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Serving the citizens of:

Armstrong, Carson,
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 Lipscomb, Moore,
 Ochiltree, Oldham, Potter,
 Randall, Roberts, Sherman,
 and Wheeler counties

April is National Child Abuse Prevention Month

Source: Child Welfare Information Gateway - U.S. Department of Health & Human Services

During 2012, an estimated 3.4 million referrals involving the alleged maltreatment of approximately 6.3 million children were made to CPS agencies. Of those an estimated 3.2 million were screened as appropriate for CPS response.

Nearly 58.7% of all reports of alleged child abuse or neglect were made by professionals. The term "professional" means that the person had contact with the alleged child victim as part of the source's job. The remaining reports were made by non-professionals and other unclassified reporters, including friends, neighbors, sports coaches and relatives.

The most common report sources were law enforcement personnel, education personnel, social services staff and medical personnel.

Children in the age group of birth to 1 year had the highest rate of victimization at 21.9% per 1000 children of the same age group in the national population.

Slightly more than one-half or 50.9% of the child victims were girls, and 48.7% were boys. The gender was

unknown for less than 1% of the victims.

Three races or ethnicities comprised nearly 87% of victims: African American (21.0%), Hispanic (21.8%), and White (44.0%).



As in prior years, neglect was the most common form of child maltreatment. CPS investigations determined the following:

- More than 75% (78.3%) of victims suffered neglect.
- More than 15% (18.3%) of the victims suffered physical abuse.
- Fewer than 10% (9.3%) of the victims suffered sexual abuse.
- Fewer than 10% (8.5%) of the victims suffered psychological maltreatment.

An estimated 1,640 died in 2012 due to abuse and neglect.

An overall rate of child fatalities was 2.20 deaths per \$100,000 children in the national population.

For more information visit:

www.childwelfare.gov



April is Autism Awareness Month

April is national Autism Awareness Month and The Arc of the US and The Autism NOW National Autism Resource & Information Center are working to empower people with autism spectrum disorders (ASD) with the information and resources they need to live their lives to the fullest potential. We are also working to help others become more **accepting** of people with ASDs.

Recently, the CDC declared that 1 in 68 (a 30% increase from previous figures) children may be impacted by autism spectrum disorders, so it's a fair bet that each one of us knows someone with autism or someone who has a family member or friend with autism. Since this disorder is a spectrum and not everyone with a diagnosis of ASD "appears" to have autism, you may know someone on the spectrum and not even realize it.

That's why it's important to dispel all of the myths and misinformation to understand and accept what having an ASD really means. And that's why The Autism NOW Center (www.autismnow.org) exists, to weed through the volumes of information out there and provide high-quality, vetted resources and information to people with autism and other developmental disabilities, their family, friends, colleagues, teachers, employers and others.

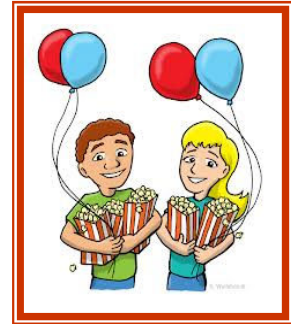
To **promote awareness and acceptance**, we invite you to view and share a new video about Autism NOW (www.autismnow.org) and learn more. Also, we encourage you to join in the conversation! Follow us online and on Autism NOW's blog and read the personal stories of people with autism in a series of guest posts during April. And use the hashtag #AutismAware to generate discussion about **autism awareness and acceptance**.

The 4th Annual Amarillo Area Autism in Action Awareness Walk & Health Fair, Saturday, April 12th from 10am-2pm at Sam Houston Park. Adult tickets are \$15 and children age 3-12 are \$10. Tickets may be purchased online at www.eventbrite.com; search for the 4th Annual Amarillo Area Autism in Action Awareness Walk & Health Fair.



4th Annual Children's Services Carnival

For the last 4 years Texas Panhandle Centers has held a *National Children's Mental Health Awareness Day Carnival* for area youth and families. This Carnival will demonstrate how children's mental health initiatives promote positive youth development, recovery, and resilience; show how children with mental health needs thrive in their communities, and raise awareness of the critical services we provide to the most vulnerable members of our society - *children suffering from mental illness and severe emotional disturbances*. This activity allows families to have a fun, end of the year experience that they may not otherwise have the resources to do. The Carnival will be held on May 09, 2014.





New Dawn Jr.

Crafts

Swimming

Singing

- * **A camp for teens with intellectual disabilities ages 14-17 years old**
- * **June 2 - 4, 2014 at Ceta Canyon Methodist Retreat Center outside of Canyon, TX**
- * **Registration forms available at www.cetacanyon.org**

Hiking

Bible Lessons

COMPLIANCE CORNER

Alanna Hepler, Coordinator of Compliance & Planning

Welcome to the Compliance Corner where you can quickly learn about sound compliance practices. If you have a general, compliance-related question about issues such as privacy - HIPAA, computer safety, business code of conduct, etc, chances are other staff have the same question. In order to share the information, we need to know what your questions are. So please email your questions to "Compliance Corner". If your question is chosen for the newsletter, you will receive a jean day pass. *Important Note – compliance questions may require immediate attention. If you have a question, please talk with your supervisor/program manager first and inform them that you would like to submit your question to the "Compliance Corner."

Question and Answer:

Question: Is it OK for me to include a client's name in the "Subject" line of an email?

Answer: When viewing a list of emails in your inbox, the subject line of each email is displayed as well as other information such as the sender, date, etc. If client identifiers are in the subject line, this increases the chance that someone other than the original recipient may see the information.

For this reason, it is important to minimize client identifiers in the subject line. For example, you should not include a client's name, social security number, or Medicaid

number. If you need to include any identifying information in the subject line, only list the TPC case number (e.g. 45678). All other identifying information should be placed inside the body of the email message (in the narrative section).

When sending email to others outside the agency (e.g. schools, police, state support living centers), that includes client identifying information, there are specific safeguards that must be followed. First, talk with your supervisor. If the email is appropriate to send to an outside person, staff can talk with their supervisor/program manager for instructions on sending a secure email. If additional assistance is needed, contact the Help Desk for guidance.



Saturday, May 31st – June 1st is 24 Hours in the Canyon; benefiting Cancer treatment and research.

You can register now at
www.24hoursinthecanyon.org

Texas Panhandle Centers is a proud sponsor



Mother's Day
Sunday, May 11th

Nurses Week May 6-12

National Nurses Day, also known as National RN Recognition Day, is always celebrated on May 6th and opens National Nurses Week. National Nurses Week begins each year on May 6th and ends on May 12th, the birth date of Florence Nightingale.

It's one of the nation's largest health care events, recognizing the contributions and

commitments nurses make and the significant work they perform.

Every day, nurses step forward embracing new technologies, resolving emerging issues, and accepting ever-changing roles in their profession. They lead the way for their patients, colleagues, organizations, and the health care industry as a whole.



Sylvia Martinez, Specialized Services, answered last month's questions correctly and was randomly selected to win a \$25 gift card from Amarillo National Bank.



To claim your card, contact Joyce Lopez at 806.351.3308 or email: joyce.lopez@txpan.org.

Congratulations!



OTIS Corner

(Opportunities To Improve Safety)

Submitted by: Natalie Henning, QM Coordinator, Safety Director

It's Tornado Season. Are you prepared?

March marked the first month of the tornado drills in your locations in preparation for tornado season. For some buildings, the requirement for tornado drills has been met for the year. That is, some locations fulfilled their one tornado drill for the year, but we don't want to forget the importance of being prepared.

It is important to remember that tornadoes can develop quickly and often with little warning. As a result, think about how you can prepare yourself at work and at home to act immediately should the need arise.

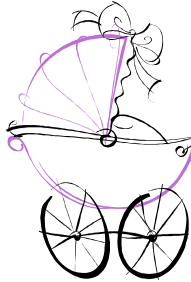


- Have a plan. At work and at home, have a plan for tornado threats. During tornado season, make sure to refresh your knowledge of where the safe rooms are in your building (there are floor plans that illustrate the safe rooms in each building), and have a family meeting at home to determine the safest place in your house to gather if a tornado warning is given.
- If caught outdoors, seek shelter in a sturdy building. If you cannot quickly walk to shelter, get into a vehicle, buckle your seatbelt and drive to the closest sturdy shelter. If flying debris occurs while you are driving, pull over and park.
 - ◊ Now you have two options as a last resort:
 - * Stay in the vehicle with the seatbelt on and place your head below the windows.
 - * If you can safely get noticeably lower than the roadway, exit the vehicle and lie in that area, covering your head with your hands. Do not seek shelter under an overpass.
- Make sure that you know where the fire extinguishers (are they functional?) and first aid kits (are they well stocked?) are in the location where you work as well as your home. Have flashlights and batteries available as well as a battery powered radio or NOAA radio so that you can stay informed of the storm's status.
- Have a list of important phone numbers and information, i.e., emergency personnel, medical information, insurance information, bank account information, etc.
- Practice your emergency plan so that everyone around you knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

Please send any feedback or suggestions for future OTIS topics to:

natalie.henning@txpan.org

It's a Girl!!



Congratulations to **Jennifer Long, Alternate Living**, on the birth of a baby girl.

Kymri Long was born at 10:45am on April 2nd. She weighed 8 Lbs. and was 20 inches in length. Both Mom and baby are doing great!!

White Hat Award



The IDD Service Coordination Department salutes **Lori Shimizu, ASCI Borger**. Lori “stepped up” in a positive way during the transition of directors. She filled a void and did a great job for the clients so that there would be minimal disruption. The clients and their parents are responding well to the change. Thank you Lori!

Amy Bynum for IDD Service Coordination

Welcome these New Employees...

Diana Driggers
Janie Jennings
Kou Kullah
Ashley Parks
Korrie Rosas
Coretta Claudrick
Lindsay Garza
Sherry Lawrence
Esperance Mukamisha
Latracia Patterson
Patrick Ragazura
Angela Whittaker

Browning Group Home
Browning Group Home
Westcliff Group Home
Amherst Group Home
Homeless Services
Canode Group Home
ECI
ECI
Respite Pool
Westcliff Group Home
Club Meadows Group Home
Carlton Group Home



Community Corner

Encore Presentation

"LIVING WITH STRESS"



Friday, May 9th, 2014

11:30 am until 1:00 pm

Pavilion Auditorium

7201 Evans Drive

Amarillo, TX

Sponsored by

Pavilion Outpatient Services

This is a free presentation and lunch.

AUDIENCE

- Health Professionals
- Law Enforcement
- First Responders
- School Counselors, Teachers, Principals
- Those serving in Social Service Agencies
- Military and those treating Military.
- Anyone experiencing stress that interferes with the daily functioning of their life.

OBJECTIVES

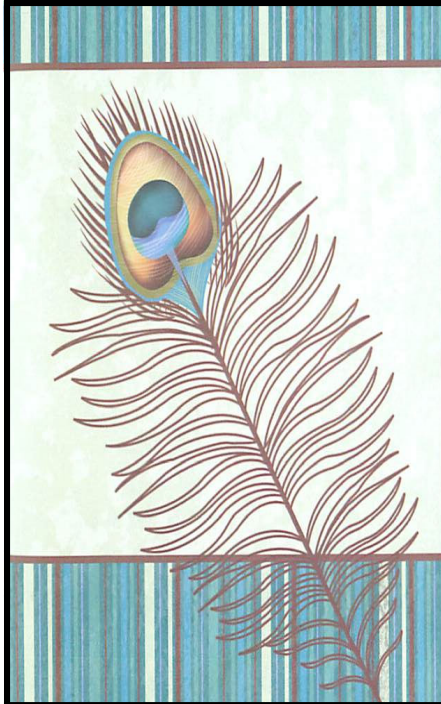
- Define stress, eustress, and distress.
- Identify sources of stress: change, and expectations.
- Four different responses to change.
- 18 ways to cope with stress without medications.
- Where to find help when you just can't handle stress alone.

The Pavilion

Northwest Texas Healthcare System

1.0 CEUs provided for RNs, LPCs, LMFTs, LSWs, LCSWs, and TCLEOSE credit for Law Enforcement

Amarillo College Center for Continuing Healthcare Education is an approved provider of continuing nursing education by the Texas Nurses Association, an accredited approver by the American Nurses Credentialing Center's Commission on Accreditation.



Friends,

What a wonderful send-off you gave me! It was fabulous to say the least. Thank you for the gift certificate which I've spent "a hundred ways" in my mind!

It's been a wonderful 36+ years working with some exceptional staff & clients, a true blessing.

*Thank you,
Eloise Haynes*

Answer the questions correctly and your name will be entered in a random drawing to be eligible to win a \$25 gift card.



1. Children in the age group of birth to _____ had the highest rate of victimization
2. Recently, the CDC declared that 1 in _____ (a 30% increase from previous figures) children may be impacted by autism spectrum disorders.
3. Practice your _____ plan so that everyone around you knows what to do in the event of an emergency.

Submit your answers to joyce.lopez@txpan.org. Deadline for responses is the 5th of the following month. You must type "Monthly Drawing" in the email subject line to be eligible. For those that do not have a computer, entries may be submitted via interoffice mail. The same requirements apply for hard copy submissions.

Articles, or suggestions for this publication may be submitted by the 1st of each month to:

**Joyce Lopez • 901 Wallace Blvd., • Amarillo, Texas 79106
Phone: (806) 351-3308 Fax: (806) 351-3345 Email: joyce.lopez@txpan.org**