

RESPONDING TO CRISIS: Child Sexual Abuse- A Community Response

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The Beau Biden Foundation for the Protection of Children

Our Mission

"We have seen the progress that can be made when society commits to shining a bright light on a crime like domestic violence, and we are seeing the beginning of what can be accomplished if we continue shining that bright light on child abuse. As adults, we have a legal and moral obligation to stand up and speak out for children who are being abused. These children cannot speak for themselves."

BEAU BIDEN (February 3, 1969—May 30, 2015)



BEAU BIDEN FOUNDATION

FOR THE PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

"Beau Biden was, quite simply, the finest man any of us have ever known."

-VP Joe Biden



Implementing a
Community
Response to
One of the
Worst
CHILD ABUSE
Cases in History

In 2010, as Beau and the Delaware Department of Justice prosecuted one of the worst pedophiles in the history of the United States, Beau brought Darkness to Light's *Stewards of Children*® program to Delaware.

Alongside partners like Prevent Child Abuse Delaware and the Boys and Girls Club of Delaware, the Beau Biden Foundation has worked to fulfill Beau's pledge to train 5% of Delaware's population (35,000 adults-initially). To date, 27,000 adults in Delaware have been trained including 2,500 since the Foundation's programming began in April 2016.

Child
Sexual
Abuse
Happens
in
Many
Places

Our message: Child sexual abuse can occur anywhere. It happens in homes, neighborhoods, schools, and youth sports environments, but it also occurs online, such as child pornography or communicating in a sexual manner by phone or internet.

What We Need to Convey

- **It can happen to anyone** – friends and family around you. To a child you know and love.
- **The financial, social, and emotional costs are incalculable.** Not just on the victim and their family, but on society as a whole.
- Child sexual abuse is not the problem of just one socio-economic status, culture, race, religion, or gender. **It impacts EVERY community and EVERY person across the globe.**

Creating a Response and Prevention Plan

The Beau Biden Foundation partnership with Darkness to Light ensures effective execution of what Beau believed to be critical in eradicating child sexual abuse – ***education, raising awareness, sharing resources, and fostering a network of committed prevention advocates.***

Primary Prevention

Primary prevention programs raise awareness among the public, service providers and policymakers about the scope of issues involved in child abuse and maltreatment.

Creation
of a
Network
of
Advocates
for
Children

Establishing a network of advocates allows communities to be better prepared to respond in crisis and help children and families.

When the Crisis Occurs

- Have a clear understanding of mission.
- Scope may change- but mission will not- example- multiple search warrants may bring about new issues which will require a different response- eg-Public Health needs.

Insure that Decision Makers are present at first post crisis meeting

- Insure decision makers are present- or people with decision making authority.
- Proceeding without decision makers slows response at critical times.
- Be broad in approach- some people forget the agencies that will be conducting on the ground response- example- Victims Compensation programs.

A
Community
Comes
Together
Around
Child
Protection

IDENTIFY NATURAL PARTNERS TO WORK WITH:

- Schools
- Child Care Providers
- Law Enforcement
- Medical Community
- Child Serving Organizations

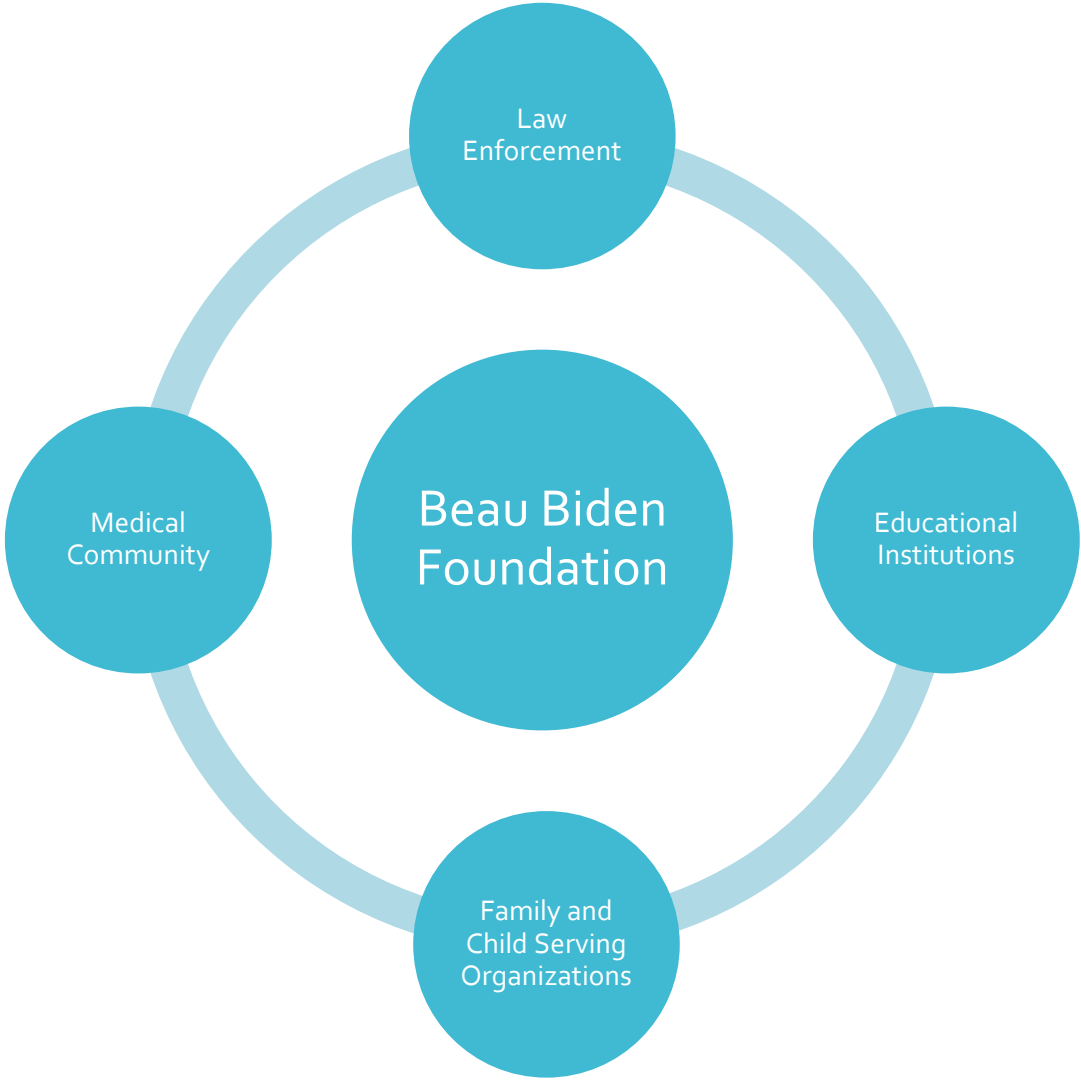
Whose
problem
is it
anyway??

- Its “OUR” problem.
- Trying to execute plans when goals and responsibilities are not compatible cause problems.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS IN PREVENTION

Community based outreach for prevention education can best be described as utilizing the spokes on the wheel that makes the community function- the schools, law enforcement, the medical community, and organizations within the community offering services to children and families.

COMMUNITY PARTNERS



IDENTIFY STATUTORY MANDATES

- What does the Community have?
- What does the Community NEED?
- Multiple statutory and regulatory standards have been enacted by several states and professional organizations mandate child sexual abuse training.
- ERIN'S LAW
- JENNA'S LAW
- Various required training in sexual assault is mandated for professionals including medical providers, law enforcement, and teachers

The Tipping Point

“That is the paradox of the epidemic: that in order to create one contagious movement, you often have to create many small movements first.”

— **Malcolm Gladwell, The Tipping Point: How Little Things Can Make a Big Difference**

Building Your Coalition

- Identify potential partners to create a coalition for implementation of community wide training.
- In Delaware our initial coalition was the Department of Justice, Prevent Child Abuse Delaware and the YMCA of Delaware.
- The Beau Biden Foundation has stepped into the role previously filled by the Department of Justice. Other organizations have since joined the coalition, including Boys and Girls Clubs, the Delaware National Guard, the Delaware Technical and Community College.

TRAINING FACILITATORS

- The coalition must train facilitators to carry out individual trainings.
- Not everyone is necessarily suited to serve as a trainer. People with a background in the topic and advanced knowledge of child abuse are generally good trainers.
- Choose facilitators wisely.

Promoting Prevention

- News media
- Social media
- Elected officials

Paying for the Response

Raising funds from a variety of training resources including government, Community Foundations, private foundations, training money and grant money.

Program costs are \$10 per person, but large purchase discounts can bring the costs down by as much as 30%.

Thank You
for what
You Do
to
Protect
Children



Thank You
Partners

Acknowledgements

Special thanks to our Partners at
Darkness to Light.

The 5 Steps to Protect our Children is the foundation of the *Stewards of Children*® Program. Much of this presentation is based upon the Stewards of Children program.



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