



## COMMONWEALTH of VIRGINIA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES

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**Contact:** Carla Harris  
(804) 726-7107

# MEDIA ADVISORY

### *Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention Conference and Awards on Monday*

**Richmond, Va.** — April is Child Abuse Prevention Month in Virginia. A special conference and awards ceremony will take place Monday, April 7 at the Richmond Holiday Inn Select, Koger South Conference Center. The conference will feature Cordelia Anderson, M.A., a nationally recognized advocate who has appeared on numerous national television programs, including the *Oprah Winfrey Show*. Anderson has worked to prevent child and adolescent sexual exploitation/harm and to promote healthy development for 30 years. She is scheduled to speak at 10 a.m. There will be media availability.

The Governor's Advisory Board (GAB) on Child Abuse and Neglect will present awards at approximately 1:00 p.m., following lunch. Outstanding child advocates from the following localities will receive awards:

- Richmond
- Hanover
- Newport News
- Chesapeake
- Alexandria

Special recognition will also be given to Theatre IV for its production of *Hugs and Kisses*. Celebrating its 25<sup>th</sup> year, the award-winning musical has sensitively taught more than 1.2 million elementary school children in Virginia how to keep themselves safe from sexual abuse.

The conference and awards are sponsored by the Virginia Department of Social Services, Prevent Child Abuse Virginia, the Governor's Advisory Board (GAB) on Child Abuse and Neglect, the Family and Children's Trust Fund (FACT), and the Virginia Coalition for Child Abuse Prevention.

For more information, go to:

<http://www.dss.virginia.gov>

<http://www.preventchildabuseva.org>

<http://www.fact.state.va.us>

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**There will be media availability with winners from your coverage area, speakers and other professionals.**