



August 16, 2021

Dear ICAN Partners and Friends,

Last year we cancelled our in-person meetings and conferences due to pandemic restrictions. However, we learned new ways of staying connected. We became used to seeing ourselves on camera as our teams, committees and task forces convened on Zoom and Teams. Our events and conferences returned virtually.

In April, the ICAN/ICAN Associates celebration of the Child Abuse Prevention Month Poster Art Contest winners launched nationwide on YouTube. In May, our virtual Children's Traumatic Grief and Loss Conference hosted over 300 attendees, and the virtual ICAN Child Abduction seminar featured presentations from LAPD, Sheriff, FBI, District Attorney and Mental Health. We released a unique 30-year retrospective report presenting data, demographics and analysis on nearly 1000 cases of Child Homicides by Caretaker.

On July 14<sup>th</sup>, 24 department heads participated in our first virtual ICAN Policy meeting, where 14 key inter-agency recommendations were unanimously approved.

The Policy meeting was powerful and energizing. Recommendations addressed issues identified by ICAN committees and teams and called for action to improve the prevention and response to child abuse systemwide. This impressive gathering reflected the importance of our collective efforts and reinforced how we each contribute our unique skills, experience, information and perspective to prevent harm to vulnerable children. We were reminded of how the differences in the roads we choose and the diversity we were born with can come together in the universe of hope we bring to these children.

As we continue to adapt to the many changes brought about by this pandemic, please take time to re-energize yourself. While it is our nature to eagerly seek what's coming next, I hope you find yourself ready and inspired for the challenges to come.



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT  
County of Los Angeles



With this message, I'm sharing a quote from my favorite cousin, Jack Emmott. I first remember him as an exuberant toddler. Then, ravaged by polio at age 6 years, he endured a life of pain, surgeries, iron lung and permanent quadriplegia. His determination and hope led him to a noble practice of family law and advocacy for victims of disability, discrimination and loss.

*"Aren't we all accidental tourists? We have no voice in deciding the time, the date, or place of our birth. We do not select our parents or our brothers and sisters. Our nationality or the color of our skin is not our choice either. Regardless, we are all the same. We are all children of God. Whether we are rich or poor. Have long lives or die too soon. Whether we are disabled or able-bodied. Book worms or athletes. Confined to a wheelchair with polio. A Purple Heart recipient. Live lives of privilege or poverty or sacrifice. We are all truly accidental tourists."*

With sincere appreciation for your continued commitment to the safety and well-being of all children and families,

Deanne Tilton Durfee, Doc.hc, Executive Director,  
Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect  
(ICAN)

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Deanne Tilton Durfee".

[ican@lacounty.gov](mailto:ican@lacounty.gov)





Following is an update on ICAN key projects and programs.

## **NO HIT ZONES**

At our Policy Committee Meeting in July, committee members unanimously agreed to become No Hit Zones.

ICAN data over the past 30 years shows that over 50% of child homicides by caretaker involved head trauma, multiple trauma and blows to the torso/abdomen, often a result of excessive discipline for typical children's behavior.

By becoming No Hit Zones, agencies will display posters and distribute brochures to promote positive discipline and discourage the use of violence to solve problems. These materials have been designed and printed by ICAN, and the project has been piloted by Harbor UCLA Medical Center. To download brochures and posters or to learn more about No Hit Zones, please visit the ICAN website under the Committee's tab at: [Ican4kids.gov](http://Ican4kids.gov), or [chavem@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:chavem@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

## **COMMUNITY CHILD ABUSE COUNCILS**

LA County has 12 community-based child abuse prevention councils located throughout the County. Every month they have trainings, activities and events, most of which are free for the community. Please go to the Council's website at: [lachildabusecouncils.org](http://lachildabusecouncils.org) for more information.

## **ICAN EXPERT SERIES**

The ICAN Expert Training Series is composed of presentations from renowned multi-disciplinary experts who participate in the ICAN Child Death Review Team. Training participants will develop a better understanding of medical, legal, social and educational issues relevant to the prevention, identification and treatment of severe and fatal child abuse as well as child and adolescent suicides. For information visit the ICAN website under the Projects tab at: [Ican4kids.org](http://Ican4kids.org) or contacting [chavem@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:chavem@dcfs.lacounty.gov).





## **SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN**

ICAN's Safe Sleep Campaign continues to provide informational brochures and zoom trainings to hospitals and agencies working with parents of children between the ages of 0 to one-year. This year ICAN's Safe Sleep Campaign, in partnership with DPSS, provided 3,000 brochures to families identified to have an infant at home by directly mailing safe sleep information to them. We are grateful for our partners' support and motivation to continue our quest to prevent as many unsafe sleep deaths as possible. Report and brochures are available by contacting [montas@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:montas@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

## **CDRT**

The Child Death Review Team (CDRT) resumed meetings virtually earlier this year and we continue to meet the first Wednesday of each month. ICAN is currently working on the Annual Child Death Review Report for 2020 which includes 2019 data. These data show an increase in child homicides by parent/caretaker with 18 child homicides, and a decrease in third-party homicides, suicides and unsafe sleep related deaths. Accidental deaths increased to 110 deaths in comparison to 102 in 2018. We look forward to releasing the 2020 CDRT data in the Fall.

All CDRT reports and the ICAN 30 year Retrospective Report on Child Homicides by Caretaker are available on our website, [www.ican4kids.org](http://www.ican4kids.org).

## **CASRT**

The ICAN Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team is currently on its summer hiatus. Meetings and case reviews will resume on September 27, 2021. It is unclear at this time if Team meetings will resume in-person at the Medical Examiner- Coroner offices, or in virtual Zoom format. Either way, the Team is excited to once again engage in case reviews following its year-long break due to the pandemic.

## **CHILD ABDUCTION TASK FORCE**

Our Abduction Taskforce (TF) also will be on hiatus in the month of August. Meetings will resume on September 15, 2021. The third annual Child Abduction Training for Law Enforcement was held in May





of this year. Despite being conducted in a virtual format, it was extremely successful and well attended. Presentations included Foothill Family Services, the FBI, District Attorney, Sheriff and LAPD. Kudos once again to the Child Abduction TF Chair, Alyssa Skolnick, all of those that presented and attended, and the ICAN technical staff for a job well done!

## **ICAN DATA COMMITTEE**

The committee is slated to begin meeting again in September, 2021. Agencies are still wrapping up their 2019 Data Statements, and we are now in the process of reconciling the introduction of their 2020 data, after losing the traction of an entire year due to the pandemic. The ICAN 2019 State of Child Abuse Report (compiled from 2018 data) was released earlier this Spring, and is available for review on the ICAN website, [www.ican4kids.org](http://www.ican4kids.org).

## **HOSPITAL NETWORK PROJECT (HNP)**

Following the 2021 ICAN Policy meeting in July, the focus of the HNP shifted to two unanimously approved recommendations: 1) The Medical Examiner-Coroner work with the ICAN HNP to identify birth hospitals of child victims of homicide by caretaker, and connect them to the Child Death Review process; and 2) DHS, DPH, the UCLA Health System and the HNP explore the inclusion of fentanyl in routine drug screens at public and private hospitals, and advance the awareness of the sever dangers posed by fentanyl. Contact: [fraset@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:fraset@dcfs.lacounty.gov)

## **CHILDHOOD GRIEF AND TRAUMATIC LOSS CONFERENCE**

Over 300 trainees joined us virtually this year to learn more about helping grieving children and families. Our keynote speaker this year was Emilio Parga, Founder of The Solace Tree Child and Adolescent Ctr. In Nevada. There were ten well-attended morning and afternoon workshops. Although we missed our usual lunch together, we are hopeful that we will be able to enjoy an outdoor lunch with you soon.





## **NEXUS CONFERENCE-25<sup>th</sup> Anniversary**

Our hope for an in-person event remains. We've reserved the date of November 23, 2021 at our usual Universal Sheraton Hotel. This conference may be rescheduled to January or February. Please stay connected to our website for updates.

## **SAFE SURRENDER**

A 30-minute virtual training on the Safely Surrender Baby Law process is now available on our website at [ICAN4Kids.org](http://ICAN4Kids.org). ICAN's annual Safely Surrendered and Abandoned Infant report of 2019, is available on our website as well. You also may request a printed copy along with safe surrender brochures and posters by contacting us at 626-455-4585 or via email at [urquina@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:urquina@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

## **ICAN LEGISLATIVE COMMITTEE**

ICAN is revitalizing its Legislative Committee and the first meeting was held on July 26<sup>th</sup>. The committee will have two different components, one to seek legislative remedies to identified issues, and the other to review pending legislation for informational purposes and to possibly recommend a support or oppose position. Although a date has not yet been set, the committee will meet again in September. For more information, please contact [shuled@dcfs.lacounty.gov](mailto:shuled@dcfs.lacounty.gov).

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