



News Release

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Child Protection Team of Brevard Members Receive Statewide Leadership Awards

Melbourne, Fla.--At the recent Child Protection Team annual statewide meeting, two of the four Leadership awards given across Florida were presented to Child Protection Team of Brevard's Medical Director, Dr. Mary E. Stockett, and Senior Case Coordinator Timothy Kicklighter.

Dr. Stockett received the Medical Director Leadership Award and Tim Kicklighter was awarded the Case Coordinator Leadership Award. "Their awards reflect credit on them as well as the Child Protection Team overall," said CPT Director Charles Biehl, who is also the Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard. "They truly are outstanding and are representative of the entire team."

The Child Protection Team of Brevard was also recognized for its 25 years of service to abused children in our community. "We have benefited from the leadership of Wuesthoff Health Services as we have served Brevard County's children," said Biehl. "Wuesthoff has been there for the Child Protection Team, and in 1996 stepped up without hesitation to provide support so that the Children's Advocacy Center could become a reality. And I am personally grateful to Wuesthoff Vice President Bill Hines for his guidance and support."

The Leadership Awards are given to individuals who exhibit, among other traits, a willingness to go above and beyond their job descriptions, to think creatively to solve problems, and to use their leadership skills to advocate for change in the protection of children. Both Child Protection Team of Brevard award winners are extraordinary examples of these attributes.

Dr. Stockett has been affiliated with District 7B, Child Protection Team, since June 1998 and accepted the position as Medical Director in 2005. "During her tenure Dr. Stockett has served this community in an extraordinary fashion," said Biehl.

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Dr. Stockett selflessly gives the local Child Protection Team her services during her one day off from her private practice each week. She is also an active member of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard Board.

Dr. Stockett enjoys an extraordinary reputation as an expert in child abuse and neglect matters, and especially in drug-exposed children. This reputation has been well earned and is in evidence on a daily basis throughout Brevard.

She gives presentations at the local, state, and national levels, and in 2005 was requested to head the Florida State Drug Exposed Children Task Force. She was the driving force behind solidifying a local protocol for handling investigations of Drug Exposed Children and children exposed to methamphetamine use and production.

Her extensive service to the community includes her role as Assistant Medical Director for the Children's Medical Services Cleft Palate Team, her work with the Hope Clinic Board at Holmes Regional Medical Center, and her role as Chief of the Pediatrics Department and Chair for the Quality Assurance Committee at Holmes.

Dr. Stockett's clarity of purpose serves to provide the best possible service to child victims, which makes her an extremely valuable asset to not only the Child Protection Team of Brevard, but also to this community and to the Child Protection Team Program throughout Florida.

Tim Kicklighter is Senior Case Coordinator with the Child Protection Team of Brevard and came to our community with a wealth of experience from his work at two other CPT offices.

"Tim arrived here at a time when 50 percent of the Case Coordinator staff were all hired during the same period," explained Biehl. "During the period June 1, 2006 through December 31, 2006, this office experienced an increase of 68 percent in the total number of cases initiated, 69 percent increase in the total number of cases terminated and an increase of 48.5 percent of the number of total services provided versus the same period in 2005."

Kicklighter's team player skills and attitude were immediately evident as he immersed himself in casework activities while learning local nuances and personnel, assisting the Casework Supervisor and Team Coordinator with training newly assigned Case Coordinators, and involving himself with other local activities, including fundraising for the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard.

"Tim has added professionalism, increased "can-do" attitudes, and allowed for continued quality of services our clients have come to expect, all while significantly increasing our case openings, closings, and total number of services provided. I am certain, without his presence, we would not have been able to achieve what we have, to the extent we have," explained Biehl.

The Child Protection Team is one of the agencies on site at the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard, which was established in 1996 to unite child protection professionals from multiple agencies under one roof in a child-friendly environment to intervene in the most severe cases of child abuse in Brevard County. CACB is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services.

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CPT Awards captions:



Presenting Dr. Mary Stockett, Medical Director for the Child Protection Team of Brevard, with the Child Protection Team Medical Director Leadership award for 2007 is Joseph Chiaro, MD, Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services.



Presenting Timothy Kicklighter, Senior Case Coordinator for the Child Protection Team of Brevard (right), with the Child Protection Team Case Coordinator Leadership award for 2007 is Joseph Chiaro, MD, Deputy Secretary for Children's Medical Services.