

# CAM Newsletter

*Professionals Empowering Children*



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## Update from the Director

Spring was a busy season for CAM. We conducted an Advanced Medical Issues in Child Abuse training in April and the Montana Child Forensic Interview training in May in addition to hosting our annual Rendezvous for CAC and MDT directors/coordinators. The Rendezvous provided us with useful information about how we can best support CACs and MDT, and we've taken our discussions from the event to inform our planning for the next year. In addition to our own trainings, we've also received some additional VOCA funds through the Montana Board of Crime Control to provide travel scholarships to CAC and MDT members to attend a variety of national trainings. As we enjoy the more relaxed summer months, we're also preparing to host a rural mental health tour and site visit with colleagues from the National Children's Alliance, Western Regional CAC, and MCSART in July. We have a number of trainings planned for the fall, and we look forward to seeing many of you there.

-Brenda George, Executive Director



Paula Samms accepts an award from Bryan Lockerby, Administrator of the Montana Department of Justice's Division of Criminal Investigation, at CAM & MCSART's 2018 CAC/MDT Rendezvous in May.

## Paula Samms Receives Award from DOJ

Paula Samms, Director of the Lewis & Clark County CAC since 2011, was awarded the 2017 Children's Justice Award from the Department of Justice. Paula is an expert child forensic interviewer and conducts interviews locally and for the FBI. She also helps develop the capacity of other professionals around the state as an engaging trainer. Lewis & Clark County CAC's services have grown tremendously under her guidance and leadership, and Paula also serves as a CAM board member and on the CAC Director's subcommittee. Congratulations, Paula, and thank you for your dedicated work on behalf of Montana's children!

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# Two CACs Host Open Houses for Their New Facilities



## Emma's House CAC Grand Opening

After years of growth, Emma's House CAC in Ravalli County opened its doors to a new facility at 310 N. 4th St. in Hamilton on June 8. When Emma's House first opened in 2006, the staff served just 17 children. In 2017, they supported 125 children with services. The new facility will allow Emma's House to serve an ever increasing number of children.

Governor Steve Bullock presided over the ribbon cutting ceremony, with additional speeches by Sheriff Steve Holton, County Attorney Bill Fulbright, CAM Executive Director Brenda George, and Emma's House Director Val Widmer. Calling Val a hero, Governor Bullock, praised her and the other members of Emma's House and the multi-disciplinary team with putting children on a "path to success" after they've experienced the trauma of child abuse.

During the grand opening, attendees were entertained with a variety of dance performances by children and youth from the Groovz Dance Studio. Following the speeches and ribbon cutting

ceremony, guests had the opportunity to enjoy refreshments, play some mini golf, and take a tour of the new facility led by Emma's House staff.

The new facility provides a comforting, welcoming, child-centered environment for children and their families. It includes an on-site medical examination room, a separate wing for counseling, and a trauma treatment center.

Read more about the grand opening in the Ravalli Republic online news site at <https://bit.ly/2z10Z8Z>.

*Top left: Governor Steve Bullock honors the work of Emma's House and its director, Val Widmer, before cutting the ribbon at the Emma's House Open House. Below (top): Governor Steve Bullock and Emma's House board members pose after the ribbon cutting ceremony for the new facility. Below (bottom): Kids play mini golf on a course set up at the Open House.*





## Flathead County CAC Open House

On June 19, 2018, the Flathead County CAC (FCCAC) celebrated the completion of their new facility with an open house for partners and community members. Housed in the Kalispell Regional Medical Center (KRMC) for the past eleven years, as the FCCAC provided services to more and more children, they outgrew their previous space in an older wing of the building. The KRMC covered the costs to create a new space for the CAC within the newly built emergency room.

FCCAC now includes an interview room, waiting room, and observation room that doubles as the SANE exam room. The new facility now also has a private entrance within the KRMC's emergency department to better protect the identity of victims of child abuse and the privacy of families utilizing the CAC's services.

During the Open House, attendees had the opportunity to listen to speakers, enjoy refreshments, and tour the new facility. The event also brought together every past and current member who has served on their MDT!

See the new space and learn more about the FCCAC in this video by KRTV News: <https://bit.ly/2KL5kHY>.



Top left: The FCCAC's original MDT members pose for a photo at the FCCAC's Open House. Top right: All past and current Flathead County MDT members came together at the FCCAC Open House. Bottom: CAM's Executive Director, Brenda George, receives the National Children's Alliance's Outstanding Chapter Leader Award.

## CAM's Director Receives National Award

Brenda George, CAM's Executive Director, received the National Children's Alliance's Outstanding Chapter Leader Award at the NCA Leadership Conference in June. The annual award is given to a chapter leader who has supported innovation and development for CACs and MDTs in their state. In nominating Brenda, Attorney General Tim Fox said that "her leadership [...] is truly outstanding and has made a significant difference for Montana's child victims of crime and abuse [...]. She is a positive and solution focused professional" whose "dedication to children and families who suffer adversity brings enthusiasm and hope to everyone her work touches." We couldn't agree more! Congratulations, Brenda!





Above: CAC and MDT directors and coordinators gather at the 2018 Rendezvous.

## Annual Rendezvous Held in May

On May 2-3, 2018, CAC and MDT directors and coordinators from across Montana gathered at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort for CAM and MCSART's annual Rendezvous meeting. The meeting provides an opportunity for CACs and MDTs to come together to discuss successes and challenges they face in their programs and develop professional networks with other teams around the state. It also provides important feedback and strategic planning for CAM and MCSART in regards to training topics and we can better support CACs and MDTs. Thank you to everyone who participated in this year's Rendezvous!

## Statistics Due to NCA by July 15

NCA accredited members must submit statistics for January-June 2018 to NCA by July 15. Password information was sent out via email at the end of June. The submission period is ongoing through July 15. Statistics should be submitted to NCA via NCATrak. Please contact NCA if you did not receive a password or if you have any questions.

## PSB Working Group

The NCA holds a Problematic Sexual Behaviors working group on the second Monday of every month from 9-10 AM MDT. The working group has already created several resources and are currently working on a best practices document for CACs starting PSB programs. You don't need to be an expert to join! If you are interested in this group, please contact Michelle Miller at the NCA at [mmiller@nca-online.org](mailto:mmiller@nca-online.org).

## Resources

### *National Children's Alliance*

--Child Physical Abuse: A Guide to the CAC Response: <https://bit.ly/2JeYyV7>

### *Research Articles*

--Young People Who Display Harmful Sexual Behaviors and Their Families: A Qualitative Systematic Review of Their Experiences of Professional Interventions:

<https://bit.ly/2KUI3TO>

--A Grounded Theory Study of Collaboration in Multidisciplinary Teams: <https://bit.ly/2N7TDYe>

### *Midwest Regional CAC: Archived Webinars*

--*The Darknet and Emerging Technologies: Where are Teens Going and Offenders Following?* with Justin Fitzsimmons (90 min., designed to meet CEU requirements in MN): <https://bit.ly/2KX38fN>

--*Cultural Issues in Child Forensic Interviewing* with Lisa Aronson Fontes (90 min.):

<https://bit.ly/2N1Krog>

### *Practical Prosecution Tips*

--*Child Abuse Victims and Recantation: Practical Prosecution Tips* from the Association of Prosecuting Attorneys: <https://bit.ly/2N7UVCK>

### *Unifying the Response to Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children*

--The NCA and the Midwest Regional CAC collaborated to produce a resource exploring the unique needs of Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children and what CACs should consider when responding to this population. Access the resource here: <http://csec-response.org/>.

## Upcoming Trainings

### *Advanced TF-CBT, Problematic Sexual Behaviors, and Advanced Forensic Interview Trainings*

CAM and MCSART are sponsoring three back-to-back trainings in September at Fairmont Hot Springs Resort:

--**Advanced TF-CBT:** Sept. 18, 8AM-4PM (for mental health professionals only)

--**Children with Problematic Sexual Behaviors:** Sept. 19, 9AM-12PM (open to all CAC and MDT members)

--**Advanced Forensic Interviews:** September 19 at 1PM - Sept. 21 at 12PM (for professionals currently conducting forensic interviews as part of their duties)

Contact Jacole at [training@childrensalliancemt.org](mailto:training@childrensalliancemt.org) for more details and the registration forms.

### *Montana Child Forensic Interview Training*

The next Montana Child Forensic Interview training will be held October 22-26 in Helena, MT. Registration is now open. Contact Kayla Argeropoulos at [kayla.argeropoulos@mt.gov](mailto:kayla.argeropoulos@mt.gov) for more information.

### *Victim Advocate Training - Save the Date*

CAM and MCSART will conduct a Victim Advocate Training on November 6-8 in Bozeman. Mark your calendars and watch for more details to be sent soon.

### *International Courthouse Dogs Conference*

The Courthouse Dogs Foundation is hosting their annual conference in Bellevue, WA on September 27-28. Find more details at <https://bit.ly/2L8iez4>.

### *Medical Training Academy*

The Midwest Regional CAC has developed an interactive, self-paced set of 21 online lessons to prepare medical providers in correctly identifying and diagnosing child physical and sexual abuse. The course is 27.25 hours and costs \$349. All lessons in the course must be completed before December 14. Find more details and register at <https://bit.ly/2JefBqg>.

### *Youth with PSB Online Training Course*

This 2 hour self-paced online course provides CACs with the tools to get started in providing a robust community-based response to youth with problematic sexual behaviors: <https://bit.ly/2uoqLn8>

### *Ten-Step Forensic Interview Continuing Education Course*

This self-paced course for professionals whose primary responsibility is conducting forensic interviews at CACs is 33 hours and \$100. All lessons must be completed before January 31. Find more details and register at <https://bit.ly/2NJySDp>.

### *NCJTC Criminal Justice Professionals Training Catalog*

The National Criminal Justice Training Center has dozens of trainings available: <https://bit.ly/2L5Zf4Y>

### *NCMEC Training Programs*

The National Center for Missing & Exploited Children has numerous trainings available:

<https://bit.ly/2mbvPaQ>

### *International Association of Chiefs of Police*

The IACP Programs Online Training Portal offers courses for law enforcement and criminal justice professionals. <https://bit.ly/2KPhnnl>

### *Upcoming Webinars*

--Social Conformity and the MDT: Awareness Is Key! on **July 26** from 12:00-1:30:

<https://bit.ly/2N7edbr>

--Developing Trauma Informed Partnerships with Schools and Other CAC Partners

--Part 1 on **August 9** from 12:00-1:30:

<https://bit.ly/2upWiEW>

--Part 2 on **August 23** from 12:00-1:30:

<https://bit.ly/2m9QpYP>

--Tribal Youth and Social Media: Navigating the Digital World, Safe Practices for Tribal Youth on **August 21** from 12:00-1:30:

<https://adobe.ly/2zuaXVB>

--Leveraging Program Evaluation and Data to Improve Your Services

--Part 1 on **September 13** from 12:00-1:30:

<https://bit.ly/2uaTb4r>

--Part 2 on **September 27** from 12:00-1:30:

<https://bit.ly/2L1JZcC>

--The Trauma Informed Judicial System: Creating Safe Spaces for Tribal Youth on **September 19** from 12:00-1:30: <https://adobe.ly/2udMNtg>