Family Advocacy Program

Problematic Sexual Behavior in Children and Youth Briefing Slides

Today's Purpose

Introduce problematic sexual behaviors in children and youth and explain how the Family Advocacy Program now works to address these behaviors by supporting children who exhibit or are impacted by PSB-CY and their families.

- **What is PSB-CY?**
- **Why is PSB-CY a focus?**
- **How do we address PSB-CY?**
- **What is FAP's role in addressing PSB-CY?**

What is PSB-CY?

Behaviors initiated by children and youth under the age of 18 that involve sexual body parts (genitals, anus, buttocks or breasts) that are not typical sexual behaviors and are developmentally inappropriate, or potentially harmful to the individual(s) initiating the behaviors, the individual(s) impacted by the behaviors or others.

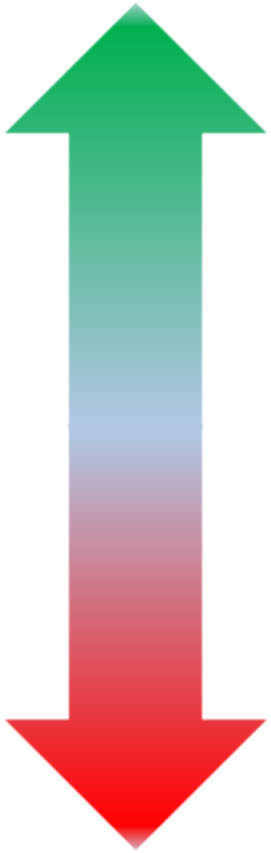
What is PSB-CY? (continued)

Children and youth with PSB-CY exhibit a variety of behaviors influenced by personal demographics, familial factors, trauma history and mental health status.

Leading experts in the field who evaluate, treat and provide practice guidelines for PSB-CY strongly recommend that adults remember that children exhibiting or engaging in PSB-CY are children. Applying labels to these children such as “sex offender” can be stigmatizing and may even lead to recidivism.

What is PSB-CY? (continued)

Continuum of Sexual Behavior in Children



Normative (Common)

Sexual behaviors are considered developmentally normative when they occur infrequently and are easily distractible (i.e., the child is responsive to redirection).

Cautionary (Less Common)

Cautionary behaviors are identified as those that are disruptive to others and only moderately responsive to distraction and redirection.

Problematic (Uncommon)

Problematic behaviors are frequently disruptive to others and persist even after distraction and redirection. Children exhibiting these behaviors may cause harm to themselves or others and persist after explicit redirection. Redirection may be met with anger from the child.

Why is PSB-CY a focus?

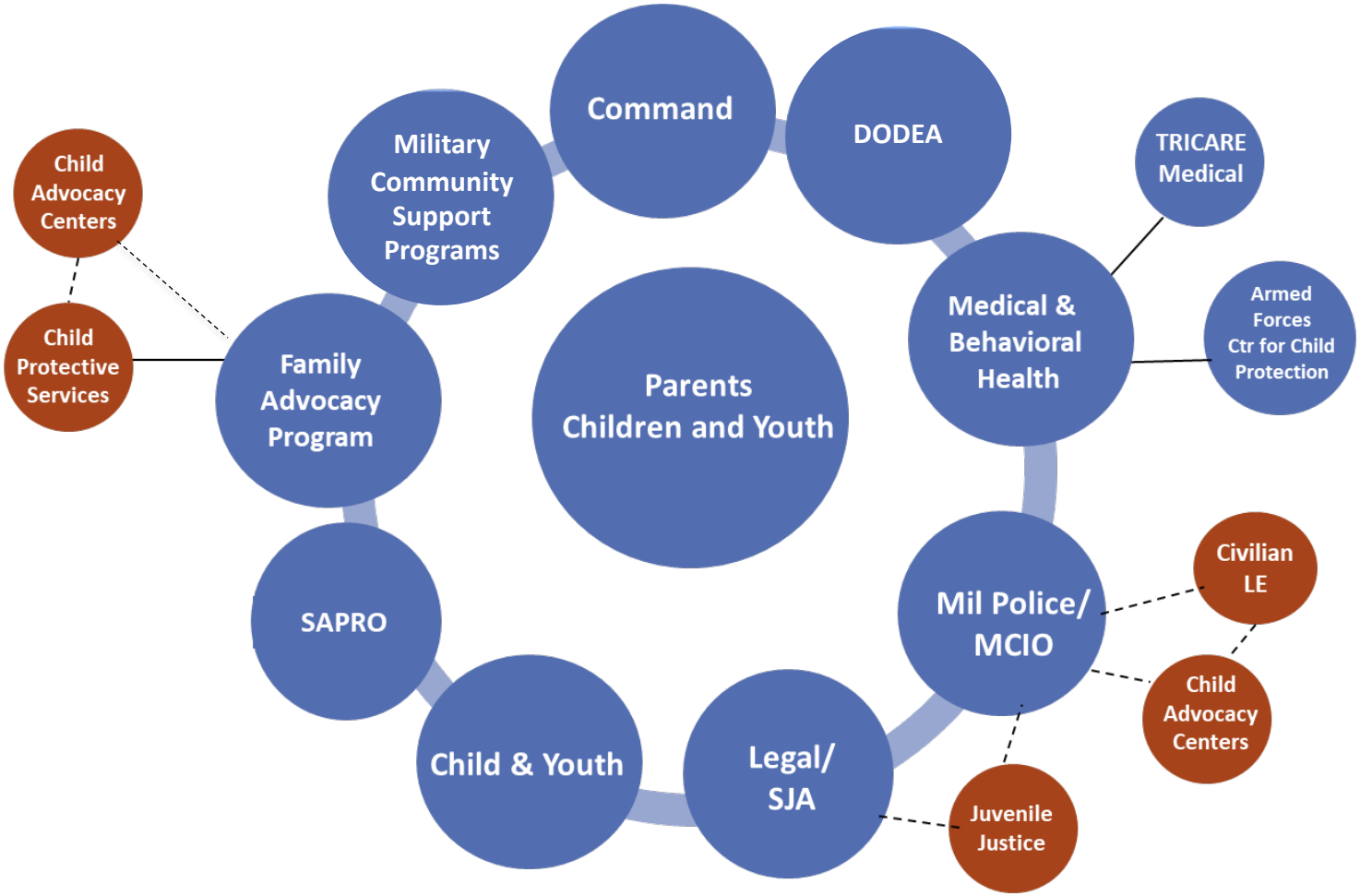
The Department of Defense expanded the scope of FAP to address the issue of problematic sexual behavior in children and youth occurring on military installations.

- Throughout 2018, a team of experts developed policy and procedures to guide a coordinated community response for PSB-CY.

- This coordinated community response system for PSB-CY:
  - Supports youth and families impacted by PSB-CY
  - Addresses the safety needs of any youth involved
  - Limits the ongoing risks to family and community members

How do we address PSB-CY?

The coordinated community response for PSB-CY:



How do we address PSB-CY? (continued)

Family Advocacy Program's role:

Support for all children and families involved in PSB-CY, including:

- Coordinated response and intervention plan
- Safety planning
- Child-focused support for parents
- Evidence-guided clinical assessment, service planning and treatment when services are available on an installation, or a warm handoff to appropriate civilian providers
- Case management

How do we address PSB-CY? (continued)

Family Advocacy Program functions:

- Convenes the multidisciplinary team
- Ensures required notifications are made after activation of the MDT,* such as:
  - Civilian law enforcement
  - Child Protective Services
  - Others, as required
- Collects data
- Delivers evidence-based clinical treatment when services are available on an installation, or conducts a warm handoff to appropriate civilian providers

*Additional information on the MDT, and FAP's role and functions, can be found in Appendix B.

How do we address PSB-CY? (continued)

The military community is focused on promoting the wellness, safety and healing of all children. Remember: Children exhibiting or engaging in PSB-CY are **children**.

OSD FAP has consulted with leading experts to recommend the following shift in how we talk about these concerning behaviors. →

Say this:	Not this:
Child with concerning sexual behavior	Offender
Child with PSB-CY	Perpetrator
Child exhibiting PSB-CY	
Child engaging in PSB-CY	
Impacted child	Victim
Child impacted by PSB-CY	

How do we address PSB-CY? (continued)

The military community is committed to supporting families in understanding child sexual behavior and keeping children safe. Trained FAP clinicians are standing by to help families learn:

- What sexual behavior is developmentally healthy and age appropriate

- How to identify concerning sexual behavior exhibited by children or youth

How do we address PSB-CY? (continued)

Trained FAP clinicians are standing by to help families learn:

- When to ask for help from FAP if they see concerning behaviors that need assessing
- What their options are. These include:
  - Calling their installation's FAP office if they are concerned about the well-being of a child
  - Contacting Military OneSource at 800-342-9647
  - Referring a teen to youth-focused relationship and dating help at the 24/7 chat service Love is Respect. Text "love is" to 22522

MILITARY ONESOURCE

Does this change FAP's focus?

- No. FAP remains committed to its mission to prevent and respond to child abuse and neglect, and domestic abuse affecting service members and their families.
- PSB-CY is an expansion of – rather than a change to – FAP's scope in supporting the safety and resiliency of military families.
- Note that the response system for PSB-CY is different from how FAP responds to child abuse and neglect and domestic abuse.

What is FAP's role in PSB-CY?
Legislative Authority

Public Law 115-232 (National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2019), Section 1089, requires that:

- There be a consistent, standardized response to PSB-CY across the department
- "Any report or other allegation of PSB-CY on a military installation that is received by the installation commander, a law enforcement organization, a FAP, a Child Development Center, MTF or department school shall be reviewed by the Family Advocacy Program on the installation"
- The Family Advocacy Program shall conduct multifaceted **MDT reviews** and recommend treatment, counseling or other appropriate interventions for children, youth and families

What is FAP's role in PSB-CY?
Legislative Authority (continued)

Public Law 115-232 (NDAA for FY19), Section 1089, requires that:

- Reviews of PSB-CY cases be conducted in a manner that protects the sensitive nature of the incident concerned, and with full involvement of appropriate authorities and entities, including parents or guardians
- Family Advocacy Program personnel have appropriate training and experience working with juveniles

In addition, the law requires that the following information be collected on reported incidents of PSB-CY:

- Description of the allegation
- Whether a review was completed
- Whether the incident was investigated by law enforcement
- Whether action was taken in the incident

Resources

The following resources are appropriate for use by service members, families, service providers and leaders:

- Military Family Learning Network Series on PSB-CY
- National Children's Alliance Child Advocacy Center Locator for Military Families
- National Children's Alliance Learning Center on PSB-CY
- National Center on the Sexual Behavior of Youth Resources
- American Academy of Pediatrics Guide on Promoting Healthy Sexual Development and Sexuality
- The National Child Traumatic Stress Network
  - Sexual Development and Behavior in Children
  - Understanding and Coping with Sexual Behavior Problems in Children

Appendix A – Multidisciplinary Team

Core members:	Members included as needed:
Family Advocacy Program* *chair	Child-focused advocate for parents
Child and Youth Services (when they are the referral source or when the child/youth attends a child or youth program)	Civilian agencies with which there is an MOU (examples include Child Protective Services, Child Advocacy Center)
Department of Defense Education Activity (when they are the referral source or when the child/youth attends a DODEA school or activity)	Staff judge advocate
Military Criminal Investigative Organization	Installation leadership PAO/crisis communicator
	Medical provider

Military Family Life Counselor*
*under discretion of assigned agency

Appendix A – Multidisciplinary Team (continued)

FAP responsibilities as chair of the MDT include:

- Activating the MDT (if not regularly scheduled)
- Using the MDT for decision points from referral through case closure
- Communicating continuously and effectively with the MDT members
- Ensuring FAP clinicians conduct or make available trauma-focused assessments for both the exhibiting and impacted child(ren)
- Providing families with support options, including evidence-based practice interventions
- Considering relevant risk/protective factors for both the exhibiting and impacted child(ren)
- Considering developmental and cultural factors relevant to parent engagement and treatment options
- Training the MDT on an annual basis

Appendix B – Roles in Addressing PSB-CY

Department of Defense Education Activity, Child Development Programs and Military Family Life Counselors	Family Advocacy Program	Behavioral Health/Family Advocacy Program Clinical Services	Law Enforcement or MCIO
DODEA and CDP: • Respond to incidents of PSB-CY occurring in their settings • Report via Serious Incident Reporting or other internal system of reporting • Report non-normative behaviors to FAP • Report to law enforcement or MCIO, if appropriate • Engage parents • Participate in the MDT • Provide support to parents and children involved in PSB-CY in the DODEA/CDP setting • Document in DODEA/CDP records • Participate in safety and supervision planning for children impacted by and exhibiting PSB-CY Military Family Life Counselors: • Support DODEA or Child and Youth Services staff • Engage and support parents • Participate in DODEA or Child and Youth Services staff intervention and safety planning	• Receive reports • Ensure activation of the MDT • Engage parents • Complete/refer for clinical assessment when warranted • Engage civilian resources as appropriate • Provide/recommend supportive or treatment services as indicated • Develop safety and/or supervision plans for children involved in incidents of PSBCY as appropriate	• Participate in the MDT • Complete clinical assessment when warranted • Assess for co-occurring behavioral health issues • Provide or recommend evidence-based treatment	• Participate in the MDT • Investigate allegation when appropriate • Determine if criminal offense • Determine jurisdiction • Coordinate with civilian law enforcement authorities • Refer for action or prosecution, if applicable