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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **For The Child's Clinical Director Is Part of Team to Develop and Implement a Strategic Plan for California Victim Services**

*For The Child Is The Only Non-Profit Child Treatment Agency Asked to Participate in National Conference*

Dr. Michele Winterstein represented California child victim treatment agencies at a strategic planning conference in Washington, D.C. November 6 – 8, 2003, sponsored by the federal Office for Victims of Crime (OVC) and the National Association of VOCA Assistance Administrators (NAVAA).

Six states were selected (California, Delaware, Hawaii, Iowa, New Jersey, and Washington) to send statewide teams to Washington, D.C. for training in strategic planning. For The Child was the only non-profit child treatment agency invited to participate in this national event. Participants studied and practiced with expert facilitators and received a Strategic Planning Curriculum to assist them in planning for the future of crime victim services at three levels: their own agencies, community, and statewide.

**Members of the California team include:**

- Rich Anderson, California Victim Compensation Program
- Truly Sughrue, Governor's Office of Criminal Justice Planning
- Alex Vargas, Los Angeles City Victim/Witness Assistance Center
- Ellen Yin Wykoff, California Coalition Against Sexual Assault
- Tara Shabazz, California Alliance Against Domestic Violence
- Michele Winterstein, For The Child, Long Beach, CA

**Some Time for Fun and Needed Inspiration**

Michele indicated that although group participants worked long days, the Hawaiians fed everyone macadamia nut chocolates and the Iowa team provided comic relief with disco costumes and dancing in the retro-sixties décor of the

Hotel Helix Lounge. The California group organized an inspiring bus tour of Washington D.C. after dark, including the Jefferson, Lincoln, Roosevelt, Marine Corps, Viet Nam, and Korean War memorials.

### **Back At Work With An Important Charge**

The participants from each state returned home as a core working group tasked with developing and implementing a California strategic plan for victim's services. The California team is back at work charged with developing a unified voice for crime victim needs and establishing working relationships with new leadership in Sacramento.

**According to Dr. Winterstein timing is critical to impacting the policies of the new governor as proposals to cut services to children and reorganize state victim agencies are being considered.**

END