

A Report from the Office of Child and Youth Protection to the People of the Diocese

Report of Activity for July 1, 2012 through June 30, 2013

August 2013

From the Director, Carrie Cooper

When I accepted the responsibility of forming the Office of Child and Youth Protection, I made a promise to work alongside my team to rebuild your trust in the wake of the sexual abuse crisis within our faith community. I asked you to set aside the past and join our team in the battle against sexual abuse. I believe now more than ever that only by standing together can we cast the widest and strongest safety net of protection for our children.



Carrie Cooper

Throughout our diocese, people have stepped forward to strengthen that net. You are arming yourself with knowledge, standing watch against predators, educating children, and speaking out against abuse. You are beginning to understand why victims of abuse stand silent, alone, feeling needless shame and misplaced guilt. You are offering your prayers to help begin the healing process. Many of you made a call to the Ombudsman when something felt wrong to you. Over 1,000 leaders in our diocese attended Mandatory Reporter Training. And in every parish and school our children are being trained to identify and report abuse. As you can see in this first comprehensive annual report, we are making a difference.

Perpetrators of sexual abuse will continue to inhabit this world. We must remain vigilant. We must support the programs in place to keep children in our parishes and schools safe. It is up to ALL of us in this Catholic faith community to make sure our clergy, teachers and volunteers have the required training and background checks. We all must know the warning signs of abuse. *If any of us observe or suspect abuse of a minor, we must report it.* We cannot assume someone else will make that report. It is up to each one of us as ethical reporters to help stop abuse.

Today I ask you to renew your Promise to Protect. Arm yourself with knowledge and training. Report suspected abuse to our Ombudsman, Jenifer Valenti. Today I am also asking all of you to make a Pledge to Heal. Sexual abuse is wrong and is a crime, whether it happened this year or decades ago. As a faith community, we must support those who have suffered through no fault of their own. The Office of Child and Youth Protection offers assistance for victims in getting help and healing for the pain they have suffered. All of us can offer prayers and support.



You are the first line of defense against sexual abuse. Thank you to all of you who stepped forward to arm yourselves with knowledge. Thank you for committing yourselves to the safety of children and the healing of abuse survivors. Together we are making a difference.

Over the Past Year

I feel fortunate to work with a team of dedicated professionals in the three main areas of the OCYP: Safe Environment Training, Victim Services and Investigations & Action. In the past year, we have:

- Codified new Diocesan *Policy for Response to allegations of Sexual Abuse of Minors or Vulnerable Adults* with the mandate that all reports of abuse are referred to civil authorities.
- Developed new universal code of ethics for all diocesan personnel: *Ethics and Integrity in Ministry* (EIM).
- Partnered with The United States Attorney's Office, FBI Cyber Crimes Task Force, and the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Office to develop current topical training for all members of our diocese.
- Trained over 1,000 diocesan leaders in Mandatory Reporting, and recognizing child pornography, child obscenity, child erotica, and grooming.
- Expanded Victim Services to provide direct care to survivors of abuse and initiate outreach efforts.
- Evaluated background screening program, and implemented a new policy to repeat background screenings every five years.
- Provided comprehensive resources and training to Safe Environment Coordinators (SEC's) at all parishes and schools supporting their important efforts to ensure and enforce safe environment requirements are met throughout the diocese.



Office of Child and Youth Protection (OCYP)

CARRIE COOPER

Director of Child and Youth Protection
816.714.2380 • cooper@diocesekcsj.org

CATHY MORRISON

Safe Environment Manager
816.714.2394 • morrison@diocesekcsj.org

MARY BULTMANN

Victim Advocate
816.714.2387 • bultmann@diocesekcsj.org

KIM SHIRK, LPC

Counseling Coordinator
816.525.5333 • KimShirkLpc@sbcglobal.net

JENIFER VALENTI

Independent Ombudsman
816.812.2500 • jenifervalenti@att.net
(Partnering with the Office of Child and Youth Protection)

I was appointed to independently investigate allegations of sexual abuse involving a minor or vulnerable adult made against personnel in the Church. There must be both external and internal accountability in the work I do and in the Church’s response to sexual abuse of a minor or vulnerable adult. All investigations involving abuse must be referred to civil authorities. For over two years, I have directed all members and leaders of the Church to call the authorities first. Civil authorities must conduct the primary investigation, and the Church must fully cooperate. I have worked to establish and promote positive working relationships with law enforcement and the Missouri Children’s Division. The role of the Church during an investigation of abuse is to ensure the accused is suspended from ministry until the conclusion of the investigation. Both notification of civil authorities and administrative leave for the accused has been codified by the Diocese in the *Policy for Response to Allegations of Sexual Abuse of a Minor or Vulnerable Adult*. To promote internal accountability, the Diocese formed an Office of Child and Youth Protection, appointing a Director with tremendous personal integrity and dedication, Carrie Cooper. Carrie also has a strong professional background in compliance. I have partnered with Carrie and the Independent Review Board to mandate that each and every report I receive is shared with the board. The number of calls I received in this reporting period increased by 35%: 79 reports in the 2011/2012 reporting period, 107 reports in this period. A vast majority of the 2012/2013 reports were Referrals* (74). Although most calls I received were Referrals or Boundary Violations, there were still reports of abuse. The two substantiated reports involve allegations stemming from decades ago and over two years ago, respectively. Every sexual abuse report was referred to civil authorities, with no exception.

Sexual Abuse

There were 17 sexual abuse allegations reported to me in the 2012/2013 reporting period. These 17 reports named 17 employees, volunteers and clerics. This report does not include allegations raised during civil litigation.

Initially, I determine whether there is a credible allegation of sexual abuse (a suspicion) involving a minor or vulnerable adult (classified as “Sexual Abuse” reports). All suspicions of sexual abuse are immediately forwarded to law enforcement and, if the victim is currently a minor, the Missouri Children’s Division.

Your vigilance is requested in reporting abuse. After reporting to civil authorities, if the accused serves the Church in any capacity, please notify me so that immediate actions are taken to maintain the safety of children and youth under the care of the Diocese. Every sexual abuse report must be reported to civil authorities, with no exception.

Sexual Abuse Reports: 17

- Substantiated: 2
Both previously removed from Public Ministry.
- Cleared: 6
- Unsubstantiated: 5
When a report is unsubstantiated or inconclusive, there is not sufficient credible information (such as location or identity of the accused) to launch an investigation or trigger an administrative response. All Unsubstantiated Reports are forwarded to civil authorities.
- Investigations Pending: 3
All pending investigations have been reported to civil authorities. Two placed on administrative leave pending the investigation.
- Referred to Religious Order: 1* *Cleared after civil authority investigation*

Boundary Violations

Boundary Violations include reported ‘tells’ of an abuser—otherwise known as grooming or suspicious behavior. Boundary Violations are investigated to determine whether there was a lack of understanding or whether the behavior is so suspicious it warrants immediate action to protect against future threat to minors. All boundary violations indicating abuse are forwarded to civil authorities.

Boundary Violations: 16 (15 Persons Named)

- Removed from Public Ministry, Employment or Volunteer Service: 2
- Cleared: 5
- Educated and Returned with Supervision to Public Ministry, Employment or Volunteer Service: 7
- Referred to Religious Order: 1**
- Investigation Pending: 1

REPORTING ABUSE

1. If the victim is a minor, call Missouri’s Child Abuse Hotline at 800.392.3738.
2. Call the police or 911.
3. If the abuser is an employee, volunteer or clergyman in the diocese, call the Ombudsman at 816.812.2500.

32 Total Persons Named in 2012/2013 Abuse and Boundary Violation Reports

Clergy	13
Employee	12
Volunteer	5
Unknown/Other	1
Religious Order	1

Reporting Period	2011/12	2012/13
Sexual Abuse	20	17
Boundary Violations	20	16
Referrals	39	74
Total	79	107

Referrals*

Questions, concerns or reports of child abuse and neglect that do not involve people who serve the Diocese or reports outside the scope of the Ombudsman. In addressing the 74 Referral Reports, the civil authorities were contacted in 37 instances. In addition to referrals made to the civil authorities, some were made to counselors and social

workers. These reports were concerning family members (22) and teachers and coaches outside the diocese (9), among other mentoring relationships. There was a significant number of peers reported for sexually abusing other peers. In response to this alarming trend, the topic has been added to the Diocesan Mandatory Reporter Training.

* In addition to notifying law enforcement, and the Children’s Division when appropriate, the Ombudsman refers all reports of abuse to the accused’s religious community, and notifies the Bishop. If the accused ministered in the diocese, the Independent Review Board also receives the report. Oftentimes, the religious community will have a specific protocol in place to determine suitability of ministry.

IRB Updates From the Director, Carrie Cooper

I feel very fortunate to have the opportunity to work with the Independent Review Board (IRB) for the Diocese. This board is chartered to advise the Bishop in all matters pertaining to protecting the children, youth and vulnerable adults from sexual abuse in the Diocese—from review of allegations to advising on policy and procedure.

When I began as Director, I met Jim Caccamo, Ph. D., who served as Chair of the board for many years. I was impressed with Jim's dedicated service, and awestruck at his passion for protecting and promoting the rights of children and youth. Jim retired from the board in 2012. I thank Jim for sharing his time, passion and dedication. Jim is truly a man of integrity, and his service to the Diocese is deeply appreciated. Although Jim is greatly missed, the Diocese has been blessed with the new chair, Jim Corwin, former Chief of Police of the Kansas City Missouri Police Department. Jim brings a lifetime of law enforcement experience to the board. Under Jim's leadership, the board established a vigorous meeting schedule, carefully reviewing all reports received by the Ombudsman, as well as frequent review of existing policies and procedures. Jim helped to establish an internal auditing process of board recommendations accepted by the Diocese. I want to thank Jim for his service to our Diocese.

Although the work of the board is very challenging, the professional and personal backgrounds of the members provide a wealth of expertise which fully equips them to review and provide recommendations to the Bishop and the OCYP. They come from various fields, including law enforcement, counseling, teaching, pastoral care and child advocacy. In 2012, Jean Tadakoro, an experienced counselor and voice of care and compassion, retired from the board. We welcomed Joyce

Estes, Director of the Northwest Missouri Children's Advocacy Center in St. Joseph in her place. Rick Smith, Captain at the Kansas City Police Department, also retired from the board in 2012. Rick remains a valuable resource for the OCYP in helping provide insight into the safety net of protection for children and youth. Amber Heineman, former Assistant Prosecuting Attorney from the Jackson County Prosecuting Attorney's Sex Crimes Unit, joined the board. Amber provides expertise in how to best promote justice in addressing allegations of sexual abuse. Leslie Guillot, counselor and former Victim Advocate for the Diocese, retired from the board after many years of service. Leslie served the needs of survivors of abuse for many years, and for this we are so thankful. Leslie was replaced by Sr. Suzanne Fitzmaurice, OSB, who teaches Theology at Cristo Rey High School in Kansas City. Sr. Suzanne provides the board with a depth of knowledge about youth and the issues we face in addressing sexual abuse.

"As chair of the Independent Review Board, I believe that it is vitally important for the board to have a full understanding of diocesan response to all allegations of abuse. We must review every allegation of abuse. I work closely with the Ombudsman and the Office of Child and Youth Protection to ensure that all reports are received by the board and that all of the necessary consultations happen. Be assured that the board and the staff of the OCYP have made the protection of children the top priority."

IRB Chair – Jim Corwin,
former Chief of Kansas City
Police Department

We are thankful for those members who continue to serve on the board. Dan Haus, Esquire, provides expertise into the legal and ethical issues related to child protection. John Larsen, Ph.D. brings great wisdom and insight drawn from his professional counseling background; and Father Robert Stewart, well-respected pastor of St. Margaret of Scotland Parish in Lee's Summit, shares the care and compassion garnered from his decades of pastoral experience with the board. These men have provided dedicated and unwavering service and expertise. The Ombudsman, Vicar General and myself serve as ex-officio (non-voting) members on the board. This year we are expanding the board to consist of nine professionals.

I consider the board to be a great treasure for the Diocese. I am so grateful for their input, advice, and guidance. Please hold them in your daily prayers, and share our gratitude for the challenging service they provide.

INDEPENDENT REVIEW BOARD MEMBERS:

James Corwin, Chairman
Joyce Estes, LCSW
Suzanne Fitzmaurice, OSB
Daniel J. Haus, Esquire
Amber Heineman, Esquire
John A. Larsen, Ph.D.
Rev. Robert H. Stewart

EX-OFFICIO MEMBERS:

Carrie Cooper
816.714.2380 • cooper@diocesekcsj.org
Msgr. Bradley Offutt
816.714.2315 • offutt@diocesekcsj.org
Jenifer Valenti
816.812.2500 • jenifervalenti@att.net

Victim Services

Victim Services has focused on healing and wellness over the past year. According to RAINN (Rape, Abuse & Incest National Network) victims of sexual assault are more likely to suffer from depression and/or have suicidal thoughts, experience post-traumatic stress disorder, and/or abuse alcohol or drugs. Victim Services helps victims and family members with accessing counseling and other resources to assist with recovery, healing and reconciliation. We provide ongoing support and encouragement through the healing process. It has been a privilege and honor to walk along side victims as they reach for restoration and peace.

During this reporting period, we provided for 92 counseling sessions to 28 victims and family members. We recognize the pain and difficulty in disclosing abuse; however this is ultimately freeing and leads to healing. The silent trap of

abuse, shame and guilt can no longer keep the victims confined once they disclose their abuse.

Healing workshops open to everyone were held last fall at Nativity of Mary and St. Elizabeth parishes. Spring sessions were held at St. Therese North, St. Therese Little Flower and Holy Spirit parishes. In these two-part workshops entitled “The Struggles around Sexual Abuse in our Church Today,” Sr. Esther Fangman, Ed.D., spoke about the emotional impact of sexual abuse and management of this crisis, and facilitated a discussion where attendees could share their feelings about this crisis and how it has affected them.

VICTIM SERVICES INFO

2012-2013

VICTIMS SERVED	28
SESSIONS PROVIDED	92

“You gain strength, courage, and confidence by every experience by which you really stop to look fear in the face. You are able to say to yourself, ‘I lived through this horror. I can take the next thing that comes along.’”

~ Eleanor Roosevelt

Safe Environment Training and Education

It’s been a busy year in the world of safe environment and the OCYP thanks every Safe Environment Coordinator and every Virtus, Circle of Grace and Praesidium Facilitator for working to train our adults and young people.

In the past year, we’ve empowered children to recognize and report abuse through two programs in our parishes and schools:

- In elementary school (pre-K through eighth grade), we trained 9,638 children in *Archdiocese of Omaha’s Circle of Grace* curriculum.
- In high school (grades nine through twelve) we trained 851 youth in *Praesidium Called to Protect* curriculum.

For adults, we conducted background checks on 1,998 employees and volunteers. 2,381 new employees, volunteers and clergy completed *Virtus Protecting God’s Children*, joining the over 24,044 adults in our diocese already trained.

In perhaps the most comprehensive training rollout in Diocesan history, we created a new program focused on Mandatory Reporting

and recognizing child pornography, child obscenity, child erotica and signs of grooming. Over the past months, the program has been presented 23 times in the diocese, reaching over 1,000 leaders in our parishes and schools. In addition we presented the program at the national Virtus Conference in Chicago at the end of August.

Our commitment to identifying and exposing predators in our communities continues as this training is presented at each parish. In support of our Safe Environment Coordinator’s important work, we created an SEC manual and in-person training sessions to review policies and share best practices across our parishes and schools.

We thank everyone in our diocese who remains diligent in protecting our children—priests and parents, deacons and teachers, employees and volunteers. Together we make a powerful difference.



*From left to right,
Kim Shirk, Jenifer Valenti,
Carrie Cooper, Cathy Morrison
and Mary Bultmann.*