



**“Promoting Harmony in a World of Conflicts”:  
An International Conference on Social Work and Counseling Practice  
June 1-5, 2009**



**Subtheme: Working with Diverse Clienteles in a World of Conflicts**

**Presentation Topic: Utilizing Child Sexual Abuse Interview Protocol with Diverse Client Populations**

**Plenary Speaker: Monit Cheung, PhD, LCSW, Professor**  
University of Houston Graduate College of Social Work

**Descriptions:**

With recent media coverage on child sexual abuse, many child victims have gotten the courage to disclose their sufferings to social workers, school counselors, or other helping professionals. Research through reports have shown that many health/mental health practitioners and school personnel have been asking inappropriate questions of abused children at the first point of formal complaints. On the other hand, others have found it difficult to do assessments or ask further questions at the time of disclosure. As a result, inquiries that are confusing to the child may lead to misunderstandings or false allegations that cause further physiological damages to the child. This presentation focuses on evidence-based interviewing skills that aim at advancing competencies in assessing child sexual abuse cases in order to eliminate false allegations.

A four-stage approach will be described with the application of various techniques to facilitate the interviewing process and engage clients in disclosing their concerns. These stages include: rapport and competency check, free narrative, specific questioning, and closing. A video with three major research studies conducted by Dr. Stephen Ceci at Cornell University will be used to demonstrate the importance of not conducting repeated interviews and how to use a standardized protocol in the interviewing process. Additional videos will show Dr. Monit Cheung’s research which focuses on specific skills used in a forensic child sexual abuse interviews with very young children, children who are reticent, and children who were not sexually abused (i.e., the nondisclosure cases). Techniques, such as the 4W1H specific questioning skills, use the appropriate use of anatomical dolls or drawings, and the use of other creative tools will be demonstrated. Discussions will focus on the application of a specially designed validation instrument and the practice of self care techniques to heal vicarious traumatization.

## Objectives:

By the end of this presentation, participants should be able to:

- 1) Apply the CSAIP: Child Sexual Abuse Interview Protocol (Cheung, 2008) in an assessment interview with the alleged victim of child sexual abuse.
- 2) Apply skills in the interviewing process to avoid errors that lead to false allegations.
- 3) Use self care techniques to avoid secondary trauma.

## Speaker Biography:

**Dr. Monit Cheung**, MA, MSW, PhD, LCSW, is Professor at the Graduate College of Social Work, University of Houston. She is Principal Investigator of the Child Welfare Education Project, a state partnership program funded federally by Title IV-E for training child welfare workers. She has been a social worker for 33 years and is currently a Licensed Clinical Social Worker specializing in child/adolescent counseling, child protection, sexual and domestic violence, and incest survivor treatment. She is a case consultant at the Asian American Family Services and a consultant trainer for the Hong Kong Social Welfare Department and the Hong Kong Police Force. Using an experiential and practice-oriented approach in teaching, Dr. Cheung has taught at the graduate level for 23 years. She has presented 185 papers in workshops or conferences and written 368 articles and books on child protection and parenting issues in English and Chinese languages. Her research interests are related to treatment effectiveness in areas of child sexual abuse, creative therapy, therapeutic touch, and immigrant adjustment. Dr. Cheung currently serves on the Diocesan Review Board for the Protection of Children and Young People at the Diocese of Galveston-Houston, the Board of Asian American Family Services, Advisory Board of Catholic Charities, and the Board of End Child Sexual Abuse Foundation in Hong Kong. In the past two years, Dr. Cheung received the following awards: Honorary Professorship with the University of Hong Kong, Favorite Faculty Award, and Unsung Hero Award from Channel 39 KHQB-TV. For Dr. Cheung detailed curriculum vitae, please go to: <http://www.sw.uh.edu/faculty/mcheung.php>

## Professor Cheung's Publications Relevant to this Presentation:

1. Cheung, M., & Leung, P. (2008). *Multicultural practice and evaluation: A case approach to evidence-based practice*. Denver, CO: Love Publishing Co.
2. Cheung, M. (2008). Promoting effective interviewing of sexual abused children: A pilot study. *Research on Social Work Practice, 18*(2), 137-143.
3. Cheung, M. (2006). *Therapeutic games and guided imagery: Tools for mental health and school professionals working with children, adolescents, and families*. Chicago: Lyceum Books.
4. Cheung, K.M. (2006). Preface: Sex as a scapegoat for sin. In Caritas Social Services, *No more fear* (pp. 4-5) (Chinese). Hong Kong: Caritas Hong Kong.
5. Cheung, M. (2004). *Child sexual abuse and consequences: Letters from the victims and their families (Q&A)*. (Chinese) Hong Kong: Lotus International.
6. Kendall, W.D.B., & Cheung, M. (2004). Sexually violent predators and civil commitment laws. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 13*(2), 41-57.
7. Beveridge, K., & Cheung, M. (2004). A spiritual framework in incest survivors treatment. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 13*(2), 105-120.
8. Cheung, M. (2003). Utilization of questioning techniques in forensic child sexual abuse interviews. *Journal of Brief Therapy, 3*(1), 45-57.
9. Kendall, W.D.B., & Cheung, M. (2004). Sexually violent predators and civil commitment laws. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 13*(2), 41-57.
10. Beveridge, K., & Cheung, M. (2004). A spiritual framework in incest survivors treatment. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 13*(2), 105-120.

11. Cheung, M. (2003). Utilization of questioning techniques in forensic child sexual abuse interviews. *Journal of Brief Therapy*, 3(1), 45-57.
12. Cheung, M., & Boutté-Queen, N.M. (2000). Emotional responses to child sexual abuse: A comparison between police and social workers in Hong Kong. *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*, 24(12), 1613-1621.
13. Cheung, K.M. (2002). Chapter 3: Child sexual abuse and the responsibilities of the mass media. In *The lost mission: Catch the pulse of Hong Kong messy media* (pp. 14-17). Hong Kong: The Society for Truth and Light.
14. Cheung, M., & Red Bean (2001). *The little Bu-bu: A story book to teach kids about child sexual abuse*. (Chinese). Illustrated by Kwong See-wan. Hong Kong: End Child Sexual Abuse Foundation.
15. Cheung, K.M. (1999). Preface: One step forward. In Caritas Social Services, *No longer secrets: Told by childhood sexual abuse survivors* (pp. II1-4) (Chinese). Hong Kong: Caritas Hong Kong.
16. Cheung, K.M. (1999). Children's language of sexuality in child sexual abuse investigations. *Journal of Child Sexual Abuse*, 8(3), 65-83.
17. Leung, P., & Cheung, K.M. (1998). The impact of child protective service training: A longitudinal study of workers' job performance, knowledge and attitude. *Research on Social Work Practice*, 8(6), 668-684.
18. Cheung, K.M., Leung, P., & Alpert, S. (1997). A model for family preservation case assessment. *Family Preservation Journal*, 2(2), 1-20.
19. Cheung, K.M. (1997). Developing the interview protocol for video-recorded child sexual abuse investigations: A training experience with police officers, social workers and clinical psychologists in Hong Kong. *Child Abuse & Neglect: The International Journal*, 21(3), 273-284.
20. Leung, P., Cheung, K.M., & Stevenson, K.M. (1994). Advancing competent social work practice: A computer-based approach to child protective service training. *Computers in Human Services*, 11(3/4), 317-332.
21. Leung, P., Cheung, K.M., & Stevenson, K.M. (1994). A strengths approach to ethnically sensitive practice for child protective services workers. *Child Welfare*, LXXIII(6), 707-721.
22. Stevenson, K.M., Leung, P., & Cheung, K.M. (1992). Competency-based evaluation of interviewing skills in child sexual abuse cases. *Social Work Research & Abstracts*, 28(3), September, 11-16.
23. Stevenson, K.M., Cheung, K.M., & Leung, P. (1992). A new approach to training child protective service workers for ethnically sensitive practice. *Child Welfare*, LXXI(4), July-August, 291-305.
24. Cheung, K.M., Stevenson, K.M., & Leung, P. (1991). Competency-based evaluation of case management skills in child sexual abuse intervention. *Child Welfare*, LXX(4), July/August, 425-435.

- Dr. Cheung's Book
  - Child Sexual Abuse
  - Childhood Shadow
  - Questions About Sex
  - Growing Pain & Puzzles
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