

## **Executive Summary**

**Course Title:** "Communicating With and Supporting Children and Adolescents Having Sexual Abuse Examinations"

### **Course Description:**

This workshop will provide the professional the tools necessary to recognize behavioral indicators common to children and adolescents who present for suspected sexual abuse. The participant will practice obtaining historical information with the use of non-leading questions using scenarios. Role play opportunities and real case histories will challenge the participant to use age appropriate communication with various age children. Skills obtained from this workshop will enhance interview techniques while focusing on the developmental challenges to improve case investigation and positive case outcomes in child and adolescent sexual abuse cases.

### **Outline of Training**

- I. Child Sexual Abuse: Identification, Intervention and Medical Treatment overview
- II. Epidemiology and Statistics of Child Sexual Abuse
- III. Physical and Behavioral Indicators of Sexual Abuse
- IV. Disclosure Dynamics
- V. Childhood Trauma as it relates to Interviewing children of different ages about sexual abuse.
- VI. Special Considerations-small children, adolescents, children with special needs

### **Target Audience**

Intended for professionals providing services to children and families impacted by child sexual abuse including professionals working with Child Protective Services and medical professionals

### **Outcome Objectives**

After this training, participants will be able to:

1. Identify physical and behavioral indicators of sexual abuse
2. Identify the impact of sexual abuse on children
3. Identify leading and suggestive questioning
4. Develop an interview protocol
5. Utilize interview techniques to address developmental challenges
6. Improve case evaluation and investigation methods
7. Describe to children and adolescent the medical exam process in easy to understand terms

**BEFORE the training**

Supervisors will discuss difficulties experienced by workers when attempting to talk with children and adolescents in regards to child abuse allegations.

**AFTER the training**

Supervisors will provide role play opportunities for staff to practice interviewing different age children in regards to sexual abuse allegations using their new skills. Supervisors will establish clear guidelines when triaging child and adolescent sexual abuse cases, and provide debriefing sessions to discuss problems that arise in regards to sexual abuse allegations that are both stressful and/or problematic for the worker.