



MEDIA ADVISORY

KNOX COUNTY HEALTH DEPARTMENT

140 Dameron Avenue, Knoxville, TN 37917-6413

Coalition to offer child sexual abuse prevention training

- Who:** The Community Coalition to Protect Children, Knox County Health Department (KCHD) and Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee
- What:** Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children training, an evidence-based program recognized by the National Children's Alliance as the most effective tool to stop child sexual abuse. The event is free and open to the public.
- When:** Tuesday, April 5 from 6:30 to 8:30 p.m.; local youth-serving agencies will be on hand beginning at 5:30 p.m. to offer information about their services.
- Where:** South College Auditorium, 400 Goody's Lane
- Interview:** Amy Rowling, KCHD violence prevention educator, and Ambler Brown, prevention specialist for Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee, will be available. They co-facilitate the Community Coalition to Protect Children.

Background:

The Community Coalition to Protect Children is hosting this event in honor of National Child Abuse Prevention Month. Ambler Brown will facilitate the training, which takes participants through a five-step approach. The session includes survivor stories, expert advice and practical guidance. Parents, those who work with children, and anyone who is interested are encouraged to attend.

"So many children brave horrible abuses alone. Statistics show that 1 in 10 children will be sexually abused by the age of 18, and some studies' rates are even higher," said Amy Rowling. "What's also heartbreaking is that 90 percent of victims are abused by someone they know. These statistics are staggering and speak to the need for more training for adults to help protect our children."

Created to teach adults how to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse, the Community Coalition to Protect Children includes the Tennessee Department of Children's Services East Tennessee Region; Lakeway Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA); Prevent Child Abuse Tennessee; Omni Visions, Inc.; Helen Ross McNabb Center's Therapy Center and Sexual Assault Center of East Tennessee; Community Coalition Against Human Trafficking; Renaissance Recovery Group; East Tennessee Council on Children and Youth; Family Justice Center; Tennessee Nurses Association; Childhelp; Anderson County Schools; Kids First Child Advocacy Center; University of Tennessee College of Social Work; Big Brothers Big Sisters of East Tennessee; Knox County Schools; Children's Advocacy Centers of Tennessee; and Knox County Health Department.

For more information contact Katharine Killen at 865-215-5534 (office) or 865-755-1121 (cell).