

A short written report to the NFOG Board concerning my stay in California in January 2011.

I came to California in the beginning of January and stayed for 3 weeks.

The main aim was to attend the Clinical Training Program at the Chadwick Center. The Chadwick Center was founded 35 years ago by Dr. David Chadwick who is a Pediatrician who cared a lot about children who had been abused both physically and sexually. Now it is a leading center in the US for clinical examination including teaching and training. Research and academic work in cooperation with the University of California is also a big part of their work.

There were scheduled training days where I observed actual forensic medical exam procedures both sexual abuse, physical abuse and a screening. I was able to observe forensic interviews and attend the weekly Child Protection Team meeting. This is a multidisciplinary work with social workers who are trained in taking forensic interviews, nurses, doctors, lawyers and the police. The Chadwick Center is a part of Rady Childrens Hospital which is the largest Children's Hospital in the US.

The service they provide includes videotaped forensic interviews, medical evaluations, pediatric gynecologic services, screening and psychosocial assessment, failure to thrive assessments as well as health care for dependent children.

Most of my time there I was following Dr. Marilyn Kaufhold who is the domain director but I also met professor Joyce A. Adams who is a leading name in this field.

There were other doctors from both Norway and Denmark coming to do this training as well.

I then attended the 25th Annual San Diego Conference on Child and Family Maltreatment from the 22 - 28th of January. A large conference with 1300 participants from all over the world including all the Scandinavian Countries and 70 people coming from the Nederland's but I was the only Icelandic representative. I also attended one preconference day on Pediatric SAFE Skills Training. There was skills stations based training in small groups on matters as anoscopy, wet mounts and sperm detection, examining techniques for prepubertal children and adolescents.

So overall, these weeks in California have been very educating for me. All the networking and meeting all these wonderful people at the Chadwick Center and at the Conference is very valuable for me. I am sure that this experience will improve my expertise in my work at Barnahúsið in Iceland.

Yours sincerely

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