



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Mike Burke, mburke@ascension.org

Online education series focuses on child abuse

PENSACOLA, Fla. (March 18, 2022) – In partnership with Gulf Coast Kid's House Child Protection Team, Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart is offering a free, five-week educational series on child abuse. The online, lunchtime seminars will be held every Thursday between March 31 and April 28.

The training is targeted towards medical care providers throughout Northwest Florida and will qualify participants for 5 hrs of continuing medical education (CME) for providers, nurses, pharmacists, social workers, EMS, and mental health professionals. The Zoom sessions will be recorded and made available afterward.

The training will educate attendees on strategies for screening different types of maltreatment and how to report child abuse and neglect. The series also will provide a deeper understanding of adverse childhood experiences and their long-term impact on the health and behaviors of our children.

"Child abuse is a complex problem that has caused far too many children in our community to suffer physical injuries such as cuts, bruises, broken bones or brain injuries, as well as long-lasting emotional and psychological problems," said Dr. Jason Foland, chief medical officer at Studer Family Children's Hospital. "We are pleased to be able to partner with Gulf Coast Kid's House to educate healthcare professionals about recognition and prevention of child abuse."

The seminar dates, topics and speakers are:

March 31, from 12 to 1 p.m.: Child abuse: signs, symptoms, risk factors and screening

The speakers will be Dr. Carol Lilly, professor of pediatrics at the University of South Florida and Statewide Medical Director of Florida's Child Protection Team, and Dr. Cici Sekhon, regional director of the Child Protection Team program. This training will provide individuals with a greater understanding of the risk factors and strategies for screening different types of maltreatment.

To attend: ascension.zoom.us/j/95253345964.

April 7, from 12 to 1 p.m

Taking a history for suspected child abuse victims in medical setting

Speakers will be regional nurse practitioners Lindsey Hicks and Sharon Skrabacz, and Dr. Cici Sekhon. This training will guide medical care providers through impactful case studies to gain a greater understanding of history-taking. Register: ascension.zoom.us/j/97956047275.

April 14, from 12 to 1 p.m.

Child abuse reporting: How to's and what to expect

Speakers: Licensed clinical social worker Lindsay Bassett from Studer Family Children's Hospital, and Barbie Valletto, nurse and Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE) within the regional Child Protection Team, will provide attendees with a greater understanding of reporting child abuse and neglect.

Attend here: ascension.zoom.us/j/96953312072.

April 21, 12-1 p.m.

Trauma and Resiliency in Childhood: Adverse Childhood Experiences (ACEs)

Speakers: Dr. Carol Lilly, University of South Florida professor of pediatrics, and Dr. Jennifer McCain, clinical neuropsychologist, Tampa General Hospital, will provide a greater understanding of ACEs and their impact across the lifespan.

Attend here: ascension.zoom.us/j/91682386925.

April 28, 12-1 p.m.

Trauma & Resiliency in Childhood: Trauma Informed Care

Speakers: Dr. Jennifer McCain and Dr. Carol Lilly will provide a greater understanding of trauma-informed care, resiliency, and strategies for hospital systems to improve trauma informed approach.

Attend here: ascension.zoom.us/j/93439622006

At least 1 in 7 children has experienced child abuse and/or neglect in the past year, according to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

“We are so excited about this opportunity to partner with the Studer Family Children's Hospital at Ascension Sacred Heart to provide this important training. Currently 1 in 14 children in Escambia County are identified in an abuse report. We are grateful that our area children's hospital is so committed to child abuse prevention, education, and intervention.” Stacey Kostevicki, Executive Director of Gulf Coast Kid's House.

###