

Panel Discussion: What Advocates Need to Know About Cultural Competency: The Amish Community

Tuesday March 24th, 2009

8:30 - 9:45

Presenter: Pamela T. Eads, MSSW, LCSW, BCD

Executive Director Lake Cumberland Children Advocacy Center, Jamestown, Kentucky

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Outline: Brief History of the Amish

Differences Amish/Mennonite Communities

Location of Orders: Kentucky/Pennsylvania/Ohio

Cultural Sensitivity in the Advocacy Center setting:

- Telecommunication Barriers
 - ✓ Communal phone if at all
- Community support system/Role of Community Religious Leaders/Ministry
- Parental Role Father vs. Mother
 - ✓ Parent support
 - ✓ Parental concerns
 - ✓ Minister concerns
- Transportation Issues
- Financial Concerns
- Insurance Related Issues
- Social Security Numbers/Other Identifying Information (Lack of DOB/ Birth Locations/SSN/Medical /Hospital Settings)
- Establishing Comfort Level in CAC
 - ✓ Television
 - ✓ Electricity
 - ✓ Mirrors
 - ✓ Clothing
 - ✓ Staff Language
 - ✓ Advocate Role
 - ✓ Community Advocate Role
 - ✓ Appropriate toys for play (games, cards, paper activities)
Battery operated
- Educational Factors and Barriers
 - ✓ Eighth Grade Educations
 - ✓ Identified Roles after 8th grade
 - ✓ Lack of words

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- Medical Examinations/Clothing Barriers
 - ✓ Removal of Clothing
 - ✓ Mirror Use
 - ✓ Taking of Pictures for Identification
 - ✓ Taking of Pictures with Colposcope
 - ✓ Physician History
 - ✓ Naming of Body Parts

- Forensic Interviews
 - ✓ Lack of Sex Education
 - ✓ Suspected Sexual Abuse
 - ✓ Use of Anatomical Drawings
 - ✓ Taking A Sexual History
 - ✓ Naming of Body Parts
 - ✓ Parental Concerns with Education
 - ✓ Two Way mirrors
 - ✓ Recording Devices
 - ✓ Educational Barriers/Lack of Special Education
- Familiarity with Electricity/Water outside the home
 - ✓ Sensitivity to television/Cartoons
- Availability of Resources
- Communal resources
- Acceptance of Advocacy role
- Acceptance of referrals to other or outside agencies

Suggested Readings

A History of the Amish by Steven M. Nolt