



Monday, April 13, 2020

Dear Friends,

Yesterday, the LA Times headlined "The Intruder crept in while we were thinking about other things"

We at ICAN were "thinking" about protecting children from abuse, preventing family violence. We were focused on providing safety and support to families, and holding perpetrators accountable.

Then, our attention became jettisoned into a consuming battle against a perpetrator of deadly force that is not responsive to social intervention or legal apprehension. This perpetrator defies traditional community support and thrives on personal gestures such as handshakes or reassuring hugs.

Even worse, our response to this evil intrusion must be isolation, social distancing, no touching, hugging, community interaction or recreation.

We know from years of experience that the most effective way to prevent abuse is by diminishing isolation.

And so, we are left with great challenges. How can we interfere with the isolation, anxiety and stress of parents and caregivers who may be out of work, lonely, afraid and angry? How do we protect those invisible children within quarantined walls?

We can't give up on these challenges, we just have to think differently. At least for a while.

We can't let the risk of child endangerment behind closed doors be ignored.

Please let us know your thoughts and ideas.

ICAN will pursue our efforts to address the critical issues we've identified such as unsafe infant sleep, safe surrender, cyber crimes, child abduction, youth suicide, child fatalities, domestic violence, substance abuse, trauma and grief.



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



Some will continue telemetrically. ICAN events will occur, but rescheduled.

ICAN Associates will be developing supportive Social Media messages.

You can check our website ican4kids.org for updates.

On a personal level, I realize that none us has been spared a level of stress and anxiety while we live and work remotely. We can, however, still make connections by telephone, text and internet. We can write that letter we've put off for so long. We can smile and wave to our neighbors as we pass at a safe distance with our never so happy dogs.

Enjoy the time with your families and pay attention to your child's home school lessons. Stay connected.

We will get through this and share memories of how we experienced this historical time.

Finally, a note to our colleagues who continue to provide essential services that take you from your homes and families into harm's way each day. By any measure of human worth and kindness, you are heroes.

With appreciation,

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

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

