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Stop It Now!®

Together We Can Prevent the Sexual Abuse of Children

June 2017

Dear Prevention Community,

It's been awhile since our last e-news. We've been busy, reaching out with prevention messages and tools to new folks and in more ways than ever before. It's important to us to keep you informed about Now!'s work and impact, as we hope it will both prepare and inspire you in your own prevention conversations and actions. As we're already halfway through 2017, this is our "Catch Up" e-news edition.

In this day and age, the more accessible training and support are, the more parents and caregivers can learn about prevention strategies. Read more about how we're reaching out in more ways:

- [Introducing Our New Prevention Webinar Series](#)
- [Circles of Safety Available Online for Self-Paced Training](#)

Primary prevention is sometimes overlooked in our foster care communities. Stop It Now! has been involved in two exciting projects to address this need through our training and technical consultation. Read more about [Bringing Training & Technical Assistance to the Foster Care Community](#).

Also read about:

- [Presenting at the National NCAC's Annual Symposium](#)
- [Providing Support and Expertise to NEARI's Parent 2 Parent Project](#)

In addition to the projects shared here, we continue to be in dialog as a member of the National Child Sexual Abuse Coalition and the Association for the Treatment of Sexual Abuse Providers' Prevention committee. We always strive to keep prevention a focus in any conversation about children's sexual well-being and we continue to partner with other prevention experts to share best practices, explore new strategies and keep communication open so that anyone committed to prevention can become a part of the conversation.

As always, we thank you for being a part of the prevention conversation.

Jenny Coleman
Director, Stop It Now!



Introducing Our New Prevention Webinar Series "Dear Stop It Now! Helpline"

Our **newest offering** in our Circles of Safety training series will bring the questions and concerns heard from real life situations by our Helpline. As we hear voices from around the world seeking guidance and information to act and respond protectively, we wanted to share the real, complex challenges that adults face in trying to keep children safe.

Using actual Helpline calls and letters, each interactive webinar in **this series** will explore the themes surrounding questions about children's sexual health and sexual behaviors, adult's sexual behaviors around children, vulnerable environments and planning for safety. The practical information, tools and resources shared by the Helpline in response to these calls and letters will be shared and discussed.

Our first webinar, **Dear Stop It Now! Helpline - Is my child safe online?** addresses the concerns parents, caregivers and others have about children's safety online. We'll share Helpline questions from a parent concerned about her pre-teen daughter's safety online because strangers are contacting her, and from a parent who is concerned about his young son's safety through use of interactive gaming. Exploring our Helpline's response to these parents, we'll talk about preventing specific online risks through a prevention-focused lens, learning about risks and prevention tasks for specific developmental ages. Concepts and practices associated with privacy, social media, gaming, parental controls and pornography will be discussed. Handouts will be provided. To join on July 26th from 12pm to 1pm (ET), [register here](#).



Circles of Safety Available Online for Self-Paced Training

We're making **Circles of Safety training** modules available to the public! We understand that one of the biggest barriers in developing more confidence, comfort and knowledge about sexual abuse prevention is as simple as time. To help meet needs of professional children's caregivers, such as family day care providers and others in early childhood education and care, we now offer an online, on-demand two hour training on **Understanding and Responding to Children's Sexual Behaviors**.

This webinar was designed initially for Child Care Aware Minnesota and introduces participants to the basic facts of sexual abuse, while discussing barriers to responding to possible signs of abuse. The workshop goals are to build the knowledge, confidence and comfort levels of adults responsible for children's care, so that they may understand healthy childhood sexuality, recognize early signs of sex abuse, and develop communication tools to speak up when there is a question about children's sexual safety. Thanks to a partnership with the **Global Institute on Forensic Research (GIFR)**, CEUs are available.



Bringing Training & Technical Assistance to the Foster Care Community

Children in foster care are especially vulnerable - **one in six runaways** reported to the National Center for Missing and Endangered Children last year were likely sex trafficking victims and 86% of these likely sex trafficking victims were in the care of social services or foster care when they went missing. Many foster parents and foster care staff receive intensive training on helping children who have been abused or are at-risk for abusing,

but education and practice on primary prevention is less common. Stop It Now! is addressing this need.

Our **Raliance** project is wrapping up, having trained four foster care programs in Connecticut and Massachusetts. We are in the process of consolidating, reviewing and analyzing our data but preliminary results show that 90% of the foster care program staff and parents participating in Circles of Safety report planning to develop safety plans in foster homes to keep children safer as a result of this training and 100% of the program staff and foster parents participating reported an increase in their knowledge of child sexual abuse. More to come as we prepare our final report.

Stop It Now! collaborated with the New York City Administration for Children's Services (ACS) Workforce Institute to develop a learning program for New York City foster care case planners on Child Sexual Abuse: Protective Strategies. We contributed source material, expert content and technical assistance to the development of this two day instructor led program. Our specialized and unique focus on prevention was integrated into the curriculum to enhance case planners' approach to protecting children in foster care who are at an increased risk of experiencing abuse and/or engaging in harmful sexual behaviors. The ACS Workforce Institute is a partnership with the CUNY School of Professional Studies to support the ongoing professionalization and skill development of New York City's child welfare frontline staff and supervisors.



Presenting at the National NCAC 's Annual Symposium

In April, Now! presented at the **National Children's Advocacy Center's 34th International Symposium on Child Abuse** in Huntsville, AL. In addition to attending some wonderfully informational workshops on cyber safety for youth, trafficking and youth and healthy sexuality education as prevention, our work to bring multi-tiered prevention training to environments serving children and youth was presented in Mobilizing to Create System Level Change: Circles of Safety for **Higher Education** and **Youth-Serving Organizations**.



Providing Support and Expertise to NEARI's Parent 2 Parent Project

Stop It Now! is pleased to be contributing to NEARI Press and Training Center's exciting **Parent 2 Parent project**, which will work on providing resources to parents whose children have sexual behavior problems. The goal of the project is to provide support and information parents need to address healthy sexual exploration, recognize inappropriate or harmful sexual behaviors in children and teens, and reach out for the help they may need in doing so. The project is now seeking parents willing to share their stories and experiences. Please help us by spreading the word to both parents and clinicians of the need to hear their voices. Contact Krysten E. Lobisch at **klobisch@neari.com** for more information!



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