



THE KEMPE CARE Network

BUILDING LOCAL CAPACITY TO IDENTIFY CHILD TRAUMA AND PROVIDE QUALITY MEDICAL AND BEHAVIORAL ASSESSMENTS FOR SUSPECTED VICTIMS OF CHILD ABUSE AND NEGLECT.

The Program

The Child Abuse Response and Evaluation (CARE) Network engages health care and behavioral health providers across Colorado with the best education and training on conducting medical exams and behavioral health assessments to identify signs and risks of child maltreatment or trauma. Providers also learn about the resources available to families to mitigate those risks and expand the safety net for children.

Why It's Needed:

Expertise to conduct medical exams and behavioral health assessments to evaluate suspected cases of child abuse and neglect is extremely limited. There are only seven board-certified specialists in the field of child abuse pediatrics in Colorado, which limits access to expert evaluations for children in most of the state's 64 counties.

Additionally, **children from all backgrounds can be at risk of experiencing trauma, especially when a family is experiencing multiple life stressors.** By educating and training health care and behavioral health providers on how to identify family stresses and challenges that may lead to maltreatment, we can reduce severe incidents of child abuse and neglect.

Our Vision

With the CARE Network, Kempe hopes to create a broad field of health care and behavioral health professionals, including pediatricians, family medicine doctors, nurses, school nurses and others, which will become an integral part of the safety net for children. The ultimate goal is to reach families and provide them with available resources to address trauma issues, reduce incidents of child maltreatment and negate a need for child welfare involvement.

MEET KEMPE PROFESSIONAL

Antonia Chiesa, MD

Dr. Chiesa specializes in child abuse pediatrics at the Kempe Center and believes every community should have child adversity champions. She was influential in pitching the initial idea for the CARE Network and has created strong best practices for medical and behavioral health which is at the core of training for CARE Network providers.

"I am awed by the strength of children and driven to find ways for my patients to have better lives. We have such awesome dedicated providers who want to do what's right for these communities and these kids."

– Dr. Chiesa



BY THE NUMBERS

21 FROM **12**
PROVIDERS COUNTIES

joined the CARE Network following the New Provider Training in May 2020.

100%
OF THOSE PROVIDERS

felt their competence conducting exams for child abuse and neglect was reinforced or improved and that their training will improve outcomes for the parents they serve.

How You Can Help

The CARE Network cannot effectively recruit care providers and serve communities without compensating designated providers for their time and energy to engage in this training. Due to the economic downturn caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and budget cuts from the Colorado Legislature, we must find new ways to compensate CARE Network providers. **By supporting the Kempe Foundation and these professionals, you can make a difference in the lives of children and families.**

About the Kempe Foundation

The Kempe Foundation supports professionals engaged in the prevention of child maltreatment and the healing of child trauma; advocates for the protection and well-being of children; and collaborates with community partners to support children and families. We believe every child should have the opportunity to develop and grow in a safe, healthy and nurturing environment.

