



Children's Advocacy Center of Paris

Annual Report 2019

Every Child, Every Service, Every Effort

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.
Rivercrest ISD Police Dept.
Red River Juvenile Probation
Local Mental and Medical
Providers

It is odd to be in the middle of a global pandemic and look back to the year before and reflect on times before COVID and PPE was all anyone talked about. But no matter the challenges this pandemic has thrown at us, the staff of the CAC are still working to provide the best services to children in crisis. And we will continue to carry out our mission no matter what tomorrow brings because a global pandemic doesn't change the fact that children who have suffered abuse need a safe place where they can tell their story and start the healing process.

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 multi-disciplinary team that collaborates and works the investigations jointly 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 4,500 victims of abuse.

We believe that every single child in Lamar & Red River Counties who is a victim of child 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.

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

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 2019:

- 221 Children received Child Forensic Interviews
- 78% had never been to the CAC before
- 23% were not old enough to attend Kindergarten
- 99% of Children **knew & trusted** their Perpetrators

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 ages 4 and up. 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 2019:

- **58 Child victims received 417 free counseling sessions**
- **44 Non-offending parents received 189 free counseling sessions**

Helping children
impacted by abuse
find their path
towards healing

Sexual Assault Nurse Examinations (SANE)

- 18 Forensic Medical Exams were conducted by trained SANE nurses

Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT)

- 274 children's cases were worked through the Multi-Disciplinary Team

Rainbow Room Services

- 132 children received over \$10,000 worth of items from the Rainbow Room

On-Going Training

- 12 MDT members & CAC staff attended 6 trainings
- 60 CPS Investigators were trained on Worker Safety at our facility

By The Numbers

Types of Abuse

67%	Sexual
14%	Physical
15%	Witness to Crime
3%	Drug Endangered
1%	Neglect

Ages of Children Served

23%	0-5
51%	6-12
26%	13-17

Alleged Perpetrator Relationship to Victims:

29%	Known Non-Relatives
25%	Biological Parents
18%	Other Relatives
10%	Step Parents
9%	Paramours of Parents
6%	Siblings
3%	Step Siblings



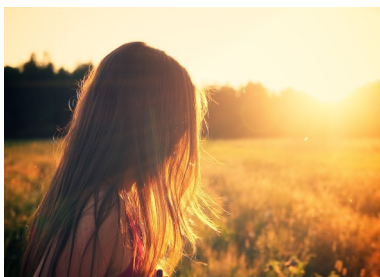
Community Awareness and Education

Without awareness and education, the cycle of child abuse will continue. In 2019, we were proud to be able to provide training to school & daycare personnel in How To Recognize and Report Abuse. We presented on the CAC and MDT Response to 8 different audiences and 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– we can even provide training on a virtual platform!



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



Child abuse is, by its very nature, a difficult field to work in. We see families at the point when their lives are being torn apart by revelations of abuse and betrayal. Their lives may never be the same after coming to our center. Their family, as they knew it before, may no longer be. However, in spite of the hard days, there are always glimmers of hope. Hope that the children and families we see will start their journey towards healing and go on to live better lives.

We recently had a preteen girl named Amy come to the CAC who made an outcry of sexual abuse. Amy had a forensic interview where she was able to tell her story to a trained professional forensic interviewer. Amy received a forensic medical examination by one of our SANE (Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner) nurses before starting counseling with our CAC therapist. Having just learned about Amy's outcry, Amy's mom had to not only come to terms with the abuse that a loved one had perpetrated on her daughter, but also deal with losing the family's financial income and possibly losing their home on top of dealing with harassment from extended family and the overall emotional damage to her family. Both mother and daughter were having difficulties sleeping, high anxiety, self-blame, depression, fear, and left with all the memories. Struggling with all these issues, Amy's mom sat down with our therapist and created the following goals:

Help my daughter get through this situation,

Learn to be a good single parent,

Respect myself, and

Become a stronger family.

The goals that Amy's mother created for herself so perfectly embody the complex and overwhelming struggles the families we serve go through but they also show us glimmers of hope. Today, Amy and her mother are doing great. They still have hard days but are growing stronger every day and are on the road to accomplishing their goals. Amy's perpetrator pled guilty to the criminal charges and will be in prison long after Amy is grown. **Thank you for making sure children and families like Amy and her mom have a place to go where their glimmers of hope can start to grow.**

We want your input regarding our 20th Annual Sweetheart Soiree

February 13th, 2021

Find our short survey on our website at www.cacparis.org or scan the QR code now! Survey deadline is November 30th



2019 BOARD OF DIRECTORS

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2019 CAC STAFF

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



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Financial Information

Revenue	
Grant Funding (includes VOCA, HHSC, United Way & St. Joseph's Community)	\$358,048
City and County Funding	\$8,200
Fundraising	\$70,120
Private Contributions/Other Income	\$16,736
Total Revenue	\$453,104
Expenses	
Program	\$340,038
Building/Maintenance	\$6,710
Training	\$19,502
Fund Development	\$34,501
Operating Expenses	\$58,607
Total Expenses	\$459,360