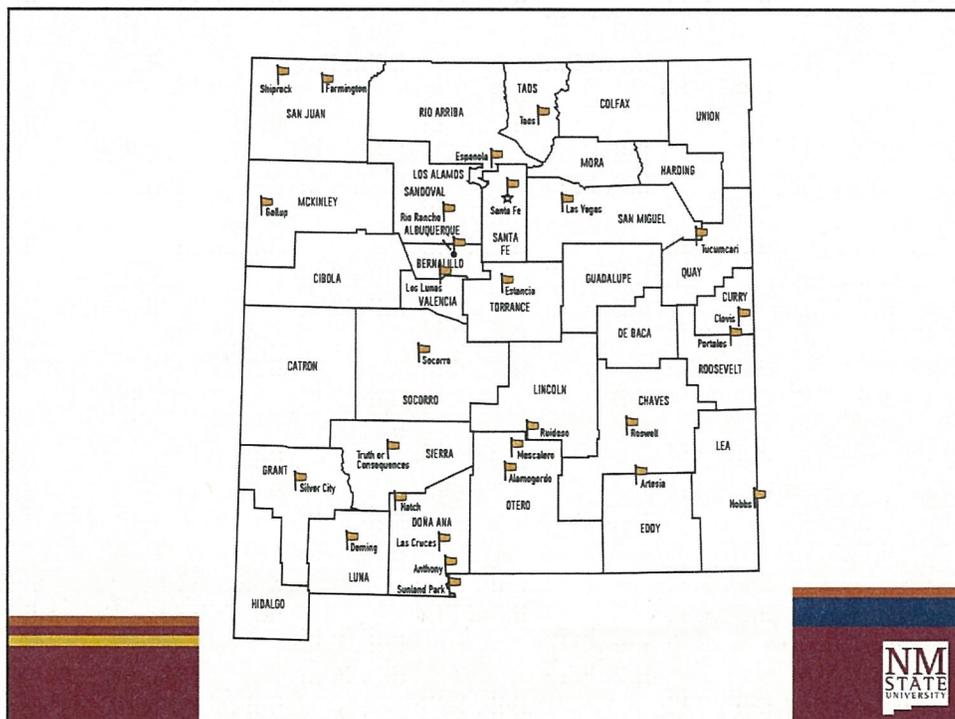
Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases

- 2 day training; Las Cruces, August 2013.
- Co-sponsored with the NM Administrative Office of the District Attorneys.
- 107 attended
 - waiting list



Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases

- Opening Statements and Closing Arguments.
- Overcoming the CSI Effect: Investigation of Child Sexual Abuse.
- Interviewing & Interrogating Suspects in Child Sexual Abuse Cases.
- Cross-Examination of the Defendant and Non-Expert Witness.
- Assessing Allegations in Pre and Non-Verbal Children.
- Investigating Serious Child Physical Abuse.
- “Hannah”: A Case Study of CPS/LE Teamwork.
- Testifying Effectively: Learning to Love Being a Witness.



Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse Cases

- *“Learned new techniques on what to look for in investigations.”*
- *“Loved the real-life examples.”*
- *“Based on this training I will be developing new cross exam outline and some standard questions for discovery that will be used in all my cases.”*

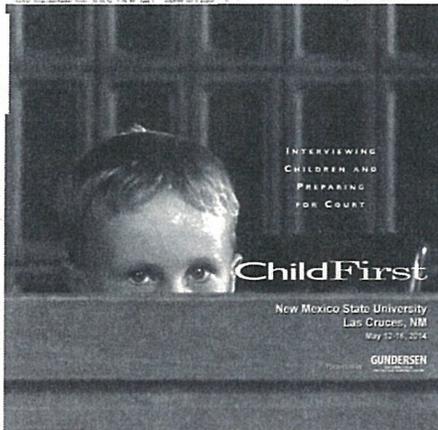


Requested Training

- Advocacy for Children.
- Authenticating Evidence.
- Border Issues.
- Civil Prosecution.
- Criminal Prosecution.
- CYFD Investigations.
- Forensic Interviewing.
- Joint Investigations.
- Juvenile Sexual Offenders.
- Legal Aspects for Schools.
- Multi-disciplinary Teams
- Sexual Abuse.
- Testimony for Trial.



ChildFirst™



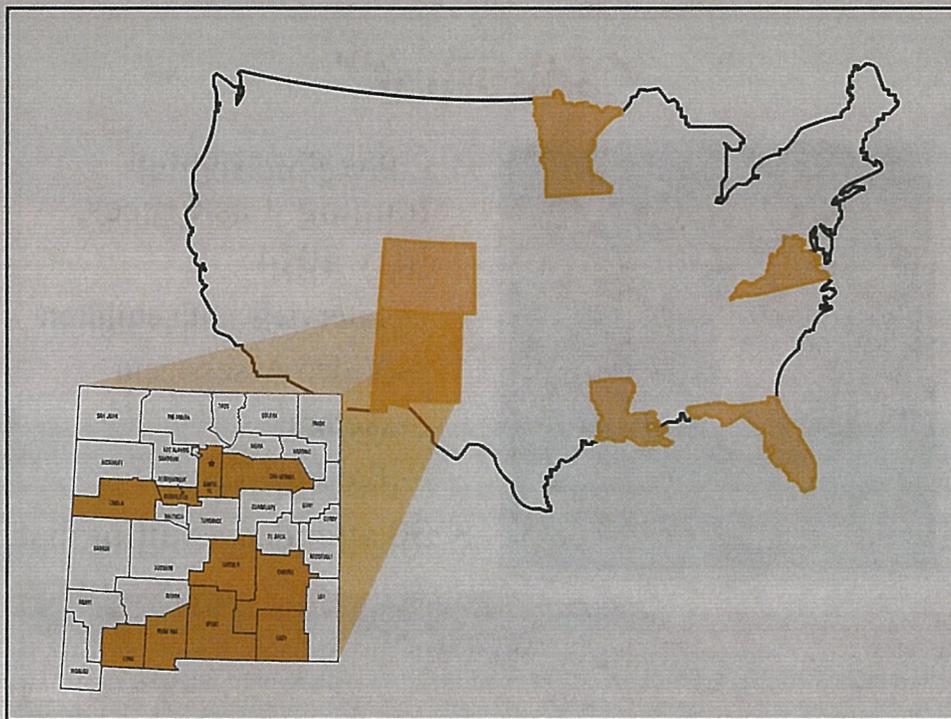
- 5 day experiential training: Las Cruces, May 2014
 - Interview with children
 - Video Assessment
 - Actors
 - Pre-Post Tests
- 30 attendees/waiting list



ChildFirst™

- Effective Interviewing.
- Dynamics in Child Abuse.
- Process of Disclosure.
- Child Development.
- Questioning Children.
- Culture & the Forensic Interview.
- Interview Protocol.
- Anatomical Dolls.
- Preparing Kids for Court.
- Blocks and Block Removal.
- Suggestibility.
- Working as an MDT.
- Testifying in Court.
- Hearsay.





ChildFirst™

- *“I learned so many new techniques.”*
- *“I feel like I will be more culturally competent in my profession.”*
- *“Training environment allows a ‘safe’ place to practice.”*
- *“Practical, easy solutions to make cases more successful.”*

Crime Scene to Trial

- 2.5 day training: Las Cruces, Sept 2014.
- 30 participants.
- Teams.
- Experiential
 - Staged crime scene in Mock House
 - Actors as witnesses
 - Team assessment and presentation of interviews/evidence



Crime Scene to Trial

- Investigating Child Maltreatment:
 - Abusive Head Trauma
 - Sexual Abuse
- Interrogation of Child Abuse Suspects.
- Photographing a Child Abuse Crime Scene.
- Children Exposed to Violence.
- Crime Scene Investigation.
- Witness Interviews.
- MDT Staffings.
- Child Maltreatment Evidence Issues.



Investigation and Litigation of Civil Child Abuse Cases

- October 2014.
- Albuquerque UNM Continuing Education Center.
- Partnering with the Children's Law Center.
- 175 capacity.



Investigation and Litigation of Civil Child Abuse Cases

- Working with Non-Offending Parents.
- Search & Seizure Issues.
- Best Practice in Interviewing.
- From Sticks to Flowers.
- Reasonable Efforts.
- Corroboration.
- Documentation.
- Ethics.
- Working as an MDT.



**New Mexico
can and must
do more to improve
the health and well-being
of
children and families.**



Funding Request

\$250,000

- Salaries**
- Operating Expenses**
- Scholarships**



**“You must
be
the change
you wish
to see
in the world.”**

-Mahatma Gandhi-



**Southwest Region
National Child Protection
Training Center**

Esther Devall, Ph.D.

edevall@nmsu.edu

575-646-1161

Shelly A. Bucher, LMSW

sbucher@nmsu.edu

575-646-1277

