

Provider & Stakeholder Questions and Answers (Q&A)

Updated: 2020-05-15 | **SUBJECT TO CHANGE**

Other Topics	I really would like to know what the new normal will be in the areas of child abuse and neglect investigation, intervention, and judicial handling of maltreated children.	Enhancing supports for families and caregivers is essential to ensure the wellness of families post-COVID-19 by: addressing economic/financial stressors and vulnerabilities, such as increased substance use, domestic violence, and PTSD; expanding public-private partnerships; expanding the behavioral health response for children as they return to schools and child care sites; advocating for pro-working family supports; focusing on an "economy of well-being"; investing in new modalities, rather than cutting budgets for social services.
Other Topics	I'm just wondering if anything can be done NOW to identify child abuse even though we don't have the usual reporters.	There is an increased need for providers to check-in with parents, regarding financial, economic, and relationship stressors, and to provide support. Providers should be using all technological means to check-in with their clients. When working with children, ensure that you are able to physically see them and also emotionally check-in. See Responding to Child Abuse During a Pandemic from the Zero Abuse Project: https://cdn2.zeroabuseproject.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Responding-to-Child-Abuse-During-a-Pandemic-2.pdf You may check Legal Aid Society of Hawaii's website for resources and information: https://www.legalaidhawaii.org/covid-19-legal-help-resources.html
Other Topics	What's the possibility of getting DOE to put mental health services and mental health crisis workers back into the schools? Is DHS working closely with DOE to help prepare schools/teachers to be ready for the trauma that children will be bringing back to school once schools open back up and for ensuring that the school personnel are taken care of as well.	Teachers can do emotional check-ins with their students. DOE and DHS are working to prepare for the aftermath and trauma of children who have not been able to see and to hug their friends.

Other Topics	<p>Is there a training or webinar for people who want to know what to do if they suspect abuse (how to approach family, what not to say, etc.), so that well-meaning folks do not create more harm? Not an official assessment training but for family and neighbors.</p>	<p>The Hawaii State Coalition has a blog post about how to help a loved one or someone you know who is experiencing domestic violence, https://www.hscadv.org/post/how-to-help-a-loved-one-in-an-abusive-relationship. Additionally, the National Network to End Domestic Violence has a great resource on the topic specific to Covid-19, https://nnedv.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Library_COVID_helping_a_friend.pdf</p> <p>Technology offers essential tools victims can use to access help, strategically maintain safety and privacy, and remain connected to family and friends. It can also be used to collect evidence. Please see resources from NNEDV's Safety Net project, https://nnedv.org/content/technology-safety/ and DocuSAFE, https://www.techsafety.org/docusafe. DocuSAFE is a new technology, we recommend you work with an advocate on using the tool.</p>
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