



January 25, 2021

Dear ICAN Colleagues,

Happy New Year!

So much has happened since my last message. Today begins the first week following the Presidential Inauguration. This historical event represented different things to each American, and to the World. What I believe resonated most profoundly was the call for unity and working together to heal the great divides in our nation.

In my years with ICAN, I have experienced a number of divides regarding how to prevent harm and protect victims of abuse. These divides have been challenging, to be sure, but ultimately, we have come together when we've been open, transparent, and honest with each other. We understand that everyone wants the best for children and families. It's just how we get there that requires communication and understanding. This has been, and will continue to be, our goal with every ICAN effort, event, committee, team and task force.

On behalf of the children and families in L.A. County and throughout the nation, we send our hopes and support to our New President, Vice President, Cabinet and Legislature as they work to bring our country together.

Early footnote: I'm including a favorite photo taken in the White House a "few years" ago" *

Updates:

As the New Year is upon us, we reflect back on a year that brought historical challenges to families and our child protection system. The Pandemic brought tragic losses, and we became acutely aware of the medical, mental health, educational and visceral impact of the loss of inter-personal connections.

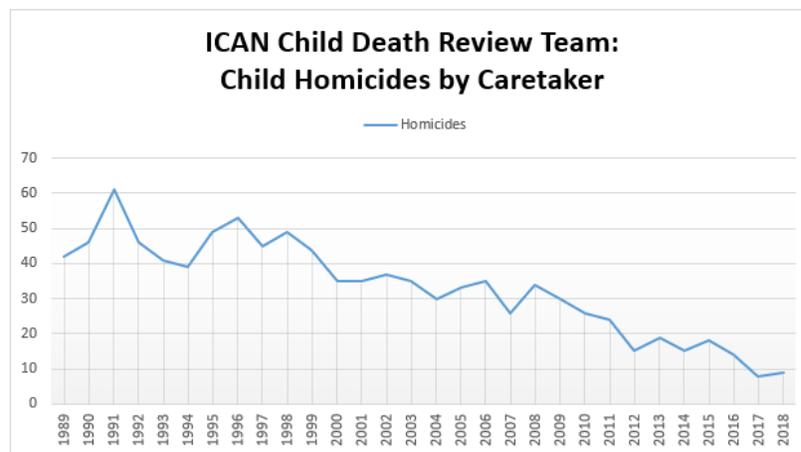
Within the context of this convolution of normal life, ICAN members and staff continued to come together to address the increased risk and maintain a focus on preventing harm to children. This has been done with the aid of technology, and the extraordinary commitment of professionals and volunteers who participate in our virtual teams, committees, task forces, campaigns and trainings.





This month, I want to share the impact of just a few of our joint efforts.

- In 1978, ICAN created the nation's first Child Death Review Team (CDRT), bringing all agencies together that may have touched a child's brief and tragic life. Profound findings of the team have changed the way in which risk is assessed. Failures in our system have been identified and addressed. In the past 30 years, the number of child abuse fatalities has declined by 73 percent.



- The ICAN Child and Adolescent Suicide Review team was also a national first. These reviews have opened our eyes to the effects of social media on youth and inspired school and mental health programs addressing cyber bullying, depression, opioids and gender biases.
- The ICAN Child Abduction Task Force has revealed that the prevalence of child abductions are of children by non-custodial parents, far outnumbering stranger abductions. DCFS, law enforcement, and County Counsel now work together as a team to expedite the location and to bring these children home safely.
- ICAN drafted and advocated for legislation (AB 1733, and AB 2994) to bring into the county the first funding earmarked for community child abuse prevention services. ICAN has recommended millions in funding for scores of community based child abuse prevention services that have provided innovative and effective child abuse prevention services that otherwise would not be supported by government funds.
- ICAN joined with First5LA and DCFS to launch a two-year Infant Safe Sleep campaign that reduced the number of these tragic and preventable infant deaths by over 50 percent. The Safe Sleep for Baby website is now integrated into the ICAN4Kids.org website, or can be accessed directly at www.safesleepforbaby.com.



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



- ICAN was the first entity to bring together local and federal agencies to address the high volume of Criminal Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC) in Los Angeles County.
The ICAN CSEC Task Force led to multiple inter-agency and judicial efforts to address this widespread exploitation of young victims.

We're anticipating the **No Hit Zone (NHZ) Campaign kick-off** at Harbor-UCLA led by Dr. Carol Berkowitz, Chief of Pediatrics (center in photo). This will be the first in the Western U.S, building on the American Academy of Pediatrics and our ICAN No Hitter campaign with Joe Torre and the Dodgers. Our hope is to expand the program to all of LA County in 2021. NHZ encourages positive behaviors and provides resources to individuals including facts about hitting, effective discipline and online resources.



Above: Carol Berkowitz, MD, Dulce Alvarez and Wendy Miyares.

We have numerous exciting trainings coming up in the next few months including the ICAN Expert Series on Lessons Learned from Child Death Review, Infant Safe Surrender Training, GERDA (Guidelines to Effective Response to Domestic Violence), and an On-Line Children's Traumatic Loss and Grief Conference. Our YouTube Celebration Video of the Child Abuse Prevention Poster Art Contest Winners is close to release.

I encourage you to visit our ICAN Website at WWW.ICAN4Kids.org for information on ICAN and ICAN Associates, and our Annual Reports on the State of Child Abuse in LA Count, Infant Safe Surrender and Abandonment; Report of the Child Death Review Team, and a Special 30-year Report on Child Abuse Homicides. (available online in February 2021)



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT
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* Photo taken in the East Room of the White House when the Child Pornography Prevention Act was announced.



Senator Joe Biden, Commissioner Deanne Tilton Durfee

"Do your little bit of good where you are. It's those little bits of good put together that overwhelm the world" -Desmond Tutu

With appreciation for your commitment to the safety and joy of children,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, reading "Deanne Tilton-Durfee".

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

