



Sexual Abuse Prevention Training

BANDINA CHRISTIAN YOUTH CAMP, INC.

TEXAS DEPARTMENT OF STATE HEALTH SERVICES APPROVAL NO. XX-XXX

SEPTEMBER 2020

The Texas Youth Camp Safety and Health Act requires

ALL PAID AND VOLUNTEER
STAFF MEMBERS TO
PARTICIPATE IN A TRAINING
AND EXAMINATION
PROGRAM ON SEXUAL
ABUSE AND MOLESTATION
PREVENTION.

Training must cover

- ▶ The definitions and effects of sexual abuse and child molestation
- ▶ The typical patterns of behavior and methods of operation of child molesters
- ▶ The warning signs and symptoms associated with sexual abuse or child molestation
- ▶ The recommended rules and procedures to address, reduce, prevent, and report suspected sexual abuse or child molestation.
- ▶ The need to minimize unsupervised encounters between adults and minors; and
- ▶ The potential for consensual and non-consensual sexual activity between campers, steps to prevent sexual activity between campers, and how to respond if sexual activity between campers occurs.

Reference sources

- ▶ Most of the material in this training presentation comes from the “Reducing the Risk II -Making Your Church Safe from Child Sexual Abuse” by Church Mutual Insurance Company
- ▶ Each session director has a copy of the material that you may request for review

What do you think?

- ▶ How common is child abuse in the U.S.?
- ▶ What percentage of boys are sexually abused in the U.S.?
- ▶ What percentage of girls are sexually abused in the U.S.?

Statistics

- ▶ There are over 60 million survivors of sexual abuse in the U.S. today.
- ▶ According to the U.S. Department of Justice, as many as 1 in 3 girls and 1 in 7 boys will be sexually abused at some point in their childhood.

What is child sexual abuse?

- ▶ Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in all 50 states, but the precise legal definition varies from state to state.
- ▶ However, most definitions include any form of sexual contact or exploitation in which a minor is being used for sexual stimulation of the perpetrator.

Child sexual abuse

- ▶ Sexual abuse may also be committed by a person under the age of 18 when the person is significantly older than the victim or when the perpetrator is in a position of power and control over the child.
- ▶ Child sexual abuse may be violent or non-violent.
- ▶ Child sexual abuse occurs in all demographic, racial, ethnic, socio-economic, and religious groups.

Type of sexual abuse

- ▶ Touching
- ▶ Non-touching



Sexual abuse that involves touching
may include:

- ▶ Fondling
- ▶ Oral, genital, and anal penetration
- ▶ Intercourse
- ▶ Forcible rape

Sexual abuse that does not involve touching may include:

- ▶ Verbal comments
- ▶ Pornographic videos
- ▶ Obscene phone calls
- ▶ Exhibitionism
- ▶ Allowing children to witness sexual activity
- ▶ Explicit photography



Symptoms of molestation can fall into three categories:

- ▶ Physical
- ▶ Behavioral
- ▶ Verbal

Physical symptoms:

- ▶ Bruises on flanks, buttocks, or thighs; multiple bruises of multiple colors
- ▶ Lacerations
- ▶ Abrasions on the wrist, legs, or neck
- ▶ Nightmares
- ▶ Fractures or burns
- ▶ Bleeding or the symptoms of sexually transmitted diseases

Behavioral symptoms:

- ▶ Anxiety when approaching a particular place (where abuse has occurred or the abuser may be encountered) or person
- ▶ Nervous, hostile, or defiant behavior toward adults
- ▶ Sexual self-consciousness
- ▶ “Acting out” of sexual behaviors
- ▶ Withdrawals from social activities and friends

Verbal signs may include statements such as:

- ▶ I don't like [a particular person]
- ▶ [A particular person] does things to me when we're alone
- ▶ I don't like to be alone with [a particular person]
- ▶ [A particular person] fooled around with me

Factors that effect the impact of sexual abuse:

- ▶ Intensity
- ▶ Duration
- ▶ Frequency
- ▶ Age at time of abuse
- ▶ Relationship to the perpetrator
- ▶ Violence
- ▶ Participation of victim

Long-term consequences

Outcome studies of adult survivors of child sexual abuse suggest the following effects:

- ▶ Sexual dysfunction, eating disorders, substance abuse, promiscuity, disassociation from emotions, and possible perpetration of sexual abuse on others (Geffner, 1992)
- ▶ It is very difficult to identify a child molester and there is no foolproof screening process

Recognizing a molester

- ▶ It is very difficult to identify a child molester and there is no foolproof screening process
- ▶ The following statistics will provide some insight

Statistics on molesters

- ▶ Over 89% of the time, the abuser is someone known to the victim (Strangers account for less than 20 percent of the abusers)
- ▶ Most abuse takes place within the context of an ongoing relationship
- ▶ The usual offender is between the ages of 20-30 years
- ▶ 20% of sex offenders begin their activity before the age of 18

Statistics on molesters (continued)

- ▶ Estimates indicate that when a known assailant commits the abuse, half of the time it is a father or stepfather, and the rest of the time it is a trusted adult who misuses his or her authority over children.
- ▶ The average molester will abuse 117 children before getting caught.
- ▶ Child abusers are often married and have children.
- ▶ A 1990 study revealed as much as 56 percent of child molestation cases are committed by adolescents, mostly males.

Methods of operation

- ▶ Child molesters use seduction, trickery, and force to accomplish their sexual abuse.
- ▶ They use a process of grooming that correlates to the courting process.

Typical patterns of offenders

- ▶ Insists on hugging, touching, kissing, tickling, wrestling with or holding a child even when the child does not want this “affection”
- ▶ Overly interested in the sexuality of a particular child (talks about developing body, etc.)
- ▶ Seeks time alone with child
- ▶ Spends most of his/her time with children

Typical patterns of offenders (continued)

- ▶ Regularly offers to babysit or takes children on overnight outings
- ▶ Buys children expensive gifts or gives them money
- ▶ Frequently walks in on children in the bathroom
- ▶ Allows children to consistently get away with inappropriate behavior

Behavioral profile of molesters

- ▶ Research currently indicates that no one profile fits the various perpetrators of abuse.
- ▶ Kenneth Lanning, an FBI agent for 30 years, has determined that sexual offenders function along a motivational continuum that ranges from preferential sex offenders to situational sex offenders.

Preferential sex offenders

- ▶ “Preferential” offenders have a particular sexual preference, often for children of a particular age or gender.
- ▶ Although few in number, a single preferential perpetrator can molest hundreds of children (some over 500 in a lifetime).
- ▶ Because of their predatory nature, they actively seek victims and will engage in bold and repeated attempts to molest children.

Preferential sex offenders (cont'd#1)

- ▶ Develop long term patterns of abusive behaviors
- ▶ Are willing to invest significant amounts of time, energy, money, and other resources to fulfill their sexual needs
- ▶ Usually male, not married, and over 25

Preferential sex offenders (cont'd#2)

- ▶ Moves frequently
- ▶ Has an excessive interest in children
- ▶ Lives alone or with parents
- ▶ Maintains pornographic collections and photographs children

Preferential sex offenders (cont'd#3)

- ▶ Spends an excessive amount of time socializing with children
- ▶ Intentional and selective concerning their victims
- ▶ May be hard working and skilled individuals in their everyday work life
- ▶ May even develop good relationships with the parents of the children they molest

Situational sex offenders

A situational sex offender is an opportunist and engages in misconduct when a situation develops or exists that makes the abuse possible.

Situational sex offenders (cont'd#1)

- ▶ Most offenders are situational
- ▶ They have fewer victims than preferential
- ▶ Often molest their own children
- ▶ Have a wide range of sexual interest
- ▶ Can be abusive with children or adults in other ways
- ▶ Does not fit any single profile

Situational sex offenders (cont'd#2)

- ▶ May use force or coerce their victims
- ▶ May be indiscriminate concerning whom they molest and act completely on impulse
- ▶ More likely to confess or feel remorse than are preferential molesters

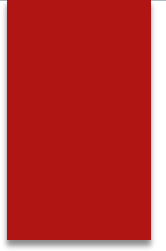
Detering preferential and situational offenders

- ▶ The best way to ward off sex offenders is to develop an environment that puts the molester at risk rather than the children.
 - ▶ Develop a thorough screening process for both paid and volunteer workers
 - ▶ Employ and maintain proper supervision and accountability

Points to remember

- ▶ Both preferential and situational sex offenders can operate in churches (or camps).
- ▶ Preferential offenders actively seek out children.
- ▶ Situational offenders take advantage of opportunities that make abuse possible.
- ▶ Remember most children know their abuser. Therefore, “stranger danger” is not adequate prevention.

Responding to allegations of abuse



1. Understand the problem

- ▶ Sexual misconduct poses a serious threat to churches and camps
- ▶ Sexual misconduct encompasses a broad range of actions

2. Provide a caring response

- ▶ First, be prepared mentally to receive an allegation. Do not express disbelief, minimize the complaint, or place blame on the victim.
- ▶ Second, be prepared for intense emotions from the complainant. Probing, but sensitive questions will be necessary to uncover some details.

3. Document the allegation

- ▶ The name, age, gender and address of the victim
- ▶ The name, age, gender and address of the alleged perpetrator
- ▶ The nature of the sexual misconduct alleged to have occurred.
- ▶ How many times the alleged misconduct occurred.
- ▶ The date(s) and location(s) of the incident(s).
- ▶ The relationship between the victim and the alleged perpetrator.
- ▶ Other evidence that supports the allegation (eyewitnesses, medical exams, confessions, etc.)

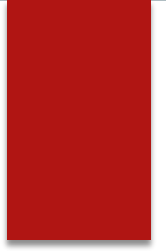
4. Report the allegation

- ▶ Immediately report the allegation to the session director and the appropriate state agencies
- ▶ The session director has the contact information for the state agencies and will help you finish gathering any needed information

Things to avoid

- ▶ Minimizing or failing to follow-up on any and all allegations
- ▶ Contacting the alleged perpetrator before the Police or Social Services investigator has given permission (Do not confront the perpetrator)
- ▶ Failing to keep the information confidential – information should only be shared with those with qualified privilege

Preventing
consensual and
non-consensual
sexual activity
among campers



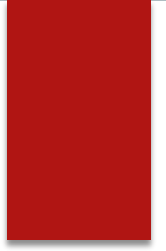
Adolescent sexual activity

- ▶ 16% of teens have had sex by age 15
- ▶ 33% of teens have had sex by age 16
- ▶ 48% of teens have had sex by age 17
- ▶ 61% of teens have had sex by age 18

Consensual & non-consensual sexual activity

Due to the sexual activity of teens today, staff members also need to be aware of the possibility of consensual and nonconsensual sexual activity between campers

What staff
members should
do to prevent
sexual abuse
and consensual
and non-
consensual
sexual activity



Provide appropriate supervision

- ▶ The level of supervision should correspond with the level of risk.
 - ▶ **General** supervision is appropriate for low risk activities; focus is on the group at large
 - ▶ **Specific** supervision is appropriate for higher risk activities; supervision is more direct and focused

Assess levels of risk

- ▶ Assess the level of risk by examining the following three factors:
 - ▶ Isolation
 - ▶ Accountability
 - ▶ Power and Control

Risk factor 1: isolation

- ▶ Most sexual abuse and consensual sexual activity occurs in isolated settings.
- ▶ Four factors that affect isolation are:
 - ▶ The number of people present
 - ▶ The time of the activity
 - ▶ The location of the activity
 - ▶ The physical arrangements
- ▶ Minimize the isolation factor in all activities.
 - ▶ All activities should be approved and properly supervised by two or more qualified staff members.

Risk factor 2: accountability

- ▶ Accountability involves justifying one's actions.
- ▶ Three factors that affect the accountability of supervisors
 - ▶ The personal character and integrity of the adult worker
 - ▶ The number of people present for the activity
 - ▶ The degree of openness and approval associated with the activity

Risk factor 3: power and control

- ▶ Children are vulnerable to sexual predators because of the imbalance of power related to size, strength, control and authority.
 - ▶ Balance does not exist between a child and an adult abuser
 - ▶ Research indicates one-fourth of church-related abuse cases involve another child
 - ▶ Risk increases when there is a large age difference between children
- ▶ Provide a proper balance of power in all activities

Preventative steps

- ▶ All activities should be approved
- ▶ Have two or more adults at each activity
- ▶ Model appropriate dress and language
- ▶ Avoid teasing and jokes with sexual overtones
- ▶ Keep physical affection appropriate; allow youth to initiate
- ▶ Watch for and correct any sexually suggestive behavior from campers and between campers

Preventative steps (cont'd#1)

- ▶ Watch for any developing relationships between an older and a younger camper
- ▶ Deter isolated one-on-one encounters between campers
- ▶ Minimize one-on-one encounters between staff and campers
 - ▶ Avoid isolation (use visible, well-lighted areas)
 - ▶ No one-on-one sessions after “lights out”
 - ▶ Minimize times when only one adult is in the cabin with campers

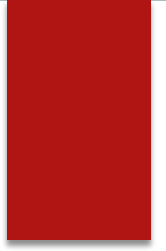
Preventative steps (cont'd#2)

- ▶ Do not pair younger campers with older campers in an unsupervised activity or location
- ▶ Keep your campers together as a group.
- ▶ Do not allow campers to remain in the cabin during scheduled activities or during free time after supper
 - ▶ If a camper is not feeling well, they need to be taken to the nurse's cabin. Campers are not allowed to rest in the cabins alone. This is for the safety of the camper. No exceptions should be made to this rule.

Preventative steps (cont'd#3)

- ▶ Report to all of your assigned activities in order to provide appropriate supervision for our campers
- ▶ Immediately report any suspected child abuse to the session director and the appropriate state agencies
- ▶ Immediately report any sexual activity among campers to the session directors; they will conduct an investigation

What session
directors will do
to protect
campers and
staff members



Session directors will...

- ▶ require all staff members to complete an application that asks for a history of criminal convictions
- ▶ have a letter of reference on file for each staff member
- ▶ conduct an annual criminal background check on all staff

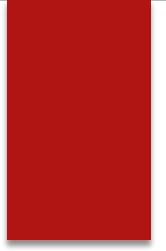
Session directors will... (cont'd)

- ▶ conduct an annual background check using a Sex Offender Registration database for each staff member
- ▶ provide a sexual abuse prevention training and examination program
- ▶ provide at least one adult supervisor for no more than ten children

Reporting

- ▶ Child abuse and neglect are against the law in Texas, and so is failure to report it
- ▶ If you suspect a child has been or may have been abused or neglected at a youth camp, then that person shall immediately make a report to one of the following agencies:
 - ▶ any local or state law enforcement agency
 - ▶ the Department of Family and Protective Services Abuse Hotline [(800) 252-5400 or <http://www.txabusehotline.org>]
 - ▶ Department of State Health Services' Policy, Standards and Quality Assurance Unit [Phone: (512) 834-6788, Fax: (512) 834-6707 or Email: PHSCPS@dshs.texas.gov]
- ▶ You are required to make a report within 48 hours of the time you suspect the child has been or may be abused or neglected

Review time



Review

- ▶ Sexual abuse may be defined as any interaction between a child and an adult in which the child is being used for the sexual stimulation of the perpetrator.
- ▶ Child sexual abuse is a criminal offense in all 50 states
- ▶ Camps can be held liable for child sexual abuse
- ▶ Volunteers as well as paid staff members can be held liable for child sexual abuse.

Review (cont'd#1)

- ▶ If you suspect sexual abuse, it should be reported immediately (Texas w/in 48 hrs)
- ▶ Twenty percent of the molesters begin their activity before age 18
- ▶ Sexual abusers may be male or female
- ▶ A sex offender often spends more time with children than with people his/her own age

Review (cont'd#2)

- ▶ In the U.S., as many as 1 in 3 girls is sexually abused in their childhood
- ▶ Children molest other children – 1990 case found 56% of child molestation cases were committed by adolescents
- ▶ A preferential child molester may have over 500 victims in a lifetime
- ▶ The most prevalent type of offender is the situational offender

Review (cont'd#3)

- ▶ Isolation increases the risk of sexual abuse
- ▶ Child sexual abuse victims usually know their molester
- ▶ Having two unrelated adults present at an activity lowers risk
- ▶ Never express disbelief, minimize the complaint, or place blame on the victim when receiving an allegation
- ▶ All allegations should be documented and reported

Review (cont'd#4)

- ▶ Allegations of sexual abuse should be shared only with those who have qualified privilege
- ▶ An alleged perpetrator should not be contacted following an allegation – session directors will contact the alleged perpetrator after the state or law enforcement agency gives permission

Review (cont'd#5)

- ▶ Non-touching abuse can include:
 - ▶ Pornographic videos
 - ▶ Exhibitionism
 - ▶ Allowing children to witness sexual activity
- ▶ Physical signs of abuse may include:
 - ▶ Bruising
 - ▶ Nightmares
 - ▶ Difficulty in urination

Review (cont'd#6)

- ▶ Behavioral signs of sexual abuse may include
 - ▶ Anxiety
 - ▶ Nervous and hostile behavior towards adults
 - ▶ Withdrawal from social activities and friends
- ▶ Effects of child sexual abuse may include
 - ▶ Aggressive behavior
 - ▶ Sexual acting out
 - ▶ Depression

Review (cont'd#7)

- ▶ Victims may suffer long-term effects including
 - ▶ Sexual dysfunction
 - ▶ Eating disorders
 - ▶ Substance abuse
 - ▶ Promiscuity
- ▶ 48% of 17 year-olds have had sex
- ▶ Proper supervision by two or more qualified staff members is a good deterrent for consensual and nonconsensual sexual activity and/or sexual abuse

Test time

