

Organization: Shaken Baby Alliance

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Date established: 1998

MISSION AND HISTORY:

The mission of The Shaken Baby Alliance is to provide SUPPORT for victim families and professionals, PREVENTION of child and elder abuse, and JUSTICE for the innocent victims. SBA was founded on a Fort Worth kitchen table by three mothers whose children were victims of Shaken Baby Syndrome and could find no resources or support. Over the past 23 years, SBA has supported victim families with children in need and those who have died while developing into a nationally recognized forensic training and case consulting agency for professionals in the field of child physical abuse and elder abuse.

SBA offers three programs: Victim Family Services, Professional Support (Training and Case Consultations), and Prevention Education. Since 1998, we have supported 6,434 victim family members, trained 27,497 multi-disciplinary professionals, and provided 2,070 case consultations for legal and investigative professionals involved in civil cases, criminal defense, and prosecution. We have educated over 11,100 students on how to safely cope with a crying baby, the #1 trigger leading to Shaken Baby Syndrome/Abusive Head Trauma (SBS/AHT). Victim Services and Prevention Education are provided free of charge.

THE NEED: Shaken Baby Syndrome (SBS) is a subset of Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), and a leading cause of child abuse death in children under 5 in the USA.¹ At least 1 of every 4 infants who are violently shaken dies.² The estimated rate of SBS is 30 cases per 100,000 children ages 1 year or younger.³ AHT accounts for approximately one-third of all child maltreatment deaths.⁴ The most common trigger for abusive head trauma is inconsolable crying.⁵ Babies less than one year old are at greatest risk of injury from AHT.

In 2020, Texas had 251 confirmed child abuse and neglect-related fatalities, an increase of 6% compared to 235 child abuse and neglect related fatalities in FY2019. Of those, 50 children (20.3%) died of Physical Abuse (Blunt Force Trauma and Intentional Homicide); 169 children (72%) were 3 years and younger. Tarrant County had 15 child abuse deaths, up from 14 in FY 2019, ranking third statewide. Harris was #1 with 48, followed by Dallas County with 24. (Source: TDPRS)

PROGRAMS: SBA offers three core programs.

1. Victim Family Services: We reach families left behind and not served by other programs, including families with a child who has died or with a child abuse survivor with multiple disabilities due to inflicted trauma and brain injury. We help with everything from physical and emotional support to assistance navigating the education, health, and legal systems, free of charge.

The demand for our free Victim Family Services overwhelmed us this past March and April. In 2019, SBA served 289 (129 adults and 160 children) victims and their families. From January to May 2020, the demand surged by over 400%, as we served 441 clients, including 164 adults and 227 children. Client zip codes cover Tarrant (43%), DFW and other TX Counties (17%), and 16 other states. We served a record 557 clients in 2020, free of charge.

2. Professional Support: Provides professionals with tools needed to effectively identify and prosecute abuse cases via:

a. Forensic Investigative Training for Multidisciplinary Professionals: Targets law enforcement, CPS, medical and legal staff, First Responders, and others. We trained 821 professionals in 2020.

b. Case Consultations: Targets lawyers and police. Services include case and crime scene analysis, investigation and interviewing; timelines or visual aids; and expert witness referrals. We provided consultations for 52 court cases in 2020.

3. Prevention Education: Reduce the incidence of SBS/AHT by equipping caregivers with the tools to deal with crying, the number #1 trigger for SBS/AHT. Services are targeted to students, childcare staff, and those in high-risk areas. We trained 1340 students in 2020. SBA serves wherever there is a need and services are requested, regardless of population or income. Frequency varies by program and request. As we are Fort Worth born and bred, approximately 50% of our 2020 clients were from Tarrant County and the majority

¹ Klevens J, Leeb, R, Child maltreatment fatalities in children under five: Findings from the National Violent Death Reporting System. 2010; 34(4): -266.

² Carbaugh S. Understanding shaken baby syndrome. *Adv Neonatal Care*. 2004;4(2):105-116.

³ Center for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC). Injury Prevention and Control: Division of Violence Prevention. Preventing abusive head trauma

⁴ Palusci VJ, Covington, TM. Child Maltreatment Deaths in the U.S. National Child Death Review Case Reporting System. *Child Abuse Negl*. 2014;.

⁵ Barr RG, Preventing abusive head trauma...between infants and their caregivers. *Proc Natl Acad Sci*. 2012; 109(Suppl2):17294-17301.

from the DFW Metroplex. We anticipate the same for 2021. SBA has 1FTE and 3 PTE staff, 20 professional faculty, and 44 volunteers in various roles.

SOURCES OF FUNDING: 2021 PROJECTED

	Projected	Percent
4000 Revenue from Direct Donations	40,300.00	6%
4100 Donated Goods and Services	175,000.00	27%
4200 Revenue from Non Government Grants *	222,500.00	35%
4500 Revenue from Government Grants	70,878.00	11%
5100 Program Fees	39,950.00	6%
5440 Sales of Program Related Inventory	8,000.00	1%
5800 Fundraisers/Special Events	79,945.00	12%
5900 Case Consultation Fees	5,000.00	1%
Total Income	\$ 641,573.00	100%

OTHER 2020 NOTES:

Listening to our constituents needs, focusing on mission-driven program needs, and using our position as the only agency dedicated solely to the prevention of physical violence against children brought us unheralded new opportunities.

1. Financial Opportunities:

- a. Emergency grants came from new sources: United Way of Tarrant County and the Communities Foundation of Texas (both North Texas Cares funding), Rainwater Foundation, Paul E. Andrews, Jr. Foundation, the Be the Light Youth Organization, and Tarrant County's and the City of Fort Worth's NGO Programs. SBA is building relationships to pursue future funding.
- b. Our 2020 We Love Kids Telethon raised \$14,000, which was \$4,000 more than goal. We gained 50 new donors. SBA will repeat that event on September 18, 2021.

2. Public Awareness :

- a. Bonnie Armstrong, SBA's ED, was recognized in the August 2020 issue of D Magazine as a Big D Hero during the pandemic with the byline of "Protector" (<https://www.dmagazine.com/publications/d-magazine/2020/august/dallas-heroes-coronavirus-best-of-big-d-2020/>). SBA followed up with posts on social media, and emails to constituents.
- b. Bonnie Armstrong became a Board Member of the Cold Case Foundation, whose mission is to be the ultimate resource for homicide, missing person, unidentified bodies, and rape/sexual assault cold cases. Exposure opportunities include their podcast and TV series.

3. Collaboration

SBA partnered in 2019 with One Safe Place to share office space, counselors, training, and connection to 42 other agencies focused on family violence prevention and response. Through this partnership, SBA client families can receive immediate counseling with licensed counselors and social workers. Furthermore, SBA's visibility at One Safe Place has inspired additional collaborations. Through active partnerships with Child Protective Services (CPS), law enforcement, Cook Children's CARE Team, CASA of Tarrant, Denton, and Dallas Counties, Justin's Place, prosecutors, and agencies, we identify child abuse victims and families who need Victim Family Support. SBA coordinates with multiple community agencies for needed victim material and financial supports.

The pandemic thrust SBA into a leadership liaison position with these agency partners. As an example, CPS called and asked for face-to-face education to be provided to the parents of a child who had sustained a suspicious injury. We met with the family using our CASA partner's facility and were able to provide the needed education while maintaining social distance and safety for all involved. The parents were grateful for the education.

In Feb. 2001, SBA received a multiyear \$299,000 grant from the Fort Worth Crime Prevention and Control District to reduce violent crime, specifically Abusive Head Trauma (AHT), defined by the CDC as a "preventable and severe form of physical child abuse" by providing: 1) SBA's COPE education to equip parents with skills to cope with a crying baby, the #1 trigger of AHT, and 2) advanced child abuse forensic investigation training for law enforcement and other professionals to improve case outcomes.

COVID-19 has reminded us of how interconnected we all are, and how grateful we are for your support. With your help, our fight continues for our babies, families, and professionals we serve.