



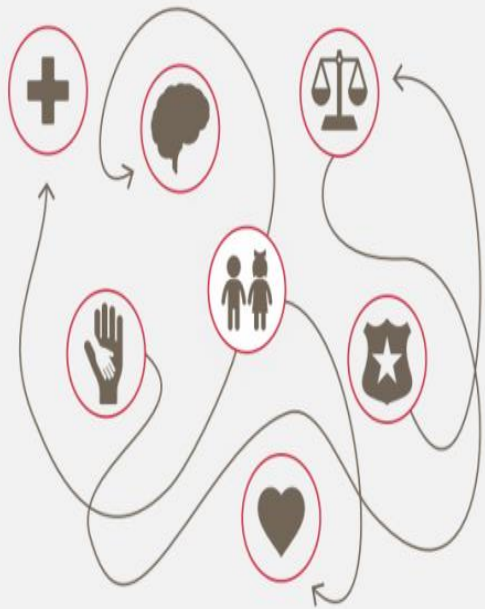
# CANOPY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

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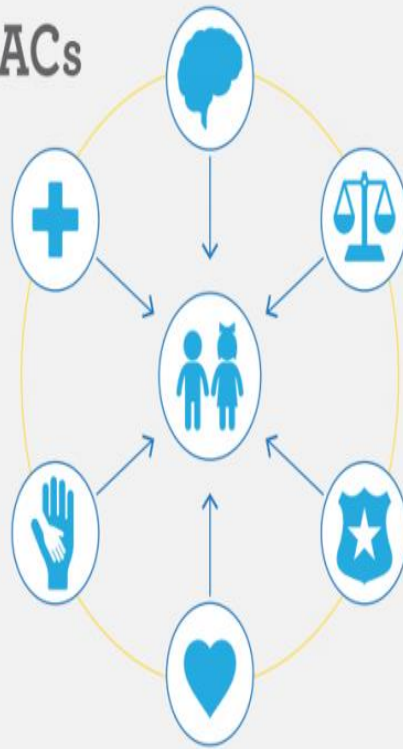
Friday, April 22, 2022

# WHAT IS A CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER (CAC)?

Without CACs



With CACs



- A national best practice model utilized to reduce trauma to children and families impacted by child abuse and improve service delivery through interagency collaboration
- How?
  - Provides a single location for children and their families.
  - They will receive a wide array of services to help in both the short and long-term healing.
  - By enhancing prosecutions.

· THE PRIMARY GOAL OF ALL CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS IS TO ENSURE THAT CHILDREN ARE NOT FURTHER VICTIMIZED BY THE INTERVENTION SYSTEMS DESIGNED TO PROTECT THEM.

- NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE

## CACs provide healing, justice, and trust for child victims of abuse

This past year, CACs demonstrated that their model works through the results of nearly 70,000 surveys from caregivers and MDT members. Here are some highlights that show our families and partners believe in the healing, justice, and trust we provide.

### 95% | Healing



95% of caregivers agree that CACs provide them with resources to support their children.

### 98% | Justice



98% of team members believe clients benefit from the collaborative approach of the MDT.

### 97% | Trust



If caregivers knew anyone else who was dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, 97% would tell that person about the center.

**Healing, Justice, & Trust**

A National Report on Outcomes for Children's Advocacy Centers 2018



NATIONAL  
CHILDREN'S  
ALLIANCE

Cuyahoga County was the **ONLY COUNTY** with a population of its size in the **ENTIRE** United States without its own established Child Advocacy Center. Cleveland is the **LAST MAJOR CITY** to develop one **NATIONWIDE.**

# CANOPY CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER OPENED ON NOVEMBER 19, 2018!



## ■ Vision:

We envision a community where children are safe, families are resilient, and those affected by child abuse are empowered to heal and thrive.

## ■ Mission:

Our mission is to serve children and families affected by child abuse through a multi-disciplinary partnership focused on safety, healing, and well-being.

## CURRENT CAC ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Children age 12 and under who are victims of sexual abuse.

Children age 21 and under who are victims or suspected victims of Human Trafficking.

Families must reside in and/or incident occurred in one of our Cuyahoga County Jurisdictions

# PROGRESS MADE

- Since opening in 2018 Canopy has helped 2020 children with services.
- Completed initial steps and application to become nationally accredited through National Children's Alliance (NCA).
- Increased the number of partners who have signed MOUs.
- Forged partnerships with the three major health care systems: Metrohealth, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and University Hospitals, who will run the medical suite.







# MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT)

- Our team is made up of several disciplines that are often involved when a child has experienced abuse.
- Presently the team meets together to review the child's forensic interview, medical exam, appropriate services and court processes weekly.
- Case reviews cover both new and ongoing cases.
- Teams then work together to arrange necessary services for both child and family.

# CANOPY MULTIDISCIPLINARY TEAM

The multidisciplinary team member agencies include :

- Cuyahoga County Division of Children and Family Services (CCDCFS)
- Cuyahoga County Prosecutor's Office
- Frontline Service (FLS)
- Cleveland Rape Crisis Center (CRCC)
- Journey Center for Safety and Healing
- Cleveland Division of Police
- The MetroHealth System
- University Hospitals Cleveland Medical Center
- Cleveland Clinic Foundation
- Law Enforcement from any jurisdiction that has signed an MOU
- Treating medical and MH providers, GAL, PO, teachers and other partners as appropriate for case



Victim Advocacy



Child Protection



Prosecution



Forensic Interview



Mental Health



Medical Exam




Law Enforcement

# FORENSIC INTERVIEWS


A trauma-informed way of gathering information that is admissible during a court hearing or legal proceeding.



Interviews are developmentally appropriate and conducted in a child-friendly, trauma informed setting.



Conducted by professionals who have been trained in forensic interviewing.



Minimizes the number of people and times the child(ren) must be interviewed.

# MEDICAL EXAMINATIONS

- Canopy Child Advocacy Center has a medical suite that will be utilized for non acute forensic medical examination by staff from University Hospitals, Cleveland Clinic Foundation, and the MetroHealth Systems. Presently, the hospitals are working through the structure of this and legal terms as it relates.
- This medical suite, will work in tandem with the emergency rooms, inpatient settings, and outpatient CARE (University Hospitals) and Alpha Clinic (Metorhealth) to ensure each child needing examination gets one in the place that they choose and/or is most appropriate for them.





# CASE REVIEW

- Review Forensic Interview outcomes
- Discuss, plan, and monitor the progress of CPS/LE investigation
- Review Medical evaluations
- Discuss safety issues and caregiver status
- Discuss emotional support, treatment needs, referrals, participation
- Discuss relevant cultural strengths and barriers to case, including families reaction and response to disclosure and involvement
- Discuss court involvement, potential prosecution, sentencing, court prep
- Ask questions, ask for assistance and support with case, and family

# WHAT A DIFFERENCE CACS AND MDTs CAN MAKE.....

#1: The Children's Advocacy Center facilitates healing for the child and the caregivers.

#2: The MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations.

# WHY USE THE CAC ?

**Trauma informed services and setting**

**Utilizes a multidisciplinary team approach**

**Community Resources**

**Benefits the child and the family**



Children are inherently resilient, and their ability to access that resiliency is dependent on circumstances.

Survivors experiencing trauma react to that trauma differently, therefore though there are common symptoms, there cannot be assumptions made.

Each youth comes from variety of cultural backgrounds and responses to their trauma displayed subsequently vary.

When working with youth consideration needs given to all aspects of their life – family, school, extra curricular activities, etc.

Hearing the youth's voice is top priority.

## CENTRAL TO CANOPY'S DAILY WORK

## WELL- BEING AND RESILIENCE

Canopy CAC takes the following steps to promote MDT well being and resiliency:

- The CAC provides opportunities for MDT members to attend trainings addressing vicarious trauma and resiliency. The CAC provides at least one resiliency and vicarious trauma training annually and invites all MDT members to attend.
- Discussion of vicarious trauma is a regular agenda item for case review and other MDT meetings.
- MDT members have access to written materials, articles, and tools that address vicarious trauma.
- Canopy also engages MDT members regularly in activities outside of traditional work hours that focus on self-care, team building, and resiliency (i.e. social hours).

# CANOPY



# MEDICAL SUITE AND HEALING ROOM



# INTERVIEWS, THERAPY, AND OBSERVATION ROOM





# QUESTIONS??

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