



**Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center
Advisory Board Minutes
04-08-11**

The Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board conducted its quarterly meeting on April 08, 2011 at 7:15 A.M. The meeting was held in the main conference room of the Abilene/Taylor County Law Enforcement Center, 450 Pecan St., Abilene, TX 79602.

BOARD MEMBERS PRESENT:

Stan Standridge – Chief, Abilene Police Department
Nikki Favors – Concerned Citizen
Downing Bolls – Taylor County Commissioners Court
Leigh Ann Fry – Noah Project
Dee Moore – Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Debra McCracken – Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner
Diane Dotson – Crime Victims Crisis Center
Laura Lee Hines – Concerned Citizen
Karen Munoz – Elementary School Principal

BOARD MEMBERS ABSENT:

Les Bruce – Taylor County Sheriff
Dr. Jay Capra, M.D. – Pediatrician
James Eidson – Taylor County District Attorney
Craig Shaw – CBS Insurance
Anthony Williams – Abilene Christian University
Bobby Easterling – Jim Ned, Middle School Principal
Randy Holden – Tye Police Department
Sue Pecoraro – Dyess O.S.I.
Karon Bingaman – Pediatric Nurse
Bob Jones – Merkel Police Department
Gretchen Denny – Child Protective Services

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS PRESENT:

Melinda Beard – Director, ATCCAC
Mike Perry – Deputy Chief, Abilene Police Department

OTHERS PRESENT:

Sharon Miller – ATCCAC Victim Advocate

The meeting was called to order at 7:20 A.M. by ATCCAC Advisory Board Chair Dee Moore.

Review and Approval of Minutes

Chair Dee Moore requested that board members review handouts of the ATCCAC Advisory Board minutes from the past two board meetings (10-08-10 and 01-14-11) for their approval. The minutes were reviewed and Downing Bolls motioned that both sets of minutes be approved. The motion was seconded and passed unanimously.

Old Business

Melinda Beard updated board members on the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) event that was held in February. Melinda advised that the decorative plates donated to each MDT member were greatly appreciated, as well as the words spoken by each ATCCAC Board Member present at the event. Chief Stan Standridge suggested that board members draft a letter of appreciation to “Mine By Design” and the 8th Grade Clack Middle School Art class for their parts in creating/designing the plates.

Partner Agency Presentation

Leigh Ann Fry, Noah Project Executive Director, presented board members with a very informative overview of Noah Project and the services they provide. Leigh Ann advised some of the areas in which they provide services are in reference to domestic violence, unaccompanied youth, bullying, dating violence and prevention. Leigh Ann reported that Noah Project is \$230,000 away from meeting their goal for funding for their new shelter to be built on Texas Ave.

New Business

Melinda Beard reminded board members that April is Child Abuse Awareness & Prevention Month in Taylor County. She also advised that the ATCCAC is selling t-shirts in regards to this. The t-shirts are \$15.00/each, with extended sizes being \$17.00/each. Chief Standridge suggested that Melinda meet with APD's Sgt. Craig Jordan to craft a media release this month relating to child abuse statistics in Taylor County. Melinda advised that the statistics most likely should come from Child Protective Services. Melinda agreed to get CPS' Public Information representative and APD's Public Information Officer (Sgt. Craig Jordan) together to create this release. Chief Standridge also asked Melinda to meet with Jennifer Stuckey at APD's Safety City in order to discuss possibly adding some child safety issues to their curriculum. He advised that he would like these safety issues to address safety other than "stranger danger." Diane Dotson added that RCVCC's Lori Bunton is already partnered with Safety City and would advise her of Chief Standridge's request.

Director's Report

Melinda Beard reminded board members to complete their required training at https://www.oag.state.tx.us/open/og_training.shtml as soon as possible.

Melinda Beard advised that the ATCCAC sent in a grant application to the Office of the Attorney General last week to fund the Forensic Interviewer position. This position is currently held by Forensic Interviewer Dianna Benavides. If the grant is awarded to the ATCCAC, it will fund Dianna's position for the next two years.

Melinda reported the ATCCAC's 2010 Statistics as follows:

- 425 children served
- 67% female, 33% male
- 68% physical and sexual abuse
- 25% risk of sexual abuse
- 97% of offenders are known to the child (emphasizing that "stranger danger" is not our greatest threat)
 - 30% known person, not related
 - 26% other relative
 - 20% biological parents
 - 13% parents girlfriend/boyfriend
 - 8% stepparents
 - 3% unknown

The meeting adjourned at 8:04 A.M.

The next meeting of the Abilene/Taylor County Child Advocacy Center Advisory Board will be **July 08, 2011** at 7:15 A.M., Taylor County Law Enforcement Center, 450 Pecan St., Abilene, TX 79602, 2nd Floor Conference Room.