

## Child Trauma is EVERYONE'S Problem...

NMSU is part of the solution!



## Abuse/Neglect Prevalence

Nationally (2010) (Child Maltreatment, 2010)

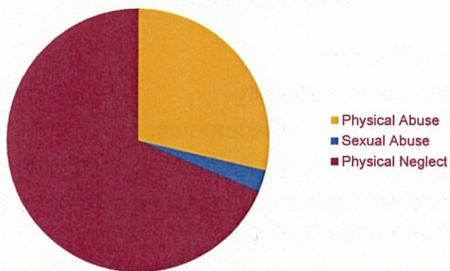
– 3.3 million referrals of 5.9 million children.

New Mexico (2010) (Child Maltreatment, 2010)

– 30,313 referrals of 57,181 children.



## TYPES OF ALLEGATIONS: NM



## TRAUMA

Physical  
and  
Emotional  
Responses to Events



## Types of Trauma

### Chronic

- Repeated assaults on the body and mind.
- Actual and exposed.

### Complex

- Exposure to chronic trauma.
- Inflicted by those who are supposed to care for and protect the child.



## Types of Trauma

### Historical

- Cumulative exposure to traumatic events.
- Affects the individual.
- Affects subsequent generations.



## Immediate Reactions to Traumatic Stress

### Emotional

- Terror.
- Intense fear.
- Horror.
- Helplessness.
- Disorganized or agitated behavior.

### Physical

- Rapid heart rate.
- Trembling.
- Dizziness.
- Loss of bladder or bowel control.



## Long-term Reactions: Impact on the Brain

### Delayed Development

- Mental.
- Emotional.
- Physical.

### Increased Risk

- PTSD.
- ADHD.
- Conduct disorder.



## Long-term Reactions: Impact on Adult Health

### Increased Risk:

(Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACE) Study)

- Smoking.
- Alcohol abuse.
- Drug abuse.
- Heart disease.
- Cancer.
- Depression.
- Liver disease.
- Multiple sexual partners.
- Sexually transmitted diseases.
- Suicide attempts.
- Unintended pregnancies.
- Risk for intimate partner violence.



## Mismanagement of Trauma in Child Welfare

- ↓ Reunification.
- ↑ Placement instability.
- ↑ More restrictive placements.
- ↑ Administration of psychotropic medicines.
- ↑ Child will repeat the intergenerational cycle of abuse and neglect.

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## Secondary Traumatic Stress

- **Impact on Child Welfare Organization** (Droefsky et al., 2008)
  - Increased absenteeism.
  - Impaired judgment.
  - Lower motivation.
  - Lower productivity.
  - Poorer quality of work.
  - Decreased compliance.
  - High staff turnover.

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## Creating a Trauma-Informed System

- Training
- Education
- Facilitators of Change



## Training through NMSU

### College of Agricultural, Consumer and Environmental Sciences

- Family and Consumer Science Department
  - **Strengthening Families Initiative (SFI)**

### College of Health and Social Services

- School of Social Work
  - **Southwest Institute for Family & Child Advocacy (SWIFCA)**



## Strengthening Families Initiative

- Nationally recognized.
  - Work with Hispanic families, fathers, and children in poverty.
- Three programs:
  - Nurturing Parenting.
  - Incarcerated Fathers.
  - Family Wellness.



## SFI Impact in New Mexico

- Nurturing Parenting (2000-2010)
  - 244 class series in 20 counties.
  - 3,167 parents and 3,036 youth served.
  - Significant increases in childrearing attitudes, knowledge, and behavior.
- Incarcerated Fathers (2006-2011)
  - 30 class series in SNMCF and La Tuna Prison.
  - 650 fathers and 1,661 youth served.
  - Significant increases in childrearing attitudes, knowledge, and behavior and life skills.



## SFI Impact in New Mexico

- Family Wellness (2006-2014)
  - 93 class series in Doña Ana county and metro Albuquerque.
  - 1,617 parents and 1,600 youth served to date.
  - Significant increases in couple relationship, parenting skills, and family functioning.



## SWIFCA

- CYFD's major training partner.
- Trained 4,800 in FY 12:
  - CYFD Staff.
  - Foster and Adoptive Parents.
  - Youth.
  - Law Enforcement.
  - Judges/Attorneys.
  - Community Providers.



## SWIFCA Conferences

- Independent Living Youth (August).
- Foster Parents (September).
- Children's Law Institute (January).
- Indian Child Welfare & Protection (March).
- Adoptive Families (April).



## SWIFCA Trainings

- Basic Core.
- Law Enforcement Video Series.
- Knowing Who You Are.
- Multi-Ethnic Placement Act.
- Partners in Service.
- Working with Youth.
- Adoption Subsidy.
- Advanced Trial Skills.
- In-Home Services.
- Provider Core.
- Supervisory Core.
- Positive Parenting Program.

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## Law Enforcement Video Series

- 3 Part Video Series:
  - Ensuring Child Safety Upon Parental Arrest.
  - Ensuring Child Safety in Abuse/Neglect Referrals.
  - Ensuring Child Safety and Minimizing Trauma.
- All Law Enforcement Agencies in NM
  - Continuing Education.

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## Education

- Undergraduate and graduate courses in all colleges and universities to ALL disciplines.
- Focus on practical, hands-on training in prevention, investigations and treatment.

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## Child Advocacy Studies (CAST)

*“The most compelling reason to offer CAST in colleges and universities is that it may later prevent a child maltreatment case from being mishandled or overlooked.”*

(Vieth, 2008)

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## CAST across America (2012)



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## CAST at NMSU

- Began Fall, 2011.
- 18-hour interdisciplinary undergraduate minor.
- 3 Core Courses:
  - Child Welfare Policy and Advocacy.
  - Professional and Systems Response to Child Maltreatment.
  - Prevention, Trauma Informed Treatment and Advocacy.

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## National Child Protection Training Center

- Providing local access to training through the establishment of regional training centers.
- Regional centers have access to national training programs and funding sources.
- NMSU is the second regional training center to be established.

## Regional Training Center at NMSU

- Coverage
  - West Texas
  - New Mexico
  - Arizona
  - Southern California

## Regional Training Center at NMSU

### Mission

*To end child abuse, neglect, and other forms of child maltreatment in three generations through education, training, awareness, prevention, advocacy and the pursuit of justice.*

## Regional Training Center at NMSU

Preventing and responding to child abuse and maltreatment through:

- Hands-on training.
- Education.
- Advocacy.

## Regional Training Center at NMSU

- Offer a Child Advocacy Studies (CAST) program.
- Promote and develop CAST programs at other universities in the region.
- Provide intensive, multidisciplinary team training for professionals in the field.

## Regional Training Center at NMSU

- Provide a modern training complex complete with
  - Interview rooms.
  - Mock crime scenes.
  - Webinar rooms.
  - Courtrooms.
  - Control center for observation.

## Supporters

- Senator Bingaman
- CYFD Secretary Dienes
- Third Judicial District
- La Pinon Sexual Assault Recovery Services
- NM Child Crisis Center
- Children's Law Center
- NM Citizen's Review Board
- Families & Youth, Inc.
- Mesilla Valley CASA
- Guardian ad Litem
- NM Child Advocacy Networks
- Individual providers

## Proposed Funding

- Corporate & Private Donations
- Child Abuse Prevention & Treatment Act Funds
- Criminal Justice Act Advisory Group Funds
- NMSU Foundation
- Fundraising
- Training Event Revenue
- Legislative Appropriations

## Progress to Date

- Interim Facilities
  - Office and meeting space
  - “Mock” Child Abuse Investigation House
  - Courtroom
- Personnel
  - Part-time consultant
  - Allocation of staff and faculty time

## Facilitators of Change

- Recognize shared responsibility of private and public leaders.
- Build a continuum of trauma-informed care and training systems.
- Promote collaboration and multi-disciplinary teams.
- Coordinate policies, programs and resources.
- Ensure sustainability of systems that provide care and training.

**You  
must be  
the change  
you want  
to see in the world.**

» Gandhi

## Contact Information

Esther Devall, Ph.D., CFLE  
[edevall@nmsu.edu](mailto:edevall@nmsu.edu)  
575-646-1161

Shelly A. Bucher, LMSW  
[sbucher@nmsu.edu](mailto:sbucher@nmsu.edu)  
575-646-1277