

CAM Newsletter

Professionals Empowering Children



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Update from the Director

Happy 2018! CAM has had a busy start to the new year with the 3rd annual Montana Children's Justice Conference on January 17-18 in Big Sky, MT. The conference is our largest annual training event that brings together MDT professionals from around the state to receive cross training of relevant disciplines such as law enforcement, CPS, forensic interviewing, prosecution, mental health, and medical issues. This year, in collaboration with the Montana Department of Justice's MCSART program, we provided scholarships to 36 participants.

We are extremely thankful to Buck's T-4 Lodge, who hosts our conference and does an amazing job coordinating the event. This year, The Lodge at Big Sky and Huntley Lodge generously provided room blocks at a reduced rate for additional lodging options. And, most importantly, the amazing presenters and engaged participants made the conference a success! The conference set the tone for 2018, and we're excited for the other trainings we have planned throughout the year. We're grateful for your engagement in these trainings and your dedication to your work and professional development!

-Brenda George, Executive Director



New CAM Board Chair: Tara Harris

CAM is pleased to announce Tara Harris as the new board chair. An accomplished attorney with a passion for helping others, Tara was a valued member of the Lewis and Clark County MDT for many years. She has been practicing law since 2003 and has dedicated the past ten years to serving the people of Lewis and Clark County. Tara has extensive civil and litigation experience, having tried over 40 jury trials and numerous judge trials and civil hearings. In addition to her law practice, Tara is an adjunct professor of Constitutional Law and coaches the Moot Court Team at Carroll College. Tara earned a BA in Business Administration-Management and Political Science from Carroll College and her JD from The University of Montana School of Law. She is a member of the State Bar of Montana.

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Questions? Contact CAM at

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Upcoming CAM/ MCSART & State Trainings

Advanced Medical Issues in Child Abuse

Dr. Kathryn Wells, M.D., F.A.A.P. will conduct this training at Providence St. Patrick's Hospital in Missoula on April 13 from 8AM-5PM. Registration details for medical professionals conducting child abuse evaluations will be available soon.

CAC-MDT Rendezvous

CAM and MCSART's annual rendezvous for CAC Directors and MDT Coordinators will take place in early May at Fairmont Hot Springs in Anaconda. Registration is now open.

SANE Training

Physician assistants, nurse practitioners, and registered nurses will learn to collect more timely and accurate forensic evidence to help prosecute suspected rapists. Organized by Planned Parenthood of Montana, the training will be held April 16-18 in Great Falls. Contact Jill Baker at 406-770-3263 or jill.baker@ppmontana.org with questions.

Montana Victim Advocate Academy

The MVAA is a weeklong comprehensive training on June 3-8 for crime victim advocates from around the state. It is conducted by The University of Montana. Registration and scholarship applications are available at <https://goo.gl/vEs2hK>.

2018 MT Children's Justice Conference

CAM and the Montana Department of Justice's Children's Justice Bureau's MCSART program kicked off 2018 with the 3rd annual Montana Children's Justice Conference in Big Sky, MT. Held January 17-18, over 120 professionals from around the state participated in the conference. Participants attended sessions on advanced medical issues in cases involving child abuse, drug endangerment, and neglect; rebutting untrue defenses; selecting juries in child abuse cases; sexual predator behavioral warning signs, psychopathy, and violence; introducing evidence in forensic interviews; and a legislative update. CAM and MCSART extend sincere thanks to presenters and participants for making the conference a success, as well as Buck's T-4 Lodge for hosting the conference and The Lodge at Big Sky and Huntley Lodge for providing lodging options for participants.

Top left: A word cloud describing the 2018 Montana Children's Justice Conference created with participant feedback. Below: Jed Fitch, Beaverhead County Attorney, and Bill Fulbright, Ravalli County Attorney, provide a legislative update at the Children's Justice Conference. Bottom: Dr. Kathryn Wells informs participants about medical issues in cases involving child abuse at the Children's Justice Conference.



New Resources

National Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month

January was National Human Trafficking Awareness & Prevention Month. The National Children's Advocacy Center's Child Abuse Library Online (CALiO) has numerous resources and online trainings on the topic (you may be required to sign up or log in to access some trainings and resources):

--Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children 101 (1 hour online training):

<https://goo.gl/q6u8WD>

--Healthcare Needs of the Child Victim of Commercial Sexual Exploitation (1 hour 37 minutes online training):

<https://goo.gl/EHZ4rp>

--Intervene - Identifying and Responding to America's Prostituted Youth (53 minute online training): <https://goo.gl/t3AR5h>

--Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors - A Selected Bibliography: <https://goo.gl/MBBxkh>

--What are the Factors that Prevent Social Workers from Identifying Domestic Minor Sexual Traffic Victims:

<https://goo.gl/cEQoBq>

--Child Sex Trafficking in the United States - Challenges for the Healthcare Provider:

<https://goo.gl/FhRPD8>

--CALiO's Trafficking & Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Minors section:

<https://goo.gl/UhHWvq>

--Over 150 publications on many domestic minor sex trafficking issues on CALiO Collections: <https://goo.gl/bpiQwR>

Midwest Regional CAC Professional Development Opportunities

--Webinar Series: <https://goo.gl/mW5rWa>

--Midwest Regional Peer Review Program:

<https://goo.gl/6AdCaz>

--eLearning Catalog: <https://goo.gl/u8dfoi>

--FI Journal Club: <https://goo.gl/DtkoXA>

Self-Care in 2018

Child welfare professionals are exposed to a highly stressful work environment on a daily basis - putting them at a high risk for vicarious trauma and burnout. This makes self-care critical in order to remain effective advocates for children and families. Check out the resources below to help make self-care a priority in 2018.

--Exploring the Self-Care Practices of Child Welfare Workers: A Research Brief:

<https://goo.gl/wwAVos>

--Office for Victims of Crime's Vicarious Trauma Toolkit: <https://goo.gl/N74rqp>

--OVC's Training & Technical Assistance Center's Building Resilience in Child Abuse Organizations Continuing Education Program (CEUs available): <https://goo.gl/tCi1Mt>

Bottom: Rachel Mitchell from the Maricopa County Attorney's Office in Phoenix, AZ presents at the Children's Justice Conference.

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Topics and speakers were excellent. Thank you for another amazing conference. Every single lecture was relevant to this work.
-2018 Montana Children's Justice Conference Participant

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