

April 3, 2023

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
APRIL IS CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH

(Bakersfield, CA) – On **Tuesday, March 28, 2023**, the Kern County Board of Supervisors proclaimed April as Child Abuse Prevention Month in Kern County. During the month of April, the Department of Human Services, will highlight the importance of child abuse prevention in Kern County and ask the community to help prevent child abuse and neglect.

April's focus will include two virtual training events: Thursday, April 13, 2023 at 8:30 a.m.: "Domestic Violence & Mandated Reporting" by Kern County Department of Human Services (KCDHS) Social Worker, Bonnie Holt. This is a free training and those interested can join using the link:

<https://kcsos.zoom.us/j/3404328789?pwd=ajc0ZnRyNUVtT2FXMnJZRIUvT3piQT09>

Our partners at the Kern County Network for Children (KCNC) are providing training on April 20, 2023, at 8:30 a.m. entitled, "Diversity Equity & Inclusion in the Child Welfare System, by Jessica Pryce, Ph.D. Viewers can join here: <https://bit.ly/April20thKCNCCollab>

The County Administrative Building on Truxtun will be lit up in blue throughout the month of April, as a reminder that we all play a part in protecting children and reporting suspected child abuse. April 7, 2023, is "Wear Blue for Kids" in support of Child Abuse Prevention Month, which will include an informational social media campaign.

KCDHS' podcast, "*The Heartbeat of Human Services*" will release three podcasts: April 3, 2023 – "What happens when someone calls the CPS hotline?" with Supervisor Catherine Magdaleno & Program Director, Erin Gillespie from KCDHS. April 17, 2023, "Child Abuse Prevention & Collaboration" with KCNC's Yadira Vargas. April 24, 2023, "Families First Prevention Act & CARES" with KCDHS' Program Specialist, Jennifer Glenn.

The Department of Human Services is partnering with Anthem Blue Cross for a "Packing Party," to fill 300 suitcases to be distributed to children in foster care. Each age-appropriate suitcase will be stuffed with items providing comfort and personal care items.

Sunday, April 30, 2023, is Blue Sunday. In essence, this day is set-aside as a National Day of Prayer to remind us to intercede for abused and neglected children. Churches throughout the county are partnering on Blue Sunday and sharing this important message.

For more information about Child Abuse Prevention Month, please view our website www.kcdhs.org or contact Jana Slagle at 661 342-8054.

To report suspected abuse or neglect, call (661) 631-6011