

DRUG ENDANGERED CHILDREN TRAINING AND ADVOCACY CENTER

**Biography of
Peggy Price, MPA
Imperial County Department of Social Services**

Peggy Price has been employed with the Department of Social Services for over 15 years. She began her journey to rescuing and defending abused children in 1999 when she began conducting child abuse investigations as a social worker for the department. Excelling as an investigator, she began to receive the more complex and high profile cases that required joint investigations with law enforcement for prosecution purposes.

During this time, she became a member of the Child Abuse Response Team and Child Death Review Team. She was certified as a Child Forensic Interviewer and began conducting interviews of child victims and/or witnesses of child abuse for prosecution purposes. Due to her skill and ability to work with and coordinate with multiple disciplines, she became the lead in her county for coordinating the Peer Review process of child abuse and child death cases. She worked closely with a multi-disciplinary team of professionals including advocacy, training, healthcare, mental health, social work, law enforcement, and prosecutors to improve the investigations and prosecutions of child abuse and child death cases.

As an administrator in child welfare, she managed the front end operations for Child Protective Services; overseeing the Child Abuse Hotline, Investigations, Family Maintenance and Foster Care Licensing. She partnered with law enforcement to bring to the forefront a change in approach to children found in homes where drugs were being used, sold or manufactured. Being the first to test children for exposure; she is responsible for writing and developing policies and practices to test all children found in such environments along with additional policies and protocols when working with children exposed to drugs.

As the information and funding to rescue drug endangered children began to spread across the nation, she began to further her efforts in the county to develop protocols for law enforcement and social services for Drug Endangered Children (DEC). She partnered with the District Attorney's Office to utilize their veteran child abuse investigator to develop and implement the first county-wide Drug Endangered Children Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) approved and signed off by the agency leaders in law enforcement, health care and social services. This MOU was used to apply for funds from the Governor's Office of Emergency Services which were granted for the California Multi-Jurisdictional Methamphetamine Enforcement Team (Cal-MMETT). Furthermore, she is responsible for coordinating with law enforcement in developing an MOU for the funding and placement of their county's first DEC Social Worker co-located with the county's Narcotics Task Force.

She has presented and coordinated many trainings and presentations for the community, social services and law enforcement on the subject of child abuse. She is responsible for coordinating with the county District Attorney's Office to fund DEC training for her county. This training was sanctioned by the California Alliance of Drug Endangered Children and California Narcotic Officer's Association. She has attended numerous trainings and conferences including UC Davis' Child Maltreatment, San Diego International Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment and California Narcotic Officer's Association.