Rural Health Conference

August 5, 2015
Definitions

- An **advocacy center** is a comprehensive, **victim focused** program based in a facility that allows law enforcement, child protection professionals, prosecutors, victim advocates, forensic interviewers, medical professionals, and mental health providers to work together when intervening and investigating violent crimes against children and adults.
The Numbers

Services

- Clients – 7,266
- Medical exams – 1,112
- Counseling – 2,291
- Interview – 5,517

Enormity of problem

- 1 in 4 Girls victimized
- 1 in 6 boys victimized
- 1 out of 10 report
Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network

• **Mission statement**
ACFAN supports the establishment, sustainability and improvement of child and family advocacy centers throughout Arizona

• **Vision**
We will have success when a coordinated multidisciplinary response to victims of child abuse, sexual assault and family violence is the standards throughout Arizona
National Children’s Alliance (NCA)

- Membership
- Organization
- Standards
- Training
- Resources & Support

www.nationalchildrensalliance.org
Arizona Children’s Advocacy Centers
CAC Locations by NCA Membership Status & Child (Under Age 18) Population by County

National Children’s Alliance Membership Status
- Accredited Member
- Associate/Developing Member
- Affiliate Member
- Non-Member
- CAC/MBT

Child Population by County, Age 0 to 17
- ≤ 20,000
- 20,000 to 40,000
- 40,000 to 60,000
- > 60,000

Currently under construction: cochise
Family Advocacy Center - Laurie’s Place

Phoenix Metropolitan Area
• **FAC** – Family Advocacy Center
  • Amberly’s
  • Glendale
  • HAVEN
  • MESA
  • Navajo (2)
  • Pinal (2)
  • Scottsdale
  • Southwest
  • Yavapai
  • Southern AZ (Tucson)

**Child only – CAC**
• Childhelp Maricopa & Gila
• Safe Child
• Salt River

**ADULT ONLY**
• Northern AZ CASA
• Phoenix FAC

**MDT Only**
• Santa Cruz
• La Paz
Does it work?

- Advocacy centers hold offenders accountable
- Advocacy centers help victims heal
- Victim satisfaction
- Professional satisfaction
WHAT USED TO HAPPEN WHEN KIDS NEEDED HELP FOR ABUSE

Typical Case—Robin, Age 5

Who talks to Robin?
Nurse, Social Worker, Doctor

Who examines Robin?
Doctor

Tells her teacher she is being hurt at home.

At School...Who talks to Robin?
her Teacher, her Principal and a School Nurse.

Police Officer talks to Robin.

School calls Crime Check and Police

Detective is assigned and brings Robin to a specialized Hospital—where another Nurse, Social Worker, Doctor talks to her and is examined by another Doctor.

"Why do I have to talk to SO MANY people?"

A Child Protection Investigator needs to talk to Robin.

A Counselor needs to talk to Robin.

A Lawyer needs to talk to Robin.

Robin had to talk to 15 people, but now . . . (turn over)

adapted from Chicago CAC
Changing the Child Abuse System

What happens today when kids need help for abuse?

Robin tells her story, while a detective and CPS worker listen as a team.

“This Place is Great.”

Robin can see a doctor.

Start Here

Robin is referred to a counselor, who will help her heal.

Robin’s mom talks to an advocate to help her understand the system.

Robin comes to the CCAC with her mom.

Tells her teacher that she is being hurt by her mom’s new boyfriend at home.

... Robin talks to 3 people
CAC
Child-Appropriate Child-Friendly Facility

Therapeutic Intervention

Forensic Interviews

Case Tracking

Case Review

Medical Evaluation

Victim Support/Advocacy

Cultural Competency & Diversity

Organizational Capacity

Multidisciplinary Team
Multidisciplinary Team

A coordinated Response to Child Abuse

“No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it.:

H.E. Luccock
KEY PARTICIPANTS

- Law Enforcement
- Child Protection Services
- Prosecution
- Medical
- Mental Health
- Victim Advocacy
- Advocacy Center Staff
COMPONENTS OF CASE REVIEW

• Progress of investigation
• Forensic interview
• Medical findings
• Prosecution status
• Safety issues
• Review criminal and civil case disposition
MORE COMPONENTS

• Discussion of cross-cultural issues
• Assess family’s reaction & response to disclosure & involvement with criminal justice system
• Provisions for court education & support
• Emotional support & treatment needs of child & family
Accessing an Advocacy Center

- Report suspected abuse
- Awareness
- Define your role
- Community leader
Thank You for Attending

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