

City of Anderson Police Department
Child/Elder Abuse Investigative Unit
End of Program Report
Grant #s 1F02002, 1D03009 & 1D04012 CFDA # 16.579
Fiscal Years 2003, 2004 & 2005

**The Final Evaluation for the Child and Elder Abuse Investigator Unit
Program for the City of Anderson Police Department**

Prelude

During the fall and winter of 2000, officials of the City of Anderson Police Department began meeting to discuss the incidence of crimes against vulnerable persons, especially children and elder people. Subsequent to discussions with management personnel and the one (1) investigator who routinely worked child and elder abuse cases, among a significant number of other types of cases, it was determined that the department would analyze the potential need for a full-time investigator to concentrate exclusively on child and elder abuse cases.

After researching the information on these types of crimes and correlating the frequency with which these crimes occur in various types of populations, it was determined that there was a high probability that the City of Anderson Police Department was overlooking and/or missing a significant number of these types of cases. Much of the research and population analysis was included in a subsequent proposal to the South Carolina Department of Public Safety (SCDPS) for a *Child/Elder Abuse Investigative Unit*.

During the spring of 2001, subsequent to a review of the data and pursuant to meetings within management which occurred concurrently with the budget preparation phase for the upcoming fiscal year, it was determined that the City of Anderson would have a sufficient amount of child and elder abuse business to justify at least one (1) full-time person to work these cases exclusively, *if funding could be obtained*. However, as in private business, it was determined that the start-up cost for a new program would be extremely high. Department officials determined that it would be impossible to pursue this program relying solely on internal finds, without significantly reducing service in other areas which are also vital to the safety and security of the public.

Because start-up costs based upon the city budget were cost-prohibitive, it was decided to pursue outside (seed-money) funding for the program. Officers of the department continued researching statistics on child and elder abuse. In addition to the previous data which was reviewed, a great deal more information was picked up from textbooks related to *General Psychology, Human Growth and Development, Adolescent Psychology, Child Psychology* and *Abnormal Psychology*. At the same time, department personnel initiated conversations with the South Carolina Department of Public Safety's (SCDPS) Office of Justice Programs (OJP) to gather information about whether there was state or federal funding available for a program like this. The department was informed by officials at the SCDPS/OJP that Child and Elder Abuse was a priority area. Consequently the department prepared a proposal for a start-up program during the fall of 2001 and Submitted it to the SCDPS/OJP by the second Friday in 2002 (the deadline for grant proposal submissions was the second Friday in 2002).

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Grant Award

The City of Anderson Police Department was notified in late May of 2002 that the proposed program would be funded for one fiscal year at 75%, beginning July 1, 2002. The city would be required to provide a 25% match – an amount the department and city officials determined would be do-able. Additionally, the department was informed that the award could be renewed up to two (2) subsequent years depending upon performance, continued need as evidenced in subsequent proposals, continued availability of grant-monies and proper adherence to grant regulations and guidelines.

On July 1, 2002, Detective Sergeant Clayton “Mike” Walters was laterally transferred into the grant position and his vacated slot was back-filled, all the way down the line to a re-hire, thus adding one (1) additional slot to the entire complement of sworn personnel in the department. Sgt. Walters was the detective with the most experience in child and elder abuse investigations and was instrumental in obtaining the grant funding for the program as well as ensuring the overall success of the endeavor.

Following the initial funding for fiscal year 2003 (July 1, 2002 - June 30, 2003), the City of Anderson Police Department proposed and was awarded continuation funding for two (2) additional years. The amounts of the three funded proposals and the totals are as follows:

Grant-Funded Category	<u>GRANT AWARD AMOUNTS</u>								
	Year 1 FY03			Year 2 FY04			Year 3 FY05		
	Grant # 1F02002			Grant # 1D03009			Grant # 1D04012		
	Grantor	Match	Total	Grantor	Match	Total	Grantor	Match	Total
Personnel	36,147	12,049	48,196	40,228	13,409	53,637	43,244	14,415	57,659
Travel	3,503	1,167	4,670	4,088	1,362	5,450	4,200	1,400	5,600
Equipment	21,150	7,050	28,200	7,350	2,450	9,800	0	0	0
Other	6,261	2,087	8,348	4,386	1,462	5,848	2,388	796	3,184
Yr Total	67,061	22,353	89,414	56,052	18,683	74,735	49,832	16,611	66,443

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Grant-Funded Category	Grant Award Program Amounts		
	Program Totals		
	Grantor	Match	Total
Personnel	119,619	39,873	159,492
Travel	11,791	3,929	15,720
Equipment	28,500	9,500	38,000
Other	13,035	4,345	17,380
Total	172,945	57,647	230,592

Grant Expenses

The grant award and city-match effectively covered the expenses of the operation of the investigative unit. Covered expenses included salary and overtime, benefits, advanced training (local and national) for the investigator, travel (including reimbursement at the IRS mileage rate in effect at the time of the proposal) and equipment (mainly vehicle, computer system, fax and a *Forensic Light Source*). Miscellaneous supplies (expenses) required for the daily support of a full-time investigator were also included.

The documented expenses by category for the three year program are as follows:

Grant-Funded Category	GRANT DOCUMENTED EXPENSE AMOUNTS								
	Year 1 FY03			Year 2 FY04			Year 3 FY05		
	Grant # 1F02002			Grant # 1D03009			Grant # 1D04012		
	Grantor	Match	Total	Grantor	Match	Total	Grantor	Match	Total
Personnel	37,812	17,085	54,897	41,147	13,715	54,862	43,753	15,052	58,805
Travel	5,593	2,841	8,434	4,497	2,235	6,732	4,673	1,557	6,230
Equipment	20,940	6,980	27,920	3,023	1,007	4,030	0	0	0
Other	2,716	1,919	4,635	2,188	725	2,913	1,406	467	1,873
Yr Total	67,061	28,825	95,886	50,855	17,682	68,537	49,832	17,076	66,908

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Grant-Funded Category	Grant Award Expense Amounts		
	Program Totals		
	Grantor	Match	Total
Personnel	122,712	45,852	168,564
Travel	14,763	6,633	21,396
Equipment	23,963	7,987	31,950
Other	6,310	3,111	9,421
Total	167,748	63,583	231,331

Grant Performance

For purposes of grant-reporting, fiscal year 2002 – one year prior to the start of the grant program - was considered the “base year”. In fiscal year 2002 (July 1, 2001 – June 30, 2002) 34 individuals were investigated for child abuse but only 5 were arrested and (5 were) convicted. Twenty people were investigated for elder abuse but none were arrested or convicted.

During the life of the grant the investigator conducted the following number and classifications of cases:

	<u>Fiscal Year 2003</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2004</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2005</u>
Child Abuse Reports	28	37	22
Child Abuse Charges	43	15	18
Child Abuse Arrests	17	9	13

	<u>Fiscal Year 2003</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2004</u>	<u>Fiscal Year 2005</u>
Elder Abuse Reports	9	3	2
Elder Abuse Charges	0	0	1
Elder Abuse Arrests	0	0	1

Investigator Walters reports that all defendants were subsequently convicted on most charges. There were no non-convictions. In some situations wherein defendants were charged with more than one count, some charges were “taken into consideration” with other charges during the plea phase of the trial. In all cases that came to trial during the course of the grant there were convictions (or plea agreements). The only defendants who were charged under this grant program and not convicted were the ones who had not yet come to trial as of June 30, 2005.

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Grant Problems and Opportunities for Improvement

The biggest problem encountered by the investigator began in year 1 and continued through both subsequent years. Shortly after beginning the position as a full-time child and elder abuse investigator, it was discovered that (1) there was indeed a great deal of this type of business in Anderson City (in fact, probably enough to justify two investigators) and (2) child abuse investigations require a lot of time due to (a) the fact that many of the events transpired over a long period of time, (b) much of the investigation relies upon corroborating numerous interview statements about events from long ago, and (c) many witnesses and suspects have moved to other towns, requiring the investigator to drive a considerable amount of time as compared to other types of investigations to “get the facts”. Indeed, during the three year period of the grant, the investigator logged approximately 48,847 miles on his assigned vehicle – an average of over 16,000 miles per year. These figures exclude the miles driven in other vehicles during the program period and prior to a vehicle being purchased for the program, nor do the previously stated miles include those miles driven in other vehicles while the investigator’s vehicle was down for preventive maintenance. It is reasonable to conclude that, if those figures were known, the three-year mileage total would exceed 50,000 miles.

Another possible problem that could be encountered is the negative psychological impact that could (possibly) happen to an individual after repeated exposure to victims of these crimes, especially child abuse. Investigator Walters was already a seasoned “cop” with some previous experience in investigating child abuse when he was assigned to this position. Prior to beginning his career in law enforcement, Mr. Walters was professionally employed in the Marketing Division of Southern Bell. Both his years as a law enforcement professional and his previous experience as a business professional came into play as he worked child abuse cases. In short, Sgt. Walters brought a level of “life experience” into the program which had prepared him to be able to deal with “all sorts of people from all walks of life”. Thus, because of his background and life’s experiences, Sgt. Walters was able to meet, greet, interview, charge, prosecute and convict many perpetrators of these types of crimes, especially child abuse. That was a plus.

Despite his high level of professionalism and strong psychological constitution, Sgt Walters was disappointed on occasion by the apathy of the general public. One such incident was described as follows in Sgt Walters’ final report for year 3:

The investigator assisted the DSS and the Anderson County Sheriff’s Office with an investigation wherein 4 children from 18 months - 5 years old lived in a household that was being used as a Meth-Manufacturing Lab and all 4 children tested positive for meth-contamination/ingestion. Four adults were arrested and charged by the ACSO w/ Manufacturing & Distribution of Methamphetamines. These people also had 23 dogs that were taken by Animal Control. Unfortunately, the general public seemed to be more upset about the 23 dogs than the children. In fact, people were at the Animal Shelter practically fighting over the dogs - and law enforcement had to be called to keep order -

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but no one wanted the children and they were subsequently placed in foster care. (Final Report 1D04012, Year 3, Page 6.1, Item 14c, July 19, 2005)

Overall, the problems encountered by Sgt. Walters were manageable. In fact, they appear to have been managed quite well. We believe that was due (basically) to the fact that the department made a sound decision concerning the initial selection of personnel for this position. While there were a number of qualified persons, it was clear from day-one that making the absolute best selection for the slot was imperative to the success of the program, the well-being of the community and the psychological health of the assigned personnel. Before making a final selection and officially naming the person who would fill this position, all facets about potential candidates for this slot were considered including but not limited to background, experience (both law enforcement and previous work), demeanor, personality type, work habits, perceived initiative and “drive”. The department believes that the absolute best choice was made based upon the perceived requirements and needs a position like this would entail.

Achievement of Objectives

There were six (6) primary objectives of the grant and they were addressed and accomplished to the following extents:

1. **Objective:** To increase the department investigator's knowledge and skills and the knowledge and skills of the case workers from the Department of Social Services in conducting child/elder abuse investigations.

A. *The project accomplished the objective.*

B. *Activities done to achieve this objective:*

The investigator attended numerous courses over the three-year period of the grant cycle which helped him to become more effective in communicating with children and use interviews to build stronger cases in order to efficiently prosecute criminal offenders via the Tenth Circuit Solicitors Office. Investigator Walters passed on the newly acquired knowledge and training to DSS workers in the area.

2. **Objective:** To minimize trauma to victims of child/elder abuse during the investigation process.

A. *The project accomplished the objective.*

B. *Methods used to accomplish the objective, how well those methods worked, and other methods that might be more effective.*

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During the three-year grant cycle, Sgt. Walters was instrumental in establishing a Child Advocacy Center. He currently serves on the Board of Directors. The Child Advocacy Center is up and running with three full time employees and a Doctor on staff to do the physical exams. The team makes every reasonable attempt to do all child-interviews at the Child Advocacy Center. In addition, they make every reasonable attempt to limit the number of interviews of a child to only one.

3. **Objective:** To expand coordination and cooperation among agencies responsible for child/elder abuse.

A. *The project accomplished the objective.*

B. *Methods used to accomplish the objective, how well those methods worked, and other methods that might be more effective.*

The City of Anderson Police Department, thru Sgt Walters, works as a team with the solicitor's office, DSS, the Child Advocacy Center, the Anderson County Sheriff's Office and the Oconee County Sheriff's Office so that all agencies who serve vulnerable citizens are better prepared to help our victims and get more convictions.

4. **Objective:** To provide training for other investigators, officers, and law enforcement agencies on child/elder abuse indicators and processes.

A. *The project accomplished the objective.*

B. *Methods used to accomplish the objective, how well those methods worked, and other methods that might be more effective.*

The investigator has set up a new protocol for Emergency Protective Custody of Elder Adults. Also the investigator works closely with the Adult Protective Services unit of the Dept. of Social Services. In addition, he attends almost all of the City of Anderson PD's roll call sessions and periodically makes presentations on child abuse and briefs roll call attendees on new protocols learned from recent training that he has attended.

5. **Objective:** To raise the awareness of the public and area agencies regarding the problem of child/elder abuse.

A. *The project accomplished the objective.*

B. *Methods used to accomplish the objective, how well those methods worked, and other methods that might be more effective.*

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News agencies, including both print and television, are notified of openings for the new Calvary Homes for Children and other matters that help maintain public awareness of the need to be sensitive and alert to child abuse. The investigator always injects the use of the Child Advocacy Center and team concept in all news briefs. Also, through networking and professional interaction, the investigator has succeeded in establishing excellent relations with the local print media and Channels 4 & 7 television reporters.

6. **Objective:** To inform the Solicitor's Office of the scope of the child/elder abuse investigative grant and coordinate with the Solicitor's Office on methods to improve case investigation and the victim's preparation for the courtroom.
 - A. *The project accomplished the objective.*
 - B. *Methods used to accomplish the objective, how well those methods worked, and other methods that might be more effective.*

The investigator always works as a team player in all cases so that we can get the most convictions with the least amount of victim trauma. He also makes absolutely sure that his colleagues in the City of Anderson PD Investigative Services Division do the same. We have the team case meetings with the solicitor's office, DSS, and the Child Advocacy Center employees on all child assault cases.

Impact: To what extent did the project have a positive impact on the overall problem?

Detective Sergeant Mike Walters has indicated that he believes that this project has been a success because it has allowed him to do in-depth investigations into child and elder abuse cases which would have been impossible without grant-funding. Sgt Walters has been able to follow up extensively on some difficult cases, literally digging into all the background history and checking out all the leads on the cases.

Since many of these cases are three to five years old when they are reported, there is no physical evidence to recover. The primary evidence is the statement of the child or elder person. Investigators have to go back and try to find all family members and day care works that were around the victim during the time that the abuse allegedly occurred. The investigator also has to check medical records. Also the investigator has to talk to neighbors. This is time consuming and requires a lot of patience. **If it had not been for this Investigator being assigned to work only Child and Elder Abuse he would not have been able to do such in-depth investigations.**

The investigator has also been proactive in the start up Anderson's Child Advocacy Center and Case Review Team which reviews all child sex and physical abuse cases.

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The investigator has been able to perform investigations for other agencies from other jurisdictions including Belton Police Dept, Pendleton Police Dept, Iva/Starr Police Dept, and the Honea Path Police Dept. These investigations are in addition to the cases reported in previous sections of the grant. Those numbers were for the City of Anderson, only. The investigator assisted other, less-experienced agencies in and around Anderson County.

In conclusion, due to the grant funding, Sergeant Walters was enabled to attend some very good training that would have been impossible for this agency to provide in the absence of outside funding. The special training that he attended has helped him (and the department) to sharpen and increase his (and their) skill level in the area of child and elder abuse investigation, increase apprehensions and help the solicitor's office to build stronger cases to prosecute. By conducting training sessions, the investigator has "passed through" this knowledge and training to less experienced and/or junior law enforcement personnel at the City of Anderson Police Department and other agencies in the area.

Due to the demonstrated and continued need for this program and Sergeant Walters' success in investigating, charging, apprehending and prosecuting perpetrators of child and elder abuse crimes, the City of Anderson has decided to continue the program indefinitely through the city budget.

About this report

This evaluation was written by Robert A. Rivas in coordination with Captain Jack B. Sanders. Captain Sanders is the Investigative Services Captain at the City of Anderson Police Department. In addition to being Sgt. Walters' supervisor during the entire three-year period of the grant program, Captain Sanders also served as the Project Director for this program.

In preparing information for this report Rivas relied heavily upon interviews with Sgt. Walters and previous quarterly and yearly reports. During interviews with Sgt. Walters, Rivas noted the verbal summations by Sgt. Walters concerning reports, cases and charges. The data concerning the number of reports for fiscal years 2003, 2004 and 2005 came directly from Sgt Walters. The data concerning charges and the number of persons charged (head-count) for fiscal years 2004 and 2005 came directly from the city's court docket (downloaded from JEMS data management system). The information regarding fiscal year 2003 total number of charges and the number of persons charged (head count) came from Sgt. Walters because the fiscal year 2003 figures were unavailable in the electronic docket in 2005.

The report was finalized during the second week of August 2005.

Jack B. Sanders / August 11, 2005

Robert A. Rivas / August 11, 2005