MEETING THE MANDATE: UTAH H.B. 286

Child sexual abuse training for educators and parents: 2016-2017

DID YOU KNOW?

- One in 10 children will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday.

- The medical and social impacts of child sexual abuse on victims are enormous. Studies have found that 51% to 79% of sexually abused children exhibit psychological symptoms. The damage does not stop when victims grow up.

- Only 38% of children disclose the fact they are being abused to anyone. Most of these never report to the authorities.

- Research demonstrates that children who are sexually abused perform at far lower academic levels than their non-abused counterparts.

- Educators and youth-serving professionals are uniquely positioned to recognize and intervene in child sexual abuse. In fact, school personnel identify 52% of all known child abuse cases classified as causing harm to the child, more than any other profession or organizational type, including child protective services agencies and the police.

- Training educators to recognize and intervene in cases of child sexual abuse has enormous potential for improving child safety and well-being.
WHAT IS UTAH H.B. 286?

Utah H.B. 286 is legislation passed in 2014 requiring that K-12 school personnel receive training in child sexual abuse prevention and awareness beginning in the 2016 – 2017 school year. The law also requires parent and guardian training.

The legislation required that the State Board of Education and the Department of Human Services select child sexual abuse prevention and awareness programs that meet best-practice criteria.

School districts must use a state-approved programs to meet the legislative mandate.

The approved programs for school personnel and youth-serving adults are:

- The Stewards of Children program from Darkness to Light
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah program
- Younique Foundation program
- Child Lures program
- Utah Valley Family Support Center program

The approved programs for parents and guardians are:

- The Stewards of Children program from Darkness to Light
- Prevent Child Abuse Utah program
- Younique Foundation program
- Child Lures program
- Utah Valley Family Support Center program

THE STEWARDS OF CHILDREN PROGRAM FROM DARKNESS TO LIGHT

The State Board of Education and Department of Human Services Review Committee recommended the Stewards of Children program and instructional materials without reservation for school district use to fulfill H.B. 286 requirements. The program was rated as meeting 95% or more of the state’s requirements.

The Stewards of Children program for school personnel is a three-hour, two-part docu-training. It consists of an engaging two-hour child sexual abuse prevention and awareness training, and a one-hour training in recognizing signs of abuse and mandated reporting in Utah. It is offered in an online or onsite facilitator-led format.
The *Stewards of Children* program for parents and guardians is a two-hour child sexual abuse prevention and awareness documentary. It is offered in an online or onsite facilitator-led format.

**WHY THE STEWARDS OF CHILDREN PROGRAM?**

**It is engaging:** The *Stewards of Children* program is a movie-quality documentary featuring clips of adult survivors of child sexual abuse, youth-serving professionals, and experts illustrating important points. It is more than just factual, it is motivational. This is a distinguishing factor, based in behavioral science.

**It is the only program proven to work:** In a recent Texas survey, the *Stewards of Children* training was shown to triple educator reports of child sexual abuse to the authorities within one year of taking the training. In a CDC-funded evaluation, it was shown to change adult child protective behaviors.

**It includes a myriad of additional resources and support.** Training can trigger emotional negative feelings in school personnel that have experienced child sexual abuse. *Darkness to Light* offers a nationwide helpline for victims, survivors, and those seeking information. Additionally, those taking the *Stewards of Children* program can access tip sheets, brochures, and short online modules on specific topics in the prevention of child sexual abuse.

**Teachers Find the Stewards of Children Training Valuable**

- 90% of teachers taking *Stewards of Children* training report that they are more willing to report suspicions of abuse after completing the program.
- 93% of teachers completing *Stewards of Children* training said they would be more likely to recognize signs of abuse.
- 88% of teachers report that they are more likely to talk to a child about child sexual abuse after completing *Stewards of Children* training.
- 91% of teachers taking *Stewards of Children* training would recommend it to colleagues.
PRICING FOR THE STEWARD OF CHILDREN PROGRAM:

School Personnel
- Three-hour online training for school personnel: $4
- Three-hour in-person facilitator-led training for school personnel: $8
  *Additional charges for facilitators apply.

Parents and Guardians
- Booklets, rack cards and other materials for parents and guardians: Price varies. Volume discounts apply.
- Two-hour online training for parents and guardians: $3
- Two-hour in-person facilitator-led training for parents and guardians: $6
  *Additional charges for facilitators apply.

For more information please contact:

Elizabeth Warren
Ewarren@D2L.org, 843-513-1626

To preview the online Stewards of Children program at no cost, email stewards@D2L.org or call 843-513-1619.