



# Children's Advocacy Center of Paris

Annual Report 2018

## 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

## Every Child, Every Service, Every Effort

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 4,000 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. **In 2018 we continued to see an increase in the number of children needing services by another 16% to over 250 children served (a 46% increase from 2016).**

## Services Provided in 2018

### Specialized Child Forensic Interviews

Successful outcomes of child abuse cases begin 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 assist 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 2018:

- 249 Children received Child Forensic Interviews
- 77% 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. **In 2018, we saw a 45% increase in the number of children provided free therapy and a 55% increase in caregivers.**

- 71 Child victims received 409 free counseling sessions
- 51 Non-offending parents received 169 free counseling sessions

Helping child victims  
on a path towards  
healing

## Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations (SANE)

- 23 Forensic Medical Exams were conducted by trained SANE nurses

## Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

- 272 children received MDT Case Reviews

**Intake Coordination helps coordinate services so kids receive help faster.**

## Rainbow Room Services

- 183 children received over \$14,000 worth of items from the Rainbow Room

## On-Going Training

- 12 MDT members & CAC staff attended 14 trainings
- 60 CPS Investigators were trained on Worker Safety at our facility

## By The Numbers

### Types of Abuse

71%	Sexual
15%	Physical
10%	Witness to Crime
2%	Drug Endangered

### Ages of Children Served

21%	0-5
51%	6-12
27%	13-17

### Alleged Perpetrator

### Relationship to Victims:

36%	Biological Parent
23%	Known Non-Relatives
15%	Other Relatives
10%	Paramours of Parent
6%	Step Parents
7%	Siblings
1%	Step Siblings



## Community Awareness and Education

Without awareness and education, the cycle of child abuse will continue. In 2018, we were proud to be able to provide trainings to school & daycare personnel in How To Recognize and Report Abuse. We were honored to have participated in Lamar & Red River's Kids Safe Saturdays and Lamar County's 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.



## Helping set kids on a path to find healing & restoration...



Amanda started her journey toward healing and restoration the night she decided to finally talk about the abuse she had been suffering at the hands of her grandfather. Life had been so confusing for her up to then. She had come to live with her grandparents to escape an abusive stepmother 6 years prior. Her grandfather had been the one she could talk to and trusted in but then he slowly started betraying that trust with every night that passed. Amanda was so afraid to tell--scared that no one would ever believe her, scared of breaking apart the grandparents who were raising her, scared of where she would go, and scared of what would happen to her if the truth ever came out. It was a hot and humid summer night when Amanda was 16 and the truth started to come out. Law enforcement was called and Amanda was brought to the CAC and able to finally tell her story to a trained professional forensic interviewer that evening. CAC staff worked with Amanda's grandmother to put support services in place to help cover the loss of the family's sole bread winner. In therapy at the CAC, Amanda started working through years' worth of emotions like guilt, confusion, anger, sadness and feeling lost. Her grandfather plead guilty and is now serving a life sentence for the crimes he committed. After graduating from therapy, Amanda recalls feeling broken, confused, and brain-washed during her abuse but is now able to say she is strong, she has learned to fight and she is a survivor. She is focused on telling her story to help spread awareness to girls like her. Amanda graduated from college with honors and is pursuing a career in education today.

## IT ALL MATTERS

The CAC model has its greatest impact when applied across the entirety of each child's experience, from outcry to restoration. While we are proud of our team's achievements in delivering on each of the following elements, the full impact of our model's rehabilitative capabilities will not be felt until every child victim of abuse is able to fully participate in every element of our system. In 2018, we marked progress in that direction with increases in four of our core services.

**+45%**

Children receiving  
Trauma-focused  
mental health services

**+23%**

Children receiving  
medical services

**+16%**

Children receiving  
forensic interviews

**+3%**

Children's cases  
reviewed by CAC  
multidisciplinary  
team



# Sweetheart Soiree

## February 15th, 2020

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

### 2018 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Luke Krogman, *President* | Bill Higgins, *Vice President* | David Thrasher, *Treasurer* | Melanie Meredith, *Secretary* | Brittney Williams-Keys, *Past President* | LeAnna Bawcum | Chris Bean | Aaron Benson | Chastiti Briggie | Shari Coker | Kelsey Doty | Shelia Ensey | Sara Estrada | Corey Fagan | Chadlee Johnston | Jeremy Massey | Jill Novak | Joi Roberts | Johnathan Smith | Tim Walsworth | Kenneth Webb

### 2018 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**

711 Pine Bluff  
PO Box 536  
Paris, TX 75460  
P: 903-784-5787  
F: 903-784-7104  
www.cacparis.org  
Facebook/CACParis



### Financial Information

<b>Revenue</b>	
Grant Funding (includes VOCA, HHSC, United Way & St. Joseph's Community)	\$344,014
City and County Funding	\$20,617
Fundraising	\$84,043
Private Contributions/Other Income	\$26,035
<b>Total Revenue</b>	<b>\$464,709</b>
<b>Expenses</b>	
Program	\$316,816
Building/Maintenance	\$12,493
Training	\$24,193
Fund Development	\$34,401
Operating Expenses	\$52,255
<b>Total Expenses</b>	<b>\$440,158</b>