Your Seat at the Table

As we play host to the conversations that lead to justice and healing for the child victims of abuse, we cherish your willingness to take your seat at the table and help us deliver on our goal of Every Child. Every Service. Every Effort. After all, we share the fervent belief that EVERY single child in Texas who is the victim of sexual abuse, physical abuse or who has witnessed a violent crime deserves the best we as a society can offer them: the Children’s Advocacy Center (CAC) model.

In 2016, our local centers reached 43,000 child victims of abuse, a 15% increase over FY15 and the largest volume of clients seen by our network in a single year. This also represented the largest year-over-year increase in our network’s history, including a historic 28% increase in the referral of physical abuse cases.

**Ages Served:**

- 0-5: 22%
- 6-12: 47%
- 13-17: 30%
- 18+: 1%

**Types of Abuse:**

- Sexual abuse: 71%
- Physical abuse: 14%
- Child witness to crime: 6%
- Neglect: 3%
- Other: 3%
- Sexual & physical abuse: 2%
- Fatality: 1%

This dramatic expansion is due in large part to the implementation of our Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Enhancement Program (MEP) under which CACs began receiving child abuse hotline reports from the Department of Family Protective Services (DFPS). This increased collaboration with a key partner allowed our network to identify cases fitting the protocol for referral to a CAC and significantly increased the number of children in the CAC pipeline, yielding across-the-board improvements.
The benefits of a child-focused, joint investigation are well-documented and recognized by experts, stakeholders and decision-makers alike. In particular, the MDT Enhancement Program (MEP) yielded substantial benefits.

**BENEFITS OF THE MEP**

- **71%** of CACs reported more timely referral of cases to the joint investigation process. This allowed children to receive recovery services faster and investigators to collaborate more effectively.
- Added 70 new positions dedicated to facilitating the functions of an MDT and to coordinate and accommodate referrals.
- Reviewed more than 151,000 child abuse hotline reports.

**TO REACH EVERY CHILD**

In FY16, CACTX supported local center efforts to reach and serve every child by:

- Delivering nine new training events for over 230 participants to support the MEP initiative.
- Strengthening the DFPS partnership by training agency leaders statewide and engaging in a deeper level of problem-solving.
- Engaging in legislative advocacy to enhance the system’s response to child abuse investigations and recovery services.
- Distributing 493,444 total pieces of awareness materials to drive timely and appropriate child abuse reporting and CAC referrals.
- Cultivating a new partnership with the Texas Education Agency to discuss the investigation of cases involving inappropriate teacher-student relationships or abuse involving school personnel.

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

2016 was an incredible year of growth for our network, but we still only reached 63% of the sexual abuse cases assigned for CPS investigation, and we are still working to ascertain the gap in referral for physical abuse cases requiring an MDT response. Furthermore, at this time we are unable to fully determine how many child abuses cases fall exclusively within the jurisdiction of law enforcement and require CAC services (CPS cases focus only on caregiver-related offenses). Therefore, future efforts will focus on quantifying these gaps and strategically investing in efforts to reach every referable case.

We will be able to maximize the impact of that information thanks to the implementation of data-informed practices across our network. In 2016, this took form in a newly-developed CACTX department and leadership cultivation across our network. The resulting projects, which will increase data integrity and information sharing with partner agencies, signal the dawn of a new era for CACs where precision and accountability inform our efforts.

We are also committed to expanding our service area to encompass all 254 Texas counties. At present, 60 Texas counties still exist beyond the reach of a CAC, depriving victims of the benefits of an MDT’s coordinated investigative approach. With conversations underway to reach another 13 counties in the next two fiscal years, significant work remains.

Throughout FY17 our focus on “every child” will include the following directed efforts:

- Greater engagement with DFPS to reach cases of abuse that take place in a foster care or residential treatment center setting.
- Continued evaluation of a CAC’s role in addressing human trafficking and serving the unique needs of its victims.
- Development of a statewide case management system for all CACs, which will integrate partner agency case information and provide more dynamic data to CACs and CACTX to better inform strategic efforts to reach every child.
- Continue rollout of the MEP. The goal of this program and its supporters is for CACs to have the capacity and ability to review all child abuse hotline reports. Phase one of the rollout enabled CACs to review 51% of FY16 reports.
Every Service

We strive to ensure that all children have access to the full array of needed CAC services.

The CAC model’s efficacy is well documented, but research shows it is MOST effective when integrated with a cohesive spectrum of five distinct services: forensic interviews, family advocacy, medical evaluations, mental health and MDT coordination and case review. Our commitment to making EVERY SERVICE available to children referred to a CAC demands that we increase capacity and strengthen the services available at every facility in our network. In short, every child victim discussed at the table deserves the benefits of our entire 360-degree model.

 MEP implementation revealed cases that should have been referred to the CAC pipeline for services. Addressing that gap increased the demand at local centers. Our network responded by expanding staff capacity to accommodate the increased workload and ensure optimal and timely care for children.

BENEFITS OF OUR SERVICES
The complexity of our services and needs of clients demand highly trained and specialized professionals to deliver quality care. Thanks to support from government entities and our generous community partners, in 2016 CACs were able to increase staff capacity by 30%, resulting in a direct impact to the number of services provided, including:

- 32,973 children forensically interviewed
- 31,260 families received family advocacy services
- 26,597 cases reviewed by the MDT
- 18,151 children received mental health services
- 8,187 adults (non-offending caregivers) received mental health services
- 6,270 children received child abuse medical exams

TO PROVIDE EVERY SERVICE
As the membership association for Texas CACs, CACTX sets the table with a vision of offering “every service” by strengthening our network’s ability to deliver the full range and depth of life-saving care. As a result in FY16, CACTX:

- Processed 1,600 reimbursement requests totaling almost $30,000,000 in funding which primarily equips local center staff positions to deliver direct services to children and families
- Conducted 24 site visits to review compliance with both grant management standards and the Texas Standards for CACs
- Offered 45 strategic expansion workshops to help centers strategically invest new federal dollars in order to maximize impact
- Hosted an Urban CAC planning forum on the unique challenges presented in areas of high-density and high-demand
- Implemented and funded the Women of Courage Committee’s new “My Safe Space” program, which offers “room makeover” opportunities for children whose abuse occurred in their immediate personal space

WHAT’S NEXT?
Each individual client that comes through the doors of a CAC deserves all of the services that their unique circumstances require. To fulfill this commitment to the most vulnerable among us, CACTX will provide our network with the tools needed to operate with precision and accountability. To that end, major FY17 projects will target shortfall areas by:

- Developing a local center services assessment tool designed to identify underserved children and families
- Creating dashboards leveraging data visualization software to equip CACs in assessing service gaps
- Consulting proactively with CAC leadership teams, focusing on local data interpretation and offering strategic guidance on decision-making
- Galvanizing support for the “Every Service” goal among our public and private partners to make delivery of full depth of service a reality
Every Effort

We strive to ensure that all children receive the highest standard of care through Texas CACs.

Mindful of the immense fear and shame a child must overcome to tell someone about the abuse they’ve endured, we owe them every effort to ensure their trust in us is well placed. This drives our commitment to ensuring that everyone at the table in our network is fully trained with research and practice-informed techniques.

Considering Texas CACs employ more than 1,000 highly trained child abuse professionals, there are sizable challenges associated with providing the specialized training and technical assistance these remarkable people need to provide the very best services to children and families.

In FY16, we not only worked to meet the training demands of an expanding workforce of local professionals, we also responded to emerging trends by expanding our training topics. For the first time, we can proudly say that CACTX training programs reached 100% of our local CACs, and 99% of local CACs participated in more than one training.

**BENEFITS OF OUR EFFORTS**

Highlights of our “Every Effort” initiatives include:

- Nearly 70 training activities for 1,511 participants
- Development and delivery of new training topics:
  - Court Preparation & Testimony for Mental Health Clinicians
  - Applying Trauma-Focused Cognitive-Behavioral Therapy with Commercially Sexually Exploited Children
  - Family Advocacy 201: Beyond the Basics - Overcoming Common Obstacles
  - Volunteer Coordinator Training and Networking Event
- Hosting our first leadership summit for CAC executives to discuss the current climate for CACs in Texas and to unite behind a shared Vision

**TO MAKE EVERY EFFORT**

Our focus on service excellence and accountability yielded improved results, including:

- 96% of MDT members affirmed the CAC MDT approach improves collaboration and efficient case investigations
- 93% of caregivers acknowledged the CAC’s healing impact on their child and themselves
- 84% of children who completed therapy were no longer exhibiting post-traumatic stress symptoms within the clinical range
- 78% of children who completed therapy were no longer exhibiting symptoms for depression within the clinical range

**WHAT’S NEXT?**

In 2017, we will continue empowering the leadership of our network and their staff, MDT partners and community supporters to pursue our vision of putting these child victims and their families on the path toward justice and healing. FY17 objectives include:

- Developing quality metrics for all core CAC services, enabling centers to objectively assess their programs and elevate the services offered to children and families
- Acting on recommendations from a research study on MDT effectiveness conducted by the University of Texas’ Moody College of Communications, melding insights gained from more than 25 focus groups and over 1,300 surveys from MDT members across the state
- Offering our robust menu of training options, with specific emphasis on evaluating their effectiveness and accessibility
- Standardizing general legal guidance materials on common issues for local CACs

Thanks to you, 2016 represented a quantum leap forward in our ability to reach every child with every service, making every effort. In 2017, we look forward to an even stronger partnership as we take our seat at the table with our partners in the public and private sectors, united in our commitment to children who deserve the best care available and a life filled with possibility and hope.
Corporate and Foundation Support
AT&T
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BNSF Railway Foundation
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The Hildebrand Foundation
The Meadows Foundation
Strake Foundation
Shield-Ayres Foundation
Swalm Foundation
Texas Bar Foundation

Public Partners
Office of the Attorney General
Office of the Governor—Criminal Justice Division
Texas Children’s Justice Act
National Children’s Alliance
Southern Regional CAC

Special Thanks to:
Women of Courage Membership who make the My Safe Space: A Room Makeover Project possible with their $1,000 annual commitment and who helped raise more than $75,000 at the annual Big Impact on Little Lives Luncheon.

University of Texas Sigma Alpha Epsilon Fraternity for raising more than $40,000 through their 14th annual Cookin’ for Kids philanthropic event.

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The achievements in this report were made possible through the hard work and commitment of an extraordinary team of professionals working on behalf of our Mission and Vision each day as members of Team CACTX. We are honored that these professionals have chosen to dedicate their talents to ensuring justice, healing and hope for Texas children. To learn more about the CACTX team, please visit www.cactx.org/about/staff.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES
For the period September 1, 2015 through August 31, 2016

SUPPORT AND REVENUE
Grants and Contracts $31,464,935
Fundraising $227,914
Membership Dues $118,788
Other Income/Investment Income $353,185
TOTAL REVENUE FROM OPERATIONS $32,164,822

EXPENSES
Program Services $31,711,762
Management and General $385,650
Fundraising $249,193
TOTAL EXPENSES FROM OPERATIONS $32,346,605

*CACTX benefited from additional revenue from endowment distributions and prior year contributions.

STATEMENT OF FINANCIAL POSITION
ASSETS
Cash and Short-Term Investments $416,677
Receivables, net $5,134,343
Prepaid Expenses/Other $77,866
Land, Building & Equipment, net $1,638,509
Endowment/Investments $7,842,418
TOTAL ASSETS $15,109,813

LIABILITIES
Accounts Payable and Accrued Expenses $4,990,957
Deferred Revenue $124,000
TOTAL LIABILITIES $5,114,957

NET ASSETS
Unrestricted $3,098,794
Temporarily Restricted $1,896,062
Permanently Restricted $5,000,000
TOTAL NET ASSETS $9,994,856
TOTAL LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS $15,109,813

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