



# Circle of Care – East Bay Agency for Children

*Grief and Illness Support for Children and Families*

2540 Charleston Street

Oakland, Ca 94602

510-531-7551

[www.ebac.org](http://www.ebac.org)

## **How did Circle of Care get started?**

*Over 28 years ago, two families who were coping with the terminal illnesses of their children felt that there were not sufficient services to support their emotional needs as they experienced the illness and eventually death of their child. They started a grass roots program that has grown in to who we are today.*

## **Who is Circle of Care today?**

*Today we offer illness grief and loss support services to children and families.*

### **Ongoing Support groups: Living with Illness & Living with Loss**

*Our success in helping families heal is largely due to our **Peer Support Groups**. These groups meet every other week for 90 minutes and all members of the family may attend. Separate support groups are held for ill and/or healthy children ages 3-5, 6-12, and 13-18 years and for the healthy and or/ill adult parents/caretakers. These groups meet at the same time so the whole family can be served. Fees are set on a sliding scale and no one is turned away due to inability to pay. Families may enter groups at any time, and stay in groups for as long as they find them useful. Groups are facilitated by trained community volunteers. Currently we have 40 volunteers that are recruited, trained and managed by our Support Group Program Coordinator Shoshana Phoenixx-Dawn. Families tell us these groups help them cope and feel less isolated at a difficult time.*

**Family Support program:** *Child or family counseling is available at home or at the Circle of Care office to children and parents/caretakers during the crisis of illness, or bereavement. Families receive counseling from one of our 8 graduate practicum and internship program trainees, who receive ongoing training and supervision from our Clinical Program Coordinator, Melanie Wartenberg, MFT. Interns also see children in several OUSD schools that have need for receiving services through MediCal/EPSTD.*

**School and community-based consultation:** *Circle of Care provides telephone consultation and on-site services to schools and community groups where children are dealing with issues of a life-threatening illness or death. Arrangements can be made to provide time-limited, on-site intervention and training programs for families, students, or staff dealing with these crises.*

### **What to do if you would like to refer someone to Circle of Care?**

*Have the family call us at 510 531-7551 x195. One of our staff will conduct a brief phone intake with the parent or caregiver. We will assess if the family's needs are appropriate for Circle of Care services. If appropriate, initial phone contact information is then given to one of our counselors who will then call the family to make an appointment for a face to face intake at our clinic, typically lasting about one hour. Family will then get started in our counseling and/or support group services.*

### **Are there any requirements to someone receiving Circle of Care Services?**

*We will work with any family as long as there is a child somehow involved, or impacted by an illness, or death. For example, we can see an adult in individual counseling who has lost a spouse as long as the family had a child. We would refer out those cases that do not have a child involved. No one is turned away due to an inability to pay.*

### **How can I become a volunteer at Circle of Care?**

*If you are interested in becoming a volunteer facilitator for our illness, grief and loss support groups for children and families, call or email Shoshana Phoenixx-Dawn for an application and information. Our next training will be taking place in January 2011 & August 2011.*

**If you have any questions or would like to make a referral please call us. 510-531-7551 Press 0 to speak to a person in the office or to reach a particular staff person enter their extension.**

### **Staff:**

Kristin Wagner LCSW, Program Director PALS/Circle of Care x130

Alinya Charron, Assistant Program Director Circle of Care/PALS x109

Melanie Wartenberg MFT, Clinical Program Coordinator Circle of Care x107

Shoshana Phoenixx-Dawn, Support Group Program Coordinator Circle of Care x195

Harriet Hillyer, Program Assistant Circle of Care x165

