Children Start To Heal
The Moment They Are Heard

14,291 children walked through the door of an Illinois Children's Advocacy Center where their voices were heard.
Dear Friends and Supporters,

What an incredible year for both Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois (CACI) and the 40 accredited Illinois Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs)! This year brought continued growth, strengthening of services, and opportunities for the greatest impact to serve kids in Illinois who have experienced abuse.

In the past fiscal year, 14,291 children walked through the doors of Illinois CACs to be heard, supported, and put on the path of healing from possibly the worst experiences of their lives. This is a 16% increase over the previous year and a hopeful sign that more children are receiving the proper response in dealing with allegations of sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, and other traumatic events.

The Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois has continued to expand the many opportunities to promote excellence and provide support to the CACs and the professionals who do this important and difficult work. In the pages ahead you will see the progress we are making on many levels to increase the impact of CACI and CACs in Illinois:

- Free to low cost, high quality training to each member of the Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)
- A greater legislative presence
- Increased relationships with statewide partners
- More comprehensive and efficient data collection statewide
- Satisfaction of services provided to caregivers, children, and MDT members
- Community awareness of the issue of child maltreatment and the impact of trauma

As someone who has worked with children and families for the past 25 years, the conversations that are now taking place around the topics of trauma and sexual abuse are inspiring. The media, our communities, and families are listening like never before and helping to reduce the stigma for survivors coming forward.

Please join us in the fight against child abuse by learning more and becoming involved. Our website, childrensadvocacycentersofillinois.org, serves as an excellent resource for the community, our MDT partners, and CAC staff to keep up to date about the work of Illinois CACs and our Chapter organization.

Thank you for your interest in, and support of, the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois. When you are reviewing this report, please keep in mind the children that these numbers represent and help us realize an Illinois where children get the care that they deserve.

With gratitude,

Kim Mangiaracino
Executive Director
**MISSION**
To support and sustain Illinois' Children’s Advocacy Centers through leadership in resource development, education, and collaboration

**VISION**
The needs of children and families are paramount in the public health response to child abuse and Illinois CACs and MDTs are valued and essential partners in that effort

CACI is the network that coordinates and provides a comprehensive response to child abuse in Illinois. As the leading resource on child abuse issues, CACI stays abreast of the latest research in child abuse, as well as the most child-friendly approaches in investigation and treatment of child abuse.

CACI is dedicated to the multi-disciplinary, child advocacy approach and a coordinated, comprehensive response to child abuse. To that end, CACI offers discipline-specific trainings to our members throughout the year; CACI seeks opportunities to collaborate with partner agencies, such as the Illinois Department of Children and Family Services and the Illinois Attorney General's Office, on education and public policy issues; and CACI guides its members on "best practices" in the field.

CACI is an accredited chapter of the National Children's Alliance.

In Illinois, all funding for CACs and CACI is tied to accreditation.

The 10 standards are:
- MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM
- MENTAL HEALTH
- CULTURAL DIVERSITY
- CASE REVIEW
- FORENSIC INTERVIEWS
- CASE TRACKING
- VICTIM ADVOCACY
- ORGANIZATIONAL CAPACITY
- MEDICAL EXAMS
- CHILD-FOCUSED SETTING
Spring session at the Illinois legislature saw many bills come forward regarding child sexual abuse, in particular, working with local school districts and the Department of Children and Family Services to ensure safety and well-being of children.

In the past year, CACI and CAC representatives formed a legislative committee to unify our voices and participate in the legislative process. This resulted in several important bills being introduced, passed, and then moved along to be signed by the Governor.

Many thanks to the committee members for their tireless work on these important legislative actions.

**Mandated Reporting: SB1778**
Requires all mandated reporters in Illinois to receive training about mandated reporting, and requires clergy to report all types of child abuse and neglect, not just sexual abuse.

**Consent Education: HB3550**
Requires that sex education in K-12 schools include age-appropriate instruction on the meaning of consent.

**Educator Misconduct: SB456**
Improves protections for K-12 students from educator sexual misconduct in the school code, and requires school districts to work more closely with Children’s Advocacy Centers when responding to reports of child sexual abuse.

**Forensic Interview Consent and Protection: HB0909**
States that consent is not required to conduct a forensic interview to be electronically recorded. Provides that a forensic interview is confidential and exempt from public inspection.

Illinois CAC representatives and CACI staff participated in the Annual Legislative Day at the Illinois State Capitol, as well as Hill Day in Washington DC to let our voices be heard, and to speak for the children of Illinois.
Data and Strategic Planning

14,291 Children Were Seen at an Illinois CAC in FY19

Data is just a group of numbers until you turn it into a story. The stories that our numbers tell are of the 14,291 children that were seen at an Illinois Children’s Advocacy Centers last year. Each of these children have individual experiences and needs that they present with when they enter the CAC. The collection of reliable data helps us to gauge effectiveness, and improve outreach in our communities across the state.

CACI employs a Strategic Planning/Data Specialist to guide the state into a more sophisticated and meaningful data collection than ever before.

Taking Data in a Whole New Direction in the Upcoming Year

This past year, CACI began the design process and will be implementing the Collaborate Software Management System from Network Ninja. This will allow Illinois to have a statewide database system for the first time. This database will allow CACs to apply limited resources in the most productive ways and to take data to the next level.

We are so thankful for the input provided by the Illinois CACs as we move forward with this project and to our funding agency, the National Children’s Alliance, for helping us realize this dream.

Conclusion

98 of the 102 counties in Illinois are covered by a CAC that is accredited through the National Children’s Alliance. CACI is committed to the goal of 100% coverage for Illinois. We regularly work with the remaining 4 counties which offer some CAC services by offering training, support, and mentoring opportunities.

No CAC Coverage

2%

CAC Coverage

98%
OUTCOMES MEASUREMENT SYSTEMS

OMS help CACs define their successes in serving children and families while helping them benchmark their progress against the work of a nationwide movement. OMS consists of three surveys to gauge satisfaction:
- Initial Caregiver Survey
- Follow-Up Caregiver Survey
- MDT survey

Here’s what we heard families say:

“I was asked if my daughter was acting withdrawn or depressed or if I noticed unusual behavior, and we spoke about those experiences. I appreciate the advocate’s compassion”

“My daughter felt super safe after seeing the service dogs. Once my daughter was interviewed and hearing with the detective and child service person I was a mess, the moment that touched me was the dog walking up to me rubbing his head to my hand a way of making me feel safe in a moment where I was so vulnerable...a moment I will never forget. I hope the dog and dogs like him provide service to people who need it for a very long time to come”

Here’s what we heard MDT members say:

“Children & Families definitely benefit from the CAC & MDT approach”

“I receive some of the most important info pertaining to these cases during the team meetings. They are one of the most productive uses of my time and I find them extremely beneficial for myself, as well as everyone else on the team”

The Center staff provided me with resources to support my child & respond to his/her needs in the days and weeks ahead

I believe my child felt safe at the Center

After our visit at the Center, I feel I know what to expect with the situation facing my child and me

Agree - clients served through the Center benefit from the collaborative approach of our multi-disciplinary team

Agree - resources provided by the Center help improve work on our team’s cases

Agree - the Children’s Advocacy Center model fosters collaboration on the multi-disciplinary team

97.7% 97.9% 98.7% 97.1%

93.5% 96.8% 96.1%
In Fiscal Year 2019 CACI trained 1,360 participants at 32 trainings. In addition to those trainings, CACI conducted 40 Peer Reviews, this totaled 103 days spent on-site training to Illinois Children’s Advocacy Center staff and their Multi-Disciplinary Team Members.

CACI’s enhanced training efforts had dramatic increases in more trainings offered, and more participants trained from FY18 to FY19. In FY19, CACI was able to increase participants trained by 47.4% and conducted 45.7% more trainings in comparison to FY18.

Champions of Children Statewide MDT Training  MARCH 5-6, 2019  ITASCA, IL

This 10th annual two-day multi-disciplinary team enrichment conference featured 19 highly regarded state, national, and regional speakers. These speakers represented each discipline on the MDT with four separate tracks for participants to choose from that best meets their professional development needs. This fiscal year CACI welcomed 308 attendees to a new training location and offered an interactive phone app for the conference.

ChildFirst
October 1-October 5, 2018, Springfield, IL
April 1 - April 5, 2019, Normal, IL

The 20th and 21st sessions of this nationally recognized accreditation approved forensic interview course took place this fiscal year. Participants learned to conduct forensically sound interviews in a neutral and fact finding manner.

ChildFirst Ex.
November 27-29, 2018, Springfield, IL
July 31-August 2, 2019 Springfield, IL

56 previously trained forensic interviewers participated in ChildFirst Ex. Training which occurred twice in FY2019. This training, based on the nationally recognized ChildFirst Forensic Interview Protocol provides a defensible process for conducting interviews with children who may not succeed in a standard, single interview due to trauma, developmental special needs, or other complicating issues, including poly victimization.

This training discussed the expanded forensic interview process as well as research supporting multiple, non-duplicative interviews with child victims and witnesses.
CACI is committed to promoting excellence in Illinois CACs through LEADERSHIP, EDUCATION and COLLABORATION; providing training opportunities to strengthen CACs and multi-disciplinary partners, in accordance with the best practices and NCA Standards for accreditation, which result in better service to Illinois children and their families.

NARRATIVE PRACTICE: CREATING SPACE FOR THE DETAILS
June 25-26, 2019, Edwardsville, IL

51 attendees, who work with 25 different Children’s Advocacy Centers in Illinois, were in attendance for the inaugural training of Narrative Practice: Creating Space for the Details. This forensic interview specific training combined lecture and group practice to enhance interviewers’ skills. During this training, key aspects of the forensic interview including child development, language and memory development, the impact of trauma, and the practical applications of approach to enhancing rapport with youth to enhance the skills of interviewers.

TRAUMA FOCUSED COGNITIVE BEHAVIORAL THERAPY (TF-CBT)
July 11-12, 2018, Springfield, IL
June 13-14, 2019, Springfield, IL

82 mental health professionals were trained in the evidence-based psychotherapy approach, Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). Attendees of this training continue their education with on-going follow up consultation calls, which occur twice per month. Ultimately, participants will then apply for their certification in this therapy model at the end of their required consultation. Dr. Melissa Runyon presented this two-day training, and provides on-going consultation to those who attended. CACI provided each mental health professional the assistance with certification exam costs to ensure there are no barriers to certification in this strong evidence-based trauma therapy model that will assist children in healing.

ANNUAL ADVOCATE TRAINING
November 15-16, 2018, Springfield, IL

This training was designed to provide new Advocates a constellation of instruction to meet the NCA Standards requirement for initial training in victim advocacy along with providing more experienced Advocates ongoing education also required by the NCA Standards. 60 Advocates from across Illinois received training on topics including: Working with Parents of Abused Children Who Were Abused Themselves, Working with Parents Who Do Not Believe Their Children, and Motivational Interviewing to Engaged Caregivers.

ADVOCATE ROUND TABLE
April 30, 2019, All Our Children CAC
May 6, 2019, Advocacy Network for Children
May 10, 2019, Guardian Center CAC

Advocates gathered for the Annual Advocate Round Table which is a day full of networking, discussion, and fun. This Advocate Round Table focused on current challenges and successes Advocates face while working with families at the CAC. Additionally, after the Round Table, a training was offered on the Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children and Children Short Form for Advocates who utilize this screening form.
MDT FACILITATOR TRAINING
December 4-5, 2018, Effingham, IL
December 11-12, 2018, Warrenville, IL

This training focused on developing the role of the MDT Coordinator as a leader and facilitator of the MDT process. Training was given on how to best build healthy relationships on the MDT, enhance case review, and to learn to draw out expertise from each discipline that will lead to more positive outcomes for children and their families.

MDT FACILITATOR ROUND TABLE
May 17, 2019 Tazewell County CAC
May 20, 2019 Mt. Vernon, IL
May 22, 2019 Will County CAC

The MDT Facilitator Round Table was a day filled with rich discussion, networking, and sharing of information. This year’s meeting focused on case review and how to best facilitate and practice a rich and productive environment at these meetings.

DIRECTOR’S CONFERENCE
September 12-14, 2018, Normal, IL

The goal of the Director’s Conference is support, training, and networking. This fiscal year’s Director’s Conference theme was “The Many Hats of a CAC Director.” CAC Directors have an immense amount of responsibilities that fall under many categories. This year’s training strived to strengthen Executive Directors’ abilities in all those areas. Directors from across Illinois received training in topics such as Legislative Processes, Building a CAC Legal Toolkit, Leading in the MDT Environment, Research to Practice, Personnel Law, and SASETA.

MDT FACILITATOR TRAININGS

LEADERSHIP TRAININGS

PEER REVIEW FACILITATOR TRAINING
June 12, 2019, Springfield, IL

Peer Review Facilitators from across the state met for a training to enhance their skills and knowledge around Peer Review. They prepared for the upcoming year, shared ideas, and discussed topics that their regions can improve on. Adhering with the NCA Standards, at Peer Review, Forensic Interviewers discussed scholarly articles and this year’s training focused on digging further into these articles and application. Additionally, the NCA Standards for Peer Review was also taught in great detail to ensure all Peer Review Facilitators can teach Forensic Interviewers these Standards, and ensure that the Standards are being met with local Peer Reviews.

CHILDFIRST FACULTY TRAINING
June 27-28, 2019, Champaign, IL

The ChildFirst Faculty Training enhanced the faculty of the ChildFirst program on the materials that will be provided at the upcoming forensic interview training course, leadership skills were taught, and the growth of the program was discussed. This two-day training was an opportunity for the teachers of the week-long, nationally recognized forensic interview course to enhance their knowledge on instructing this course.

Additional CACI Trainings Provided

- Peer Review
- CEU Assistance
- Qualtrics (OMS) Assistance
- Medical Evaluation
- Family Advocate Coaching

CACI coordinated 9 regional quarterly peer review groups which met a total of 40 times in FY19. Peer Review is an opportunity for Forensic Interviewers to receive interview skills feedback and discuss relevant research. Peer Review helps improve Forensic Interviewers’ performance as well as, meet the National Children’s Alliance Standards for Forensic Interviewing.

CACI continues to offer assistance for acquiring CEUs for attorneys, social workers, and DCFS employees for conferences and trainings that are sponsored by Illinois CACs.

CACI offers continued technical education support to centers participating in Qualtrics. Trainings are available to optimize Qualtrics data to provide best possible services to children and their families.

CACI partners with DCFS and the regional medical networks to advertise and provide CEUs for the Medical Aspects of Maltreatment trainings statewide.

CACI continues to offer one on one coaching for Advocates to enhance their skill set in working with non-offending caregivers, data collection, assisting in community referrals, and using state/local resource programs. CACI can also connect Advocates to shadow with other chosen Advocates across the state for training purposes.
CACI’s Statewide MDT Coordinator collaborated with the Midwest Regional Children’s Advocacy Center (MRCAC) in building the regional facilitator training “Leading Engaged Teams” to be used across the country.

CACI is a strong supporter of the Multi-Disciplinary Team and understand that a strong team means that kids get the services they deserve and that the professionals who work these cases get the support they need.

CACI employs a full time Statewide MDT Coordinator who focuses on the health of the MDT.

**STATEWIDE MDT COORDINATOR**

**BUILDING RESILIENCY ON AN MDT**

*Serves to strengthen* the capacity of the Illinois Children’s Advocacy Centers (CACs) by educating CAC staff and MDT members about the impact of working in the child sexual abuse field and promoting resilience-building on a team level. In this first year of inception, this training was given at 22 separate locations around the state.

**CASE REVIEW DEVELOPMENT**

*A vital component of the CAC Model* which provides accountability and the ability to monitor and assess effectiveness, ensuring the safety and wellbeing of children and families. CACI developed a Case Review Toolkit that has been distributed to all Illinois CACs and shared with several states to enhance their Case Review. Case Review training was conducted twice regionally with 50 people in attendance and on site at 5 CACs.

**CUSTOMIZED MDT TRAININGS**

*The MDT is ever evolving* and the state Chapter is there to give any support needed to strengthen these teams. This year 5 CACs requested and received on-site training on topics such as: The History of CACs and the Work of the MDT, Resolving Conflict on a Team, Roles and Responsibilities of Each Discipline, Dynamics of Child Sexual Abuse, and more.

**CAC–MDT COORDINATOR**

*This is a relatively new role at CACs, developed to support the vital role of the MDT and ensure a coordinated and comprehensive multi-system response to child abuse, which ultimately reduces the trauma to the child. Our Statewide MDT Coordinator works to provide training, support and to give the necessary tools for this position to thrive. This year CACI hosted a 2-day MDT Facilitator training and 5 Regional MDT Facilitator Round Table meetings.*
These funds have elevated the service provided by Illinois CACs to the next level.

- More than 120 CAC staff are funded with VOCA dollars.
- VOCA funded staff received the training necessary to gain expertise in their positions.
- Mental Health services have been made more accessible, wait times have been dramatically reduced, and many CACs have hired an in-house Therapist.
- Each CAC received a complete site visit to monitor programs and fiscal progress and to provide technical assistance.

In addition to the annual VOCA funding, ICJIA presented CACI with two other opportunities for funding this past year.

Nearly $900,000 was made available for CACs to upgrade equipment and technology. CACs were able to equip satellite centers and main offices with:

- High quality forensic interview equipment to reduce the times that children may need to be interviewed.
- Portable forensic interview equipment for emergency interviews off site.
- Servers, computers, and printers for VOCA staff to perform their duties efficiently.
- Upgraded security systems, for the facility, to ensure safety and confidentiality of clients.
- Web conferencing equipment to ensure full MDT participation.
- Equipment for approved alternative mental health services.

VOCA funding was also made available for free, specialized training:

- 30 Mental Health professionals were trained this year to become licensed with the evidence based, Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT). This model of treatment is recognized as “the gold standard” trauma-focused treatment.

- Advanced Forensic Interview training was developed in a three-session series to follow the initial one-week training for forensic interviewing. These trainings focused on building the necessary skills over the first year to achieve the most experience and success as a forensic interviewer. 51 Forensic Interviewers received this training last year.
MEET OUR TEAM

Kim Mangiaracino
Executive Director
The Executive Director develops & implements organizational goals and objectives consistent with the mission and vision of CACI and its membership while overseeing all CACI services and activities.

Cara Vock
Coordinator of Education & Training
Develops, plans, and coordinates logistics for CACI trainings and is the point of contact for Peer Review.

Kathy Murphy
VOCA Fiscal Grant Monitor
The contact for CACI VOCA monthly financial reporting, technical assistance, and completing site visits.

Jean Garner
Strategic Administrator
Responsible for oversight of the data management system, gap analysis, program outcome and evaluation, and is the point of contact for OMS.

Mike Burms
Statewide MDT Coordinator
Coordinates all trainings & serves as a resource regarding MDT issues, customized training, and Building Resiliency training.

Michelle Hammitt
Office & NCA Grant Administrator
Primary point of contact for the CACI office, as well as focusing on NCA grant application maintenance, meeting and conference logistics, website content, membership access, and social media.

Barbara Karr
VOCA Program Grant Monitor
Serves as the CACI contact for VOCA grant administration providing oversight, technical assistance, completing site visits and serves as the CACI Civil Rights Officer.

"No one can whistle a symphony. It takes a whole orchestra to play it." – H.E. Luccock
To the Board of Directors
Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois

We have audited the financial statements of Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois (“CACI”) for the year ended June 30, 2018, and have issued our report thereon dated January 15, 2019. Professional standards require that we provide you with information about our responsibilities under generally accepted auditing standards, as well as certain information related to the planned scope and timing of our audit. We have communicated such information in our letter to you dated October 15, 2018. Professional standards also require that we communicate to you the following information related to our audit.

Significant Audit Findings

Qualitative Aspects of Accounting Practices

Management is responsible for the selection and use of appropriate accounting policies. The significant accounting policies used by the Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois are described in Note 1 to the financial statements. No new accounting policies were adopted and the application of existing policies was not changed during the year ended June 30, 2018. We noted no transactions entered into by CACI during the year for which there is a lack of authoritative guidance or consensus. All significant transactions have been recognized in the financial statements in the proper period.

Certain accounting estimates are an integral part of the financial statements prepared by management and are based on management’s knowledge and experience about past and current events and assumptions about future events. Certain accounting estimates are particularly sensitive because of their significance to the financial statements and because of the possibility that future events affecting them may differ significantly from those expected. The most sensitive estimates affecting the financial statements were:

Management’s estimate of depreciation expense is based on the estimated useful life of the assets and depreciated over that estimate using the straight-line method of depreciation. We evaluated the key factors and assumptions used to develop the depreciation estimate in determining that it is reasonable in relation to the financial statements taken as a whole.

The financial statement disclosures are neutral, consistent, and clear.

Difficulties Encountered in Performing the Audit

We encountered no difficulties in dealing with management in performing and completing our audit.

Corrected and Uncorrected Misstatements

Professional standards require us to accumulate all known and likely misstatements identified during the audit, other than those that are trivial, and communicate them to the appropriate level of management. Management has corrected all such misstatements. In addition, none of the misstatements detected as a result of audit procedures and corrected by management were material, either individually or in the aggregate, to the financial statements taken as a whole.
Disagreements with Management

For purposes of this letter, professional standards define a disagreement with management as a financial accounting, reporting, or auditing matter, whether or not resolved to our satisfaction, that could be significant to the financial statements or the auditor’s report. We are pleased to report that no such disagreements arose during the course of our audit.

Management Representations

We have requested certain representations from management that are included in the management representation letter dated January 15, 2019.

Management Consultations with Other Independent Accountants

In some cases, management may decide to consult with other accountants about auditing and accounting matters, similar to obtaining a “second opinion” on certain situations. If a consultation involves application of an accounting principle to CACI’s financial statements or a determination of the type of auditor’s opinion that may be expressed on those statements, our professional standards require the consulting accountant to check with us to determine that the consultant has all the relevant facts. To our knowledge, there were no such consultations with other accountants.

Other Audit Findings or Issues

We generally discuss a variety of matters, including the application of accounting principles and auditing standards, with management each year prior to retention as CACI’s auditors. However, these discussions occurred in the normal course of our professional relationship and our responses were not a condition to our retention.

Other Matters

With respect to the supplementary information accompanying the financial statements, we made certain inquiries of management and evaluated the form, content, and methods of preparing the information to determine that the information complies with U.S. generally accepted accounting principles, the method of preparing it has not changed from the prior period, and the information is appropriate and complete in relation to our audit of the financial statements. We compared and reconciled the supplementary information to the underlying accounting records used to prepare the financial statements or to the financial statements themselves.

This information is intended solely for the use of the Board of Directors and management of Children’s Advocacy Centers of Illinois and is not intended to be and should not be used by anyone other than these specified parties.

Estes, Bridgerwater + Ogden

Certified Public Accountants
Springfield, Illinois
CHILDREN START TO HEAL THE MOMENT THEY ARE HEARD
Illinois CACs listened to 14,291 children last year

1 IN 10 CHILDREN WILL BE A VICTIM OF SEXUAL ABUSE

To find your local CAC, visit: www.childrensadvocacycentersofillinois.org

Northern Region
April House
Braveheart
Carrie Lynn
Child Network
Dani-Brandon Center
DeKalb County
Jeanine Nicarico
Kane County
Lake County
McHenry County
Mercer County
Rock Island County
Shining Star
Tyler's Justice
Will County

Cook County Region
All Our Children's
ChicagoCAC
La Rabida
North & Northwest
Cook County
Proviso

Central Region
Advocacy Network
Champaign County
Child 1st
East Central
Knox County
McLean County
Peoria County
Sangamon County
Tazewell County
Unified Child
Advocacy Network

Southern Region
Amy Schulz
The Guardian Center
Madison County
Perry-Jackson
St. Clair County
Two Rivers
Franklin/Williamson

THANK YOU TO OUR FUNDING PARTNERS