Tab M

Supervisory Volunteer Child/Youth Workers

(Excluding "Sunday morning only")

Screening, Recruiting and Training Requirements and Safe Practices/Warning Signs

5/13/2008

Screening, Recruiting and Training Requirements for Volunteer Youth Workers Who Regularly Supervise Children's and Youth Activities

(Excluding "Sunday Morning Only" Workers)

All volunteer youth workers who regularly supervise children's and youth activities (excluding "Sunday Morning Only" workers) MUST:

1. Submit a signed job application with a listing of personal references and an authorization for background checks. (Application for Church Workers is at **Tab B-1**, and the procedure for background checks is set forth in **Tab B-6**.) Note that a criminal background check will be performed only if that worker supervises off-site events. No background check is required if the volunteer supervisory youth worker does not supervise events off church property.

2. Submit a signed certification that he/she never has been convicted of any crime involving child sexual abuse and/or neglect, nor had any such conviction expunged; been alleged in a civil proceeding to have sexually abused a child; committed any act of child sexual abuse; committed any act of child sexual abuse; or been diagnosed with any paraphiliac psychological condition, as defined by the American Psychiatric Association, including, but not limited to, pedophilia, exhibitionism or voyeurism. (Certification form is at **Tab B-2**.)

3. Read the main text (pages 1-12) of the Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Policy Manual on Sexual Abuse and Misconduct: Prevention and Response ("Policy Manual"), plus these tabs:

   Tab B ("Screening, Recruiting/Hiring and Training") *if* his/her job includes recruiting and/or hiring duties;
   Tab M (this tab);
   Tab S ("How and Where to Report Suspected Child Sexual Abuse and Adult Sexual Misconduct");
   Tab U ("Congregational Healing") *if* his/her job includes providing counseling
   Submit a signed certification that such materials have been read. (Certification form is at **Tab B-3**.)

4. Attend a full diocesan workshop on the prevention of child sexual abuse, and submit documentation that such training has been completed. (A copy of the certificate given to participants at the end of the workshop is sufficient documentation.) A waiver of this requirement may be granted where completion of equivalent training in another diocese is documented.

5. While volunteer supervisory youth/child workers are not required to attend a workshop on the prevention of adult sexual misconduct, they must remain diligent in maintaining appropriate boundaries with other workers, with other adults and with those they serve, especially when supervising off-site activities.

Some Safe Practices and/or Warning Signs of Particular Significance to Supervisory Volunteer Youth Workers:

1. Follow all of the requirements for screening, hiring/recruiting and training employees, as set forth in **Tab B**. Keep employment/recruitment documents, including required certifications, on file at the church.

2. Ensure that all current workers are familiar with any newly adopted policies and practices as set forth in the Policy Manual, that they have met all requirements adopted since they were recruited or hired, and that they have submitted all documentation now required.

3. Establish procedures for designating which adults are authorized to pick up children from church classes or events. Such procedures should ensure that children will be released only to adults authorized by the custodial parent(s) or guardian(s), in order to prevent non-custodial parents or guardians from illegally taking custody of a child from church.

4. Conduct one-on-one discussions with children in open areas such as hallways. A single adult should never be alone with a single child.

5. It is important that other people be able to see easily what is occurring in a classroom. Therefore, do not conduct classes or meetings behind closed doors. If there are no windows in a classroom, leave the door partially open. There should be two adults (age 18 and older) in each classroom.

6. Do not ask a child/youth for hugs or other physical expressions of affection. Be careful when touching a child or youth. Some examples of "safe" touching include:

   "Open Face Sandwich": a side-by-side hug
   "Hit and Run": a "high—five" or quick embrace
   "The Scruff Squeeze": touch the bony parts of the body, such as squeezing a shoulder or the top of the head

7. Never discipline with hitting, spanking, or other physical punishment.

8. For off-campus activities (field trips, etc.) ensure that the requirements for drivers of church youth are met. (See page 1 of **Tab B**, "Screening, Recruiting/Hiring and Training," and **Tab B-5**, "Handouts from Diocesan Workshop on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse, Safe Practices, Driving.")

9. Become familiar with safe practices regarding potential child abuse, warning signs of abuse, and other materials concerning child abuse as set forth in **Tab B-5**, "Handouts from Diocesan Workshop on Prevention of Child Sexual Abuse."

10. Become familiar with the procedures for reporting any suspicion of child sexual abuse (**Tab S**).

11. Do not ignore signs of abuse, or delay reporting abuse in order to counsel a possible victim, promptly report any abuse suspicions or charges to a church supervisor. If the complaint does not seem to be taken seriously, contact the Child Protective Services in your county. *(See contact information in Quick Find on page v of this manual)*

12. It is possible for those in unequal positions, such as supervisor and worker, to develop feelings of attraction that are based upon their unequal relationship, rather than on a real personal connection. It is the responsibility of the person in the superior position to be alert for "red flag" situations, such as when a worker appears emotionally needy or in awe of the superior position, and to maintain appropriate professional boundaries regardless of his/her own feelings of attraction toward that worker.

13. Note that dating between lay workers and those parishioners who participate in that worker's program is strongly discouraged.

14. Avoid situations which could encourage or suggest sexual impropriety. Avoid repeated private meetings with an individual; generally limit such meetings to six per year, per life issue. Where issues regarding sexual propriety might arise, and a private meeting is needed, keep the meeting brief, and leave the door open, if possible. If a closed door meeting is necessary, tell a third person about it and, if possible, have that third person remain on the church property during the meeting. Consider taking steps to remain in contact with others, such as bringing a cell phone to the meeting and asking a friend or family member to call after a specified time. Seek help from friends or staff in diffusing any potentially dangerous situations.

15. Maintain appropriate boundaries with co-workers, and be aware of actions or situations which could cause discomfort or embarrassment. Where there are concerns about an uncomfortable workplace situation, accept responsibility for sharing those concerns with at least one other person, and for ensuring that the situation is addressed. If such concerns stem from actions by a co-worker, raise the issue with a supervisor or the parish rector. If concerns arise from actions by a superior, if the rector is the offender, or if the rector's response is unsatisfactory, call the Bishop at 1-619-291-5947 and state that the matter is urgent and confidential.

16. Become familiar with, and follow, safe practices and prevention strategies for adult sexual misconduct, such as those set forth in **Tab B-6**, "Handouts from Episcopal Diocese of San Diego Workshop on Prevention of Adult Sexual Misconduct."