

Today's weather



HIGH: 55
LOW: 44

Sunrise: 6:18
Sunset: 8:30

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CHILDREN WHO HAVE EXPERIENCED SEXUAL ABUSE OR MALTREATMENT

Support group created for parents and caregivers

Sara Crawford
The Gazette

MEDINA — The Children's Center of Medina County and OhioGuidestone, with support from the ADAMH board, has created a support group for parents and caregivers of children who have experienced sexual abuse or maltreatment.

"What our intentions were with creating this support group was to create a unique, safe space for parents and

In this support group, parents and caregivers will take the lead in the discussion with Trisha McRae, a licensed social worker and therapist from OhioGuidestone, present to facilitate conversation and reflection.

caregivers to process through similar things that they may be going through with their children after they have been abused or neglected," said Ashley Krause, the executive director of the Children's Center.

In this support group, parents and

caregivers will take the lead in the discussion with Trisha McRae, a licensed social worker and therapist from OhioGuidestone, present to facilitate conversation and reflection.

Krause said that many times, parents and caregivers will ask "now

what?" to which in the past, the Children's Center didn't have additional resources.

As concepts were created, Krause said that the Children's Center searched for a way to support someone who is continuing to go through

everything.

"What better way to find strength through this than being in a group of people who are going through something very similar as you?" Krause said. "It was really intended to be this safe space where you can talk through things with somebody that is going through something similar and that you don't feel like you're alone."

See **GROUP**, A3

GROUP

From A1

Krause said the goal of the group is to help people understand that they will be able to get through the situation and that there are people there to support them.

She hopes that there will be mentorships formed among the parents and caregivers in the group as everyone will be in different stages of the process.

Krause said it is important to her that participants know that there are other people in the group to lean on.

"Your support doesn't just come on Tuesday nights from 6 to 7 p.m.," she said. "There are these other people who will be there to support you if you need them on the weekends or any other time other than the time that you're at your support group."

The support group will meet at 6 p.m. on the first and third Tuesday of every month at the Children's Center, 724 E. Smith Road. Child care will be provided.

Contact reporter Sara Crawford at (330) 721-4063 or scrawford@medina-gazette.com.