

# ENHANCED STUDENT SAFETY & SUCCESS VIA IMPROVED CEC POLICY & PRACTICES



## IDC Maltreatment Work Group Members:

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# Presentation Outline



- Why we are here?
- How did we get here?
- Where are we now?
- How do we move forward?
- What happens if we succeed?

# Why we are here?

- Council for Exceptional Children
  - Mission Statement
    - The Council for Exceptional Children is a professional association of educators dedicated to advancing the success of children with exceptionalities. **We accomplish our mission through advocacy, standards, and professional development.**

- CEC (cont.)
  - Our Core Values
    - Visionary
      - Demonstrated by forward-thinking and **courageous decision making dedicated** to excellence and influence in an evolving environment
    - Integrity
      - Demonstrated by **ethical**, responsive behavior, transparency, and accountability
    - Inclusiveness
      - Demonstrated by a commitment to diversity, **caring, and respect for the dignity and worth of all individuals**

- CEC (cont.)
  - 2015-17 Strategic Plan
    - Goal
      - Educators will be highly competent professionals entrusted to provide quality instruction that **will enable all students to pursue their full potential.**
  
- We are here because students can not “...pursue their full potential” if they are:
  - Chronically absent from school;
  - Malnourished , ill clothed, soiled;
  - Hurt, scared, emotionally traumatized, tormented



- We are here because students with disabilities are the most vulnerable members of society (UNICEF, 2013), experience maltreatment (i.e., neglect, abuse & bullying) at a rate that is three to four times greater than that experienced by their non disabled peers (Sullivan & Knutson, 2000).
- It is currently estimated that **25+% of children** with disabilities will experience one or more forms of maltreatment between birth and 18 years of age (Jones et al, 2012).

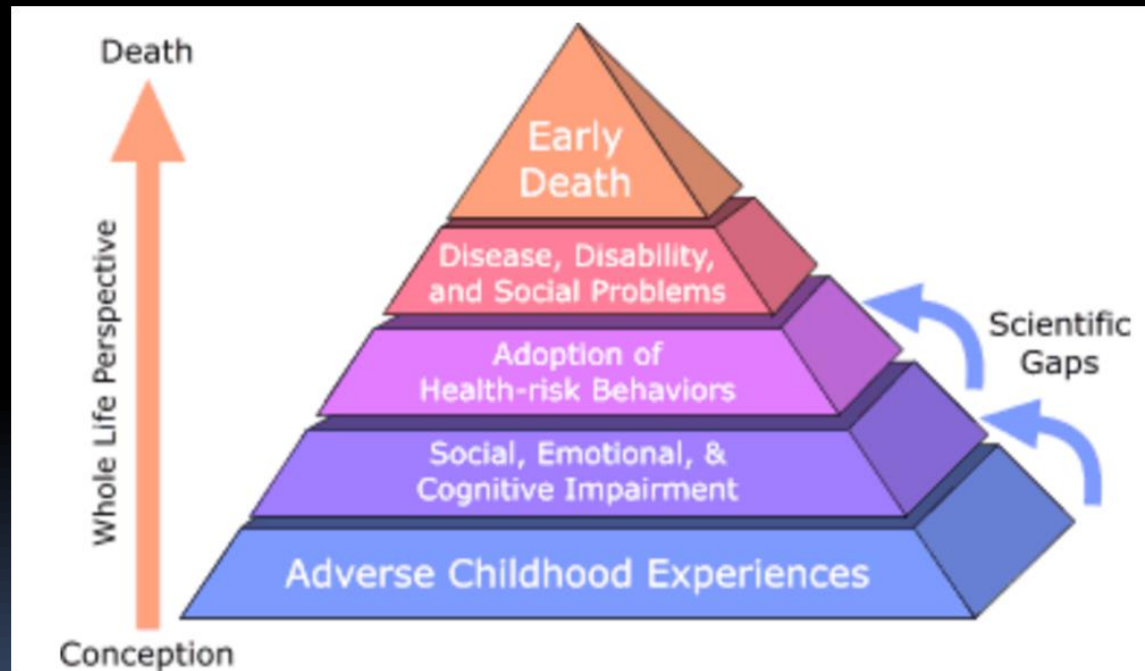


- We are here because child maltreatment is not only morally wrong, it also substantially diminishes children's ability to learn, interact, communicate and achieve in a manner consistent with their potential.





- We are here because we now know that the child maltreatment experience impacts the adult health, social and emotional well being, work success and life span



CDC: [The Adverse Childhood Experience Study](#) (ACE)

- We are here to identify the current status and needed changes in CEC policy and practices concerning: a) awareness & understanding; b) recognition & reporting; and c) prevention and response of maltreatment as experienced by children with disabilities.



# How did we get here?



- A brief history of our journey to this point in time:
  - 2011:
    - DCDD establishes a “special project” re. the maltreatment of children with disabilities & provides a “show case” presentation at the CEC national convention;
  - 2014:
    - DCDD & IDC unanimously supports “Safety Motion” to include safety statements/objectives in IFSP/IEP + establish the IDC Maltreatment Work Group



- 2015:
  - IDC Maltreatment Work Group survey of CEC division members re. “Safety Motion” [presentation](#).
  
- 2016:
  - [DEC](#) publishes “[Position Statement on Child Maltreatment](#)”
  - IDC & RA motion:
    - “The IDC requests that the CEC Board of Directors recognize the urgency of the issue of maltreatment and trauma of children with disabilities through the development of a CEC position paper in order to positively impact the welfare of children and family?”



- 2016 (cont.)
  - CEC Board response to the IDC/RA maltreatment motion:
    - Mikki Garcia/President
      - “As a result of conducting the scan, we also found that there are also many external resources on “maltreatment” such as the Division for Early Childhood’s (DEC) Position Statement on Child Maltreatment. “
      - “CEC recognizes the critical nature of this issue and will continue to place emphasis on maltreatment in the areas of research, policy and practice.”



- 2016 (cont.)
  - CEC Board response to the IDC/RA maltreatment motion:
    - Mikki Garcia/President (cont.)
      - “CEC will also look for additional opportunities to enhance this work and disseminate it to CEC members and the field through multiple venues such as our journals or the convention.”
      - “However, **the board agreed not to approve the development of a policy statement on maltreatment of children with disabilities in 2017.**”
      - “CEC’s short and long term priorities, defined by our strategic plan, as well as the capacity of CEC’s human and fiscal resources make it impossible for us to take on this project at this time.”



- 2016 (cont.)
  - CEC Board response to the IDC/RA maltreatment motion:
    - Mikki Garcia/President (cont.)
      - “Please understand that this was a very difficult decision to make but we feel that it is currently in the best interest of the organization.”
      - **“While we cannot dedicate time to this work now, we encourage you to bring it back to our attention at a later time for consideration.”**
      - We encourage you to work with DEC to see if perhaps you can collaborate with them in developing a statement that might be considered for adoption.



- 2016 (cont.)
  - CEC document scans conducted for the CEC Board in response to the motion:
    - Deb Ziegler/CEC Staff: Findings
      - Scan period: 1/1/14-12/31/16
      - Major Findings re. Maltreatment:
        - 50 CEC conference presentations
        - 7 policy & advocacy statements
        - 7 publications
        - 3 standards
        - 1 webinar
        - 2 web resources





- 2016 (cont.)
  - CEC document scans conducted for the CEC Board in response to the motion: (cont.)
    - Harold Johnson/IDC: Findings
      - Strong conference interest
        - 50 CEC presentations between 2014-2016
        - 14 CEC presentations offered at the 2017 conference
      - Very limited CEC :
        - Webinars =1 since 2014
        - Publications = 1 author, 7 publications since 2014
        - Policy & Advocacy Efforts :
          - **ESEA & IDEA reauthorization documents do not address maltreatment**
          - 1 document addresses bullying
          - 1 document addresses use of restraints
          - 1 document indicates need for mental health trauma services
          - 1 document



- 2016 (cont.)
  - CEC document scans conducted for the CEC Board in response to the motion: (cont.)
    - Harold Johnson/IDC: Findings (cont.)
      - Professional Standards:
        - “Ethical Principles and Practice Standards for Special Educators” states that special educators “...committed to...”
          - “7. Protecting and supporting the physical and psychological safety of individuals with exceptionalities.”
          - “8. Neither engaging in nor tolerating any practice that harms individuals with exceptionalities.”
        - **However, it is standards, rather than principles, that determine the initial and ongoing professional development.** Findings:
          - Only one division, i.e., Division for Early Childhood & Intervention has established a standard concerning the recognition and reporting of children suspected of experiencing maltreatment.
          - No divisions have a standard re. the prevention of or response to child maltreatment.

# Where are we now?

- *President of the IDC has responded to Mikki Garcia requesting the Maltreatment Workgroup be charged with developing a position/policy statement for CEC regarding "Maltreatment." This will be presented to the Board for consideration in the 2018 plan.*
- *President of the IDC has formally contacted Jim McCleskey requesting that a Maltreatment Workgroup member be involved in the revision of the new CEC Standards to ensure that **Level 1**: awareness/understanding; **Level 2**: recognition/reporting; and **Level 3**: prevention/response of "maltreatment" are included in the revised standards..*

# How do we move forward?



- Working with IDC
- Working with RA
- Working with CEC President & BOD
- Working with CEC Executive Director & Staff
- Examine how IDC and RA generated issues can be most effectively and efficiently brought to, discussed and receive feedback from the CEC Board



- Discussion of the critical concepts that should be included in:
  - a CEC position statement re. the maltreatment of children with disabilities?
  - maltreatment related professional standards re.:
    - Awareness & Understanding
    - Recognition & Reporting
    - Prevention & Response
  - maltreatment focused professional development opportunities and resources



- Identification and collaboration with Divisions, Organizations and Agencies to support and enhance our efforts to increase the safety and success of children with disabilities., e.g.,
  - First Focus in refining and promoting the “Children’s Bill of Rights”
  - ChildHelp 24/7 “National Child Abuse Hotline” of crisis counselors.



- Hands & Voices, the nation's largest parent organization of children who are deaf/hard of hearing, via their "O.U.R. Children Project" that informs and encourages parents and professionals to use the "IFSP/IEP Safety Checklist"
- Kidpower, an international resource for texts and school training programs that are designed to enhance the safety of all children
- Others?



- Identifying and implementing effective and efficient technologies to support IDC collaborative initiatives
- Identify, recognize and share “Bright Spots” that possess significant expertise in both special education and child maltreatment.
- Establish an online “Community of Learners” that collaborates for the safety and success of children with disabilities.



# What happens if we succeed?



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# Suggested Resources...

- Division of Communicative Disabilities and Deafness ([DCDD](#)): Special Project "Prevention of Maltreatment"
- Hands & Voices: [O.U.R. Children Project](#) & [Wiki site](#)
- "[Silence is NOT an Option](#)" documents
- [Kidpower Full Power, Teen Power International](#) Web site & "[7 Kidpower Strategies for Keeping Your Child Safe](#)" YouTube Videos
- [Childhelp National Child Abuse Hotline](#) = 24/7, accessible, free, confidential counselors to discuss your suspicions or experience of maltreatment.
- Child Welfare Information Gateway: [The Risk and Prevention of Maltreatment of Children with Disabilities](#)
- [Child Abuse and Children with Disabilities](#) Web site

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