



**SPEAK UP
FOR
CHILDREN!**

ELECTED OFFICIAL PARTICIPANTS:

Senator Jennifer Wexton

Senator Barbara Favola

Arlington County
Supervisor Katie Cristol

Alexandria School Board
Member Veronica Nolan

EXPERT PARTICIPANTS:

Johanna Schuchert
Prevent Child Abuse Virginia

Mary Beth Testa
Voices for Virginia's Children

Jesse Ellis
Fairfax County Prevention Manager,
Trauma Informed Care Network

Dr. Joshua Attridge
Medical Director – NICU,
Mary Washington Hospital

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SCAN's 5th Annual Advocacy Training

On November 18th, SCAN hosted its 5th Annual *Speak Up for Children* Advocacy Training, bringing together more than 40 attendees for a day of public policy education and advocacy training. Partners from **Prevent Child Abuse Virginia** and **Voices for Virginia's Children** along with a diverse group of child welfare experts and elected officials led discussions during the day-long, interactive workshop. The group discussed effective advocacy tactics at all levels; critical legislative updates; and policy priorities for the upcoming 2017 Virginia General Assembly session.

A central portion of the training focused on advocating for public policy relating to substance-exposed infants, as well as Erin's Law, which requires that all public schools implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program teaching child abuse awareness, recognition and reporting for students, parents and school personnel. The training was sponsored in part by Verizon. Volunteers from Boeing supported promotion, planning and facilitation of the event.

"This was great! I really appreciate access to such experts and the diversity of the group." - TRAINING PARTICIPANT

HOW DO PARTICIPANTS PLAN TO TAKE ACTION?

- "Attend Advocacy Day in Richmond"
- "Work towards having Erin's Law passed in Virginia"
- "Share advocacy information with others"
- "Contact my legislators and send them Erin's Law letter"
- "Call, write and visit my legislators!"
- "Support the families we serve in our programs"
- "Work across issue teams and encourage more advocates"
- "Thank my political representative for working on behalf of children"
- "Get involved with local civic organizations around developing coalitions"

"This was a well spent afternoon with a host of amazing speakers. Thank you SCAN for organizing this!" - TRAINING PARTICIPANT



A number of valuable resources from the training are available!
Visit www.scanva.org and search "child advocacy".

Building hope for children & families
in Northern Virginia