



July 16, 2020

Dear ICAN Friends,

It is with deep sorrow that I begin this message with news of the passing of Kerry English, MD. We are living through trying times, often surrounded by sad news, which makes the loss of Kerry even more difficult to accept. He passed away on April 27, of complications of ALS (amyotrophic lateral sclerosis).

Dr. English worked for over 40 years as a dedicated pediatrician for abused children, particularly those living in disadvantaged communities, most recently as the Medical Director for the King Foster Care HUB Clinic in Watts. Kerry was well-known and highly regarded by those in the child welfare arena. Talk to anyone who worked with Kerry and you will find great respect and an appreciation for his expertise and passion in his work with countless sexually and physically abused children.

Kerry was an ardent supporter of ICAN and a mainstay at ICAN meetings and events. He was the first Department of Health Services representative to the ICAN Operations Committee in 1977. He led several ICAN efforts, working on issues related to expert forensic exams for abused children, child safety concerns in the dependency and family law systems, and child fatality review. He never hesitated to share his expertise and often shared his love of theater. He was the perfect auctioneer at ICAN Operations Holiday events, a presence who could not be missed. ICAN is better because of him, and we will never be quite the same without him. Rest in Peace, Kerry.





If you would like to share a memory or tribute to Kerry, please send it to ican@lacounty.gov and we will post it on the ICAN Website.

ICAN UPDATES

Below are summaries of some of our current ICAN projects.

NO HIT ZONE CAMPAIGN:

In 2005, the concept of "no hitter" was first conceptualized. The vision was to create an environment that is safe for everyone. The No Hitter Campaign was launched in Dodger Stadium with Joe Torre, DA Jackie Lacey and ICAN.

Since March 2020, ICAN has been working with a group of distinguished professionals including Dr. Randall Alexander, a national No Hit Zone expert, to introduce a No Hit Zone campaign in Los Angeles County, - an environment where adults don't hit children or other adults and children don't hit other children or adults.

ICAN's pilot program will first be implemented at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center, under the leadership of Dr. Carol Berkowitz, Chief of General Pediatrics. A No Hit Zone committee is creating the pilot program's educational material, brochures and posters. These materials will be printed thanks to a contribution from ICAN Associates. The goal is to eventually expand this campaign throughout Los Angeles County.





ICAN EXPERT LECTURE SERIES:

ICAN has always placed a high value on training and education, well-known for conferences and symposia. Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 crisis, these events are on hold. But that doesn't mean that we stop training. Prior to COVID-19, ICAN brought together multiple agency representatives to discuss how we could best share the knowledge we have acquired through our longstanding review of child fatalities.

Initially, the plan was to host a symposium where many of the experts who work with ICAN would share lessons learned. But with barriers, often comes creativity...and we are now producing an online series of expert lectures presented by some of the County's leading experts in child abuse. Not only will this series provide participants with valuable information from these experts, it will demonstrate how all agencies can participate in the prevention and identification of complex child abuse cases.

A few of the experts and topics to be covered include:

Carol Berkowitz, MD, Chief of Division of General Pediatrics at Harbor/UCLA Medical Center: Infant Safe Sleep.

Clayton Kazan, MD, Medical Director for Los Angeles County Fire Department: "Situational Awareness" to prevent child fatalities.

Catherine DeRidder, MD, Child abuse pediatrician V.I.P. Hub: The role of HUBS and important medical terminology for evaluating a child fatality/critical incident.

Claudia Wang, MD, SCAN Team Medical Director at UCLA Mattel Children's Hospital: Munchausen Syndrome by Proxy.

Philip Hyden, MD, Pediatric Child Abuse and Burn Specialist: Children's burns and water temperature.

Commander Carlos Marquez, Los Angeles County Sheriff's Department: Law enforcement interview techniques with children and families in cases of child fatalities/critical incidents.



INTER-AGENCY COUNCIL ON CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT

County of Los Angeles



Lara Drino, Deputy, Los Angeles City Attorney's Office: Gun safety to ensure children's safety.

Linda Garcia, Child Life Specialist, Grossman Burn Center and Linda Boyd, clinician, Department of Mental Health: Children's traumatic grief and loss.

Stephanie Murray, School Psychologist for Whittier Union High School District and ICAN Child and Adolescent Suicide Review Team: Child and Adolescent suicides.

Ron Geltz, Head Deputy, Family Violence Division and Pak Kouch, Complex Child Abuse Section, District Attorney's Office: Domestic Violence cases and child fatalities/critical incidents.

Sara La Croix, Coordinator for the 12 contracted Los Angeles Community Child Abuse Councils: Role of the community in child abuse prevention.

Jennifer Lopez, DCFS Regional Administrator, Child Death Review Team member: The role of DCFS in preventing and evaluating severe and fatal child abuse and neglect.

Michael Durfee, MD, founder of the nation's first Child Death Review Team: History and overview of CDRT.

ICAN HOSPITAL NETWORK PROJECT

The ICAN Hospital Network Project is working with 5-years (2015-2019) of child abuse reporting by hospitals countywide. The data includes over 62,000 entries, and includes data categories such as: age, sex, date of report, allegation type, and hospital name. This data will be used to better assist and inform hospitals in their identification and reporting of suspected abuse and neglect.

ICAN CHILD DEATH REVIEW TEAM

While work continues on our annual Child Death Review Team report, we are pleased to announce that this year's report will include a new section summarizing and interpreting over 30 years of data from our Child Death Review Team Reports. This will be the most complete longitudinal study of child fatalities in the nation.





ICAN SAFE SLEEP CAMPAIGN

This campaign continues via Zoom. Revisions to ICAN's www.safesleepforbaby.com website are in process. It will include updated safe sleep resources such as: downloadable brochures ready for print, the safe sleep toolkit, access to the safe sleep training, and updated posters. This site will also include web forms to allow brochure orders online.

FINAL NOTE:

As we continue our lives in a world compromised by COVID-19, I want to thank each of you for your continued concern for vulnerable children. I was touched by the responses to 12 year old Mark McCabe's letter last month. Here are a few of the messages:

"What a special boy Mark is Deanne. Thank you for sharing his lovely letter with us. I am so sad that he had to experience first hand discrimination at the hands of those who are supposed to keep him safe and thank goodness that he was not hurt. I hope Mark and his family continue to be safe and healthy."

"Thank you for sharing! His letter made me sad and gives me hope at the same time! If he ever wants to talk with a prosecutor who helps kids I am here for him."

"I just had to send a note and let you know how impressed, moved and a bit restored in my faith in humankind when I read your godson Mark's note. How wonderful to hear these words from a 12 year old.. What an impressive young man. He definitely had great parenting. There IS hope!!!!!"

"Thank you Deanne for sharing this! Ur Godson has always been an inspiration to observe!!! I feel emotional pain for what he has endured as a Black male!! I can only hope & pray that justice in our communities begins to change. When u work in trauma day in & out my body heart & soul needs a break at times! I will continue to pray for justice & promote that all lives matter but more so those like your Godson & my precious grandson!"

"Wow...very inspiring. Thanks to Mark for these very uplifting, heart wrenching, and extremely meaningful words. This letter does bring joy and hope to me as a child advocate. Thank you!!"

"Thank you very much for your message and for Mark Macabe's letter. You continue to be a wonderful Leader and Human Being. Mark is certainly learning from you and teaching us all to contribute well to others in The World. If Mark needs any introductions to Law Firms, I can provide great opportunities for Mark to meet high quality attorneys you would approve of."

Please take care of yourselves and know how important you are to children and to all of us in this long journey to protect them from harm.

With respect and appreciation,

Deanne Tilton-Durfee, Doc.hc Executive Director of the Los Angeles County Inter-Agency Council on Child Abuse and Neglect (ICAN)

