

# Systems Grant Report: Training for Physicians

## Project Focus:

- Under reporting of situations that would constitute an allegation of Child Abuse and Neglect by Physicians.
- Initial Strategy: Provide Training on Child Abuse and Neglect and Mandatory Reporting for Physicians at their Annual Conferences.

## Results:

- Lack of interest in having training on Child Abuse and Neglect.
- Questioning of our assumption that there is an issue with under reporting by Physicians.
- Annual conference agendas already developed for the year.

## Revised Focus:

- Conduct research to determine “Is there evidence of under reporting by physicians?”

If such evidence exists:

- What are the dynamics and barriers related to under reporting?
- What are possible strategies to address under reporting?

Literature review and interviews in Oregon did indicate that there is an issue related to under reporting by physicians (see research results).

## Possible Barriers, Strategies and Considerations

### Lack of Information

Assumption: Physicians are not reporting because they are not recognizing the patient as a potential victim of abuse.

#### Strategies:

- Additional training (Regional Training Centers)
- Written materials / Pamphlets.
- Lobby licensing organizations and/or medical schools to require initial or continuing education in the areas of child abuse and neglect.
- Physician “Hot Line” for consultation.

#### Considerations:

1. Types of Physicians as trainees or who shows up and who doesn't.
2. Karly's law.

### Systemic Issues

Assumption: Physicians are not reporting because of a lack of confidence in the system, are unclear on the guidelines and protocols for reporting, process is lengthy and not streamlined.

#### Strategies:

- Establish and improve relationships between agency representatives and medical community.
- Have a single point of contact in the local child welfare agency for medical professionals.
- Follow up with physicians regarding outcomes.
- Established protocols for physicians making reports that decrease their time commitment.
- Community Forums.

#### Considerations:

1. Occurs on the local level.
2. Requires collaboration by multiple systems.

### Human Issues

Assumption: Physicians are not reporting because of fear of misidentification, losing the relationship with the family, risk of medical malpractice, not wanting to believe it could be abuse, lack of familiarity with social workers, workload and...

#### Strategies:

- Relationships
- Clarity in process
- Training that focuses on these concerns (physicians and social workers training together).

#### Considerations:

1. Occurs on the local level.
2. Needs to be a continual activity