

**EXHIBIT F**

**COMPASSION • HEALING • HOPE**



CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF ARKANSAS

# **2023 Annual Report to the 94th General Assembly**

In compliance with Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-113



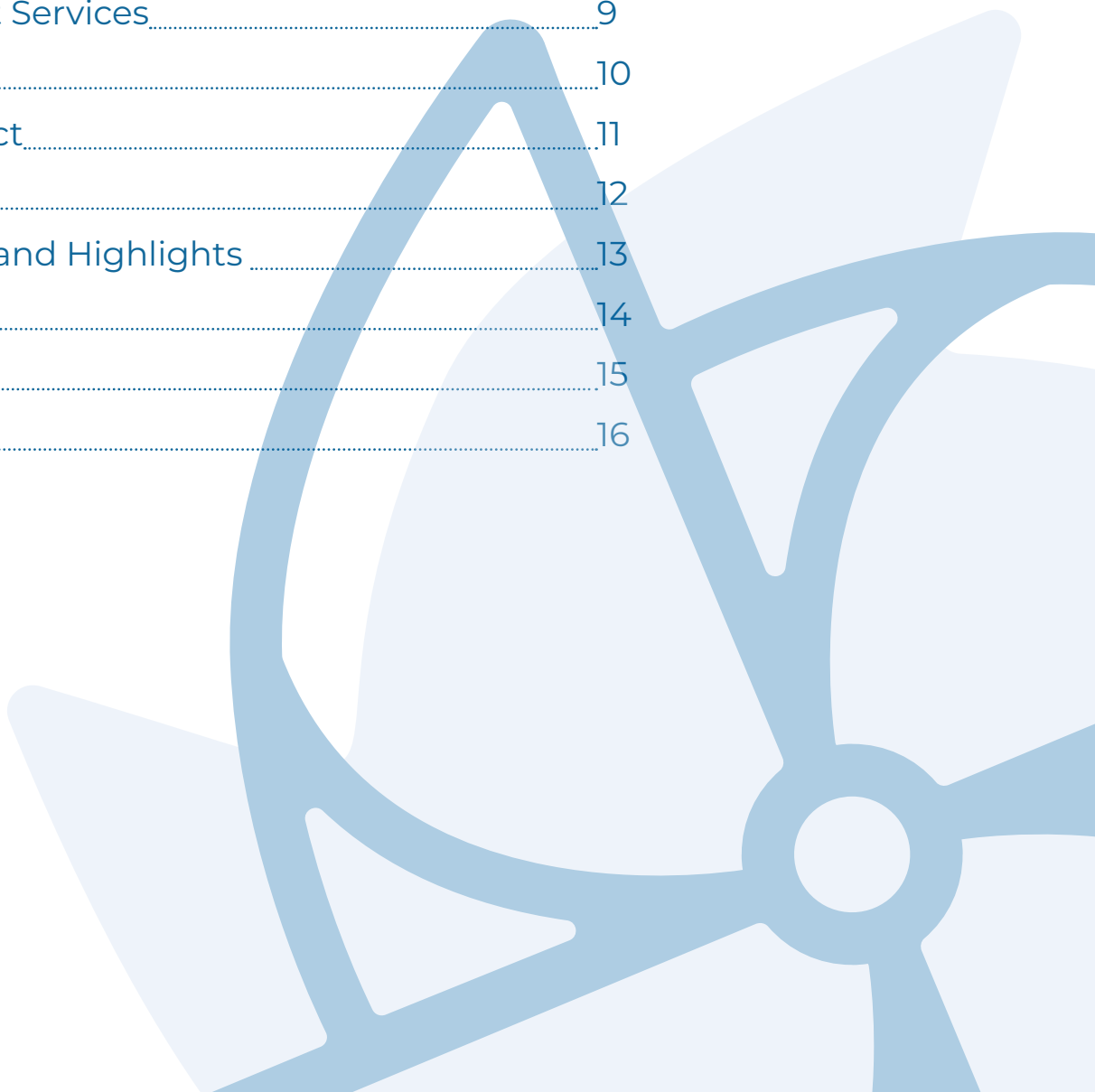
**CACar**

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS  
OF ARKANSAS

Compassion. Healing. Hope.

# Table of Contents

Board of Directors .....	3
Introduction.....	3
CACar State Chapter.....	4
The Work of the State Chapter .....	6
What is a CAC?.....	7
CAC Services and Locations.....	8
CAC 2023 Direct Services.....	9
Who We Serve.....	10
Collective Impact.....	11
What is MDT?.....	12
MDT Oversight and Highlights .....	13
MDT Statistics.....	14
CACar Staff.....	15
Impact Story.....	16



## OUR BOARD OF DIRECTORS

**President - Elizabeth Shackelford**

**Vice-President - Tammy Lee**

**Treasurer - Karen James**

**Secretary - Lori Wilson**

**Clark Ellison**

**Susan Hutchinson**

**Robin Krneta**

**Jennifer Long**

**Allison McElroy**

**Stephanie Morris**

**Marilyn Sanders**

**Natalie Tibbs**

The children's advocacy center (CAC) model has emerged in the last 30 years as a nationally preferred response to child abuse. The vital resources offered through CACs are now established in every state and over 10 countries. CAC services started in Arkansas during the 1990s and have expanded throughout the state in the last 10 years because of the great need for direct services to support children and families.

Our children's advocacy center network has worked countless hours to provide compassion, hope and healing to over 30,000 child victims of abuse in the last 3 years. The stories of abuse the staff hear daily are horrific, but the CACs become the beacon of hope in their greatest time of need.

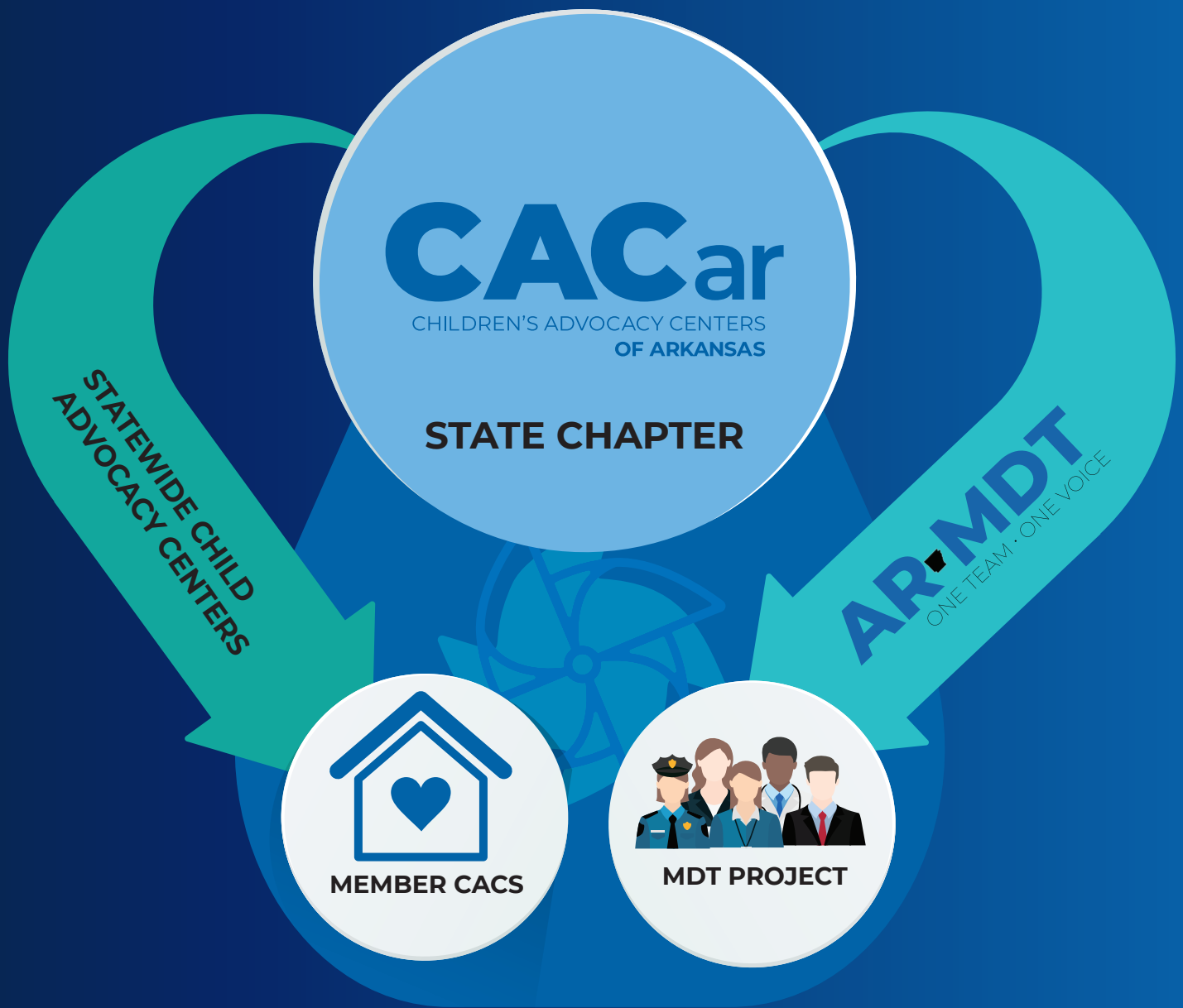
There is still more work to do! We have an opportunity to implement real change that moves awareness into action by a shared responsibility to find bright spots in often dark spaces and to prevent children from ever experiencing abuse in the first place. The Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas continues to take on this challenge, but we cannot do it alone. We are committed to providing top quality services in Arkansas with trained professionals who value collaboration through our multidisciplinary team partnerships. It will take all of us working together to bring lasting change and to build a brighter tomorrow for victims of abuse.

Sincerely,

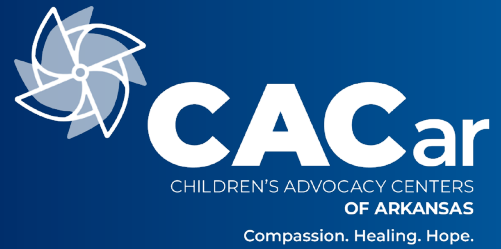


Elizabeth Pulley  
Executive Director, CACar





**CACar provides CAC and MDT development, quality assurance, standards, best practices and policies, training, and sustainability.**



## ABOUT CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTERS OF ARKANSAS

Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas is a non-profit organization that is a chapter of the National Children's Alliance operating in Arkansas for the purpose of promoting, assisting and supporting the development, growth and continuation of child advocacy centers. Our network of 27 Child Advocacy Center locations in Arkansas provides direct services, free of charge, to child victims and their non-offending family members, while serving as a resource for the 64 MDTs across the state.

## OUR PURPOSE

Protecting Arkansas' children by investing in CACs and MDTs..

## OUR HISTORY

The Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas initially began as a network of three CACs called the Arkansas Association of Children's Advocacy Centers in 1999. In 2003, the organization changed its name to Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas. Our purpose and mission has remained the same: to assist and support the state's local CACs and communities.

Act 975 of 2021 transferred administration of the MDT project to CACar. As CACar has evolved, our purpose of protecting Arkansas children remains steadfast as the leading resource within the State dedicated to a coordinated and comprehensive response to child abuse.



# The Work of the CACar

CACar provided ongoing and specialized training and support to CAC and MDT professionals statewide.

CACar expanded its specialized training program to include Project FORECAST Simulations. CACar's MDT Project Director attained certification as an Approved FORECAST Facilitator. CACar piloted the training program, in partnership with the Percy and Donna Malone Children's Safety Center and the Child Safety Center of White County, in rural Arkansas.

## CACar provided 306 trainings in 2023.

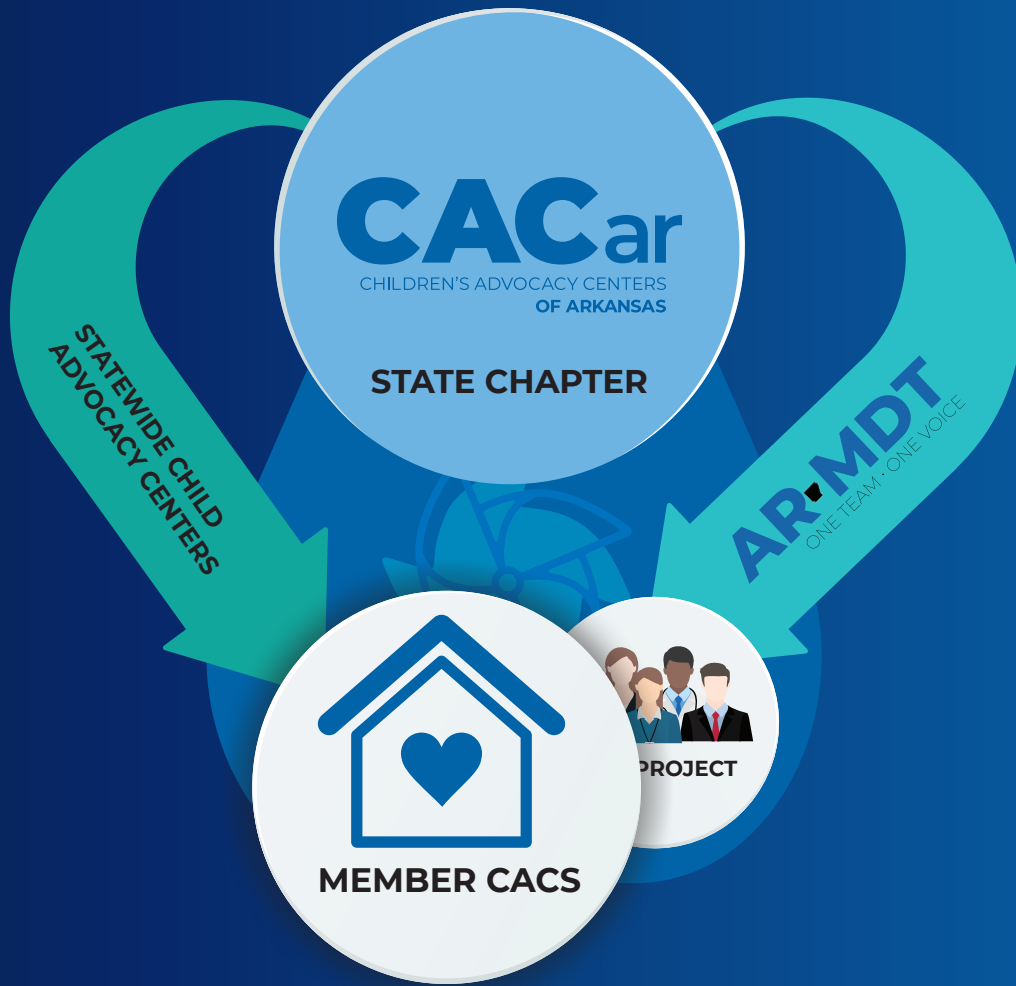
Available trainings include:

CHILDFIRST® ARKANSAS  
ADVOCACY 101  
ADVOCACY 201  
AR·MDT MISSION AND VISION  
ROLE OF THE FACILITATOR  
ANALYZING YOUR TEAMS EFFECTIVENESS  
CONFLICT RESOLUTION  
WHAT TO EXPECT WHEN WORKING CHILD ABUSE CASES  
BEYOND THE REPORT  
PROJECT FORECAST SIMULATIONS  
BOARD TRAINING  
CAC FINANCIAL TRAINING  
DATA STANDARDS AND REPORTING  
NEW DIRECTOR ORIENTATION  
MEDICAL PRECEPTORSHIP  
ADVOCACY PEER REVIEWS  
FORENSIC INTERVIEW PEER REVIEW



## 2023 CACar Highlights

- CACar successfully implemented and managed the statewide case management system, "Collaborate," ensuring accurate and consistent tracking of client data across the CACar network available to CACs and MDTs.
- CACar sought to improve standards of care through its statewide committees through comprehensive evaluation of the direct services within the CAC network. The focus was on defining services, streamlining workflow, and standardizing data entry to enhance efficiency, accuracy and outcomes.
- CACar's Growth & Development Committee conducted data-driven research on the efficiency of the statewide CAC network and MDT Project. This research resulted in a blueprint for potential additional CAC and MDT development, increasing capacity to serve all children effectively.
- CACar provided Roadmapping, or strategic planning, for six CACs across the state. This process helps identify 3 year organizational CAC goals and creates sound strategies to achieve those goals.
- CACar offered technical support through its Accreditation Station to the remaining three CACs seeking national accreditation through the National Children's Alliance (NCA). The fourteen other CACs are nationally accredited through NCA, and undergo re-accreditation every five years.



## WHAT IS A CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER?

A child advocacy center (CAC) is “a nonprofit child-friendly facility that provides a location for forensic interviews and forensic medical examinations and ensures access for specialized mental health services during the course of a child maltreatment investigation.” Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-103(a)(3). CACs “receive, review, and track reporting from the Department of Human Services relating to the alleged abuse or neglect of a child in order to ensure a consistent and comprehensive approach to providing services to a child and the family of a child who is the victim of alleged abuse or neglect.” Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-104(d)(1). CACs, as community-based and trauma-informed organizations, coordinate a multidisciplinary response to child abuse or neglect, and offer evidence-based intervention and support directly to children and families at no cost.

# CAC SERVICES

## ADVOCACY

- NEEDS BASED ASSESSMENT
- ONGOING FAMILY SUPPORT
- SUPPORT THROUGHOUT INVESTIGATION
- COURT SUPPORT
- CONNECTION TO COMMUNITY RESOURCES SUCH AS, MENTAL HEALTH, FOOD, SHELTER, CLOTHING, LEGAL, AND IMMIGRATION

## FORENSIC INTERVIEWS

- TRAINED INTERVIEW PROFESSIONALS
- ADHERES TO CHILD FIRST® PROTOCOL
- AUDIO/VISUAL RECORDED

## MENTAL HEALTH

- TRAUMA ASSESSMENT
- CRISIS INTERVENTION
- TRAUMA-INFORMED MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES

## MEDICAL EXAMS

- PROVIDERS WITH CHILD ABUSE EXPERTISE (SEXUAL ASSAULT NURSE EXAMINERS- SANES)
- SPECIALIZED MEDICAL EXAMS
- DOCUMENTING PHYSICAL AND FORENSIC FINDINGS
- DIAGNOSING AND TREATING MEDICAL CONDITIONS RELATED TO SEXUAL ABUSE
- EVIDENCE COLLECTION

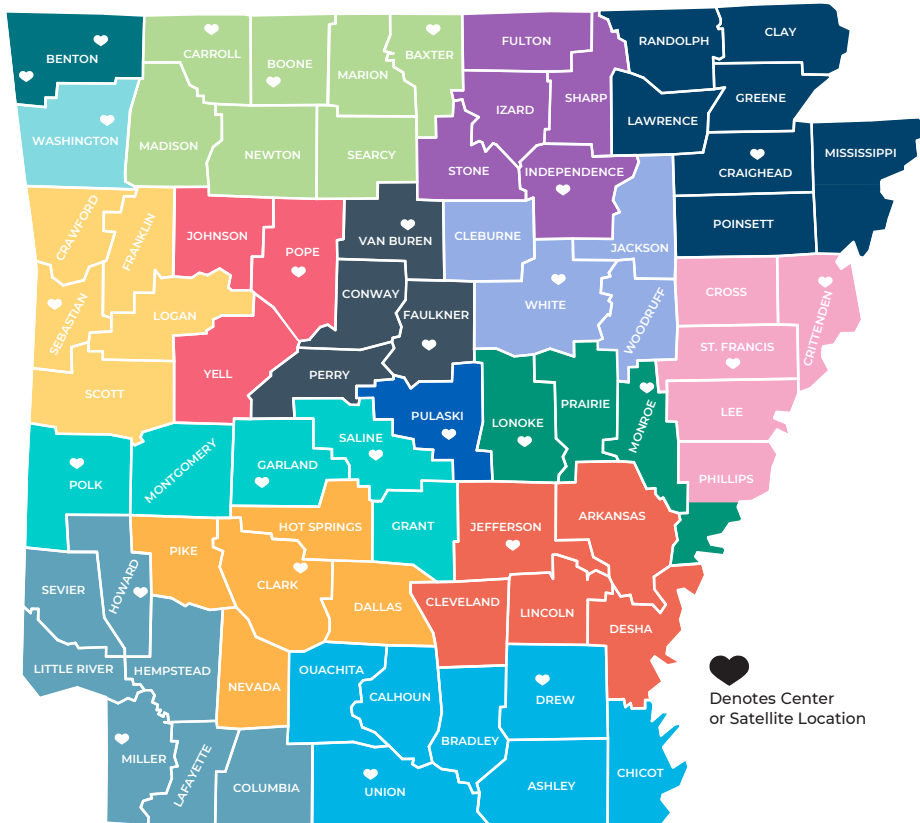
## COMMUNITY AWARENESS & EDUCATION

- MANDATED REPORTER TRAININGS
- PREVENTION
- BODY SAFETY
- INTERNET SAFETY
- EMPOWER ME
- CHURCHES, CHILD CARE FACILITIES, SCHOOLS, BUSINESSES, AND COMMUNITY ORGANIZATIONS

## OUTCOMES

- FORENSIC INTERVIEWS ENHANCE INVESTIGATIONS AND PROSECUTIONS
- ADVOCACY BUILDS CHILD AND FAMILY RESILIENCE
- MENTAL HEALTH REDUCES LONG TERM EFFECTS OF TRAUMATIC EXPERIENCES
- MEDICAL EXAMS ENSURE HEALTH AND SAFETY OF A CHILD
- PREVENTION EDUCATION BRINGS AWARENESS AND EMPOWERS COMMUNITIES

## 2023 CAC Location Map



## SERVICE AREAS

- Central Arkansas CAC  
Van Buren County Satellite
- CAC of Benton County  
Western Benton County CAC Satellite
- CAC of Eastern Arkansas  
Forrest City Satellite
- CAC of Independence County
- CAC of South Arkansas  
Monticello Satellite
- CAC of SouthEast Arkansas
- Children's Protection Center
- Children's Safety Center of Washington County
- Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC  
Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC of Mena Satellite  
Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC of Saline County Satellite
- Grandma's House CAC  
Grandma's House CAC of Baxter County Satellite  
Grandma's House CAC of Carroll County Satellite
- Hamilton Center for Child Advocacy
- Percy & Donna Malone Child Safety Center
- Northeast Arkansas CAC
- River Valley CAC
- Texarkana CAC  
Howard County Satellite
- Wade Knox CAC  
Wade Knox CAC Brinkley Satellite
- Child Safety Center of White County

Denotes Center or Satellite Location



# CAC Network | Better Together



Advocacy and Victim Support  
**9,412 children and families received over 80,000 advocacy services.**

Advocates provide crisis assessment and intervention, safety planning, referrals for additional services, ongoing support, information and case updates, and court advocacy.



Medical Evaluations  
**686 children received specialized medical exams.**

Medical exams are performed by specially trained sexual abuse medical providers.



Educating our Communities  
**60,573 children and adults attended 721 prevention and awareness trainings.**

Prevention Educators provide community based training for children, parents, and professionals using evidence based curriculum about the prevention of child abuse.



Forensic Interview  
**6,478 children were forensically interviewed.**

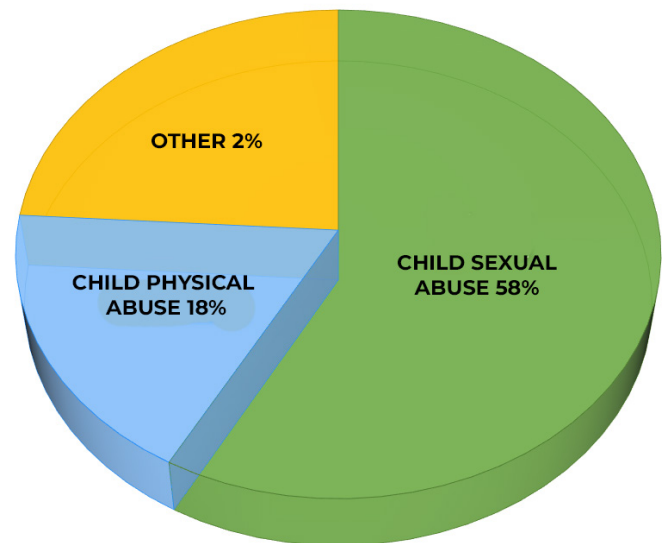
Forensic interviewers conduct forensic interviews in a manner that is developmentally and culturally responsive, unbiased, fact-finding and legally sound.



Trauma Focused Therapy  
**4,062 children and families received mental health services**

Mental health providers ensure trauma-informed and culturally relevant assessment, treatment, and related services

## Types of Abuse



Child Sexual Abuse  
Child Physical Abuse  
Neglect  
Witness to Sexual Abuse/Violence/Death  
Domestic/Family Violence  
Accidental Death  
Stalking/Harassment  
Bullying (Verbal, Cyber, or Physical)

Statistics compiled from Jan. 1-Dec 31, 2023



# Who We Serve

## 9,412 Child Victims of Abuse in Arkansas

### Ages of Children

0-5	19%
6-12	46%
13-18	35%

### Biological Sex

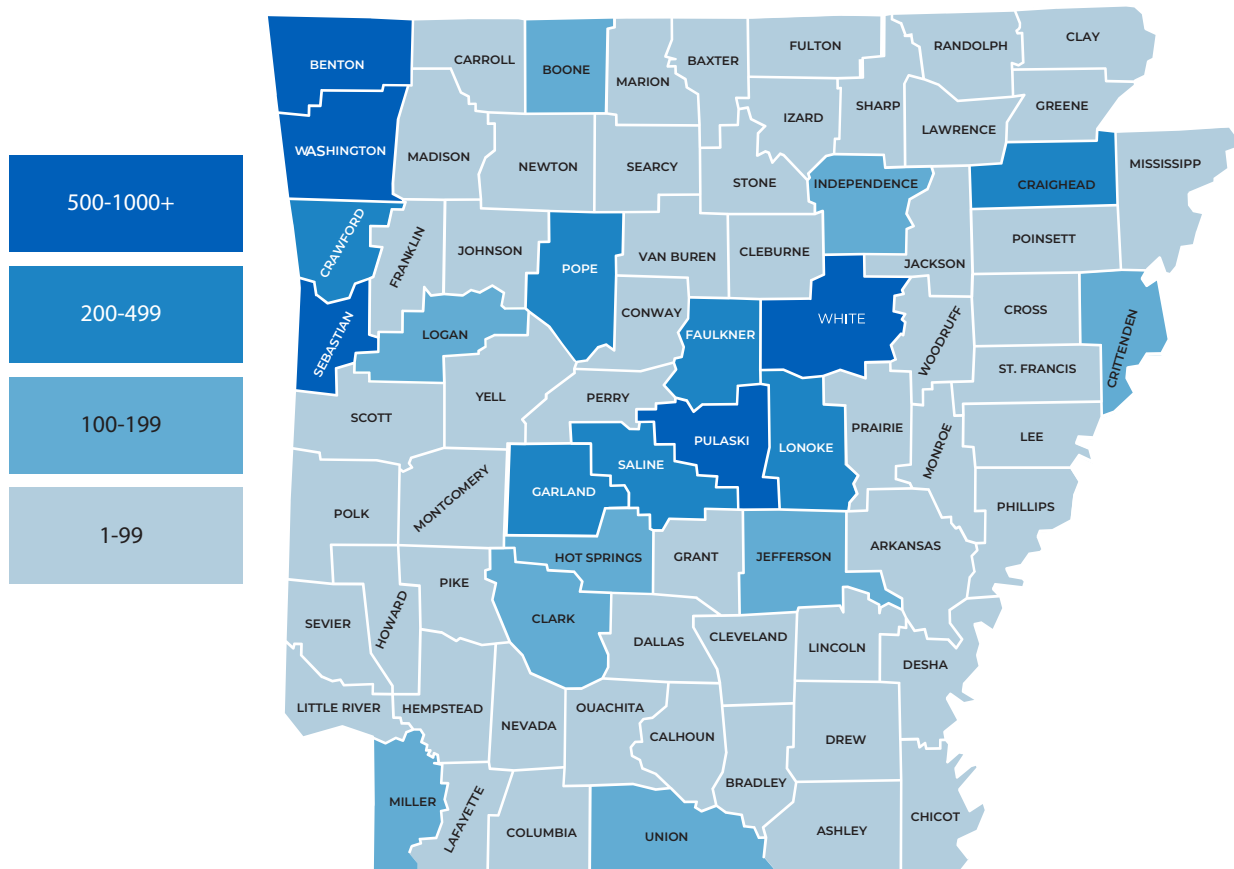


### Race

White Non-Latino or Caucasian	66%
Black or African American	14%
Hispanic or Latino	9%
Biracial	7%
Other	3%
American Indian or Alaska Native	1%

Statistics compiled from Jan. 1-Dec 31, 2023

### Children served at a CAC by county of residence



# Collective Impact

27 CAC Locations serving Children and Families in Arkansas

## Highlights from Child Advocacy Centers

- **Children's Safety Center of Washington County** relocated into its newly constructed 15,000 square foot facility in Springdale, accommodating its increasing caseload and allowing for the expansion of on-site, no-cost direct services for children.
- **Cooper-Anthony Mercy Children's Advocacy Center**, located in Hot Springs, provided over 23,000 children with prevention education, trained 967 adults, and its volunteers dedicated over 600 hours in their prevention program across its service area.
- **River Valley Children's Advocacy Center (RVCAC)** established a second location in Clarksville increasing accessibility of no-cost CAC forensic interviews, advocacy and mental health services for the children in Franklin, Johnson and surrounding counties.
- **Children's Protection Center (CPC)** began renovation of a new north Pulaski location in Jacksonville. This project was made possible through a partnership with the Jacksonville North Pulaski School District (JNPSD) and will allow more children to receive vital, no-cost services.



*Children's Safety Center of Washington County*



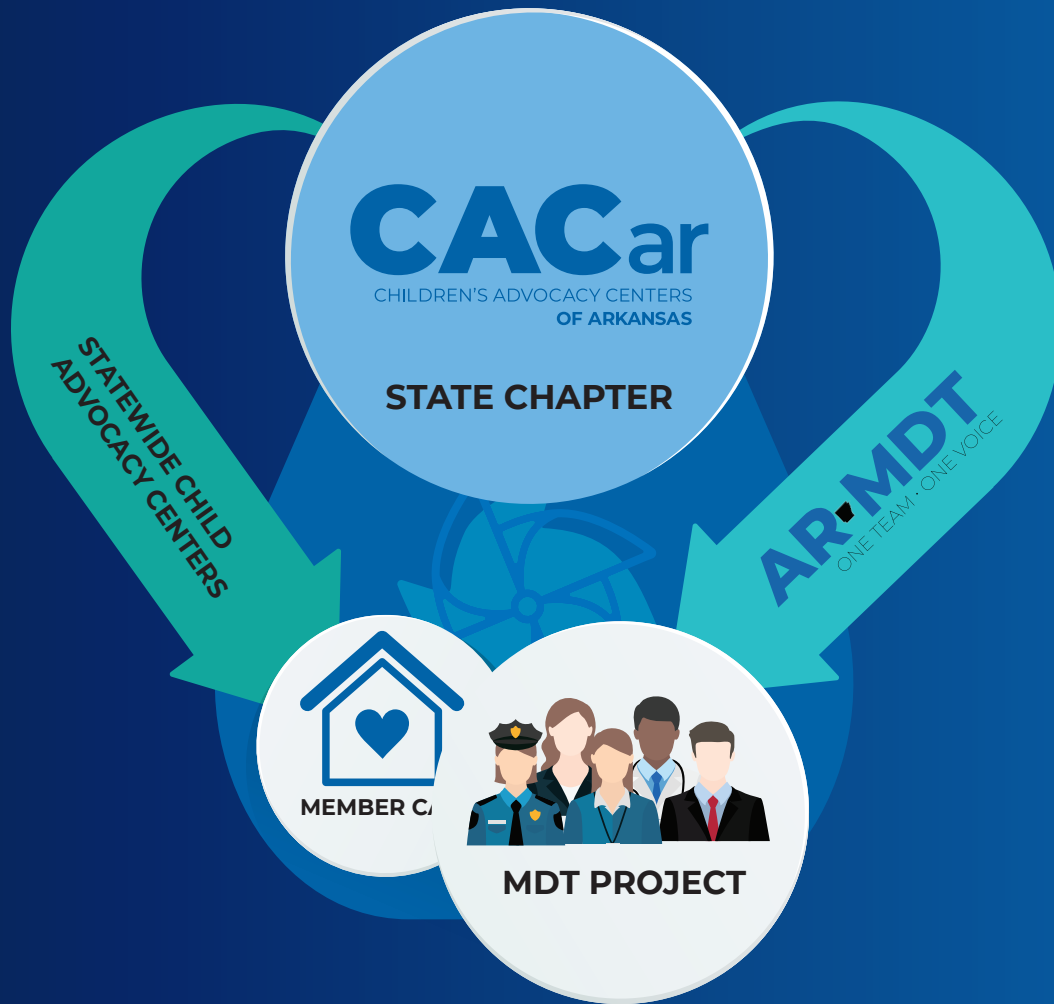
*Cooper Anthony Mercy CAC Prevention Training*



*River Valley CAC in Clarksville*



*CPC in Jacksonville Groundbreaking*



## WHAT IS MDT?

**MDT is the child abuse response team.**

The MDT, as a child abuse response team, is a “collaborative group of individual professionals from diverse organizations and agencies who,” are trained and equipped to, “work together in a coordinated manner to ensure an effective response to child abuse and neglect cases so a child victim is not overlooked and essential services are provided in a timely manner.” Ark. Code Ann. § 9-5-103(a)(4).

# AR-MDT

*Every child matters. Every service matters. Every member matters.*

## MDT OVERSIGHT COMMITTEE

**Major Jeffrey Drew**  
CACD Division  
Commander (ASP)

**Tiffany Wright**  
DCFS Director

**Matt Durrett**  
Prosecutors Association

**Sufna John, Ph.D**  
Mental Health

**Dr. Liza Murray**  
Medical

**Sheriff Scott Sawyer**  
Sheriffs

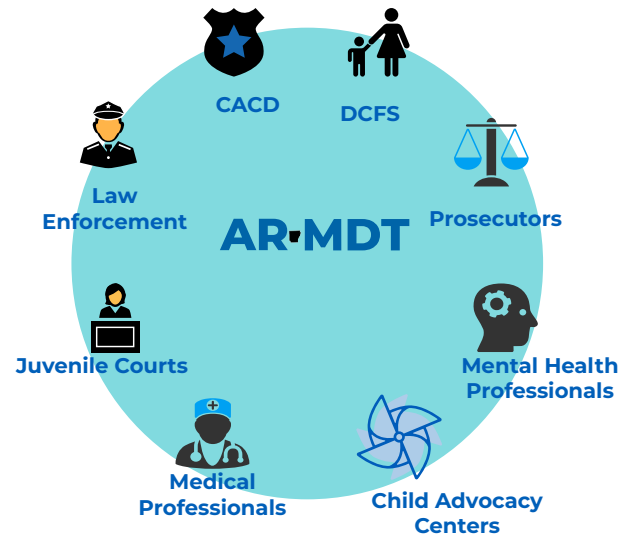
**Asst Chief Lynn Waterworth**  
Police Chiefs

**Elizabeth Shackelford**  
CACar - Board Pres

**Brooke Steen**  
Juvenile Justice

**Stasia McDonald**  
ACCARDV

**Senator Alan Clark**  
Child Maltreatment Chair



## 2023 MDT HIGHLIGHTS

- CACar provided **local support and technical assistance to MDTs** through MDT onboarding, presentations on the AR MDT Vision aimed at enhancing teams' understanding of the MDT approach and coordinated response, wellness support and training, mediation services to resolve conflicts among MDT partnering agencies, and database technical assistance.
- CACar, in collaboration with Project FORECAST, **implemented team and problem-based learning simulation training for multidisciplinary teams**. These trainings aimed to equip teams with the necessary skills to respond to child abuse in a coordinated, collaborative and trauma-informed manner, while mitigating the risks associated with on-the-job training. Project FORECAST simulations immerse MDT members in life-like scenarios and a mock house where they can observe, make decisions, and engage in roleplay, witnessing the consequences of their actions in real-time. Throughout the process, teams are tasked with defining problems, gathering information, and collaborating to identify and assess potential solutions to common challenges encountered during child abuse investigations.
- CACar organized a **comprehensive two-day training program for MDT Facilitators**. The training focused on fostering collaboration among MDT members and promoting the CAC/MDT model. This training placed significant emphasis on equipping facilitators with conflict resolution and mediation techniques, building practical skills to encourage team member ownership and engagement in the MDT approach, and elevating their proficiency in the assessment of MDT's coordinated and collaborative efforts.
- CACar, in collaboration with Southern Regional CAC, **broadened its support for MDT Facilitators by introducing quarterly peer support calls**. Hosted by the MDT Project Director alongside a local MDT facilitator, the aim of this support call is to provide a platform for facilitators to connect, share experiences, and offer mutual support in navigating their roles effectively within the MDT framework.
- CACar **implemented the team-based MDT Facilitator Evaluation** tool to afford local multidisciplinary teams an opportunity to provide feedback to CACar and local MDT facilitators.

# One Team • One Voice

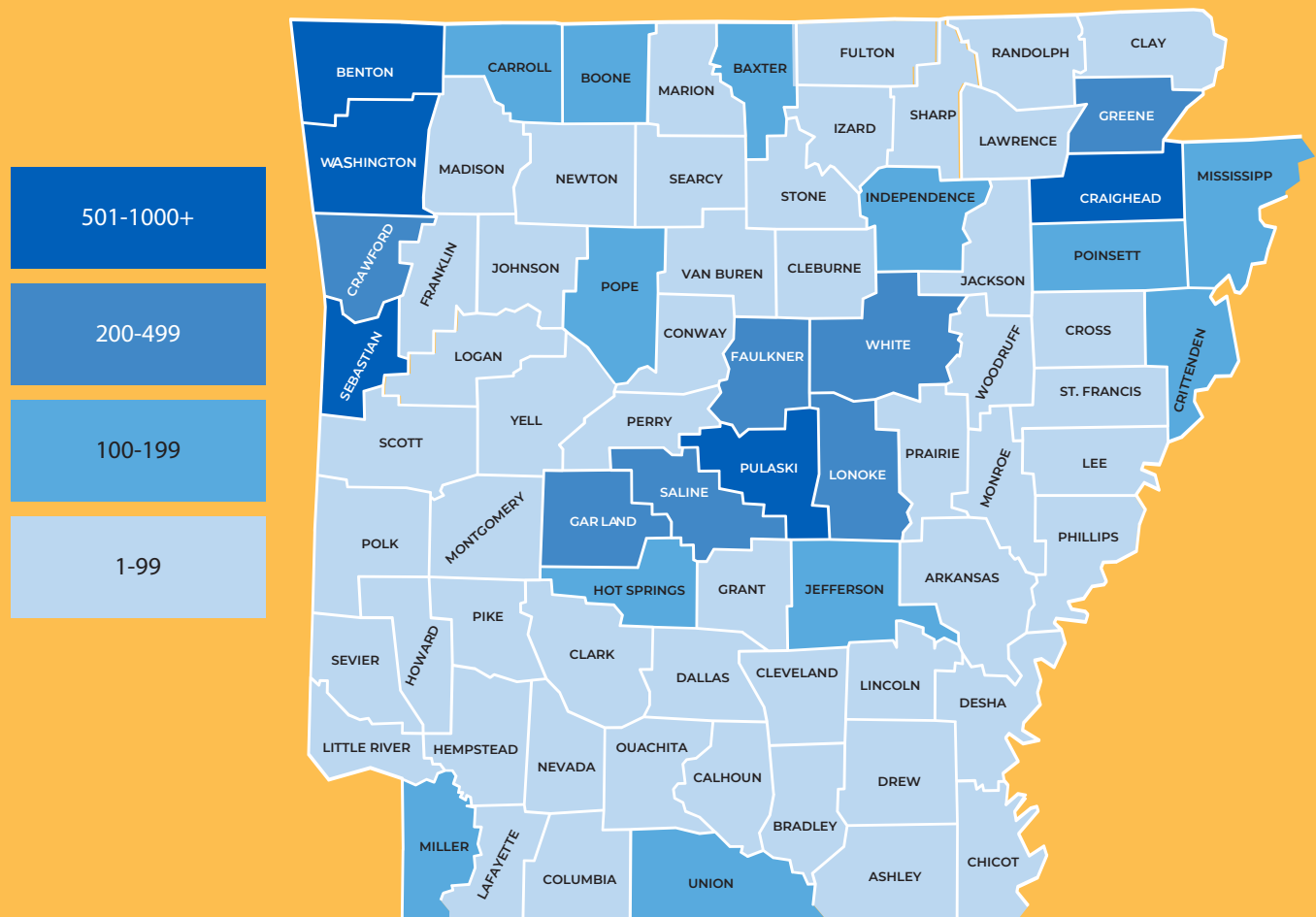
**10,354** Child Maltreatment Investigations referred to local MDTs for a coordinated response and case review

**38** Multidisciplinary Team Facilitators

**64** County Based Teams

*Collaboration is the cornerstone of the CAC / MDT model*

MDT cases by county of incident



# CACar Staff



*Elizabeth Pulley*  
Executive Director



*Lisa Breeding*  
Grants Administrator



*Robin Connell*  
Director of CAC  
Initiatives



*Gwen Harris*  
Finance Manager



*Markett  
Humphries*  
MDT Project Director



*Misty Hunt*  
Director of  
Advancement and  
Public Policy



*Dawn Meyer*  
IT Operations  
Manager



*Savannah  
Robbins*  
Program Coordinator

---

## Reach out to CACar

Children's Advocacy Centers of Arkansas  
124 W. Capitol Ave. Suite 1630  
Little Rock, AR 72201

501.615.8633 • [cacarkansas.org](http://cacarkansas.org)

For more information email [info@cacark.org](mailto:info@cacark.org)



Scan above to visit our  
website at [cacarkansas.org](http://cacarkansas.org)



[facebook.com/cacarkansas](https://facebook.com/cacarkansas)



[instagram.com/cacarkansas](https://instagram.com/cacarkansas)




[twitter.com/cacarkansas](https://twitter.com/cacarkansas)




[linkedin.com/cacarkansas](https://linkedin.com/cacarkansas)



LETTER FROM CHILD SEEN AT THE  
CHILDREN'S SAFETY CENTER OF WASHINGTON COUNTY

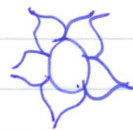
Dear, people

GOD is With  
you 

Being in therapy helps a lot but  
It's okay if your feeling scared  
because so was I. your not alone.

I Learn a lot about drama,  
and stuff you can do to calm  
you down. 

IT'S OKAY   
TO FEEL 



SCARE 

Therapy has help ~~per~~ Me understand  
that im ~~re~~ not alone that you can  
always talk to someone, learn that  
your never ~~gonna~~ gonna feel this  
way forever. just know your gonna  
be happy. Coming to therapy is  
Such a great Experience. I got so  
Comforterble with my therapist telling  
her about my daily ~~per~~ problems  
and she always found a way to  
Help me.

HOPE YOU DA BEST.

