Awareness + Action = Prevention

Webinar
A Perfect Score for Prevention
Presented by Cindy McElhinney from Darkness to Light, a child advocacy organization
APRIL 6
Today’s webinar

- What is child sexual abuse
- The facts
  - Some statistics
  - Size and scope of problem
  - Impact on victims and society
- Who abuses children
  - Who is the abuser?
  - Peer abuse
  - The grooming process
- What it takes to protect

[Image]
Former coach, facing 35 counts of sex abuse, due in court

There could be an update on the case against a former volunteer football coach and firefighter accused of sexually abusing young boys.

Leslie Hake, 37 of Canandaigua, has already been indicted on 35 counts. The charges include sexual conduct against a child, sex abuse and 19 counts of criminal sex act.

SPORTS & LEISURE | 7/25/2012 @ 1:51PM | 1,330 views

With Another Coach Accused Of Sexual Misconduct, Who Can You Trust With Your Child?

The Washington Post has a blockbuster story that is as depressing as it is familiar: a prominent coach alleged to be involved in sexual abuse of children placed in his trust. From the Post:

Northern Suburbs News

More victims, charges in Westchester basketball coach accused of abusing girls

Thursday, April 25, 2013
Child Sexual Abuse

- Any sexual act between an adult and a minor or between two minors when one exerts power over the other
- Forcing or persuading a child to engage in any type of sexual act
- Includes non-contact acts such as exhibitionism, exposure to pornography, voyeurism, and communicating in a sexual manner by phone or Internet
- A crime punishable by law
- An agonizing and traumatic experience for its victims
1 in 10 children will be sexually abused before their 18\textsuperscript{th} birthday (Darkness to Light, 2013)

93% of children know their abusers (Snyder, 2000)

40% of children are abused by older or more powerful children (Finkelhor, 2012)

Most child victims never report the abuse (Smith et al., 2000; Broman-Fulks et al., 2007)

Happens in communities everywhere; no organization, no race, no religion, no economic class is free of child sexual abuse
Impact

- Adult women who were sexually abused as a child are more than twice as likely to suffer from depression (Rohde 2008)
- Among male survivors, more than 70% seek treatment for issues such as substance abuse and suicidal thoughts (Walrath 2003)
- Reported cases of CSA cost $35 billion annually in the US (www.ncjrs.gov/pdfiles/vickcost.pdf)

Other Social Outcomes
- PTSD, depression and suicide
- Eating disorders
- Teen pregnancy
- Academic failure and dropout
- Substance abuse
- Violent crime
Who Abuses Children?

- Men, women, older youth
- Those that abuse children look and act just like everyone else
- Abusers are attracted to organizations that give them access to children
- Sports are vulnerable
  - Other kids
  - Coaches
  - Volunteers
  - Other adults that have access to athletes
34% of child sexual abuse is perpetrated by juveniles (Snyder 2000)

7% of abuse is perpetrated by youth under the age of 12 (Snyder 2000)

Fastest growing form of abuse

Often directly related to bullying

Where is it happening?

- Bathrooms, locker rooms, playgrounds, buses
Many abusers groom victims and their families

- Targeting a victim
- Gaining trust, filling an unmet need of the child
- Isolating the child
- Sexualizing the relationship
- Maintaining control to keep the victim compliant and silent
Most frequently we catch abusers breaking rules/policies

Important to not only have policies in place but to enforce those policies

- Share these policies with parents

Red flag behaviors:

- Gift giving
- FAVORING A CHILD
- Lap sitting
- Tickling
- Odd behavior that makes staff feel uncomfortable
- Cell phone calls to children
  - Seeking private time with a child
What It Takes to Protect Children

- Adult responsibility
- Organizations setting a new standard of care
- Parents insisting on policy
- Education
- Leadership
  - Policy
  - Collaboration
Organizational Policy

- **Make prevention a priority**
- **Background checks for every adult**
- **Standards of behavior/Code of Conduct**
  - Eliminate privacy/one on one in isolation
  - Safe personal and physical boundaries
  - Travel/transportation
  - Limitations on electronic, social, and out-of-program interactions
  - Parental awareness, involvement, and monitoring
- **Training**
- **Clear reporting process**
- **Effective monitoring and communication**
Individual Responsibility

- Make situations safe
- Bystander intervention
- Talk to kids
- Talk to other adults
- Insist on policy
- Know the policy
- Be willing to take a risk to protect
  - Intervene
  - Report
  - Protect
How D2L Can Help

- **Stewards of Children**
  - 2 hour video-based prevention training
  - Powerful survivor stories, experts, and parents
  - Evidence informed

- **The 5 Steps to Protect Children**
  - Learn the facts
  - Minimize Opportunity
  - Talk About It
  - Recognize the Signs
  - React Responsibly
Participants report:

- Increased knowledge of CSA in general; including prevalence, consequences, and context
- Increased knowledge of signs of abuse
- Greater willingness to report suspicions of abuse and increased knowledge of reporting procedures
- Positive changes to child protect behaviors that minimize opportunity for abuse to occur
- Increased ability to recognize or evaluate suspicious behavior and willingness to take action to stop it
D2L and USA Gymnastics have teamed up to provide resources to clubs and parents.

Educational initiative designed specifically for gymnastics clubs:
- Information, strategies, templates, toolkits, checklists, action steps, posters.

SAFE SPORT EDUCATION
April is Child Abuse Prevention Month

As part of National Child Abuse Prevention month, USA Gymnastics and the Clubs Care Campaign are offering the gymnastics community FREE of CHARGE the U301 Stewards of Children online course.
D2L Resources

- For organizations:  www.D2L.org/orgtools
- For parents:  www.D2L.org/parenttools

Stewards of Children prevention training for adults

- Information:  www.D2L.org/stewards
- In person:  www.D2L.org/nearyou
- Online:  www.D2L.org/online

Help resources:  www.D2L.org/gethelp
Elizabeth Warren
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IF YOU NEED HELP:
1-866-FOR-LIGHT (866-367-5444)
Questions
Clubs Care Campaign

Clubs Care CAMPAIGN

USA GYMNASTICS.

USAGym.org/ClubsCare