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Children's Advocacy Centers

A comprehensive community response to child abuse

Our Kids. Our Community. Our Responsibility.

The CAC Model

A multidisciplinary approach to the investigation, prosecution and treatment of child abuse, particularly sexual abuse.

The Disciplines Involved

- Law Enforcement
- Prosecution
- Child Protective Services
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Advocacy
- CAC Staff

CAC Standards

- Multidisciplinary Team
- Cultural Competency and Diversity
- Forensic Interviews
- Victim Support and Advocacy
- Medical Evaluation
- Mental Health
- Case Review
- Case Tracking
- Organizational Capacity
- Child-Focused Setting

Typical Services

- Forensic interviews
- Support and advocacy for child and family
- Medical evaluation – on-site or by referral
- Trauma-focused therapy – on-site or by referral

Services to Professionals

- Multidisciplinary Case Review
- Case Tracking

Why This Model?

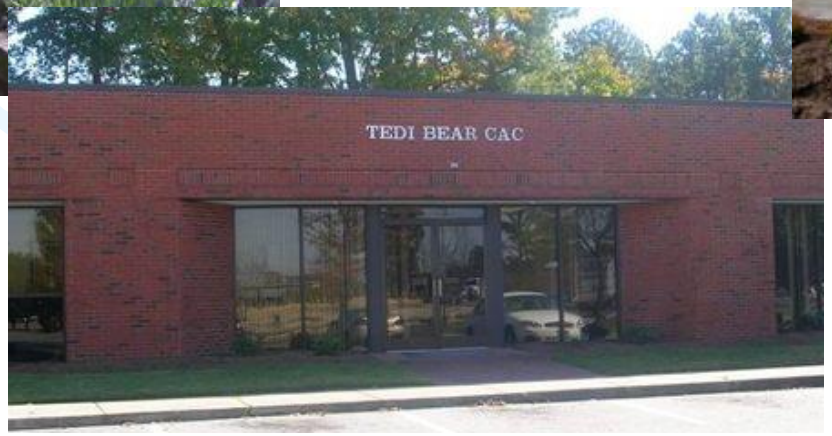
- Reduces trauma to the child
- Improves outcomes for the child
- Improves communication between professionals
- Supported and funded by the U.S. Department of Justice
- Endorsed by the National District Attorney's Association
- Evidence-based
- Adopted in all 50 states and several foreign countries
- Over 800 accredited centers in U.S.

Benefit to the Community

- Offenders held accountable
- CAC team helps ensure partners are working within best practice
- Reduces duplication of effort and costs

CAC Models

Children's Advocacy Centers come in all shapes and sizes.



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Early Intervention Matters

Children who are sexually abused are at much higher risk of social, physical, and behavioral problems later in life.

Early intervention makes a difference.

What Has Been Done So Far

Cases seen at the CAC New River Valley

- 2013/2014 – we interviewed 92 children
- 2014/2015 – we interviewed and provided services to 130 children and families.

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Unless someone like you cares a whole awful lot, nothing is going to get better. It's not.

The Lorax
Dr. Suess

Thank you!

Melissa Almond, Radford Social Services Supervisor, MDT Member,

Children's Trust Board Member

Lt. Randy Bonds, Christiansburg Police Department, MDT Member

Children's Trust Board Member

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