

Melissa Sadikoff, MSW, LCSW
Senior Clinician & Clinical Educator & SCAN Committee Co-Chair,
Miller Children's Hospital, Long Beach CA

Melissa Sadikoff, MSW, LCSW was born and raised in Southern California. She received her Bachelor of Arts in Sociology from the University of California, Santa Barbara in 1994. In 1995, she began her studies in Social Work and received her Master of Social Work with an emphasis in Health and Clinical Practice in 1997 from San Diego State University.

Right out of graduate school in 1997, Melissa was very lucky to be offered a job at Miller Children's Hospital, Long Beach (MCHLB) as a Medical Social Worker for the General Pediatric population. Melissa has worked with diverse populations while working on the General Pediatric floors. She has worked with many children with chronic illness and children who had been victims of possible abuse and neglect. Melissa collaborated and partnered with the Department of Children and Family Services (DCFS) and Law Enforcement on many of her cases and worked hard to advocate for what was in the best interest of the children she served. Melissa has worked on the General Pediatric Floor for 8 years of her 14 ½ years at MCHLB.

In 2005, Melissa was promoted to Senior Clinician of the Social Services Department at MCHLB. In addition to several clinical responsibilities, Melissa was asked to revamp, grow, and re-define the MCHLB Suspected Child Abuse and Neglect Committee. With the support of administration, Melissa took it upon herself to explore other SCAN Teams and how they function. Melissa grew the SCAN Committee from a few people to over 40 members who meet monthly for in depth case review. DCFS, Long Beach Police Department, Los Angeles Sheriff's Department- Special Victims Bureau, Long Beach Unified, For the Child, ChildNet and several hospital personnel attend the meetings monthly. With the recent hire of a Child Abuse/Trauma Physician, Melissa plans to expand the current structure to include SCAN Team meetings that meet weekly or bi-weekly (to review all cases reported from MCHLB), but keeping with the monthly SCAN Committee meetings in which the team reviews a few cases in depth.

Melissa gives regular educational in-services on Protective Services to hospital personnel (including RNs, Physicians, and many ancillary departments) to ensure that MCHLB and Long Beach Memorial (LBM) is updated on mandated reporting laws and their responsibility as mandated reporters.

Melissa works closely with DCFS and Law Enforcement and has improved the relationships MCHLB and LBM each has with these community partners. In addition, she has worked with the Inter-Council on Abuse and Neglect (ICAN) and in 2010 participated in a collaborative presentation of several Southern California Hospitals at the National Conference on Child Maltreatment in San Diego, CA.

Melissa has a passion for protecting the children of our community and for preventing further child abuse and neglect. Through her work at MCHLB, she has had the opportunity to impact change on the hospital level, as well as, on the community level.

Melissa currently lives with her husband, Matt and dog, Roxy in Irvine, CA. They are expecting their first child in early December 2011.