



Children's Advocacy Center of Paris

Annual Report 2017

Multi-Disciplinary Team

Children's Advocacy Center
Child Protective Service
Lamar County District
Attorney's Office
Paris Police Dept.
Reno Police Dept.
Lamar County Sheriff's Office
Lamar Juvenile Probation
Red River County Attorney's
Office
Red River County Sheriff's
Office
Clarksville Police Dept.
Bogata Police Dept.
Red River Juvenile Probation
Local Mental and Medical
Providers

Who We Are

The Children's Advocacy Center of Paris (CAC) provides the critical services children and their non-offending families need as they go through the criminal justice system. The CAC coordinates the investigation of the most severe cases of child abuse in our community by bringing together the professional agencies that investigate child abuse to form a team that collaborates and shares information so that the child's best interests are kept in mind. Since 1999, the CAC of Paris has worked with Law Enforcement, Child Protective Services, Mental and Medical Health Providers and Prosecutors to help over 3,800 victims of abuse.

We believe that every single child in Lamar & Red River Counties who is a victim of criminal abuse deserves the best we as a society can offer them during times of crisis and trauma: The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) Model. The benefits of a child-focused, joint investigation are well-documented and recognized by experts, stakeholders and decision-makers alike. **2017 was a year of children in need as the number of children we served increased by 25% to over 220 children.**

Services Provided in 2017

Specialized Child Forensic Interviews

Successful outcomes of child abuse cases begins with a thorough investigation. At the core of that investigation is the ability to ensure the safety and protection of children which often starts with the forensic interview. The CAC Forensic Interviewers assists local law enforcement and Child Protective Services investigators by conducting specialized and unique forensic interviews of children who are alleged victims of abuse.

The goal of a forensic interview is to gather pertinent information from children in a neutral, non-leading, developmentally sensitive, and legally defensible manner. The forensic interview process allows partner agencies to observe the interview as it is being conducted. This allows for a collaborative team approach to taking a child's statement, therefore protecting the integrity of the information gathered. The forensic interview is often a critical part of not only the initial investigation but also the criminal prosecution at trial.

In 2017:

- 215 Children received Child Forensic Interviews
- 79% had never been to the CAC before
- 21% were not old enough to attend Kindergarten
- 99% of Children **knew & trusted** their Perpetrators

**Our Mission is to
provide hope,
healing and
justice to child
victims of crime in
Lamar and Red
River Counties.**

Trauma-Informed Mental Health

We are committed to providing a safe place for children and adolescents to begin the healing process after they have experienced abuse or witnessed a violent crime. Our CAC therapist provides long-term, trauma-informed therapy to children of every age. Since child abuse affects the whole family, the services provided at the CAC are available at no cost to every child and their non-offending family members. When a child comes to the CAC for a forensic interview, they are eligible for therapy services. Our CAC therapist provides Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy which is considered Best Practice for use with abused and traumatized children to help them heal from the abuse they have experienced.

- 49 Child victims received 345 free counseling sessions
- 33 Non-offending parents received 149 free counseling sessions

**Helping child victims
on a path towards
healing**

Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations (SANE)

- 20 Forensic Medical Exams were conducted by trained SANE nurses

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

- 264 children received MDT Case Reviews

Intake Coordination helps coordinate services so kids receive help faster.

Rainbow Room Services

- 173 children received over \$12,000 worth of items from the Rainbow Room

On-Going Training

- 14 MDT members & CAC staff attended 20 trainings
- Trained local First Responders on How to Respond to Sexual Assault Reports

2017 Service Figures

Type of Abuse

66%	Sexual
15%	Physical
10%	Drug Endangered
9%	Witness to Crime

Child Client Age

21%	0-5
49%	6-12
29%	13-17
1%	18+

Alleged Perpetrator Relationship to Victims:

29%	Biological Parent
27%	Known Non-Relatives
16%	Other Relatives
11%	Paramours of Parent
9%	Step Parents
7%	Siblings
1%	Step Siblings



**Alone we can do so
little. Together we
can do so much.**

Helen Keller

Community Awareness and Education

Without awareness and education, the cycle of child abuse will continue. In 2017, we were proud to be able to provide 7 trainings to school & daycare personnel in How To Recognize and Report Abuse. We were honored to be invited to present on Online Safety at the 22nd Annual Campus Crime Stoppers Conference. We participated in both Kids Safe Saturday and National Night Out.

Do you know how to recognize and report child abuse? We welcome any opportunity to speak at various civic clubs, church groups or businesses. Call us today to schedule a free training for your group, church or school.



Key Accomplishments in 2017

NCA Re-Accreditation

Every five years nationally accredited CACs undergo a lengthy re-accreditation process. In 2017 we earned our re-accreditation with the National Children's Alliance (the national accreditation for Children's Advocacy Centers) under their newly released higher standards.

A Refocus on our Multi-Disciplinary Team

From the very beginning, the multi-disciplinary team (MDT) has been the heart and soul of the CAC concept, bringing together our local CPS investigators, 6 local law enforcement agencies, our district and county attorneys offices, juvenile probation, local mental health counselors and our specialized medical personnel in pursuit of justice and healing. Born out of the realization that collaboration and information sharing among agencies was critical to successful outcomes in these complex cases, the MDT approach has been recognized nationally as a best practice in the intervention and investigation of child abuse cases. Our relationship and role with our partner agencies and professionals not only informs how we approach every aspect of this work, but is also a differentiating factor for the CAC model.

New Texas Family Code Mandate

The Texas Legislature again showed that child victims of abuse are a priority by passing Senate Bill 1806 into law which mandates a CAC/ MDT response to the most severe reports of child abuse.

CACTX Women of Courage My Safe Space: A Room Makeover Project

CAC Paris was awarded \$1,000 to help restore a child's living space after abuse. We were honored to complete our first room makeover project in 2017.



Sweetheart Soiree February 9th, 2019

A special evening of dinner & dancing
See our website for sponsorship details

2017 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Brittney Williams-Keys, *President* | Luke Krogman, *Vice President* | David Thrasher, *Treasurer* | Laurie Redus, *Secretary* | Melanie Meredith, *Past President* | LeAnna Bawcum | Chris Bean | Aaron Benson | Shari Coker | Kelsey Doty | Shelia Ensey | Corey Fagan | Bill Higgins | Brittany Twitty Johnson | Heather LaRue | Jeremy Massey | Jill Novak | Joi Roberts | Johnathan Smith | Jimmy Steed

2017 CAC STAFF

Rebecca Peevy, *Executive Director* | Angela Bates, *Forensic Interviewer/ Family Advocate* | David Coats, LPC, LDCD, *Therapist* | Don Dickerson, *Finance Director* | Reisa Holzwarth, *Administrative Assistant* | Jaci Shovan, *Family Advocate/ Intake Coordinator*



Child Abuse Hotline

1-800-252-5400

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Paris, TX 75460
P: 903-784-5787
F: 903-784-7104
www.cacparis.org
Facebook/CACParis



Financial Information

Revenue	
Grant Funding (includes VOCA, HHSC, & St. Joseph's Community)	\$266,488
City and County Funding	\$20,000
Fundraising	\$85,980
Private Contributions/Other Income	\$6,052
Total Revenue	\$378,520
Expenses	
Program	\$302,329
Building/Maintenance	\$15,606
Training	\$22,127
Fund Development	\$33,213
Operating Expenses	\$53,959
Total Expenses	\$427,239