GOOD PRACTICES

IN

THE AREA OF CHILD ABUSE INTERVENTION AND PREVENTION AT RESIDENTIAL CARE INSTITUTIONS IN LITHUANIA

2010
In accordance with the national programmes and plans of the Republic of Lithuania, NGO's are performing a considerable part of work in the improvement of child abuse and child sexual abuse prevention.

Most attention will be paid to the steps and actions designed to improve the situation of child well-being at residential foster care institutions and special centres in Lithuania. These are the best known practices during the last ten years.

Ministry of Social Security and Labour in years 2006-2009 was organizing national competition „Post graudate qualification improvement for professionals working with children who lost parental care“. Each year academic, training institutions and NGO were performing training programs for the staff of orphanages. Among other topics there were also topics about violence and sexual abuse prevention. According the reports of Ministry there were from 200 to 500 participants who took part in the courses every year.

NGOs Paramos vaikams centras (Children Support Centre), Vaiko Namas (“Child's House”), Saugaus vaiko centras (“Safe Child Centre”), Pastoge and Gelbekit vaikus (“Save the Children”) are the leading organisations which have an important role in developing the best practices in Lithuania for the prevention and intervention in cases of child abuse at RFCI.

NGO Vaiko Namas has developed and carried out Group therapy for children from orphanages after abuse and sexual abuse. The total number of participants included 25 RFCI.

1. essence to raise communication and interpersonal skills to diminish traumatic experience. children of school age. target group - Participants from 25 RFCI.
2. Access now is according request of institutions.
3. NGO Vaiko Namas- psychologists and social worker.
4. Previously state and private funds financing. It was project.
5. institution can apply for this service to VN. itś is available.
6. and 7. look at www.children.lt

They also run training for RFCI and SRFCI staff (2 topics on child sexual abuse prevention are included).

1. essence to raise awareness and knowledge of the staff. target group - staff
2. Access now is according request of institutions.
3. NGO Vaiko Namas- psychologists.
4. Previously state and private funds financing. It was project.
5. Institution can apply for this service to VN. itś is available.
6. and 7. look at www.children.lt

Saugaus vaiko centras runs trainings and case discussions at Kaunas RFCI.

1. Essence to raise knowledge and skills of the staff. target group - staff
2. Access now is according request of institutions.
3. NGO Saugaus vaiko centras psychologists.
4. Previously state financing. It was project.
5. Institution can apply for this service to SVC. It is available.
6. and 7. look at : www.svcentras.lt
Complex training for Antazave RFCI was provided under the financial support of British Embassy. It was coordinated by NGO Pasaulio vaikai.

1. Essence – complex training for staff and children in child abuse prevention. target group – staff and residents of RFCI.
2. Unavailable.
3. NGO Pasaulio vaikai. team of different professionals
5. Available under request.

NGO Children Support Centre took part in several task forces in the development of the above-mentioned National programs and Action plans in policy and legislation making groups. Children Support Centre has also opened and is running a child-friendly Interview room for children. Children Support Centre published materials on child abuse identification. Moreover, Children Support Centre developed recommendations on interdepartmental cooperation for solving occurrences of sexual violence against children „The European Guidebook to procedures in the cases of child sexual abuse“. Assen - Poznan – Vilnius 2008 (www.childunderprotection.eu). Children Support Centre took part in many national, international and EU projects dedicated to child abuse prevention and participated in round table discussions about the situation regarding child sexual abuse at residential foster care institutions in all districts of Lithuania. Centre has also developed and run many programs for the staff of residential and temporary care institutions:

1. Positive sexual skills and safety training for girls from Socialisation Centre, Vilnius, 2002. This centre is a special residential centre for girls with minor behavioural problems. The training was aimed at teaching about sexuality, safe sexual relations and sexual abuse prevention. It was funded by USA Virginis Gildersleeve foundation. Currently unavailable.

2. Complex training, case discussions and counselling for the management, staff and children at SOS Kinderdorf, Vilnius, Lithuania. Since 2003, the CSC has developed and has been running trainings for the foster care institution SOS Kinderdorf and Youth home staff about child sexual abuse detection, intervention and prevention. CSC also runs case discussions with the staff on a regular basis. SCS develops recommendations for the prevention of abuse and sexual abuse and provides psychotherapeutic counselling for children. Financed mainly by SOS kinderdorf. Look at www.pvc.lt and www.sos-kaimas.lt

3. Complex Improvement of Vijoliu RFCI (Kelme, Lithuania) 2008. The CSC took part in a professional skills improvement training for the RFCI staff. Child sexual abuse detection and intervention was the core topic of this training. Financed by EFTA. Available under request.

4. Training for kindergarten and elementary school professionals on early detection of child sexual abuse, Vilnius, Lithuania 2008. Educators from foster care institutions also took part in this training. The training was aimed at the detection, assessment, internal policy development and interdisciplinary cooperation in cases of suspected child sexual abuse. The basics of prevention for adults and children were taught as well. Look at www.childunderprotection.eu

5. Let's know our child. Ministry of Health, Vilnius county, Lithuania 2008. The project was devoted to the basics of detection and intervention in acute cases (including child sexual abuse cases) for the staff of kindergartens, temporary care groups at kindergartens and elementary school teachers. Materials for the staff, parents and children were developed. Look at www.sam.lt and www.pvc.lt projects. Available under request.

7. **Complex Evaluation of the situation at foster care institutions** was made by CSC in order to find out the situation and cases of all kinds of possible abuse. State financed. Available. Look at [www.pvc.lt](http://www.pvc.lt)

8. **Professional case group supervisions** for psychologists who also work at RFCI. These group case discussions are dedicated to developing professional knowledge and skills in the field of child sexual abuse prevention and treatment. It is OAK foundation and later institutions finance this project. Running on. Available under request. Look at [www.pvc.lt](http://www.pvc.lt)

The above-mentioned activities demonstrate state and NGOs’ efforts in sexual abuse prevention at residential institutions as well as better identification and help for children who became victims of abuse. However, the system of RFCI and limited possibilities to get immediate aid and support in those sensitive cases require much more work and efforts.