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Rhode Island DCYF, Parent Support Network of RI, and Prevent Child Abuse RI Kickoff Observance of Child Abuse Prevention Month in April

April 5, 2024 is Wear Blue Day to help raise awareness about the importance of preventing child abuse.

[Providence, R.I.] (April 4, 2024) – April is Child Abuse Prevention (CAP) Month, and the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families (DCYF), the Parent Support Network of RI (PSNRI) and Prevent Child Abuse RI stand in solidarity with child abuse prevention efforts. Join us as we observe Child Abuse Prevention Month to raise awareness about child abuse and neglect prevention efforts in Rhode Island.

Everyone across our state has a role to play in ensuring children grow up safe and loved; and that families have the resources and supports they need not just to survive, but to thrive.

“DCYF, our private agency partners, staff, and communities across the state of Rhode Island have a shared responsibility to do everything we can to ensure children grow up in safe and loving homes,” said DCYF Director, Ashley Deckert. “For DCYF, that means responding quickly to suspected child abuse and neglect, assessing the family, and keeping children safe and families together. In 2023, our Child Abuse Hotline screened over 5,000 calls. Additionally, an average of 1,200 families were supported through the Department’s Support and Response Unit. And close to 1,900 families received support through the five Family Care Community Partnerships (FFCPs) the Department works with. This work allows youth to remain safely at home. We ask all Rhode Islanders to please be a voice supporting our families and keeping kids safe.”

Lamel Moore, Prevent Child Abuse RI Chapter Director, agrees. “Every family and child should have the access and support to live purposeful lives with hope for the future. In April, during Child Abuse Prevention Month, we recognize the dedicated and passionate prevention teams, programs, and partners working year-round to create awareness about the public health issue of abuse and neglect. Every day, a connected network of prevention leaders, lived-experience experts, and a host of partners in prevention link arms to build evidence that supports advocacy for family-strengthening policies that can help lift the load for overburdened families.

“The work of love is never done,” continued Moore. “And our work is rooted in both aspiration and evidence with a goal of providing help and hope *before* crisis occurs. We hope that this month, our community will join us in applauding the progress we’ve made in prevention, but to also become partners in the remaining critical work that families of Rhode Island need.”

We encourage the community to join DCYF and PSNRI on Wear Blue Day Friday, April 5, 2024, by dressing in blue to raise awareness about the importance of preventing child abuse. Then capture the moment with a photo and share it to your social media platforms using the hashtag #WearBlueDay2024 to join the nationwide wave of support. Be sure to also tag PSNRI when you show your support.

The following are some of the events scheduled in Rhode Island during CAP month:

- April 16, 2024, Digital Advocacy Day (Amplify Your Voice for Children)
- April 17, 2024, Engaging Men in Prevention Day
- April 20, 2024, Healthy Kids Day at the Warwick Family YMCA
- April 22, 2024, Earth Day Event

Visit the [PSNRI website](#) for information.

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About DCYF

The mission of the Rhode Island Department of Children, Youth & Families is to partner with families and communities to raise safe and healthy children and youth in a caring environment and to engage respectfully and effectively with people of all races, ethnicities, cultures, classes, genders, sexual orientations, and faiths in a manner that recognizes, affirms, and values the worth of all individuals, families, tribes, and communities, and protects and preserves the dignity of each.

DCYF has three major operational divisions: Children’s Behavioral Health Services, Child Welfare (including child protective services, family services, and permanency support), and Juvenile Justice (including the Rhode Island Training School and juvenile probation). The Department supports more than 2,400 children and their families both in the community and in DCYF care, and indirectly serves thousands more through community-based programs.

About PSNRI

The Parent Support Network of Rhode Island is a group of parents, family members, transition age youth, and adults with behavioral health lived experiences who are committed to supporting and assisting peers. PSNRI works with statewide and national partners to empower children, youth, families, and individuals through dynamic supports, education, and advocacy to prevent abuse and neglect, reduce disparities, and progress toward universal health, wellness, and recovery. PSNRI is the Rhode Island Chapter of Prevent Child Abuse America and the National Federation of Families for Children’s Mental Health.