



American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children

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April 19, 2011

Mr. J. Patrick McCreary
Associate Deputy Director
Bureau of Justice Assistance
US Department of Justice
810 Seventh Street N.W.
Washington, DC 20531

RE: Louisa CSI Letter of Support – Grant Application

Dear Mr. McCreary:

We are writing in support of the Louisa Child Safety Initiative (Louisa CSI) Dual Offending and Universal Case Tracking Project's grant application. We serve on the Executive Committee of The American Professional Society on the Abuse of Children (APSAC).

Children continue to be sexually exploited at an alarming rate. The rise of child pornography related crimes and the lack of appropriate system response across agencies to these threats desperately need to be addressed. The Louisa CSI Project is a groundbreaking local initiative that has the potential to develop into a powerful means of increasing information sharing efforts, best practices and data reporting to ensure system accountability through improved multi-agency response.

APSAC is the leading national organization supporting professionals who serve children and families affected by child maltreatment and violence. With support from its multidisciplinary membership, APSAC achieves its mission in a number of ways, most notably through expert training and educational activities, policy leadership and collaboration, and consultation that emphasizes theoretically sound, evidence-based principles. Our membership is comprised of many of the leading scholars, researchers, and frontline professionals from all disciplines serving child maltreatment. Disciplines served through APSAC include law, social work, psychology, law enforcement, child protection, medicine and prevention.

We are well aware of issues related to violence against children because we publish the leading journal in the field entitled *Child Maltreatment*. *Child Maltreatment* provides a common ground for practitioners, policy makers and researchers from various disciplines by creating an important synthesis of contributions in science, theory, practice and policy issues.

We recognize the enormous potential for Louisa CSI to not only create a safer, healthier community but also the potential for this project having a national impact on child welfare. The creation of a single case tracking number across agencies (Universal tracking number) for crimes against children is long overdue and an essential component to alleviating the problem. We believe that the Louisa Child Safety Initiative can make a real difference in the lives of children and their families and hope they are strongly considered for the grant to aid all of us in our common goal.

Louisa CSI Letter of Support
Page 2 of 2

Please feel free to contact us directly with any questions, 757-303-6799 (cell). Thank you in advance for your assistance.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ronald C. Hughes". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "R" and "H".

Ronald C. Hughes, PhD
President, APSAC

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Viola Vaughan-Eden". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, prominent "V" and "E".

Viola Vaughan-Eden, PhD, LCSW
President-Elect, APSAC