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➤ *Discovery Health Channel's "Close to Home" Premiere*

This powerful documentary details five personal accounts of child sex abuse, on April 29, 2002, at 8:00 p.m. (ET). Hosted by David Schwimmer of "Friends," the documentary weaves together in-depth children's interviews and group therapy sessions where convicted sex offenders recount the strategies they practice to pursue their victims. Directed and produced by Vanessa Roth and Alexandra Dickson, "Close to Home," recently shown at the Sundance Film Festival, was made possible by the Mark McGwire Foundation for Children and the generosity of Mark McGwire.

Discovery Health Channel will air an encore presentation of "Close to Home" on Sunday, May 19, at 8:00 p.m. (ET). Immediately following, at 10:00 p.m. (ET), the channel will air the one-hour premiere of "Sexual Predators," an in-depth look inside the mind of sexual predators at the Kansas City Psychiatric Hospital.

PCA America will be promoted during the airing, along with a few other national organizations, as resources for viewers to turn to for more information. Our web site and 1-800-CHILDREN will be promoted during the airing, and we expect PCA America's new public service advertisement(s) to be shown as well. The PCA America web site will also be linked to Discovery Health Channel's site, which will feature a special section on this documentary. Within that section will be links to various local and state level resources, including our chapters, HFA and National Family Support Roundtable members, where possible.

To help you promote the airing locally, Discovery Health Channel has produced a limited quantity of flyers. If you would like to receive a small quantity of these flyers or have any questions, contact Matt Feldman at mfeldman@preventchildabuse.org.

➤ *Q & A CORNER*

This ongoing series is designed to address questions raised by state leaders regarding developing state systems and taking HFA to scale. As part of the *State Systems Scoop*, we explore these questions and offer resources for additional information.

In the January 2002 *Scoop*, information was provided on child abuse prevention advocacy. Below, we discuss why state budgets are in the predicament they are in and what options exist to generate alternative revenue and ease state budget crises.

“Show Me The Money!”- Finding New Revenue To Balance State Budgets

The numbers are difficult to comprehend. According to the Economic Policy Institute (EPI), state and local governments could be facing a collective budget gap of nearly \$100 billion by July 2003. Despite Alan Greenspan of the Federal Reserve Bank effectively declaring the recession over earlier this month, history demonstrates that states do not feel the benefit of an economic improvement until possibly years later. Lessons learned from our last recession, in which the economy began to improve in mid-1991, showed that state and local governments recorded budget deficits until as late as 1993 (EPI, 2002). This history indicates that we may continue to see budget deficits in state and local governments for some time to come.

Why is there a revenue crisis in state and local governments?

States and localities are feeling an enormous fiscal burden because of a practice called “negative aid” or “reverse revenue-sharing.” This budget practice effectively shifts many costs to the states that are traditionally borne by the federal government. These costs emerge from four sources: reductions in grants-in-aid, increased security expenditures, tax changes and the increased demand for social services.

1. Reductions in Grants-In-Aid

Grants-in-aid can be thought of as federal financial aid to state and local governments. Grants-in-aid help subsidize many basic government services. According to the EPI, 20% of state and local expenditures were subsidized by the federal government through grants-in-aid in 2001. President Bush’s current budget proposal recommends explicit cuts to many critical grants-in-aid programs such as transportation, agriculture, capital projects and social services, such as the Community Services Block Grant. These cuts will mean significant reductions in federal revenue usually deposited to state coffers.

2. Increased Security Expenditures

As a result of the events of September 11, most states are developing extensive homeland security plans, all of which are costing millions of dollars. While states are receiving federal grants to support this enhanced security infrastructure, these expenditures are supplanting state spending on other basic public services. Spending on homeland security should not be viewed as a substitute, but as an addition to the basic services government provides to its citizens, such as child abuse and neglect prevention services.

3. Tax Changes

The \$1.3 trillion tax cut enacted in 2001 has also led to a significant loss in state revenue. Because many state tax codes rely on the federal definition of taxable income, most state tax codes “piggy-back” off of the federal tax system (EPI, 2002). In addition, the repeal of the federal estate and gift tax will reduce revenue to state governments by \$9 billion (Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, 2001). Coupled with the above, proposed reductions in the marginal income tax rate will increase the drain on state revenue. Together, these tax policies will mean significantly less revenue going to state governments.

4. Increased Demand for Social Services

The final stress on state budgets is the increase in demand for government services. Expenditures on services such as Medicaid, Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF), food stamps and other programs have risen due to an increase in unemployment. The largest chunk of this expenditure comes from Medicaid, whose cost increased 12% in FY 2002 and is expected to total \$160 billion by FY 2003. This rise in Medicaid costs is associated with recession-induced unemployment, since Medicaid is a program based on one's income level. This increase in demand for services is no different in the child abuse and neglect field, with many home visitation programs across the country noting an increased demand for program services.

What can states do?

Unfortunately, states are limited in their options to make up budget shortfalls. Unlike the federal government, state and local governments are mandated to balance their budgets each year, leaving them unable to practice deficit spending. Ultimately, states have **four options** to balance their budgets: spending cuts, reforming tax policies, spending reserves and increasing federal grants-in-aid and other short term measures.

1. Spending Cuts

Many HFA programs have directly experienced this revenue-saving option in their states. While states have a limited pie from which to carve out social spending, cutting social programs is often the easiest measure to implement. State governments are encouraged to be thoughtful and deliberative about the relative strength and capacity of various government programs. Legislators and governors need to analyze carefully which programs can sustain themselves through short-term funding declines and economic change, and which programs are more fragile. Using this approach, states can more responsibly manage deficits versus mandating less responsible across-the-board percentage cuts. Fortunately, many HFA programs have experienced success in combating these cuts through comprehensive and persistent advocacy and public education efforts. However, programs need to be prepared for a potentially new set of budget challenges in FY 2003.

2. Reforming Tax Policy

Freezing and rescinding tax cuts, while not politically popular, represent a hopeful way to stave the state budget crisis and improve the future budget outlook. According to Kevin Carey, policy analyst with the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities (CBPP), several states have successfully implemented tax changes. Four states have raised taxes (AL, NY, NC, OH), two states have reversed tax cuts (CA, OK), five states have delayed scheduled tax cuts (CT, DC, FL, NE, VA) and multiple governors have proposed new taxes. Critical to tax reform is the notion that the taxes passed are progressive in nature, not regressive in that low-income people bear the largest burden of the tax. CBPP points out that during the recession, states raised regressive taxes and cut progressive taxes. Raising progressive taxes hurts the economy less in the long run and helps prevent future fiscal crises. Other tax policies to consider are the reinstatement of the estate and gift tax, a careful broadening of the sales tax, low-income tax relief policies such as the earned income tax credit, and the closing of corporate tax loopholes (CBPP, 2002).

3. Reserve Spending

In better fiscal times, most states built up “rainy day” or “contingency” funds, surplus dollars put in a safe place for the future. However, now that the need clearly exists, many state governments have been hesitant to tap into their reserves. According to Carey of CBPP, “never using the rainy day fund is the same as not having one at all.” Carey argues that using state reserves is the only budget balancing measure that actually helps economic recovery. It is important that advocacy efforts encourage the use of rainy day funds in the interest of preventing cuts to critical programs.

4. Increasing Federal Grants-In-Aid and Other Short Term Measures

According to EPI, not only can the federal government afford a temporary and supplementary grant to state governments but this action could also be a very effective “economic stimulus” move. A central purpose of these grants would be to infuse state and local governments with enough money to fund basic government services at a level at which they can keep up with inflation and population growth. This subsidy could be temporary in nature to help state and local governments get through this challenging fiscal time and be able to operate on balanced budgets.

In general, states must be careful in implementing other temporary or one-time measures. It is important that states not jeopardize their long-term fiscal health for short-term gain. For more information on short-term budget measures, see the CBPP resources below.

Conclusion

The most critical aspect of the above revenue-generating ideas is that they are incorporated into a holistic and strategic financial plan for the state. It is clear from the information presented here that many options are available to state governments outside of cutting program services. States must be deliberate in creating a comprehensive budget-balancing plan. Child and family advocates, working collaboratively, are essential for helping states craft their plans and represent the ongoing need for important government social services, such as home visitation.

For more information on this subject, please contact Lisa Cashion, state systems coordinator at lcashion@preventchildabuse.org or explore the resources below.

Additional Resources on State Budgets and Alternative Revenue

www.voices4kids.org- Voices for Illinois Children has a helpful newsletter, see the link to “Budget and Tax Policy Initiative News.”

<http://info.med.yale.edu/chldstdy/CTvoices/kidslink/kidslink2/index.html>- Connecticut Voices for Children has a useful paper entitled, “Enhancing State Investments Through Smart Budget Choices.”

<http://www.michiganschildren.org/pdf/deficit.pdf> - This paper from Michigan argues for budget alternatives to combat proposed cuts to K-12 education.

<http://www.cbpp.org/1-17-02sfp.htm> - States Are Cutting Low-Income Programs in Response to Fiscal Crisis, reports the CBPP. But better options are available.

<http://www.cbpp.org/2-22-02wel.htm> - CBPP's paper on "Nineteen Ways States Can Assist Low-Income Families During the Downturn."

<http://www.cbpp.org/pubs/sfp.htm> - A variety of position papers on state fiscal policies such as the estate tax and rainy day funds.

<http://www.epinet.org/> - Click on the link to "Budgeting Beyond the Beltway," the Economic Policy Institute paper referenced in this article.

➤ **PCA AMERICA NEWS**

State Systems News...

State Systems welcomes Katherine Honzu, our new program specialist. Katherine was previously involved with the PCA America National Conference and is replacing Shane Mason, who left to pursue an opportunity to work in New York. She can be reached by email at khonzu@preventchildabuse.org. Welcome Katherine!

Quality Assurance News...

After five years with the Quality Assurance Department of PCA America, Kimberly Gardiner has decided to move on to a community outreach program of the University of Chicago! This position is a wonderful move for Kimberly and she will be greatly missed. Pending her replacement's hire, Gayle Montgomery (gmontgomery@preventchildabuse.org) will be serving in her position.

The refinements of the credentialing standards have been completed! The new standards are effective for those programs that will have site visits in 2003. Copies or e-versions of the new standards can be requested by contacting Gayle.

The Quality Assurance Department is also in the process of revising its manuals. New manuals and the CD-Rom version of the new standards will be available at the end of April.

Training News...

PCA America regrets to announce the departure of Cynthia Stringfellow, HFA training manager, after five years of service to the organization. We are so happy for Cynthia in her new role as director of training for Family Focus in Chicago. PCA America will be contracting with Cynthia as a consultant to ensure the continuity of the HFA transition implementation process. Congratulations, Cynthia! Any inquiries to the training department should be sent to: Helen Reif (hreif@preventchildabuse.org), Phyllis Medrano (pmedrano@preventchildabuse.org), or Diana Jemison (djemison@preventchildabuse.org).

Research News...

CDC Report Finds Highest Risk of Childhood Homicide is in Infancy

Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) researchers found the risk of homicide is greater in infancy than in any other year of childhood before age 17. A new CDC study in today's *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report (MMWR)* examines infant deaths over the course of the first year and first week of life. The report, entitled, "Variation in Homicide Risk Over the Course of Infancy, United States, 1989-1998" can be viewed online at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/preview/mmwrhtml/mm5109a3.htm, or you can also view a PDF document of the article at: www.cdc.gov/mmwr/PDF/wk/mm5109.pdf.

Early Childhood Home Visitation Prevents Child Maltreatment

A systematic review of published studies looking at early childhood home visitation programs, conducted by the Task Force on Community Preventive Services and coordinated with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), found that these programs are highly effective in reducing child maltreatment, especially among high-risk families. Based on this review, the Task Force issued a strong recommendation that early childhood home visitation programs be implemented or continued. This report is not yet available online. A report will be published in late summer in the *Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report* and at the end of the year in the *American Journal of Preventive Medicine*. You can obtain further information from Robert A. Hahn, PhD at the CDC at 770.488.8293 or by email at rahl@cdc.gov.

National Conference News...

Approximately 1,300 people gathered in Dallas, Texas, for the PCA America National Conference, which was held March 2-5. These dedicated professionals from PCA America chapters, HFA sites, the Roundtable and many other partners in prevention came together to learn, share, meet, collaborate and grow stronger in their efforts to prevent the abuse and neglect of our nation's children (don't know where this language came from, but this reflects our old mission statement, which we're trying to get away from...). Keynote speakers included Dr. Joycelyn Elders, Governor Howard Dean of Vermont, Dr. Alicia Lieberman, Dr. Lawrence Green and Dr. David Treadway. In addition to choosing from more than 80 workshop selections, attendees could peruse booths of over 40 exhibitors in the Resource Marketplace. Videotapes of the keynote speakers will be available for purchase. Watch future issues of *Scoop* for further information.

If you attended the conference, please complete the Conference Evaluation Form and return it to Ann Johnson, conference manager at PCA America by the end of March. You may fax it to 312.939.8962 or mail it to the national office.

The next PCA America National Conference for all networks will be held in 2004 – the dates and location have not yet been determined but will be announced in the next few months. Suggestions and offers of assistance are most welcome.

National Family Support Roundtable (Roundtable) News...

PCA America and the Roundtable will be offering a Request for Proposal this April for grants to create new state networks for parent self-help groups.

Parent self-help support groups are available to parents and other caregivers who want to prevent or stop abusive and/or neglectful behaviors by working together to learn new skills in a supportive and trusting atmosphere. This year there are three \$25,000 grants available beginning Oct 1, 2002. These one year start-up grants will assist each state in creating a network of parent self-help group support programs. Support, training and technical assistance are available to the grantees from the project staff and the members of the National Family Support Roundtable once the award is made. For additional information contact Barbara Shaffer at: bshaffer@preventchildabuse.org

Advocacy News...

Please refer to the *Prevention Advocate* newsletter for detailed advocacy information, or contact Hume An (han@preventchildabuse.org) to obtain a copy via e-mail.

➤ FUNDING ANNOUNCEMENTS

FEDERAL

➤ Health Resources & Services Administration Adds More Grants to Fiscal Year 2002
The Health Education & Training Center Grants go to projects serving unmet needs along the U.S. Mexico Border, in Florida, and in needy urban and rural areas. \$3.8 million is available and the deadline is **April 29th, 2002**. Contact Louis Coccodrilli at 301.443.6950.

FOUNDATIONS

➤ The Patrick and Anna M. Cudahy Fund

Total Grants: \$2,436,903

Average: \$5,000-\$25,000

Deadlines are the 5th of January, April, July, and October.

The Patrick and Anna Cudahy Fund is a general-purpose foundation that primarily supports organizations in Wisconsin and the metropolitan Chicago area. For more information visit the fund's website at www.cudahyfund.org.

➤ The Prudential Foundation

Total Grants: \$26,838,362

Average: \$250 to \$100,000

Board meeting date(s): Apr., Sept., and Dec.

Deadline(s): None

The Foundation emphasizes direct-service, rather than policy-oriented grants. The Foundation also has geographic priorities. In order of emphasis, it funds:

- Programs that serve its headquarters city of Newark and surrounding New Jersey urban centers.
- Programs in cities where Prudential has a significant presence. These cities include: Atlanta, Houston, Jacksonville, Fla., Los Angeles, Minneapolis, and Philadelphia. In Jacksonville, Los Angeles, Minneapolis and Philadelphia, the Foundation will focus its funding in specific neighborhoods.
- National programs that further the Foundation's objectives and can be implemented or replicated in cities where Prudential has a substantial presence.

For more information contact the foundation's web site:

www.prudential.com/community/foundation/cmfzz1002.html

➤ The William Randolph Hearst Foundation and The Hearst Foundation, Inc.

Total Grants: \$13,295,000

Average: \$20,000 to \$50,000

Board meeting date(s): Mar., June, Sept., and Dec.

Deadline(s): None

The Hearst Foundations support human service agencies that foster effective solutions to social and economic problems. Preference is given to well-established organizations that provide comprehensive, direct-service programs. For more information contact the foundations' web site: www.hearstfdn.org

➤ **CONFERENCES**

May 2002

Fourth National Roundtable on Implementing the Adoption and Safe Families Act: Meeting the Goals of Safety, Permanency, and Well-Being and Preparing for Child and Family Services Reviews, American Humane Association, May 1-3, 2002, Philadelphia, PA

Contact:

Mickey Shumaker, American Humane Association
303.925.9416; Fax: 303.792.5333; 800.227.4645 (Toll-Free)

E-mail: mickey@americanhumane.org

Web Site: <http://www.americanhumane.org/children/prof/upcomev.htm>

Power of Prevention Conference 2002

Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, May 20-22, 2002, Richmond, VA

Contact:

Pat Campbell, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia
804.359.0716; Fax: 804.359.5065

E-mail: conference@pcav.org

Web Site: <http://www.preventchildabuseva.org>

NDACAN Summer Research Institute

National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect (NDACAN), May 28-June 2, 2002, Ithaca, NY

Contact:

Andres Arroyo, National Data Archive on Child Abuse and Neglect
607.255.7799; Fax: 607.255.8562

E-mail: NDACAN@cornell.edu

Web Site: <http://www.ndacan.cornell.edu/NDACAN/SRI/SRIAnnouncement.htm>

American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children Tenth Annual National Colloquium (APSAC), May 29-June 1, 2002, New Orleans, LA

Contact:

Heather Newton, APSAC
405.271.8202; Fax: 405.271.2931

E-mail: heather-newton@ouhsc.edu

Web Site: <http://www.apsac.org>

Building on Family Strengths: Research and Services in Support of Children and Their Families, Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health, May 30-June 1, 2002, Portland, OR

Contact:

Rachel Elizabeth, Public Information and Outreach Coordinator
Research and Training Center on Family Support and Children's Mental Health
503.725.8118

E-mail: elizabr@rri.pdx.edu

Web Site: <http://www.rtc.pdx.edu>

➤ **WEB SITES/RESOURCES**

Children and Welfare Reform, The Future of Children, Vol. 12, No. 1, Winter/Spring 2002, from the David and Lucile Packard Foundation. Available at: www.futureofchildren.org/pubs-info2825/pubs-info.htm?doc_id=102547

Abuse and Neglect of Children with Disabilities: A Collaborative Response, from the Virginia Institute for Development Disabilities. This curriculum promotes collaboration among parents of children with disabilities, educators, CPS workers, and law enforcement officers, to help them deal effectively with the maltreatment of children with disabilities. The curriculum is designed to be taught by teams of trainers. The 500-page Training Manual (second edition) includes a Trainer's Guide, Participant Handouts, and overheads. Available from Peggy O'Neill, MSW at the Virginia Institute for Development Disabilities at 804.827.0194 or email: poneill@saturn.vcu.edu

Children at Risk: State Trends 1990 – 2000

This new Kids Count report uses the latest census data to document enormous diversity across the states regarding child poverty, with some improving on many more indicators than others. Broad and widespread improvements in child well-being during the 1990's are surprisingly modest given the economic boom, according to Kids Count spokesperson William O'Hare: "I'm concerned that some of the progress and policies that led to these improvements in the states are vulnerable to cutbacks as state budgets face crises."

<http://www.aecf.org/kidscount/c2ss>.

Do you like our new web-based version of *Scoop*? Let us know if this new format works for you, please email lcashion@preventchildabuse.org with your ideas/feedback. Thanks!

See you in May for the next edition of *Scoop*!