



THE CONSULTANT

Spring 2021

Virtual Award Ceremony was a success!

The virtual platform has brought significant challenges and, at the same time, has created tremendous opportunities for including our members near and far.



CAPSAC Awards Program & Karen Saywitz Legacy Lecture

The 2021 CAPSAC awards ceremony was held virtually and was a great success.



The California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children™
 an independent affiliate of APSAC

Lindsey Palmer, winner of the CAPSAC Paul Crissey Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research, presented an overview of her project, Dr. Sean Dugan was awarded the Neal Snyder Service award and Professor Gail S. Goodman, was awarded the Karen J. Saywitz Legacy award. Professor Goodman presented an insightful review of the work and legacy of Dr. Saywitz. The recording of the ceremony is available through the CAPSAC website.

Check it out at: <https://capsac.org/>



The following is the nomination of Dr. Dugan submitted by CAPSAC member Sara J Marchessault, FNP/PA, SAFE.

Dr. Sean Dugan is a board certified pediatrician who focuses on child abuse and adolescent medicine. He holds a Bachelor of Science in Chemistry from University of Southern California, Los Angeles, and graduated from John A. Burns School of Medicine, University of Hawaii in Honolulu. Dr. Dugan completed his residency at Kapiolani Medical Center for Women and Children, also in Honolulu. He received additional training as a Sexual Assault Forensic Examiner and has become a Child Abuse Pediatrician. He currently works at both Shasta Community Health Center and Mercy Medical Center in Redding,

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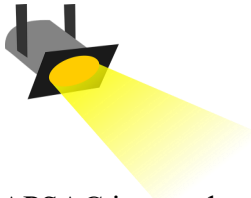
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Spotlight on Our New CAPSAC Officers



Secretary Kris Murphey

CAPSAC is proud to introduce our new Secretary, Kris Murphey. Kris received her Bachelor of Arts in Linguistics from the University of California at Berkeley, and has over 25 years experience in non-profit administration and operations. She is currently a program manager for Center for Innovation and Resources (CIR)/California Institute on Human Services of Northern California. CIR provides training and technical assistance to child abuse intervention and treatment service providers throughout California and across the country. In the 1990s fate stepped in when Kris responded to a job announcement at Sonoma State University and began her career in family violence prevention – work which has now spanned decades. Kris first worked with CIR beginning in 1997. In the early 2000s she moved to Santa Fe, NM to start a family and work in land conservation with the New Mexico Land Conservancy, but California and CIR drew her back again a dozen years later. In her work with CIR, she has traveled to every region in California to deliver training on child forensic interviewing and child and domestic abuse prevention. CAPSAC is fortunate to have Kris' experience in training and development and non-profit administration.



Treasurer Monica Borunda



CAPSAC is pleased to welcome board member Monica Borunda as our new Treasurer. Monica is a bilingual Licensed Marriage and Family Therapist, adjunct faculty member at California State University Los Angeles, and has been conducting interviews as a Child Forensic Interview Specialist for fourteen years. Five years ago, she began facilitating California's Child Forensic Interview Training across the state. Monica serves as a consultant and trainer for organizations including school districts, law firms, and mental health agencies. It was through a twist of fate that Monica, who always had an interest in criminal justice, came to the discipline of forensic interviewing. After

finishing her Master's degree, she attended a training on mandated reporting provided by Sgt. Dan Scott from the Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department Special Victim's Unit. Monica was so struck with his knowledge and passion for the protection of children and the idea of a law enforcement career that she emailed him and offered to buy him a cup of coffee. That coffee, some sage advice and an introduction to forensic interviewing changed Monica's career course, allowing her to combine her mental health training and interest in criminal justice. CAPSAC is grateful to that life-changing cup of joe and Monica's dedication to protecting children.



**SPECIAL
AUTHOR
HIGHLIGHT**

Lindsey Palmer is the winner of the CAPSAC Paul Crissey Award for Outstanding Graduate Student Research. She was presented with the award, which included a grant of \$750 and a one-year paid APSAC membership on March 22 at the Karen J. Saywitz Legacy Award Lecture and CAPSAC Awards ceremony. You can access the recording of the webinar and hear Ms. Palmer discuss her study at capsac.org.

A Population-Based Examination of Adolescent Suicide and Child Protective Service Involvement

By Lindsey Palmer, Doctoral Candidate

Suzanne Dworak-Peck School of Social Work, University of Southern California

Adolescent suicide represents a major public health crisis with rates increasing over 50% in the past decade. Approximately 1 in every 10,000 youth will die by suicide, making suicide the second leading cause of death among adolescents. A robust body of research has assisted in the identification of several individual, parental and environmental risk factors associated with adolescent suicide, including child maltreatment. While estimates of child maltreatment vary depending on definition and measurement, official child protective service (CPS) records document that a staggering number of children and youth are alleged victims of child maltreatment. Approximately 37% of all children will be referred to CPS for alleged child maltreatment during their childhood, 13% will be substantiated as a victim of child maltreatment, and 5% will spend some time in foster care during childhood (Kim et al., 2017; Yi et al., 2020).

To date few population-based studies exist on the relationship between adolescent suicide and child maltreatment. Studies which have been conducted, have focused on a smaller, and arguably more vulnerable subset of youth, those who are in or have a history of foster care (Katz et al., 2011; Kalland et al., 2001). These studies indicate that foster youth have suicide rates two to three times that of children who have no foster care history. To date little is understood about the specific child maltreatment characteristics and system level responses that are associated with suicide risk.

The current project is the first population-based, longitudinal case-control study to use linked death and CPS records to examine child protective service (CPS) histories of children and adolescents who died by suicide. The two objectives of this study are to: (1) document suicide rates of children and youth involved with CPS, and (2) examine adolescent exposure to varying maltreatment types, and levels of CPS involvement, to identify factors associated with suicide.

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This is a two-part study using data derived from three sources: 1) CPS, under the authority of the California Department of Social Services; 2) Vital death records from the California Department of Public Health, and 3) Vital birth records from the California Department of Public Health. All data linkages were done using open source software *Choicemaker*, customized to California data.

Objective 1: Using birth records we identified all children born in California from January 1, 1999 to December 31, 2000 (N=1,052,333). These records were then linked to the child's corresponding CPS and death record, and prospectively followed until December 31, 2017. Cases were identified as any child born in 1999 or 2000 who died by suicide prior to 2018 (n=170). Controls were selected from the overall 1999-2000 birth cohort and matched based on year of birth, maternal race and ethnicity, maternal age at birth, maternal education, and insurance type at birth (public vs. private). Exposure variables included CPS history across four levels; (i) no history of CPS, (ii) history of allegations but no substantiation, (iii) history of substantiations but no placements, and (iv) history of foster placement. Crude suicide rates were documented for each level of CPS involvement and conditional logistic regression models were used to determine differences in suicide risk across CPS exposure.

Results indicate that among these children and youth nearly 57% had a prior CPS history. This is compared to 30.4% of matched controls. The crude suicide rate for those with no CPS history is 10.0 per 100,000; 27.8 per 100,000 for youth with an allegation; 35.6 per 100,000 for those with a substantiated allegation; and 35.9 per 100,000 for those with a history of foster care. Logistic regression findings suggest that children with any history of CPS have 3.6 times the odds of suicide compared to youth with no CPS history, and notably, no discernable differences were detected between youth with a substantiated allegation of foster care history when compared to youth with a referral only.

Objective 2: For part two, individual's vital death records were probabilistically linked to their corresponding CPS record. Cases included all individuals 15 to 19 years of age who had a cause of death coded as suicide between 2010 and 2017, and who had at least one report of alleged abuse or neglect prior to death (n=515). Each case was matched to four controls (n=2,060) based on sex, race/ethnicity, year of birth (age), and age at first maltreatment report. Four exposure variables were defined and coded based on an individual's CPS records; 1) maltreatment type (sexual abuse, physical abuse, emotional abuse), 2) substantiated maltreatment allegation, 3) history of foster care placements, 4) years since last CPS contact. Chi square tests were used to confirm equivalency between cases and controls. A conditional logistic regression model was built to estimate the adjusted odds of adolescent suicide death.

Results illustrate that cases were more likely to be male and white, and more likely to have had a past

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history of substantiated maltreatment allegations and foster care placements. Results of the logistic regression suggest that youth with an allegation of physical abuse and sexual abuse have significantly higher odds of suicide. Recency of contact with CPS also emerged as statistically significant factor distinctive to suicide cases. Adolescents with a history of substantiated maltreatment allegations and adolescents who spent time in foster care were not significantly different from youth who were referred but never substantiated.

This project extends our understanding of adolescent suicide in two important ways. First, findings demonstrate that CPS contact is a common occurrence among youth who died by suicide. Importantly, findings indicate that suicide risk is not concentrated among youth in foster care, rather the much larger universe of children referred to CPS are at significantly heightened risk. Second, suicide risk appears to be more closely related to child maltreatment characteristics (maltreatment type, timing of abuse or neglect) than to system response (substantiation, foster care). This finding aligns with a growing body of published research suggesting that substantiation does not meaningfully distinguish children's outcomes from those who were referred but never substantiated (Hussey, 2005). This project reinforces the need for screening and prevention measures across the entire CPS spectrum, including children and families with an unsubstantiated allegation.

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Preparing for Court as an Expert Witness: The Science and the Art

Presented By Tom Lyon, JD, PhD and Blake Carmichael, PhD

Wednesday, May 26, 2021 | 10:00 AM - 12:00 PM (PT) via Zoom



This training is intended for mental health professionals, forensic interviewers and other multi-disciplinary team members who may serve as an expert witness in child abuse cases, with an emphasis on Child Sexual Abuse Accommodation testimony.

COURSE DESCRIPTION: Forensic interviewers, mental health professionals and other multi-disciplinary team members provide a number of valuable services, and the focus is often on determining the facts of the case or improving a client's well-being. Sometimes professionals will be asked to serve as expert witnesses in court, and play a quite different role. Focusing on child sexual abuse accommodation testimony as a model, this training will give attendees an understanding of the legal issues, the relevant research, and the practical challenges of testifying as an expert. Although this training is not intended to ensure that a team member will be qualified as an expert witness, it will help them navigate the legal process as a witness and prepare them for situations when expert witness testimony is requested.

MEET THE PRESENTERS

Thomas D. Lyon, J.D., Ph.D. is the Judge Edward J. and Ruey L. Guirado Chair in Law and Psychology at the University of Southern California. His work has focused on maximizing children's productivity as witnesses while minimizing error. He is the Past-President of the American Psychological Association's Section on Child Maltreatment and a former member of the Board of Directors of the American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children. His work has been supported by the National Institutes of Health, the National Science Foundation, and the United States Department of Justice.

Blake D. Carmichael, Ph.D. is a Clinical Psychologist, Evaluation Program Manager, and Voluntary Clinical Faculty in the Department of Pediatrics at the University of California Davis Children's Hospital, CAARE Center. For the past 20 years, he has provided expert witness testimony and consultation regarding child sexual abuse disclosure, the effects of trauma on children, and related topics. He has provided direct mental health and evaluation services to several hundred maltreated children and their families. He is nationally certified as a Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy therapist. He also supervises and trains clinical staff, doctoral interns, and post-doctoral fellows in the CAARE Center's APA accredited training program.

CONTINUING EDUCATION UNITS: Course meets qualifications for 2 hours of Continuing Education Units (CEUs) for MFTs/ LCSWs (Provider #128510) as required by the California Board of Behavioral Sciences. Participants may apply for CEUs at the event for a fee of \$20. Certificates for CEUs will be mailed to participants within two weeks following the event.

Register now!

Click the button to register!

Or copy and paste the link into your browser:
https://cirinc.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_2rirE_H1RZ-3aN0Uz5O9wA

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

By the end of this training participants will be able to:

1. Describe the legal standards for testimony about child sexual abuse accommodation
2. Summarize the research relevant to explaining accommodation
3. Differentiate between the different types of court and witness roles
4. Use at least three concrete steps to prepare for offering testimony in court
5. Understand and respond appropriately to questions from the defense and prosecution



The California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children
 Strengthening Practice Through Knowledge

Co-sponsored by the California American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (CAPSAC). Produced by the CATT Center, a project of the Center for Innovation and Resources, Inc. with funding provided by the California Governor's Office of Emergency Services (CalOES), Victim Services Branch.



For additional information, please contact Daphne Daniel at daphne.daniel@cirinc.org
 Thank you and we look forward to your participation!





Call for Nominations

CAPSAC Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award

The California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (CAPSAC) established the Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award to recognize professionals who demonstrate extraordinary dedication and efforts on behalf of children.

Neal Snyder graduated Phi Beta Kappa from UC Berkeley with a BA and MA in sociology, and obtained his JD from Hastings College. As an attorney, he specialized in protecting children from abuse - an area he helped make a legal specialty - and became a role model for many others in the field. Neal worked for the California State Department of Social Services in day care licensing litigation. He was a co-founder of CAPSAC, drafted its initial bylaws and assisted with its incorporation. He continued to serve as a board member, supporter, and consultant to CAPSAC for the rest of his life. Neal was an intelligent, even-tempered, positive, athletic, and kind man who loved jazz, his wife, Yvonne Garcia, their annual visits to Thailand, his children and grandchildren.

Any professional in California may submit nominations. Nominees cannot be CAPSAC Board Directors or CAPSAC Executive Committee Members.

Nominees should demonstrate the mission and goals of CAPSAC:

The mission of CAPSAC is to improve the effort and response of professionals working with children who have experienced abuse and neglect.

The goals of CAPSAC are to promote collaboration among all disciplines working in the area of child protection, to promote education on child maltreatment of professionals and community members who work with children, to promote research on child abuse and neglect in the areas of prevention, identification, intervention, and treatment, and to promote appropriate and effective services to the children and families who have experienced child maltreatment.

Nominees should exhibit outstanding service in the area of child maltreatment, model outstanding professionalism, and have made contributions in the area of child maltreatment.

The Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award recipient will be selected from among the nominees by the CAPSAC Board of Directors and presented with the Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award certificate as well as a one-year membership to APSAC/CAPSAC at a CAPSAC meeting or training event in 2022. Depending on the health mandates at the time of the award event, the presentation may be in person or virtually. Travel expenses will be paid if the presentation is in person, but are not to exceed \$300.00. Also, an article about the recipient will be published in the CAPSAC newsletter, the *Consultant*. The person who nominated the award recipient will receive a 10% discount on their APSAC/CAPSAC membership fee.

Nomination Deadline: May 1, 2022

If you have questions or to request a nomination form, email apsacalifornia@gmail.com
Place "Neal Snyder Outstanding Service Award 2022" in the subject line.

Call For Applicants
CAPSAC Paul Crissey Graduate Student Outstanding Research Award
To be awarded May 2022 by CAPSAC

The California Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (CAPSAC) annually awards a grant of \$750 for outstanding research by a graduate student (or early career professional up to one-year post MA/PhD) in the field of child maltreatment, child welfare, foster care, or a related topic. The recipient also receives a one-year membership to APSAC (American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children) and CAPSAC.

The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (apsac.org), founded in 1987, is a non-profit national organization focused on meeting the needs of professionals engaged in all aspects of services for maltreated children and their families. Especially important to APSAC is the dissemination of state-of-the-art practice in all professional disciplines related to child abuse and neglect. CAPSAC aims to provide additional support to California professionals working in the field of child abuse through training, consultation, advocacy, and networking.

Applicants must:

- * Be a graduate student within one year of completion (before or after) of a Master or Doctoral degree from an accredited California educational program.
- * Submit a one thousand word summary of the research in progress or completed study in the field of child maltreatment. The study title should be on the first page of the summary. Identifying information (name, address, telephone number, title of study, and academic institution) should be sent in a separate document that will not be sent to the reviewers.
- * Submit one or two letters of recommendation from faculty members or academic readers who are familiar with your research.
- * Be available to receive the award and present an overview of the study at a CAPSAC meeting or CAPSAC training event in 2022. Depending on the health mandates at the time of the award event, the presentation may be in person or virtually. Travel expenses will be paid if the presentation is in person, but are not to exceed \$300.00.
- * Agree to the publication of the submitted summary in the CAPSAC newsletter, The Consultant.

Materials should be submitted via email to apsaccalifornia@gmail.com

Letters of recommendation should also be submitted directly by letter writers to apsaccalifornia@gmail.com and should have the applicant's name in the subject line.

All materials must be received by May 1, 2022.

Continued from page 1

CA, and serves as medical director for the Modoc County's SART team. This is critical as Shasta and Modoc counties have some of the highest rates for child physical and sexual abuse in the entire state. Dr. Dugan is a co-founder of the Children's Legacy Center (CLC), a multi-disciplinary Children's Advocacy Center dedicated to "give hope, provide healing, and ensure justice for abused and neglected children". He believes that the CLC will greatly reduce the trauma that has occurred repeatedly to a child and help prevent the family from reentering the cycle. He continues to participate in active fund raising for this effort.

Congratulations!

In 2017 he authored and helped implement the child abuse medical protocol for Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect (SCAN) that is now in place, being used actively by partners in both Shasta and Modoc counties in guiding medical examiners, law enforcement and CPS workers in their approach to new cases of child abuse. It would be difficult to describe Dr. Dugan's most significant contribution to his profession, as every couple of months he and his colleagues tirelessly develop significant programs to create change for children in the community.

This past summer, he and partners started a Post-Strangulation Assessment/Domestic Violence Clinic at One Safe Place (a location that provides intervention and safety to a community effected by domestic and sexual abuse). This program has had a huge impact on diagnosing and treating the complications of strangulation in adult victims as well as children. They have also been able to connect the victims and their children with additional resources that enable them to break the cycle of trauma and reduce the risk of their children experiencing the same type of violence as adults.

Most recently, he has been a guest on the radio station KCNR, discussing his "Plan for Change" and the programs he has helped to roll out with the goal of breaking trauma cycles and reducing ACEs. His goal is that the whole affect of Shasta County, will improve, "The children born today will experience less trauma over the question of their lives as a result of these cornerstone programs".

An astounding attribute of Dr. Dugan is his ability to mentor trainees with his ardent pursuit to educate, recruit, and guide. He leads by example, and is profoundly passionate about teaching anyone including new forensic examiners, judges, police officers, social workers or nurses. He demonstrates the ability to network with partners and promote a sense of collaboration among all disciplines working in the world of child protection in Shasta County, as well as 6 other counties. He directly demonstrates the mission and goals of CAPSAC: actively promotes education on child maltreatment of professionals and community members who work with children in several Northern California Counties, including Shasta, Modoc, and Lassen. He tirelessly promotes research on child abuse and neglect in the areas of prevention, identification, intervention, and treatment. He has been known to bring stacks of research to the court room setting, ready to bear witness with dedicated research in a child's defense. He enjoys participating in community activities and spending time with his family exploring the Northstate. He and his wife have four young children.

If you are looking for Dr. Dugan, you'll have to run to keep up! He is a passionate driving force and you can expect to find him either doing a child's forensic medical exam, lecturing at one of our local hospitals, networking and raising money by social media to provide funds for new facilities, or sitting on the witness stand, testifying to a forensic exam while taking the opportunity to educate an entire court room on the truth versus myths of pediatric growth and development. Rumor has it, you can't say no to him. If he tells

you about a new organization or project, you may as well just pull out your checkbook and ask how much and where to sign...or where to show up and volunteer. This man will not be stopped anytime soon and 1000's of children's lives have already been positively influenced by his work.

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