

CHILD ABUSE PREVENTION MONTH | APRIL 2025

WHEREAS, National Child Abuse Prevention Month, observed each April across the United States, serves as a vital reminder of the collective responsibility to safeguard children, promote family well-being, and implement effective strategies to prevent child abuse and neglect through community awareness and collaboration; and

WHEREAS, all adults, caregivers, and service providers share a fundamental responsibility to foster a safe, healthy, and nurturing environment for children, who are among the most vulnerable members of society; and

WHEREAS, a secure and supportive childhood lays the foundation for children to grow into confident, successful, and independent adults who will shape the future of Butte County; and

WHEREAS, periods of stress can heighten feelings of isolation and vulnerability for families, increasing the risk of child abuse and neglect; however, providing families with access to essential support systems and resources strengthens their ability to create safe, stable, and nurturing environments for their children, thereby reducing the risk of abuse and neglect; and

WHEREAS, child abuse remains one of the nation's most serious public health concerns, with scientific research linking abuse and neglect to long-term physical, emotional, psychological, and behavioral consequences for affected children and youth; and

WHEREAS, effective child abuse prevention efforts succeed through strong partnerships among state and local government agencies, schools, faith communities, healthcare providers, civic organizations, law enforcement, businesses, and families; and

WHEREAS, prevention remains the most effective strategy to protect children and support families;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the First 5 Butte County Children & Families Commission does hereby proclaim **April 2025 as Child Abuse Prevention Month** and calls upon all community partners, local agencies serving families and young children, and educators to observe this month by committing to initiatives that improve the quality of life for all children and families.

Shelley Hart, PhD,
Chair

February 7, 2025

*Commission: Paul Arnold (Alternate Commissioner), DeAnne Blankenship, Dr. Shaun-Adrián Choflá,
Dr. Shelley Hart (Chair), Scott Kennelly, Dr. Holly Kralj, Dr. Runneet Kullar, Matthew Reddam, Tami Ritter, Tiffany Rowe*