



April 27, 2010

Press Release

Muskegon County Department of Human Services Child Protective Services Supervisor Barbara Klingenmaier was the recipient of the "Power of One: Child Death Review Field Award 2010" at the annual Child Death Review (CDR) Team Member Training at Crystal Mountain in Thompsonville, Michigan on April 27th, 2010 in front of over one hundred attendees from around the state, representing law enforcement, public health, social services, the courts, medical fields, mental health and others.

This was a new award, given to three local CDR team members this year. All three are outstanding individuals who have proven themselves to be truly committed to issues affecting children's health, safety and protection, and have supported the CDR process in their communities.

For over 10 years, Ms Klingenmaier has gone above and beyond the requirements of her paid position by passionately and tirelessly representing DHS on the multi-disciplinary Muskegon County CDR Team. She has used this process to help identify how and why children are dying in Muskegon County, to address issues surrounding investigation and service delivery, and to identify where improvements might be made to reduce other such deaths in the future.

In doing so, Ms Klingenmaier has spearheaded local initiatives to prevent deaths to children in Muskegon. Among these is the safe infant sleep initiative which provides safe cribs and safe sleep information to area families in need, through a cooperative effort with a local faith-based charity. She was also instrumental in addressing the alarming numbers of drownings of young people in Lake Michigan, with a multi-faceted water safety program. Since the programs' inception, there have been no subsequent child drownings of Muskegon residents in local waterways. Both of these efforts stemmed from the findings of the Muskegon County CDR team.

We are grateful to have the support and efforts of committed individuals like Ms Klingenmaier partnering with us as we work toward providing healthier, safer communities for our children. Muskegon County is lucky to have her!