



CAM Newsletter



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Dear CAC Directors and MDT Professionals,

Children's Alliance
of Montana

I hope you have enjoyed your summer. The hustle and bustle of back to school is here as summer draws to an end. I hate to ever complain about nice weather so I won't, I will just say that I am ready for fire pits, Friday night lights and hoodies already!

There is a lot of information in this newsletter and there is much more information to distribute. We have some exciting things plans through the spring of 2016. Take a peek inside for more details.

Hot off the press – The National Children's Alliance has released the **REVISED STANDARDS FOR ACCREDITATION 2017.** These standards will apply to CACs who submit an application for accreditation after *July 1, 2016.* For those CACs being re-accredited, this will apply to any CAC that is up for re-accreditation in 2017 or after. I distributed these new standards to all MDT Coordinators and CAC Directors. Please let me know if you need a copy. The next edition of the newsletter will provide some insight on the changes as they relate to each standard. Stay tuned.

WRCAC News – Defending the Forensic Interview Training will be held on March 29th and

30th. The location is yet to be determined. Mark your calendars. This is one training you won't want to miss. It received rave reviews last time!WRCAC is also bringing *MDT Week back to Montana on May 24-27, 2016*. Applications and more information will be available soo.

Brenda George*, Executive Director Children's Alliance of Montana



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Brenda George Executive Director

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Thanks to the National Children's Alliance, CAM was awarded a Chapter Innovation Grant. The focus of this grant is to provide the opportunity for mental health professionals in Montana to become certified in the Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy modality.

Dr. Amy Hoch travelled to Montana to train **48 professionals** in the Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy Modality. The training was held on July 9th and 10th in Bozeman and was a huge success. Thank you to Dr. Hoch, and to all of the mental health providers that attended the training. A special thank you to Dr. Michelle Miller for her role in promoting TF-CBT Training and consulting with CAM and Dr. Hoch.



MCSART UPDATE

Montana Child Sexual Abuse Response Teams – Children's Justice Bureau, Montana Department of Just

Dana Toole, Bureau Chie

Montana Child Forensic Interview Training

October 19-23, 2015 -- Billings, MT

Sponsored by the MCSART Program, Children's Justice Bureau

Please email Dana Toole if you would like to submit an application to attend – dtoole@mt.gov.

NOTICE: To all the communities in central and eastern Montana – This training is being brought to Billings for you! If you have not yet applied, please send in your applications ASAP!







A big **Thank You** to our partners at the **Western Regional CAC** for the upcoming training opportunities!

Applications for the following are now available. The deadlines are quickly approaching. If you are interested in applying, please email me for an application.

- **1. Technology Stipends**. Accredited centers may apply for up to \$4500. Applications due August 24th, funds must be spent by September 14th. Sorry this is just for accredited CACs but it is another incentive to become accredited ©.
- **2. Training Impact Scholarships**. Centers may apply for up to \$1500. This is not limited to accredited CACs but open to all CACs and developing CACs. Applications are due August 19th, funds must be expended (training must be attended by) February 29, 2016.
- 3. SANE nurses to attend the 2015 International Conference on Forensic Nursing Science and Practice that is being held in Orlando, FL, 10/28 31, 2015. This is not limited to accredited CACs, in fact they are encouraging all centers to apply. They will provide stipends for registration, travel, lodging and per diem meals. Applications are due August 19th.





In the age of Social Media – Is your CAC or organization keeping up?

CACs across the country have turned to Social Media to raise awareness and to raise money. With this comes the need to have appropriate social media policies in place.

In addition, many professionals have personal social media accounts – how do those relate to the organization you work for? Does your organization have policies in place that address this?

Email me if you are interested in some sample polices!

January to June 2015 Stats from 17 Montana CACs

The Outcome Measurement System (OMS)

CACs participating in the Montana OMS Project include:

Butte Child Evaluation Center A program of Southwest Montana Community Health Center Serving Silver Bow County

Lewis and Clark County CAC A Program of AWARE Inc. Serving Lewis and Clark County

First STEP Resource Center A Program of St. Patrick Hospital Serving Missoula County

Flathead County CAC
A Program of the Flathead County Sheriff's
Office

Serving Flathead County

Emma's House Serving Ravalli County

Yellowstone Valley CAC Serving Yellowstone County

Cascade County CAC
Serving Cascade County

Park County CAC Serving Park County

Gallatin County CAC Serving Gallatin County

Custer County CAC Serving Custer County

Beaverhead County CAC

Deerlodge County CAC
Satellite CACs of Butte CEC
Serving Beaverhead and Deer Lodge
Counties

797 • Forensic Interviews
806 • Children Served
318 • Medical Evaluations
49 • Drug Endangered Children

93% of caregivers agreed:

Their child felt safe at the CAC.

100% of MDT members agreed:

Children and Families benefit from the collaborative MDT

National and Online Training Opportunities

Fox Valley Technical College's Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program

Good afternoon,

On behalf of Fox Valley Technical College's Missing and Exploited Children Training and Technical Assistance Program, I am pleased to announce three additional <u>cost-free</u> training opportunities which are now available under this federally-funded grant.

The first course we have is **Following the Evidence**. Various members of a Multi-Disciplinary Team, such as law enforcement, child protective services, and forensic interviewers, may gather different or differing information and evidence during their investigations and collaboration and sharing is key. This 2-day training will emphasize minimizing bias and employing multiple hypotheses in child abuse and exploitation cases and will provide guidance in gathering different types of evidence from first response through investigation in child maltreatment cases. This training will focus on evaluating evidentiary findings through crime scene images, interviews and case studies, and highlight the importance of working cooperatively with other disciplines for the benefit of child victims and the prosecution of offenders. This course is open to all members of a Multi-Disciplinary Team, and those involved with the investigation and/or prosecution of child abuse or exploitation cases.

The second course we have is **Technology-Facilitated Crimes Against Children**. This 1-day training will provide an overview of the various types of technology used for sexual exploitation and to facilitate crimes against children. There will be discussion surrounding the offenders' use of technology, the challenges new technology creates, and the impact it has upon victims. This course is open to law enforcement, prosecution and child advocacy workers and members of child serving organizations.

The third course is **Creating a Community Action Plan for the Prevention of Child Sexual**

Abuse. This 2-day training will provide attendees from child-serving organizations with information and direction to create a plan of action for their organization with a goal of preventing child sexual abuse of youth in their care. Attendees will participate in a facilitated discussion about signs and symptoms of child sexual abuse, Mandated Reporter and stakeholder responsibilities. Attendees will identify strengths and weaknesses of current prevention practices and leave with skills and resources to implement the Strategic Prevention Dashboard (Action Plan) created specifically for their organization during this training. This class is open to all members of child serving organizations such as preschool, after-school care, summer camps, church groups, athletic associations or others responsible for the care of minors.

If you have questions on the content of any of these courses, please feel free to reach out to me. If you are interested in hosting any of these courses in your jurisdiction, please contact Vicki O'Brien via email at Obrien@fvtc.edu or via phone at 603-862-3846 to discuss logistics.



ICAC Resources for Child Advocacy Centers

Join the FVTC, Missing and Exploited Children's Training and Technical Assistance Program for a live webinar to discuss ICAC resources for child advocacy centers. This webinar will help provide an understanding of the technical capabilities used by ICAC Investigators and Computer Forensic Examiners that can aid Law Enforcement, CPS, Forensic Interviews, CAC Personnel, Prosecutors and other members of the Multi-disciplinary team in the protection of children.

Attend this webinar to:

- Understand the mission of ICAC Task Forces
- Learn about resources such as examining digital images and documents for metadata, equipment used to create the image or document and the possible location of the offender/crime scene.
- Gain a working knowledge of data and identifying information created when children or offenders use computers, tables, cellphones and websites.
- Learn about proactive and preventative solutions for children and their parents concerning the use of technology.

Who Should Attend:

This webinar is primarily designed for: Child Advocacy Center staff/members and social workers. Juvenile court personnel, first responde

workers. Juvenile court personnel, first responders, law enforcement, forensic interviewers, and prosecutors will also benefit from this webinar.

For additional training visit:

MEC Training & TA Webinars

Missing and Exploited Children Training & Technical Assistance Program

Tuesday, August 18th 2:00 pm EST

REGISTER NOW

The Presenter:

Deputy Chief Michael Sullivan is a thirty sixyear veteran of law enforcement and holds a Bachelor's Degree in Law Enforcement Administration from Western Illinois University. He recently retired as the Deputy Chief of the Investigations Division for the Illinois Attorney General's Office and the ICAC Task Force Commander. Deputy Chief Sullivan served as a member of State and Federal Narcotic Tasks Forces, and was a member of the DuPage County Illinois Major Crimes Task Force. He has been a member of the ICAC Advisory Board, a Co-Chair of the ICAC Emerging Technology Group, a member of the National Child Exploitation Strategy Committee and a member of the National ICAC Data Network Committee. Read more.





Connecting you with nationally known experts in the field of child abuse.

Midwest Regional EduNet is a series of expert lectures on a variety of multidisciplinary topics. All webinars are offered **free of charge**, provide free continuing education credits, and are archived for later viewing.



Strengthening Practices within the CAC Movement with Ernestine Briggs-King, PhD

Thursday, August 13th, 2015 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm CDT Click here

Immigration and Sexual Abuse with April Dirks-Bihun, PhD, LISW, MSW

Thursday, August 27th, 2015 1:00 pm - 3:00 pm CST

CEU, CME, and POST Credits Available.

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Midwest Regional CAC is proud to offer Continuing Education Credits on all EduNet Webinars.

Midwest Regional EduNet is a series of expert lectures on a variety of multidisciplinary topics. All webinars are offered **free of charge**, offer free continuing education credits, and are archived for later viewing.

Use the Midwest Regional EduNet series as a way to bring your team together for professional development during monthly MDT meetings or case reviews.

Midwest Regional CAC is proud to offer Continuing Education Credits on all EduNet Webinars.

Victim Assistance Training Online (VAT Online) is a Web-based basic victim advocacy training program that offers victim service providers and allied professionals the opportunity to acquire the basic skills and knowledge they need to better assist victims of crime.



Benefits of taking the training

- No costs attached. VAT Online is free training you can take at your own pace.
- Engaging interactions. We've developed engaging online interactions to help reinforce the content, including real-life scenarios, videos, and more.
- Information you need to know. New modules from our Crimes and Special Populations sections are now available:
 - ► Sexual Assault
 - ► LGBTQ Populations
 - ► Victims With Substance Abuse Issues
 - Financial Crimes
 - ► Identity Theft
- More content to come. New content will be released on specific crimes and the needs of special populations in the coming year.

OVC's Training and Technical Assistance Center (OVC TTAC) provides training to support professional development, enhance services to the community, and expand outreach to underserved victims of

Here's how to get started

- Visit the VAT Online page to learn more about the training.
- Once registered, you can enroll in the training in less than 5 minutes.
- Let your colleagues know that this *free* training is available to help those new to the field or as a refresher for experienced professionals.

Learn More »

Online Training - Understanding and Responding to Child Abuse Allegations New York State - Division of Criminal Justice Services



MEMORANDUM

New York State Law Enforcement To:

From: Michael C. Green

Michael C. Green
Executive Deputy Commissioner Mulal C. See

Subject: New Online Training: Understanding and Responding to Child Abuse Allegations

The Division of Criminal Justice Services (DCJS), in collaboration with the New York State Children's Alliance, are pleased to announce a new, comprehensive online training for all law enforcement first responders on the topic of understanding and responding to allegations of child abuse. The course is available at no cost and is part of our continued effort to make training available to the maximum number of officers possible through the use of the internet.

In 2013, more than 270 children in New York State died from abuse, 151,400 child maltreatment investigations were conducted, and 40 Child Advocacy Centers across the state provided services to more than 18,500 children. Law enforcement's role in child abuse cases is crucial. Frequently, police officers are first on the scene when child abuse is reported. The ability to successfully investigate those cases, ultimately learn the truth and hold those who abuse children accountable is directly affected by the actions of the officers who have initial contact with the child. Having understanding and knowledge of how to handle these difficult situations will help first responding law enforcement officers play a key role in reducing any additional trauma to the child and provide for more positive outcomes to these investigations.

The hour-long course provides officers with the steps necessary to effectively gather preliminary information with the best interest of the child in mind and covers these topics: scope of the child abuse problem, forms of child abuse, the relationship between child maitreatment and child well-being, understanding the stages of child sexual abuse, how to speak with a child and conduct a minimal facts interview, the Child Advocacy Center multidisciplinary team response, gathering information from the sources and managing the alleged perpetrator and non-offending caregiver.

The training is available via this link or by pasting it into a web browser. http://criminaljustice.ny.gov/ops/training/other/Child-Abuse-Training/story.html

individuals who complete the training will receive a certificate from DCJS. In addition, officers on the state's Police and Peace Officer Registry will have their training record updated to include successful completion of the course.

If you have any questions about the training, please contact Dan Nedwell at daniel.nedwell@dcjs.ny.gov or (518) 485-5705. Thank you for everything you and your departments do to protect New York's children and hold those who abuse them accountable for their actions.

RESOURCES

Prevention Fact Sheets

The NCAC's fact sheet series, "As a Matter of Fact," discusses key research findings on the importance of child abuse prevention. These fact sheets are intended to promote the use of research to guide child abuse prevention practices. All of NCAC's fact sheets are designed to be used as a public awareness tool by any organization, community, or individual. They may be downloaded, printed, and distributed as needed.

As a Matter of Fact: The Relationship Between Child Maltreatment and Adult Health

As a Matter of Fact: The Relationship Between Child Maltreatment and Child/Adolescent Well-Being

As a Matter of Fact: The Relationship Between Child Maltreatment and Academic Achievement

As a Matter of Fact: Maltreated Children: The High Risk of Poly-victimization

As a Matter of Fact: Children with Sexual Behavior Problems



Children with sexual behavior problems (SBP) are identified as "children ages 12 and younger who initiate behaviors involving sexual body parts (i.e., genitals, anus, buttocks, or breasts) that are developmentally inappropriate or potentially harmful to themselves or others." Persons should be aware of the reporting laws appropriate to the state in which they live and follow the laws accordingly.

- It is important to distinguish SBP from normal childhood sexual play and exploration that occurs spontaneously, intermittently, and is mutual and non-coercive when it involves other children. Some degree of behavior focused on sexual body parts, curiosity about sexual behavior, and interest in sexual stimulation is a normal part of childhood development.
- Sexual behaviors may range from problematic self-stimulation (causes actual physical harm or damage, or does not change with corrective intervention) to nonintrusive behaviors (preoccupation with nudity, looking at others) to sexual interactions with other children (more explicit behaviors than normal sexual play) to coercive or aggressive sexual behaviors, especially when there are large age differences or developmental inequalities between children.⁶⁴⁷
- There is no clear pattern of demographic, psychological, or social factors that distinguish children with SBP from other groups of children. No specific profile is unique to all children with sexual behavior problems.
- Children who have been sexually abused are reported to engage in SBP with a higher frequency than non-sexually abused children. Contributing factors for sexual behavior problems in children may include physical abuse, neglect, family dysfunction, attachment issues, exposure to sexually explicit media, living in a highly sexualized environment, and exposure to family violence. P-43-44-10319
- SBP may be only one part of an overall pattern of disruptive behavior that can include Attention Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder (ADHD), oppositional defiant disorder, post-traumatic stress disorder, depression, anxiety, developmental and learning problems. Children with more intense behaviors tend to have a number of mental health, social and family problems. (**ALSO**1)
- Children with SBP are qualitatively different than adult sex offenders. Current research suggests these children are at very low risk to commit future sex offenses, especially if provided appropriate treatment (23.33-34.54)



New Online Video to Help Educate about Children of Domestic Violence

Family Secrets: When Violence Hits Home," is an Emmy-nominated children's program created collaboratively by <u>Children of Domestic Violence (CDV)</u> and <u>Nick News</u>, hosted by Linda Ellerbee. This special segment was created to help communicate directly with young people who are either growing up with domestic violence or know someone who is.

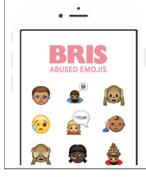
Growing up with this type of violence, a child often feels completely alone and helpless. This <u>video</u>, the first children's television program focused on this issue, dispels the LIE that they are ALONE, as it features other children speaking candidly and poignantly about their experience. This <u>video</u> can be a very helpful tool for schools, child welfare programs, domestic violence programs, and parents to share with their own children.

ABUSED Emojis – An app you can download from ITunes:

A complex reality demands a complex set of symbols. If you or somebody you know have been hurt, mistreated or feel sad, Abused Emojis makes it easier to talk about.

The Abused Emojis makes it possible for kids to talk about situations where they felt bad or wrongly treated without having to put words on the situation. If you or somebody you know have been hurt, mistreated or feel sad, AbusedEmojis makes it easier to talk about. About BRISBRIS is a Swedish non-profit organisation that runs a national helpline for children and teenagers. Every day we have contact with hundreds of kids through phone, chat and mail conversation. Many of the problems that children face today are stigmatised and often they have no-one to talk to but us. In addition to being a hands-on tool for kids to speak out, The Abused Emojis app is a symbol for our work to make children talk more freely about their situation.

NOTE: We thought it was important for professionals to know about this app in case a child references it in an interview or has it on their phone. Visit their website for more information. http://www.abusedemojis.com/



What Parents Need to Know Abuse Sexual Abuse – Caring for Kids

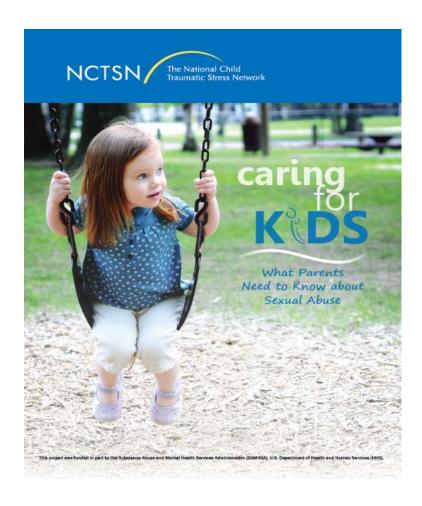
A Resource from NCTSN

This is a series of fact sheets developed by the sexual abuse workgroup (which includes a number of CACs) of the National Child Traumatic Stress Network. These helpful fact sheets cover everything from what a parent should do when a child discloses to how to support children through the legal system to dealing with sexual behaviors in children. It's a robust toolkit and the contents are evidence-based and created by child trauma experts. These are designed to be easily duplicated by CACs and therapists in their work with kids/families.

This is an awesome resource - please click the link and take advantage of it!

Here is the link to the pdf file

Toolkit http://www.nctsn.org/sites/default/files/assets/pdfs/caring for kids.pdf



Evidence-Based

Mental Health Treatments

for Child Abuse Victims

Quick Reference Guide for Multidisciplinary Teams & Brokers



Helping your

Child Heal

From Abuse



2015 Mental Health Guides

NCA has published three new technical assistance pieces on evidencebased mental health treatment for trauma associated with abuse.

Email if you would like an electronic copies!

Ensuring the

Well Being of Children

Designed specifically for CAC directors and staff, and provides a comprehensive approach to trauma-informed care for CACs.

A Comprehensive Approach to Trauma-Informed Care for CAC







On-Site Forensic Interview Peer Review

Please email me to schedule Peer Review in your community!

Forensic interviewing is a core service of a CAC and an important component for every MDT. Much research has been done in the field of child interviewing. Research tells us that interview protocols and intense forensic interview training are essential for professionals conducting forensic interviews. The research also tells us that while both are essential and important neither change an interviewer's behaviors. Peer Review is necessary to maintain optimal interviewer practice

Lamb, M.E., Sternberg, K., Orbach, Y., Esplin, P. & Mitchell, S. (2002) Is Ongoing Feedback Necessary to Maintain The Quality of Investigative Interviews With Allegedly Abused Children? Applied Developmental Science 2002, Vol. 6, No. 1, 35–41

Results indicate that appropriately trained interviewers can help children of all ages to provide the specific details often necessary to ensure successful prosecution.

Brubacher, S. P., Malloy, L. C., Lamb, M. E., & Roberts, K. P. (2013). How do interviewers and children discuss individual occurrences of alleged repeated abuse in Forensic Interviews? *Applied Cognitive Psychology*, *27*(4), 443-450.

On-Site Peer Review for your MDT is available— MCSART has funding to send an experienced Forensic Interviewer to your community to conduct forensic interview peer review with your forensic interviewers and MDT members. **Contact me for a request form.**

Research results
indicate that
appropriately trained
interviewers can help
children of all ages to
provide the specific
details often
necessary to ensure
successful
prosecution.

Brubacker, S.P. Malloy, et. al.



Shop to Support The Children's Alliance of Montana!

AmazonSmile is a charitable affiliate of Amazon.com. For every purchase you make on AmazonSmile, the AmazonSmile Foundation will donate 0.5% of the purchase price to the Children's Alliance of Montana. Simply visit the AmazonSmile site at the link below, sign into your account and select the Children's Alliance of Montana as your charity of choice and begin shopping! This is a quick, easy and fun way to help CAM support communities responding to child abuse.

http://smile.amazon.com/ch/46-0730444



Research

- CALIO Bibliography Series Medical Evaluation of Children When Abuse is Suspected, Toolkit for Court Performance Measures in Child Abuse and Neglect Cases and A Roadmap for Collaborative and Effective Evaluation in Tribal Communities
- Annotated Bibliography of Evidence Supporting the National Standards for Accreditation – National Children's Alliance and the National Children's Advocacy Center



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Dana Toole, Bureau Chief Children's Justice Bureau Montana Department of Justice

About Our Organization...

Empowering

Let no child in Montana face the trauma of child abuse alone. Let every abused child in Montana have the chance to heal.

WHAT DO WE STAND FOR?

That every child in Montana has access to a Children's Advocacy Center and the expertise of professionals on a Multidisciplinary Team.

Provide support, training and technical assistance to professionals working on Multidisciplinary Teams and in Children's Advocacy Centers to strengthen their response to child abuse and promote healing for victims and their families.

MEMBER BENEFITS

- Team, Staff and Board Technical Assistance
- **♦** Training opportunities
- Mentoring
- **♦ Stipends for trainings**

- ♦ Resources
- **♦ CAM Newsletter**
- Participation in state & national Outcome
 Measurement System (OMS)

CAM is primarily funded by grants and membership dues. We need you! CAM is currently kicking of its 2015 membership Drive. Get Involved!

Membership dues are vital to the sustainability of CAM.
We hope you enjoy this newsletter and have taken
advantage of all that CAM can offer you. If not, please
contact me for on-site specific MDT Training and/or
Technical Assistance and for any Resource or Research
Questions.