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Alabama Network
Of

**Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers,
Incorporated**

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Our Legislation

Although Alabama's child advocacy centers, and the Network's administrative office, are all non-profit agencies with independent 501 (c) 3 tax statuses, the Alabama legislature is one of our governing bodies in that there is state law that dictates membership eligibility, funding allocations, and the consequences of failing to meet Network standards.

**Section 26-16-70
Membership; eligibility.**

In order to become eligible for a full membership in the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated, child advocacy centers in this state shall:

- (1) Be a private, non-profit incorporated agency.
- (2) Have a neutral, child-focused facility where joint Department of Human Resources and law enforcement interviews take place with children in appropriate cases of suspected child sexual and physical abuse. All multidisciplinary agencies shall have a place to interact with the child as investigative or treatment needs require.
- (3) Have a minimum designated staff that is supervised and approved by the local board of directors.
- (4) Having a Multidisciplinary Case Review Team that meets on a regularly scheduled basis or as the case load of the community requires. The team shall consist of representatives from the District Attorney, the Department of Human Resources, mental health, law enforcement, and the Child Advocacy Center staff. Medical personnel and a victim's advocate may be part of the team.
- (5) Provide case tracking of child abuse cases seen through the center. A center shall also collect data on: the number of child abuse cases seen at the center by sex, race, age, and other relevant data; the number of cases referred for prosecution; and the number of cases referred for mental health therapy.
- (6) Provide referrals for medical exams and mental health therapy. The center shall provide follow-up on cases referred for mental health therapy.

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(7) Provide training for various disciplines in the community that deal with child abuse.

(8) Have an interagency commitment covering those aspects of agency participation in a multidisciplinary approach to the handling of child sexual and serious physical abuse cases.

(9) Provide assurance that volunteers at the center are trained and screened by appropriate resources.

(Acts 1992, No. 92-558, §1.)

Section 26-16-71

Allocation of funds to eligible centers.

(a) For the purposes of this section, the following terms shall have the following meanings:

(1) ASSOCIATE MEMBER CENTER. A child advocacy center that is working towards full membership status and has been approved by the network for associate membership status.

(2) FULL MEMBER CENTER. A child advocacy center that meets the standards of Section 26-16-70, and is certified by the network as a full member.

(3) PILOT PROJECT. A program initiated by the board of directors of the network to serve children in underserved areas of the state.

(b) A Full-member center shall be eligible to receive funds that are appropriated from the State of Alabama to the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated. Beginning with the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, 10 percent of the total annual appropriation to the network shall be allocated for use by the network in funding associate member centers, pilot projects, and administrative and training projects of the network. Beginning with the fiscal year ending September 30, 2002, 90 percent of the total annual appropriation to the Network shall be allocated as follows:

(1) Each Full-member center shall receive a base amount allocation as follows: a. A base amount sum of fifty thousand dollars (\$50,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each Full-member center during the first fiscal year following certification, provided sufficient additional funds are appropriated to the Network for each new Full-member center added to the Network. b. A base amount sum of seventy-five thousand dollars (\$75,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each Full-member center during the second fiscal year following certification, provided sufficient additional funds are appropriated to the Network for each new Full-member center added to the Network. c. A base amount sum of one hundred thousand dollars (\$100,000) shall be allocated and distributed to each Full-member center during the third and subsequent years following certification, provided sufficient additional funds are appropriated to the network for each new full

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member center added to the network.

(2) Each Associate Member center shall receive a base amount allocation of twenty-five thousand dollars (\$25,000) during the first and second fiscal years following approval by the Network for associate membership status. If the associate member is not certified as a full member at the conclusion of the second fiscal year, the board of directors may on an annual basis authorize continued payment as an Associate Member center.

(3) Any appropriated funds remaining after the allocations in subdivisions **(1)** and **(2)** have been satisfied shall be allocated proportionately by the network to each full member center based upon the number of forensic interviews/forensic evaluations conducted and number of children receiving counseling at each full member center during the preceding fiscal year as compared to the total number of forensic interviews/forensic evaluations conducted and number of children receiving counseling at full member centers throughout the state during the same preceding fiscal year. Forensic interview/forensic evaluation and counseling data used for determining proportional allocation amounts shall be obtained from the annual services report summary compiled by the Alabama Network of Children's Advocacy Centers, Incorporated.

(c) If the annual amount of state appropriated funds is less than the sum of the total allocations provided in subdivisions **(1)** and **(2)** of subsection **(b)**, a lesser base amount that is equivalent to each full member and associate member center's pro rata share of the total appropriation, shall be allocated and distributed to each center.

(d) If a full member center fails to meet the standards established in **Section 26-16-70** for a period of one year or longer, or otherwise ceases to be certified or exist, the base amount allocation designated for that center shall be calculated by the network as part of the total annual appropriation amount and allocated and distributed to the remaining centers according to this section. Any full member center which fails to meet the standards established in **Section 26-16-70** for a period of one year or longer, or otherwise ceases to be certified or exist, shall not be eligible to receive state funding until recertified by the network. **(Acts 1992, No. 92-558, p. 1161, §2; Act 2001-845, p. 651, §1.)**

Section 26-16-72**Initial funding; failure to meet standards.**

Any new child advocacy center within the State of Alabama that desires to become certified by the Network may request and receive initial funding if approved by the Board of Directors of the Network. Any center failing to meet the standards established in **Section 26-16-70** for a period of

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one year or longer shall not be eligible to receive state funding. (*Acts 1992, No. 92-558, §3.*)

Section 26-16-73**Allocation of funds by network board of directors.**

The Network Board of Directors shall be responsible for allocating state appropriated funds to existing and new child advocacy centers which meet the standards of **Section 26-16-70**, pursuant to the provisions of **Sections 26-16-71** and **26-16-72**.

(Acts 1992, No. 92-558, p. 1161, §4; Act 2001-845, p. 651, §1.)

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