

THE DIAMOND ANNIVERSARY OF THE CHILD PROTECTION TEAM:

60 years and going strong. Coming
together as a highly specialized team



THE KEMPE CENTER
FOR THE PREVENTION AND TREATMENT
OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT



www.thekempecenter.org

In 1958, the first multidisciplinary Child Protection Teams (CPTs) were formed, and 2018 marks 60 years of progress in the recognition and response to child maltreatment. As we look to April as Child Abuse Prevention Month and to celebrating this accomplishment it is time to reflect on the history of child maltreatment, to anticipate the many more children we will care for, and to consider further prevention models and education opportunities for our communities and partners.

The concept of hospital-based child protection “teams” started with C. Henry Kempe, M.D., of the Department of Pediatrics at the University of Colorado Medical Center in Denver and two of his colleagues, Betty Elmer, M.S.W., of the Pittsburgh Children’s Hospital, and Helen Broadman, M.S.W., of the Children’s Hospital in Los

“Henry Kempe and Brandt Steele had the right vision when founding the CPT in 1958 and The Kempe Center in 1972. They may not have known it then, but they were to become true visionary heroes to us all,” – Dr. Andrew Sirotnak

Angeles. This shared effort to address the problem of child abuse laid the ground work for a tradition of support for children in need of protection. Dr. Kempe established the first of these child protection teams in the country with his colleagues and today over 1,000 such teams now exist in the U.S. and abroad. Through this effort began Dr. Kempe’s quest to protect the abused and neglected child and his work as America’s pioneer in the field.

Combining resources, expertise, and compassionate hearts, Kempe’s Child Protection Team is a front line of defense for children and families in crisis.

Made up of the core disciplines of medicine, pediatrics, mental health and hospital social work, this unique team approach looks at the issues and victims of child abuse from all of these viewpoints. This team is Kempe’s first line of defense providing evaluation, diagnosis and treatment to suspected victims of child abuse and neglect. It brings together the best experts from these different fields to work as a unified team for the best interest of children and families.

Dr. Andrew Sirotnak, director of The Kempe Child Protection Team, explains, “Decades ago, the CPTs of the old Colorado General Hospital and The Children’s Hospital were the only ones in the region. Henry Kempe and his early colleagues, like Brandt Steele and Dick Krugman, charted a true revolutionary course in pediatrics as they advocated locally, nationally and even internationally for child abuse recognition, reporting mandates, quality diagnosis and treatment, and prevention.” The decades that followed the 1958 founding of the CPT at the University of Colorado Department of Pediatrics each saw a different crisis. The 70s brought child sexual abuse recognition. The 80s had recession, substance abuse problems and a deteriorating family and neighborhood life. The 90s saw

Kempe’s Child Protection Team serves a critical role in our communities, and sees patients from across Colorado as well as states in our Rocky Mountain Region.

Child abuse is a leading cause of death among all trauma patients admitted to the Level One Trauma Program at Children’s Hospital Colorado

Nearly half of children seen for all forms of abuse are less than 3 years of age.

the staggering increase to a national emergency of over 3 million reports of maltreatment annually. The new millennium confirmed the premise that home visitation prevention models can prevent abuse and increase health outcomes as our nation and world were traumatized by terrorism and war. Our knowledge about adverse events of childhood (ACEs) and evidence based, trauma informed care grounds our approach to helping families. The children victimized by abuse and neglect continue to need us every day and The Kempe CPT has been here for them.

All of the original disciplines Dr. Kempe assembled continue to work together on a daily basis to help children and their families. This multidisciplinary team approach has continued and has become the standard of care nationally.

Working with victims isn't enough. To really prevent abuse, this team also works with and trains other physicians, community leaders and health professionals.

The team continues to provide education to nursing, physician assistants, medical students, as well as resident physicians and the medical community. The University of Colorado School of Medicine, Department of Pediatrics and CPT offer specialty child abuse training for pediatricians through an accredited Fellowship program. Training these physicians to recognize the signs of abuse or neglect, or the warning signs of potential abuse can protect a child before abuse escalates or better yet, before it happens at all. These professionals will become the future leaders of programs in the field of child abuse. Collaborating the Colorado Child Welfare Training System, we deliver medical training to human services caseworker across the state and reinforce the importance of the child welfare – community based medical provider partnerships.

Sixty years strong, our mission remains the same: help, hope, healing and prevention.

CPT's dedicated clinicians provide sensitive and best practice care with Children's Hospital Colorado and help our community to identify and to treat child abuse victims and their families. This team started with the vision of C. Henry Kempe and since then, dedicated and compassionate experts have been working with this mission and to make the vision of ending child abuse a reality.

As we celebrate and honor 60 years of the Child Protection Team and look to the future of CPTs there are many exciting advances. In 2010, child abuse pediatrics became an American Board of Pediatrics certified subspecialty practice and our Child Abuse Pediatric Fellowship supported by the Wayne and Debra Berger Endowment Fund, continues to train the best in the nation. There is research worldwide on the neurobiology of the brain, prevention strategies, and the behaviors of traumatized children that continues to inform our practice. We have come a long way in our approach to this challenging field, yet words spoken by Dr. Kempe on April 26th, 1978, still seem, especially relevant:

"It is just not possible to worry about all the needs of all the children all the time...For each of us there must be only one patient at a time. Thus one keeps one's sanity and does the very best job. At the same time, all of us who are devoting our professional life to the cause of children must engage our minds and our hearts on their behalf, each of us, and wherever we can: by the quality of our work, by being the child's advocate in our towns, in our states and by influencing national policy to our best ability. Do so with passion."



Top Row: Antonia Chiesa, MD, FAAP; Lisa Justis, LCSW, CTS; Daniel Lindberg, MD; Linda Jensen, Staff Assistant; Kathi Wells, MD, FAAP (Denver Health); Katie Snyder, MD, MPH, FAAP (Formerly with DHHA); Des Runyan, MD, DrPH;
Middle Row: Cindy Tanner, CHA, PA; Andrew Sirotnak, MD, FAAP (Director, Kempe Child Protection Team)
Bottom Row: Sasha Svendsen, MD (Former CAP Fellow); Denise C. Abdo, PhD, CPNP, SANE-A, SANE-P

The Pioneers of Child Protection Team Development:

C. Henry Kempe, MD, Pediatrics
Brandt Steele, MD, Psychiatry
Elizabeth Davoren, Social Work

The Kempe Child Protection Team helps:

- identify children and families at risk,
- substantiate abuse when it has occurred,
- rule out child abuse when it has not occurred,
- offer advocacy, help and hope to families.

Following in the footsteps of Dr. Kempe: Directors of The Child Protection Team

1958 – 1970: C. Henry Kempe, MD
1970 – 1982: Bart Schmitt, MD
1982 – 1983: Richard D. Krugman, MD
1983 – 1990: Donna Rosenberg, MD
1990 – 1996: Carole Jenny, MD
1996 – currently: Andrew Sirotnak, MD
1977 – 1995: Chris Jorgensen, MSW, led The Children's Hospital Child Advocacy Team, along with many dedicated social work, nursing and medical staff, before the Department of Pediatrics affiliation combined this TCH team with the University Hospital-Kempe Center based CPT.

For more information on this program, other specialized programs for children and families, and The Kempe Foundation visit www.kempe.org.