



News Release

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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CONTACT: Teresa Munroe, Communications & Development
321.637.7652 ♦ 1133 Seminole Drive, Rockledge, FL 32955

Community Foundation of Brevard Awards Grant to the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard

Brevard County—The Community Foundation of Brevard has awarded a \$1,500 grant to the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard to design, print and distribute brochures that carry the ABCs of infant safe sleeping message. "We are extremely pleased that the Community Foundation of Brevard is a partner in our campaign to get the message out about safe infant sleep practices. It is a message that debunks many commonly held opinions but one that must be told over and over again, as a child's life may depend on it," said Charles Biehl, Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard.

There are almost 6000 births each year in Brevard, and the parents of these infants represent an important audience for the ABCs of safe infant sleeping message—a message that can be life saving.

In 2008 in Brevard, five of the 10 verified child abuse or neglect deaths were specifically related to unsafe sleep practices. In Florida, unsafe sleep environments were the leading cause of death in children under one year of age, and the second leading cause of all verified child abuse and neglect deaths.

The National Institute of Child Health and Development says that reducing death rates depends on making sure families get infant sleeping advice from physicians. That is why the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard will consolidate the best information from the field and present the message of safe infant sleeping in an easy-to-understand, consistent and convenient manner for use by healthcare practitioners in Brevard County who serve the parents-with-infants population.

Established in 1996, the Children's Advocacy Center of Brevard (CACB) is a nonprofit organization affiliated with Wuesthoff Health Services. In fiscal year 2006-2007, Advocacy Center partners assessed 1,178 cases of child sexual abuse and the most severe physical abuse and neglect found in Brevard.

CACB is a multi-agency collaboration of the Child Protection Team, the Florida Department of Children and Families, both of which are onsite at the Advocacy Center; Brevard County Sheriff's Office and municipal law enforcement agencies, the Office of the State Attorney and community mental health professionals. Advocacy Center partners are involved in the most difficult cases in Brevard County, including cases of child sexual or severe physical abuse, and neglect. The CACB Clinical Intervention Program provides crisis and short-term counseling for child victims and their non-offending family members free of charge and without a waiting list. Major onsite services provided by the Child Protection Team include medical exams, medical consultations, and specialized and forensic interviews.

For additional information about the Advocacy Center, visit our website at www.cacbrevard.org.

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