

Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services

Connection

QACDSS Recognizes Child Abuse Prevention Month

April marks Child Abuse Prevention Month across the United States aimed at increasing awareness and preventing child abuse. QACDSS took part in recognizing April as Child Abuse Prevention Month by wearing blue to acknowledge the cause and demonstrate a continued commitment to bring awareness to the community.

Child maltreatment continues to pose a significant risk to our nations' most vulnerable citizens. According to the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services, the national estimate of children who received a child protective services response increased 9.5 percent in 2016 from 2012. In 2016, a nationally estimated 1,750 children died of abuse and neglect.

The Child Welfare League of America notes that in 2017 there were 6,790 child victims of maltreatment in Maryland. In 2015, there were 28 child deaths as a result of abuse and/or neglect. In Fiscal Year 2017, QACDSS provided child protective services intervention to 78 families. (Continued on page 2)



QACDSS Implements New Customer Alert System



Nadine Clark, Family Investment Office
Supervisor

In an effort to improve customer confidentiality, QACDSS recently implemented a new customer alert system in the agency lobby. In the past, customer's were notified by their name being announced over the agency PA system. Noting that this practice failed to provide customers with anonymity, the agency is now utilizing restaurant style buzzers to notify customers that they need to return to the front desk for instructions or direction to an interview room.

Child Abuse Prevention Month

What is Child Abuse and Neglect?

According to the Code of Maryland Regulations (COMAR), child abuse and neglect are defined as:

- Physical injury (not necessarily visible) of a child under circumstances that indicate that a child's health or welfare is harmed or at substantial risk of being harmed
- The failure to give proper care and attention to a child, leaving a child unattended where the child's health or welfare is harmed or a child is placed in substantial risk of harm
- An act or acts involving sexual molestation or exploitation whether physical injuries are sustained or not
- Identifiable and substantial impairment of a child's mental or psychological ability to function
- Finding credible evidence that has not been satisfactorily refuted that physical abuse, neglect or sexual abuse occurred

What are the Signs?

- Has untreated illnesses or physical injuries that present a significant risk to the child if left untreated
- Experiences a lack of adequate or appropriate supervision (taking into account the age and capabilities of the child)
- Had been abandoned
- Experiences parental/caretaker substance abuse or use or mental illness that interferes with ability to provide appropriate care and supervision of the child
- Experiences deprivation of food, shelter or clothing

A child might be potentially experiencing sexual abuse if he or she:

- Has a sexually transmitted disease
- Demonstrates sexualized behavior that is not age appropriate
- Is withdrawn or isolates self
- Frequently runs away from home
- Is abnormally secretive and socially isolated
- Experiences unexplained painful urination or defecation
- Has an unexplained change in behavior (aggressive, withdrawn, self-destructive)

A child might be potentially showing signs of mental injury if he or she:

- Is excessively withdrawn, fearful, or anxious about doing something wrong
- Demonstrates extremes in behavior (extremely compliant or extremely demanding; extremely passive or extremely aggressive)
- Does not seem to be attached to the other parent or caregiver

If you suspect
something,
say
something!

410-758-8000

What is a Mandated Reporter?

Individuals in certain professions are required by law to report a suspicion of child maltreatment. Reporting does not require proof that the child abuse or neglect has occurred. Incidents are to be reported as soon as they are suspected.

You are a mandated reporter if you are one of the following:

- Health Practitioner
- Educator
- Human Service Worker
- Police Officer

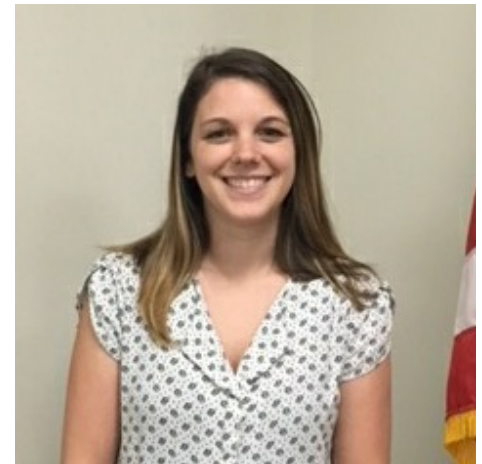
Even if you are not a mandated report but you suspect child maltreatment, make the call to your local department of social services. It is the job of the department to make a determination of abuse.



CARE Center Corner

CARE Center Welcomes New Coordinator

QACDSS welcomes Rebecca Jester to coordinate child advocacy services at the Queen Anne's County Child Abuse Evaluation and Response Center. Mrs. Jester came to QACDSS from Dorchester County Department of Social Services where she spent over two years as a Child Protective Services Investigator. Rebecca received her Master of Social Work degree from Salisbury University in 2015 and subsequently became licensed as a Licensed Graduate Social Worker. She has been trained in forensic interviewing through Child First Maryland and is experienced in all facets of the child welfare spectrum. Rebecca will not only serve as the coordinator for the CARE Center, but she will split time providing services to the county's vulnerable adults. Rebecca is "excited to be at QACDSS and looking forward to serving two very different populations". We are thrilled to have Rebecca join the team!



Purse Bingo Raises Thousands

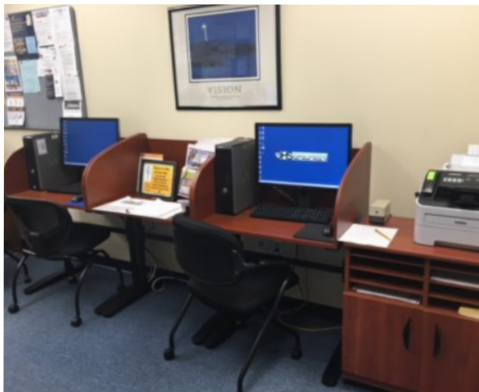
The Because We Care Committee, a group of volunteers committed to raising funds to support the work of the CARE Center, hosted a purse bingo April 20th. The event was held at the Bay Country Moose Lodge in Queenstown. One hundred and fifty-four people participated in the fun evening which raised \$4,355.

American JOB Center Gets Makeover

The American Job Center (AJC) is located in Centreville, MD at the Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services. Previously known as The One-Stop Career Center, the AJC has recently updated its name and its look. The facility has received new furnishings including an increased number of computer workstations. This update was made in partnership with the local workforce



development agency. The American Job Center provides a variety of employment and support resources to assist job seekers in achieving their employment goals. A consultant is available on Tuesdays from 8:00 a.m.-4:00 p.m. to discuss career exploration, referrals to training programs, resume preparation, and workshops to enhance job seeking skills and work readiness. Computers are available with internet access, printers, photocopiers, fax machines, telephones, and a variety of job search materials are available Monday-Friday from 8:00 a.m.-4:30 p.m. The AJC is located at 125 Comet Drive in Centreville, Maryland. To make arrangements for auxillary aids, interpreter services, and/or other reasonable accommodations, call 410-758-8044.



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QACDSS Honors Foster Parents

The Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services recently recognized their foster parents at the Regional Foster Parent Appreciation Dinner on April 20th. Eight foster families from Queen Anne's County attended the event held at the Milestone in Easton. Each of the five counties on the Eastern Shore celebrated the commitment and sacrifice of these families while providing care for our displaced youth. During this event each local jurisdiction acknowledges their Foster Parent of the Year. This year, Queen Anne's County honored David and Gwen Boyle. Over the past year the Boyles have proved to be a tremendous help to this department and to several children in this community.

The Department is grateful for the dedication of all its foster families. They are truly unsung heroes doing amazing work in the lives of Queen Anne's County's most vulnerable children.

QACDSS Staff Support the Muscular Dystrophy Association



Staff from QACDSS rallied together to participate in the Hustle for Muscles to benefit the Muscular Dystrophy Association. This cause is close to the heart of our QACDSS family as a child of one of our staff was recently diagnosed with the condition. The event was held on May 19th at Camp Pecometh in Centreville and consisted of a 5K and one mile fun

run. The idea to form a team to participate in an event such as this was generated through a staff suggestion and organized by the Wellness Committee through the agency's Performance Quality Improvement process. It is a great example of staff bringing their idea to fruition. Thanks to all who supported!

QACDSS To Host Free Family Fun Day

The Queen Anne's County Department of Social Services (QACDSS) and the Queen Anne's County Family YMCA will be hosting a free Family Fun Day. The festivities will take place Friday June 15th from 5 p.m. to 8 p.m. with a rain date of Saturday June 16th beginning at 12pm. Activities will be held in the field space behind QACDSS at 125 Comet Drive and beside the YMCA.

There will be free hamburgers and hot dogs provided by Doc's Riverside Grille, popcorn and cotton candy. Fun for the kids includes face painting, a petting zoo, life size Jenga, moon bounces, and much more.

FREE FAMILY FUN DAY

FRIDAY
JUNE 15,
2018
5-8PM

125 Comet
Drive
Centreville,
MD
(In Field
Area-behind
YMCA &
DSS)

SPONSORED BY
QAC DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL
SERVICES &
QAC
FAMILY
YMCA



FACE PAINTING | PETTING ZOO
LIFE SIZE JENGA | BALLOONS
GIVEAWAYS/BOUNCE
HOUSE/FOOD/POPCORN/COTTON
CANDY



FUN FOR ALL AGES

RAIN DATE- JUNE 16, 2018 AT NOON