

**Panel Discussion:
Chicago Prevention Alliance**

Make Safe Task Force

June 12, 2020

Panel discussion:

Chicago Prevention Alliance

- Char Rivette
 - Executive Director, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center
- Lillian Cartwright
 - Director of Education and Training, Resilience
- Shalini Mirpuri
 - Prevention Manager, Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation
- Stephen Leaver
 - Executive Director, Imagination Theatre
- Julia Strehlow
 - Director of Education, Prevention, and Policy, Chicago Children's Advocacy Center



Chicago Prevention Alliance

“

Individually, we are
one drop. Together, we
are an ocean.”

Ryunosuke Satoro



Chicago Prevention Alliance (CPA)

- Background:
 - A multitude of organizations across Chicago have programs seeking to prevent sexual harm
 - A variety of approaches are used
 - This work is sorely underutilized and underfunded

CPA was formed to ensure every child or young person in the city of Chicago has access to primary prevention education delivered by a well-trained facilitator.

Chicago Prevention Alliance (CPA)

- **Mission:** The Chicago Prevention Alliance will create, promote and facilitate the implementation and institutionalization of a diverse array of primary prevention strategies to put an end to sexual harm against or by children and youth.
- **Goal:** The Chicago Prevention Alliance will combine expertise, resources and energy in order to make the City of Chicago a national leader in the primary prevention of sexual harm involving children and youth.

Chicago Prevention Alliance (CPA)

The Chicago Prevention Alliance believes in using research, evaluation and data to inform primary prevention strategies.

CPA seeks to utilize complementary and diverse skill sets already embodied within its member organizations, and will partner with local schools, youth-serving organizations, advocates and political entities charged with ensuring safe and equitable education and programming for children and youth.

CPA will seek to engage youth and survivor feedback directly to inform our prevention strategies. CPA will use its collective voice to amplify our individual advocacy efforts, and will seek to create innovative and effective primary prevention strategies collectively that can be scaled to a larger audience.

The work of CPA is not a replacement of the individual services provided by its members, but an enrichment and complement.

CPA invited members

- A Long Walk Home
- Apna Ghar
- Between Friends
- Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation*
- Chicago Children's Advocacy Center*
- Chicago Women's Health Center
- Childhood Fractured
- Communities In Schools of Chicago
- Howard Brown Health/Broadway Youth Center
- Illinois Caucus for Adolescent Health
- Imagination Theater*
- JCFS Chicago – Response for Teens
- KIDS HAVE HOPE
- Mujeres Latinas en Accion*
- Planned Parenthood of Illinois
- Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital
- Prevent Child Abuse Illinois
- Resilience*
- Selah Freedom
- Sarah's Inn
- Youth Outreach Services
- YWCA Metropolitan Chicago*

(*steering committee member)



RESILIENCE
EMPOWERING
SURVIVORS
ENDING SEXUAL
VIOLENCE

Prevention Education

Prevention Education at Resilience

- Workshops available for grades K-12
- Participants in prevention education workshops learn how to identify elements of rape culture, identify and reduce risk factors, and become agents of change within their own communities.
- Resilience programs are conducted by trained professionals. Each 45-minute session is developmentally appropriate, highly interactive, and tailored for your group. Our programs are evidence-informed and we work to include multiple learning styles and educational best practices.

Workshops by age

- Kindergarten “Roles & Body Rules”
 - 5 sessions
- Grades 1 & 2 “Safe Touch”
 - 5 sessions
- Grades 3-5 “Safer Relationships”
 - 5 sessions
- Grades 6-8 “Making Schools Safe”
 - 7 sessions
- Grades 9-12 “Catalyst for Change”
 - 6 sessions



Chicago Alliance Against Sexual Exploitation

ENDING HARM, DEMANDING CHANGE



Our Work

We visit high school classrooms and groups in Chicago to provide workshops on how youth can prevent sexual violence in their schools, communities, and culture.

We created and implemented the **first** curriculum in the country designed to educate boys and young men about sexual harm and engage them as allies against commercial sexual exploitation: Empowering Young Men to End Sexual Exploitation.

Since launching in 2010, we've educated over 20,000 students.

Empowering Youth

Five sessions:

1. Gender roles and stereotypes
2. Victim blaming and rape culture
3. Power, privilege, and the spectrum of sexual violence
4. Commercial sexual exploitation
5. Consent

All workshops are designed to:

- be interactive and engaging
- empower students to think about actionable prevention
- give students autonomy over their own learning



Why do people blame the victim?



Student Quotes

“Now that I have been given these definitions, I too fit into instances where I have dealt with sexual assault without even knowing it happened to me.”

“I will not make rape jokes and say no to victim blaming.”

“Just because the situation isn’t illegal, doesn’t mean it is consensual. I know to be more aware of consent so that I don’t hurt someone I care about.”

“There is a lot we can do, I think more information needs to be shared in school regarding whether what you can do if you are a bystander or a victim of sexual violence.”

“I got to change my view of the world with a new lens. I didn’t really pay attention to the sexual objectification of women until now. I feel that this is not right and this should stop.”

“I think it was important to talk about negative expectations and stereotypes because as frustrating as they are, it really helped me feel more comfortable with my peers and finding solutions.”

IMAGINATION *theater*

Role Play For Real Life



Brief History of Imagination Theater

- Founded in 1966 by Eunice Joffe who used theater as a way to work with kids and adults who had disabilities.
- Began using theater as way to help audiences address social/emotional issues in 1980.
- Sexual abuse prevention program begins in 1985.
- Other topics have included bullying prevention, empathy, respect, healthy relationships, and conflict resolution.
- Today, Imagination Theater reaches over 30,000 students every year with programs all over Illinois.

The “No Secrets” Play and Program

The Program utilizes our partnerships with Resilience and the Chicago Children’s Advocacy Center. It includes:

- Training for the social work team at the school conducted by the CCAC
- Training for the teachers and staff at each school conducted by Resilience
- Three age appropriate versions of the participatory play “No Secrets” broken down K-2nd, 3-5th, and 6-8th grades.
- Follow up classroom visits by Resilience educators.
- A ‘safe room’ where students can come speak to a Resilience counselor
- Additional follow up classroom workshops conducted by Imagination Theater



The Plays

- All versions are participatory and include scenes which make students more **aware** of the issues being presented, facilitated discussion which helps them become more **knowledgeable**, and role-play which allows them to **apply** that knowledge in real time and in a safe environment.
- The younger versions teach about 'safe' and 'unsafe' touch, what students rights are, and who they can turn to for help.
- The middle school versions address healthy relationships, consent, harassment, and sexual abuse.



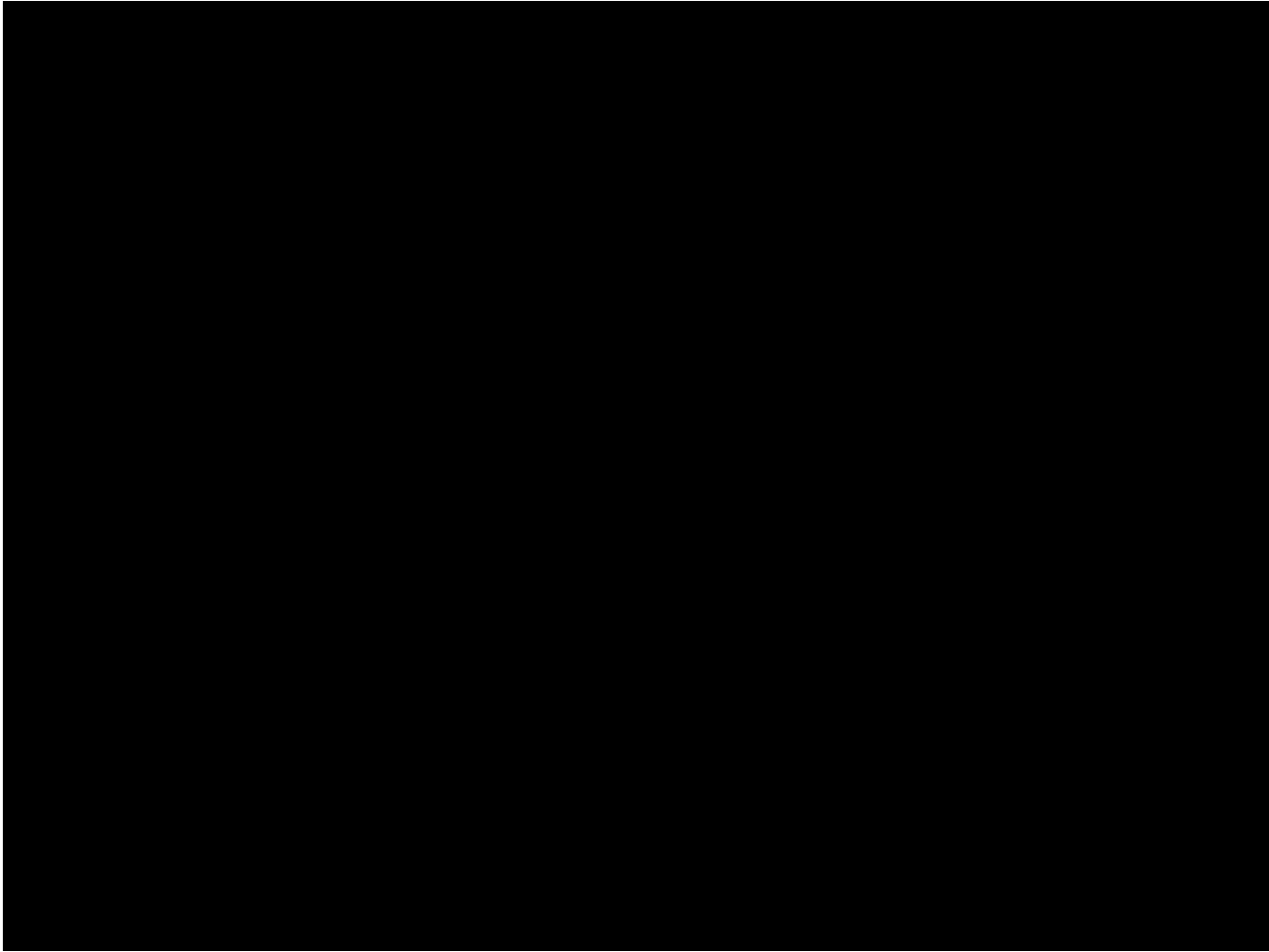
Evaluation

For over ten years, Imagination Theater has conducted evaluations on the program conducted by Catherine Main, at the University of Illinois Chicago. In 2019, Rebecca Teasdale & Associates took ten years worth of data to form an evaluation synthesis. Here are some highlights of her findings:



Evaluation Findings

- Nearly 100% of school staff report that program was engaging for their students and that the use participatory theater was an appropriate and effective instructional method for teaching about sexual abuse prevention.
- After participating in the program 90% of students across grades 3-8 indicated that they would report to adult if someone touched them in way they did not like and the majority of teachers indicated that they felt their students were more likely to report abuse to an adult.
- On pre- and post-program surveys, the number of 6th-8th graders who indicated an understanding what “consent” means increased from 66% on the pre-program survey to 95% on the post-program survey.



Chicago Children's Advocacy Center Prevention Education for schools

- Focus on education for adults about keeping children safe
 - Mandated reporters
 - Parents/caregivers
- Consultation to schools regarding prevention education curriculum for younger students



Keeping Children Safe for Professionals *1-3hrs*

- Understanding child sexual abuse
- Preventing abuse by creating safe environments
- Responding to behavior and disclosures
- The mandated reporting process
- Erin's Law for school settings
- ChicagoCAC's role

Keeping Children Safe for Caregivers *1-2hrs*

- Having developmentally-appropriate conversations about abuse and safety with children
- The importance of teaching body part names, healthy sexual development, boundaries, consent
- Speaking up during concerning situations
- Safety planning for your family to reduce risk of abuse

Keeping Children Safe Online *1-2hrs*

- The nature of online boundary violations, inappropriate explicit communication, child sexual abuse images, sextortion and other online sexual misconduct
- How to talk to children about digital safety
- Prevention tips and resources

Keeping Children with Disabilities Safe *1-2hrs*

- Creating family safety plans to prevent sex abuse
- Talking to children to reduce vulnerability to abuse
- Protecting children from abuse in program settings
- Identifying behaviors in adults, teens and children that may put them at risk of sexually abusing children

Human Trafficking: Identify and work with victims and survivors *1-3hrs*

- The prevalence of trafficking in Chicagoland
- Signs of trafficking, to help identify potential victims
- How to work with survivors of all ages

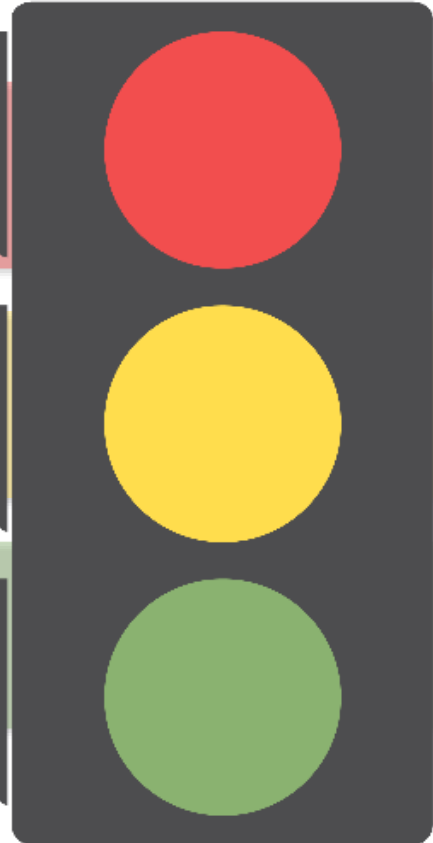
Understanding Trauma and Resiliency *1-2hrs*

- Defining trauma and its prevalence in society
- Impacts of trauma on individuals and communities
- Elements of resilience and trauma-informed environments
- How to support children, families and yourself

Observe



Respond



Abusive & harmful

Report!

Concerning or inappropriate

Action is needed

Positive or healthy

Praise & reinforce

Committee for Children's Second Step Child Protection Unit

- Lessons for PreK-5th grade
- Accompanied by ChicagoCAC's prevention education for school personnel
- English and Spanish lessons
 - Delivered by teacher, school social worker/counselor or ChicagoCAC staff depending on teacher comfort level



Weekly Theme Topics

THEME 1
Ways to Stay Safe



THEME 4
The Touching Rule

THEME 2
The Always Ask
First Rule



THEME 5
Practicing
Staying Safe

THEME 3
Safe and
Unsafe Touches



THEME 6
Reviewing
Safety Skills

Child Protection Unit Weekly Theme Activity



Thank you for having us at your meeting!

Are there questions/comments for the panel?