



Breaking the Cycle of Abuse  
One Child at a Time

**Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas, Inc.**  
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## CACTX Annual Conference

**Strengthening Partnerships, Protecting Children**

**November 2-4, 2009 | Omni Hotel Austin Downtown**

### Registration...

To register for the Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas Conference, simply visit the CACTX website [www.cactx.org](http://www.cactx.org).

Registration opens **August 24<sup>th</sup>, 2009** and will be accepted exclusively via the website. Should you have any difficulty with this process call 800-255-2574 X 106.

Registration Deadline is **October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009** and will be confirmed by email only.

#### Hotel Information

The Annual Conference will be held at the **Omni Hotel Austin Downtown** located at 700 San Jacinto at 8<sup>th</sup> Street, Austin, Texas. To make hotel reservations at the special conference rate of \$85/single occupancy, please call 1-800-THE-OMNI. Remember to ask for the CACTX conference rate. Deadline for hotel reservations is **Sunday October 10<sup>th</sup>, 2009** or until the block is exhausted.

Please visit the Omni website for further information:

<http://www.omnihotels.com/FindAHotel/AustinDowntown.aspx>

#### Conference Sponsors



### About the Conference...

The mission of **Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas, Inc.** (CACTX) is to restore the lives of abused children by supporting children's advocacy centers (CACs) in partnership with local communities and agencies investigating and prosecuting child abuse. At the heart of the CAC model is the concept of partnership and teamwork—recognizing that no one agency or discipline alone can effectively meet the unique needs of these vulnerable children and these complex cases.

At this, our **14th Annual Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas Conference**, we will once again celebrate the unique and varied partnerships so critical to the success of local children's advocacy centers and their efforts on behalf of abused children. The exciting and educational workshops at the Conference will focus on programmatic as well as organizational issues of interest to CAC directors, key CAC Staff, CAC Board Members, and Child Abuse Professionals from a variety of disciplines including law enforcement, child protection, prosecution, medical, mental health and advocacy. In addition, there are a number of other special events and activities that will provide meaningful networking opportunities among centers from throughout the state. We encourage local CACs to share this information about the Conference with members of their Staff, Board and Multidisciplinary Teams. Consider planning to attend the conference together—further strengthening the complex, dynamic and promising partnerships that each and every day provide healing and justice for young victims of abuse.

*Social Work and LPC continuing education credits as well as law enforcement TCLEOSE credits will be offered. The conference includes 3 credit hours that will apply to ethics/professional responsibility credit. An application for accreditation of this activity has been submitted to the MCLE Committee of the State Bar of Texas and is pending.*

## Pre-Conference Sessions: Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>

### Leadership Pre-conference: Engaging with Strengths

*Dr. Elizabeth Alexander*

In challenging environments, as typifies the day-to-day working lives of the executive directors attending this conference, it is common to look at what's going wrong in order to try and "fix" things. Strengths are largely overlooked in the process. This session draws on more than three decades of research by the Gallup Organization into the study of excellence, from which they discovered that individuals who played to their strengths enjoyed greater success and fulfillment in their work.

### Taking Up the Gauntlet: Special Challenges of Child Witnesses in Sexual Abuse Cases

*Valerie VanBrocklin*

*Taking up the gauntlet* means to accept a challenge—to undertake the defense of a person. Interviewing and preparing children to be witnesses in court ALWAYS involves accepting unique challenges. Along with compassion, multidisciplinary team members must arm themselves with competence in interviewing children as victims and witnesses of crimes and in preparing them for the rigors of the courtroom arena. This seminar begins taking up that gauntlet and is intended for interviewers, investigators and prosecutors.

## Conference Sessions

### Tuesday November 3<sup>rd</sup>

#### Forensic Interviews: Criminal Purposes Only? Exploring Other Uses and Why

*Chris Newlin*

The forensic interview is a critical aspect of virtually every child abuse investigation, and the most obvious use is for the criminal investigation—was a crime committed? However, the full utility of a forensic interview goes well beyond just this limited scope. This workshop will challenge participants to more fully utilize the forensic interview to assure the protection of children while protecting the integrity of the investigative process.

#### Grant Writing 201: Raise Your Game!

*Loretta Holland*

Not your ordinary grant writing workshop, this session goes beyond the "Parts of a Grant." This two-part session delves deeper to help you know what to do *before* you start writing, gain confidence as a writer and project leader, understand SMART objectives and create a budget that tells your story.

#### Children for Sale

*Maria Trujillo and Patrick Fransen, FBI*

Most people believe slavery ended with the 13th Amendment but unfortunately, it only pushed slavery underground. Today, slavery is not only still around but is the fastest growing criminal industry in the world and children make up 50% of the victims. Learn more about this issue and how to help put an end to this crime.

#### Before the Forensic Interview: Screening Children in the Field

*Lindsey Dula*

Frontline investigators often screen children in the field to determine if an offense has occurred. If a child has not made an outcry to a professional, this initial screening may be the first attempt to engage the child to describe a possible abusive event. Learn what to ask, how to ask it, and when to stop questioning and refer the child for a full forensic interview. A MUST for any frontline investigator!

#### Family Advocacy Programs— Projects from FY09 Swalm Grant Awards

*Catherine Bass*

This session will provide an overview of several Family Advocacy Programs that local CACs in Texas have developed. A panel of presenters will share ideas about how they have effectively implemented their programs to meet the needs of the families they serve in their respective communities.

#### Improving Participation and Retention of Counseling Clients

*Ashley Lind, Ph.D.*

This session will focus on identifying the factors that contribute to active follow through and participation in counseling. Referral procedures, agency process guidelines, and client characteristics will be discussed.

#### Family Violence Criminal Cases: What You Want to Know

*Dana Nelson*

This session will address the intersection of child abuse and family violence. Come learn about prosecution of family violence offenders with an overview of criminal laws that apply and how these cases are investigated and prosecuted. We will also discuss the philosophies of the family violence movement.

#### Fiscal Stewardship: Understanding Financial Statements and Update on the New Form 990

*Reetu Jain and Glenn Lewis*

As leaders of your organization the role of fiscal stewardship is broad. This session will focus on two important areas. Understanding financial statements including the annual audit report is key to understanding the financial health of your organization. Also included is an important update on the significant redesign of the Form 990 and how it impacts your CAC.

#### Case Study: CAC + MDT = Life: Mario Lavelle Cockerham Case

*Bridgehaven CAC*

This case study will detail the investigation and prosecution of Mario Lavelle Cockerham, a resident of Dayton, TX, who was charged with suffocating his 6-month-old child and assaulting the child's mother in March of 2007. Presenters will provide insight into how the CAC and its MDT were instrumental in ensuring a successful outcome for this challenging case.

### Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>

#### Management and Containment of Sex Offenders

*Allison Taylor*

Part of the challenge of ending the proliferation of sexual violence is understanding the thoughts, attitudes, and behaviors of sex offenders. This knowledge is critical to performing the advocate's essential functions in serving the needs of the survivor. Advocates must understand the precipitating circumstances of the sexual assault, offer the survivor clarification, understand the containment approach, and participate in the containment model.

#### Media Training: How to Make the Media Your Ally

*McDonald Public Relations, Inc.*

The media can be a powerful ally—even advocate—in disseminating an organization's message and raising its public profile. This session will review media outreach techniques, explore the difference between earned and paid media and discuss the basics of crisis communications.

#### Outcome Measurement System for CACs

*Alisyn Diaz and Catherine Bass*

In this two-part session the shared outcomes and related measurement tools for CACs in Texas will be unveiled. Learn about the Outcome Measurement System that graduate students from the University Of Texas LBJ School Of Public Affairs created and how to implement it at the local level.

#### Coordinated Investigations: We Can Always Do More For Kids

*Chris Newlin*

The CAC/MDT world is founded on the principal of coordinated investigations into allegations of child abuse. Has anyone really identified "coordinated investigations"? This workshop will explore the vast opportunities available for coordinated investigations and challenge

participants to expand their current application of this model to improve their comprehensive response to child abuse investigations and interventions.

#### Developing and Sustaining an Active Board of Directors

*Sarah Jane Rehnberg, Ph.D.*

Recruiting new members to your board of directors is just the first step in developing an effective, functioning group of trustees. This workshop will share tips for encouraging active board participation, and provide opportunities for participants to share best practices and gain insights on current challenges.

#### Ethics: A Musical Comedy

*Dancing Moose Productions*

Ethics: A Musical Comedy is quickly being heralded as the most popular Ethics seminar ever. The tuneful and nostalgic ethics seminar presents complex ethical scenarios as expertly performed parodies of some of the greatest music of our time. Songs from Elvis, James Taylor, Eminem, Frank Sinatra, Disney, The Eagles, Randy Newman, Mary Poppins, My Fair Lady, Guys and Dolls, Fiddler on the Roof, and many others are transformed to tell the stories of professionals facing ethical dilemmas.

For additional times and details please visit [www.cactx.org](http://www.cactx.org).

## Conference Events

**Monday November 2<sup>nd</sup>, 5:30pm–7:00pm**

### Team Excellence Awards Ceremony and Reception

For 13 years now, CACTX has been hosting the annual **Team Excellence Awards Ceremony**—providing an opportunity for local centers to nominate those individuals who have gone above and beyond in support of their local CAC program and in making a difference in the lives of children. Please join us for this special event as we present the 2009 awards, honoring our partners and the impact they have on the lives of children throughout Texas.

**Wednesday November 4<sup>th</sup>, 12:15–1:45 pm**

### Legislative Excellence Awards

Each year CACTX honors the extraordinary impact made by our champions at the state level at our annual Legislative Excellence Awards Luncheon. You are invited to join us as we honor Texas **Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst** for his tremendous dedication to ensuring the stability of CACs in Texas and for his courageous leadership in the fight against child abuse.



**Lieutenant Governor David Dewhurst**