

Findings Exhibit U

*Handout #1
Chris Newlin*

Arkansas Legislative Task Force on Child Abuse and Neglect

June 5, 2006

Children's Advocacy Centers

I. Introduction

II. Rationale/Purpose

- a. The purpose of Children's Advocacy Centers is to provide a comprehensive, culturally competent, multidisciplinary team response to allegations of child abuse in a dedicated, child-friendly setting
- b. Basic statistics on child abuse
 - i. Sexual Abuse gained increased awareness in early 1980's
 - ii. 3,353,000 reports of child abuse in 2003
 - iii. 906,000 substantiated reports of child abuse in 2003
 - iv. 9.9% of substantiated reports were sexual abuse
 - v. 34% decline of sexual abuse over last 15 years
 - vi. Arkansas Data in NCANDS 2003
 1. 7,232 substantiated child abuse cases
 2. 20.9% of substantiated child abuse involved disabled children
 3. 29.2% of substantiated child abuse cases were for sexual abuse – almost three times the national average!
 - vii. CAC Evaluation Effectiveness Study (UNH)
 1. Children served by CACs are more likely to receive:
 - a. Medical examinations
 - b. Referrals to mental health services
 2. Non-offending caregivers were more satisfied with the work of investigators
 - viii. Cost Benefit Analysis of CACs
 1. Approximately \$1,000 cheaper per substantiated case in community with CAC vs. no CAC
 2. Based on # of substantiated sexual abuse cases in AR, this would result in potential savings of \$2,112,000 per year!
 3. Willingness to Pay Findings – 75% of adults were willing to pay an additional \$40 per year in taxes to assure there is a multidisciplinary system of care for abused children
- c. Current CACs in Arkansas
 - i. Benton County CAC (Rogers, AR)
 - ii. Child Safety Center (Springdale, AR)
 - iii. Carroll County CAC (Green Forrest, AR)
 - iv. Cooper-Anthony Mercy CAC (Hot Springs, AR)
 - v. Jefferson County CAC (Pine Bluff, AR)
 - vi. Wade Knox CAC (Lonoke, AR)
 - vii. Eastern Arkansas CAC (West Memphis, AR)

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- III. Services provided at CACs
 - a. Forensic Interviews
 - b. Forensic Evaluations
 - c. Therapy for abused children and non-offending caregivers/siblings
 - d. Medical Exams
 - e. Multidisciplinary Team
 - f. Prevention Efforts

- IV. Organizational Structure of CACs
 - a. National Children's Alliance
 - i. National membership and accreditation organization
 - 1. Accredited
 - 2. Associate
 - 3. Support
 - b. Regional CACs
 - i. Training and Technical Assistance for CACs by region
 - c. Chapters
 - i. Statewide coalition of CACs
 - 1. Good standards essential to assure quality of care
 - ii. Native American Children's Alliance
 - d. Individual CACs
 - i. Non-profit 501(c)3
 - ii. Government-based
 - iii. Umbrella-based
 - iv. Hospital-based

- V. Funding
 - a. Federal
 - i. NCA
 - 1. Program Support
 - 2. Competitive grants
 - ii. Competitive Grants (few and far between)
 - iii. Congressional Earmarks
 - b. State
 - i. Legislative allocation to Chapter
 - ii. VOCA funds
 - c. Local
 - i. County Commission
 - ii. City Commission
 - d. Charitable donations
 - i. Individuals
 - ii. Corporations
 - iii. Service Organizations
 - iv. Special Events
 - v. United Way

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- VI. Coordination with existing public agencies mandated to investigate child abuse allegations and provide publicly sanctioned intervention
 - a. Law Enforcement
 - b. DCFS
 - c. District Attorney
 - d. Victim Advocates
 - e. Federal agencies
 - i. Internet Crimes Against Children
 - ii. Arkansas State Police
 - 1. Special Agent Hoyt Harness
 - 2. 501-618-8386
 - 3. hoyt.harness@asp.arkansas.gov
- VII. Coordination with other non-profit agencies dedicated to child well-being
 - a. Medical
 - b. Mental Health
 - c. CASA
 - d. Sexual Assault Centers
 - e. Domestic Violence Shelters
 - f. Others
- VIII. Legislation
 - a. Funding for CACs
 - b. Increased legislative support for use of CACs
 - c. Legislative support for Arkansas Association of CACs
 - d. Closing loopholes in sexual offenses
 - e. Providing confidentiality for MDT participants
 - f. Immunity for CAC employees
 - g. Child Abuse Protocols for each county
 - h. Child Fatality Review Committees
 - i. Office of the Child Advocate/Ombudsman
- IX. Possible improvements for increasingly well-trained professionals
 - a. Finding Words Arkansas
 - b. SRCAC Training for MDT Coordinators in September 2006
 - c. Online Law Enforcement Course for front-line officers
 - d. Coordinated statewide training for child abuse professionals
 - e. APRI – Winona State University model curriculum - Vieth
- X. Questions/Answers

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Useful links:

National Children's Advocacy Center
www.nationalcac.org

Southern Regional Child Advocacy Center
www.nationalcac.org/professionals/srcac/

National Children's Alliance
www.nca-online.org

Child Maltreatment 2003
www.acf.hhs.gov/programs/cb/pubs/cm03/cm2003.pdf

Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force
<http://www.icactraining.org/>

National Sex Offender Public Registry
<http://www.nsopr.gov/>

Law Enforcement's Initial Response to Child Sexual Abuse: Guidelines for Patrol Officers
<http://www.nationalcac.org/professionals/trainings/aol.html>