

Resolution 11.14.02

Resolution on Preventing Child Abuse and Neglect through a Continuum of Therapeutic Approaches

Whereas, severe forms of maltreatment leaves tens of thousands of victims overwhelmed by lifelong psychological trauma, thousands of traumatized siblings and family members, and thousands of near-death survivors who, as adults, continue to bear physical and psychological scars.¹

Whereas, “research on high-risk populations including disadvantaged single-parent mothers has reported that from 47 percent to 70 percent of mothers with a history of severe physical abuse were currently abusing their children.”²

Whereas, therapeutic counseling, respite care for parents and children, and therapeutic nurseries, among other approaches, have been shown to be effective in helping the victim heal, thereby allowing him/her to lead a more productive and satisfying life while also ending the intergenerational cycle of abuse.

Whereas, 45 percent of child abuse victims do not receive mental health services.³

Whereas, most states mandate therapeutic services for perpetrators of child abuse, while few states mandate similar services for the child victims.

Therefore, be it resolved, that PCA America supports:

Facilitating the diagnosis of the emotional, cognitive, and social functioning of all child abuse/neglect victims to determine their needs for therapeutic care.

Ensuring services are available to all child victims of abuse and neglect who need them.

Providing multidisciplinary, ongoing training for professionals who work with traumatized children including Child Protective Services workers, mental health practitioners and foster parents, among others.

Research and evaluation projects that determine the effectiveness of various therapeutic approaches for victims of different ages, cultural backgrounds and circumstances.

Increasing funding and mandating public and private insurance coverage for therapeutic services for child victims.

¹ U.S. Advisory Board on Child Abuse and Neglect (1995). “A Nation’s Shame: Fatal Child Abuse and Neglect in the United States.” Washington, D.C.: U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

² Egeland, B. Susmann-Stillman, A (1996). “Dissociation as a Mediator of Child Abuse across Generations.” *Child Abuse and Neglect* 20:1123-1132 [Medline Link] as cited in Green, Arthur, H., MD (1998).

³ “Factors Contributing to the Generational Transmission of Child Maltreatment [Clinical Perspective].” *Journal of the American Academy of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry* Volume 37(12), December 1998, 1334-1336.

³ Children’s Bureau Administration on Children, Youth and Families: National Child Abuse and Neglect Data System (NCANDS). Summary of Key Findings from Calendar Year 2000, April 2002.