

# Montana Children's Advocacy Centers 2015 Annual Report



## The Children's Alliance of Montana and the MCSART Program of the Montana Department of Justice

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) provide a child-friendly environment where children feel safe and comfortable while they are being interviewed by trained professionals regarding allegations of abuse. Professionals representing key disciplines work as part of a coordinated intervention to reduce trauma to children and families, improve health and welfare and hold offenders accountable. Montana has:

- 7** NCA Accredited CACs
- 3** Satellite CACs
- 7** developing CACs

There are numerous active MDTs striving to develop CACs in their communities.

The Montana CACs participate in a national Outcome Measurement System (OMS). This project is designed to elicit client satisfaction regarding the services of a CAC and the work of an MDT.

MDT partner agencies are surveyed as well as non-offending caregivers and children who receive services at Montana's CACs.

*Population Served by  
Montana CACs*

**805,771**

**1741**

- Forensic Interviews

**1750**

- Children Served

**688**

- Medical Evaluations

### *The Montana CACs reported in 2015:*

Served **530** more children

Conducted **619** more Forensic Interviews

Identify **93** more Drug Endangered Children

Conducting **251** more Medical Evaluations

### CLIENT SATISFACTION:

**88.8%** of  
caregivers  
agreed:

CAC provided me  
with resources to  
support my child

**98%** of MDT  
members agreed:

Children and  
Families benefit  
from the  
collaborative MDT  
approach.

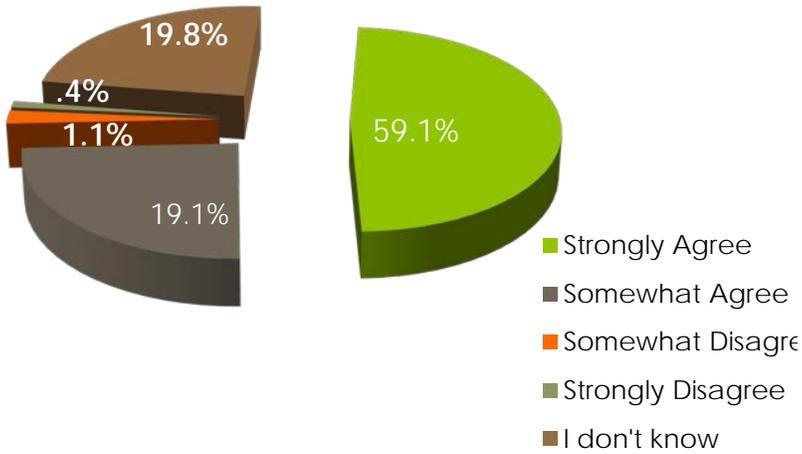
# CAM and MCSART 2015 Trainings Opportunities

Hosted **8 Statewide Trainings**  
 Trained **365 Professionals**  
 Provided **52 Technical Assistance Activities**  
 Participated in **45**  
**State, Regional or National**  
**Webinars/Meetings/Collaborative Work**  
**Groups**

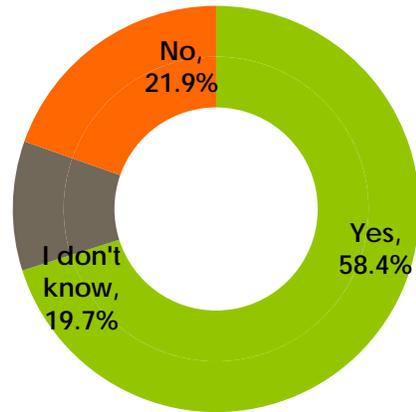
Training	# Trained	Counties Represented
Child Forensic Interview Training -- April -- Helena	35	
Child Forensic Interview Training -- October -- Billings	35	14 - 2 Reservations
Statewide Forensic Interview Peer Review	24	8 Counties - 1 Reservations
TF-CBT 2-Day Training	49	14 - 1 Reservation
TF-CBT Consultation Calls to Achieve TF-CBT	39	14 - 1 Reservation
Certification		
CAC Directors/Coordinators Training	20	11 - 3 Reservations
NCA Leadership Conference	5	4
Advanced Medical Training	42	17 - 2 Reservations
Justice for Children -- Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse in Indian Country	103	12 Counties -- 10 Reservations
NCA Chapter Summit	2	2
<b>Training Registration and Travel Scholarships</b>	<b># Trained</b>	<b>Counties Represented</b>
PSANE Training - Billings	3	2 - 1 Reservation
Statewide Peer Review -- Billings	1	1
Interviewing Children with Disabilities 1	1	1
TF-CBT Consultation Calls for Certification	1	1
San Diego International Conference	4	2
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>364</b>	
<b>Technical Assistance Activities</b>	<b>52</b>	
<b>Webinars/Meetings/Collaborative Work Groups</b>	<b>45</b>	

# CHILDREN AND CAREGIVER SATISFACTION:

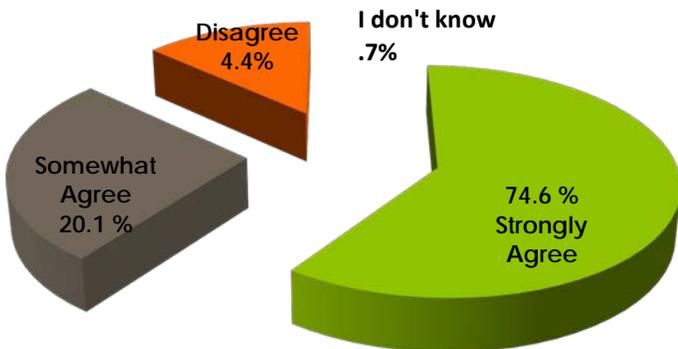
My child's questions were answered to our satisfaction.



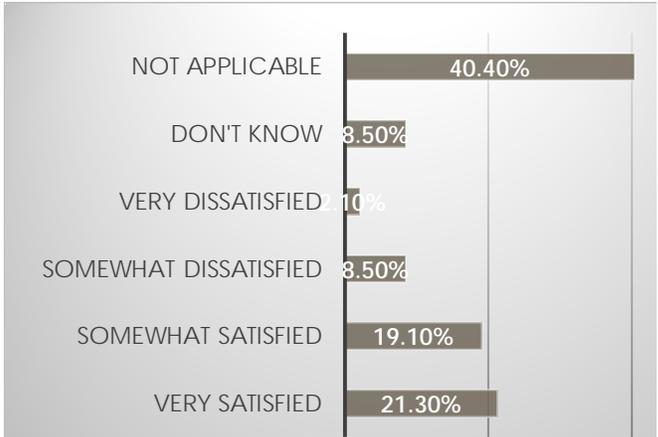
My child was referred to services



The Forensic Interview Process was clearly explained to my child



My Child was satisfied with the Medical Evaluations Process

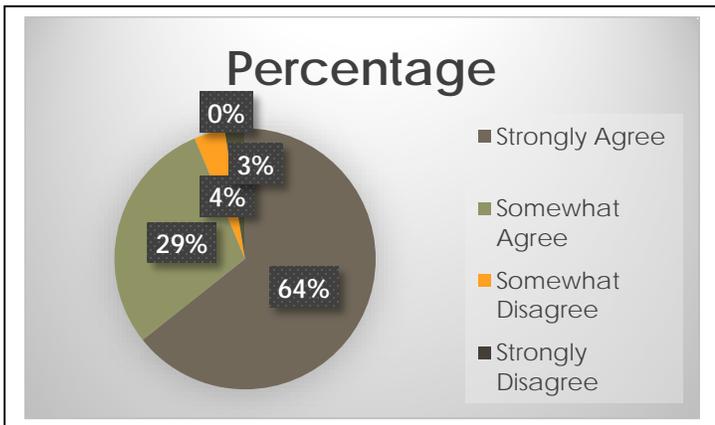


## WHAT CHILDREN AND FAMILIES HAVE TO SAY:

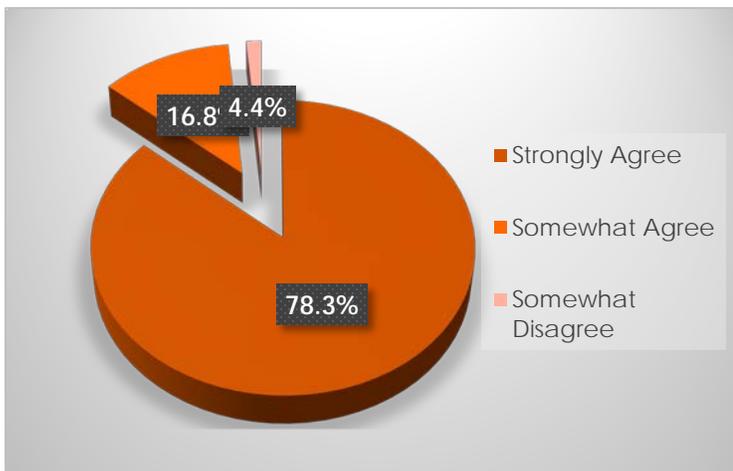
- He has more questions now that he can't see his father
- Why can't the parents be in the observation room so we can still be by the kiddo?
- He felt very comfortable
- Since I was not allowed to be in with the child during the forensic interview or medical exam, I have no idea if her questions were answered
- I haven't heard from the Center since our first visit
- Positive experience
- She was a little uncomfortable having someone else touch her private parts
- One can never know what can be expected in this situation
- Mom didn't receive services
- Staff was informative on how things were going to be handled
- Mom was disappointed with the sentence the offender received
- People were very kind and understanding

## MDT MEMBERS' SATISFACTION:

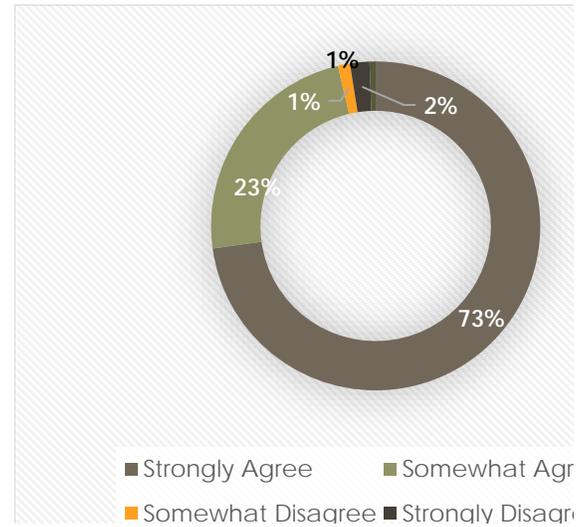
Case Review Meetings are useful in the development of a case.



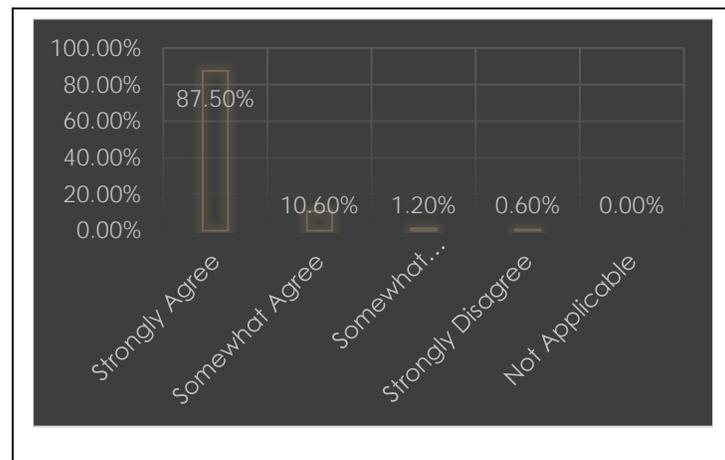
The CAC provides an environment where I feel safe expressing my concerns or making suggestions about the functioning of the MDT.



Members of the MDT demonstrate respect for the perspectives of other team members.



Clients served through the center benefit from the collaborative approach of our MDT



## WHAT MDT MEMBERS HAVE TO SAY:

- All members present are willing to share and answer any questions directed towards them
- Very difficult to receive information from the forensic interview for purposes of mental health treatment for the victim
- Our team demonstrates a willingness and interest in hearing from each other's agencies
- With respect to all of the above, the Beaverhead County CEC has an amazing relationship and all the parties respect one another and the process to ensure child safety and hold offenders accountable
- It seems like this team is becoming more comfortable with questions from one another
- I have noticed how our team is interested and inclusive of new voices at the table
- This is an excellent team of individuals who work well together
- I would like to see shorter meetings with more structure
- Some legal hurdles and misunderstanding with state agency sharing historical reports with law enforcement. However, is improving.
- Often team member views help me to conduct a better investigation
- Thank you for the opportunity to work with such a professional team.
- Victim advocates need to be more involved with our children and families.

## HOW DO WE COMPARE NATIONALLY?

### The Outcome Measurement System (OMS)

Since 2012, hundreds of Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) across the nation have gathered feedback from the families they serve and the multidisciplinary team (MDT) members with whom they partner to ensure that their centers are providing the best possible service. **Approximately 545 CACs in 48 states are participating in OMS. Participation is expected to extend to over 575 CACs located in all 50 states.**



**93%** of caregivers felt like they knew what to expect with the situation facing them and their children after their visit at the center.

**96%** of caregivers agreed, if they knew anyone else dealing with a situation like the one their family faced, they would tell that person about the center.

**99%** of multidisciplinary team members believed the clients served through the centers benefit from the collaborative approach of their teams.

## CAM Objectives

- **Promote the development and expansion of CACs and MDTs.**

Children's Advocacy Centers (CAC) and Multidisciplinary Teams (MDT) allow for Centralized services to children who have been the victims of/or witnesses to crimes. Collaboration between law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, medical providers, mental health counselors, & victim's advocates are essential to meet the needs of the children & families who have been affected by crimes and to hold offenders accountable through the criminal justice system.

- **Promote accreditation with the National Children's Alliance.**

Accreditation is important. — it means promoting evidence-based, best practices to ensure that child get the highest standard of service at every accredited CAC.

- **Provide trainings, technical assistance, and mentoring to communities developing MDTs & CACs**

CAM provides statewide, discipline specific training opportunities and local MDT specific training

- **Promote System Improvements for crimes against children.**

Utilizing education and advocacy campaigns, including partnering with other organizations and governmental agencies.

- **Identify & coordinate funding opportunities for CACs & MDTs**

Manage NCA Grant funds to accredited CACs and identify grants or scholarships opportunities.

- **Promote networking at annual meetings and statewide events**

Collaborating with Children's Justice Bureau of the Montana Department of Justice, Montana Board of Crime Control, Chiefs and Sheriffs' Association, County Attorney's Association and other state organizations to network with key discipline specific agencies.

- **Assisting professionals to remain current on best practices**

Disseminate information on state and national trends, trainings, research and resources through the CAM Newsletter and on-going communication

- **Educate regarding public policy & legislation impacting CACs & MDTs**

Annually participate in NCA's Hill Day meeting with our Congressional delegation as well as educating state and local policy makers on the impact of legislation on MDTs and CACs

## Children's Alliance of Montana Board of Directors

**Coleen Magera**, Chair, Retired former Powder River, Custer and Sanders County Attorney

**Brett Linneweber**, Immediate Past Chair, Senior Deputy Yellowstone County Attorney

**Tara Harris**, Vice Chair, Harris Law Firm

**Lynelle Amen**, Secretary/Treasurer, Coordinator, Yellowstone Valley Children's Advocacy Center

**Paula Samms**, CAC Director, Lewis and Clark County CAC a program of AWARE Inc.

**Mary Pat Hansen**, APRN, MSN, Clinical Supervisor, First STEP Resource Center, a program of Saint Patrick Hospital

**Valerie Widmer**, Director, Emma's House CAC

**Molly Molloy**, Director, Butte Child Evaluation Center a program of Southwestern Montana Community Health Center

**Tara Harris**, Senior Trial Attorney, Adaptive Law Firm, PLLC, Former Deputy Lewis and Clark County Attorney

**Michelle Miller**, PhD, LCPC, LCSW, Private Practice

**Coralee Hicks**, Retired Director, Tri-County Victim/Witness Program

**Eric Barnosky**, DPHHS Child and Family Services Regional Administrator – Eastern Region

**Devin Kuntz**, Coordinator, Flathead County CAC, a program of the Flathead County Sheriff's Office

**Earl Sutherland**, PhD, Medical Director, Big Horn Valley Health Center

**Tracy Hemry**, Coordinator, Cascade County CAC, a program of the Department of Public Health and Human Services

## CAM Advisory Council

**Dana Toole**, Bureau Chief, Children's Justice Bureau, Montana Department of Justice

## Partnerships

CAM partners closely with the MCSART and DEC Programs in the Children's Justice Bureau of the Montana Department of Justice. Together we strive to make children safe in Montana.

<https://dojmt.gov/enforcement/childrensjustice/>

### CAM Staff:

**Brenda George**, Executive Director

P.O. Box 2171

Kalispell, MT 59903

Phone: 406-672-2136

Email: [Director@childrensalliancemt.org](mailto:Director@childrensalliancemt.org)



*The Children's Alliance of Montana is an Accredited Chapter of the National Children's Alliance.*



## Children's Alliance of Montana

*Strengthening teams and Children's Advocacy Centers by empowering professionals to hold offenders accountable and to help children heal.*

[www.childrensalliancemt.org](http://www.childrensalliancemt.org)

# CAM's Vision

*Let no child in Montana face the trauma of child abuse alone.*

*Let every abused child in Montana have the chance to heal.*

## CAM's Mission

That every child in Montana has access to a Children's Advocacy Center and the expertise of professionals on a Multidisciplinary Team.

Provide support, training and technical assistance to professionals working on Multidisciplinary Teams and in Children's Advocacy Centers to strengthen their response to child abuse and promote healing for victims and their families.

## Member Benefits

- ⇒ Team, Staff and Board Technical Assistance
- ⇒ Training opportunities
- ⇒ Mentoring
- ⇒ Stipends for trainings
- ⇒ Resources
- ⇒ CAM Newsletter
- ⇒ Participation in state & national Outcome Measurement System (OMS) Evaluation Project

## Children's Advocacy Centers

Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs) provide a child-friendly environment where children feel safe and comfortable while they are being interviewed by trained professionals regarding alleged abuse. Professionals representing key disciplines work as part of a coordinated intervention to reduce trauma to children and families, improve health and welfare and hold offenders accountable.

### What MDT Members Have to Say:

*"We have a strong CAC program and a high functioning MDT with great support from our community's criminal justice and child welfare leaders. Our CAC director does a great job of fostering a healthy team."*

## CAM Members:

**Butte Child Evaluation Center**  
A program of Southwest Montana Community Health Center

Serving Silver Bow County  
With two Satellite CACs serving Anaconda and Dillon  
(406) 490-9350  
NCA Accredited since 2007

**Lewis and Clark County CAC**  
A Program of AWARE Inc.

Serving Lewis and Clark County  
(406) 449-3120  
NCA Accredited since 2008

**First STEP Resource Center**  
A Program of St. Patrick Hospital

Serving Missoula County  
(406) 329-5776  
NCA Accredited since 2010

**Flathead County CAC**  
A Program of the Flathead County Sheriff's Office

Serving Flathead County  
(406) 758-5593  
NCA Accredited since 2008

**Emma's House**

Serving Ravalli County  
(406) 363-7216  
NCA Accredited since 2010

**Cascade County CAC**

Serving Cascade County  
(406) 268-3756

**Park County CAC**

Serving Park County  
(406) 222-7402

**Big Horn Valley Health Center CAC**

Serving Big Horn County  
(406) 665-4103

## MDT Members

**Valley County CAC a program of the Glasgow City Police Department**

Serving Valley County  
(406) 228-4333

**Rocky Boy Clinic**

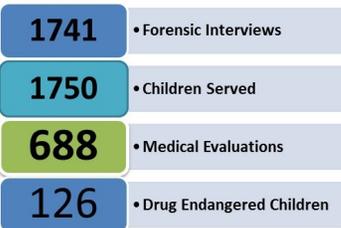
Serving Chippewa Cree Tribe and the Rock Boy Reservation  
(406) 222-7402

## Affiliate Members

**MCSART Program**, Children's Justice Bureau, Division of Criminal Investigation, Montana Department of Justice

## Forensic Interviews & Medical Evaluations

Specially trained professionals interview children at a CAC or child-friendly environment. The goal is to minimize trauma to the child by reducing the number of times a child must talk about his/her experiences. Centers also provide children with access to specially trained, local medical professional who conduct evaluations to safeguard children's health and to collect and preserve evidence to hold offenders accountable.



## Outcome Measurement System — OMS

Montana CACs participate in a national Outcome Measurement System to assess and improve services provided to children and families and MDT Professionals.

*"So grateful that this service is here in our community"*

**100% of MDT members agreed:**

**Children & Families benefit from the collaborative MDT approach.**

### OMS Caregiver Results

- 93%** "My child felt safe at the center"
- 80%** "My child was referred to services"
- 87%** "My child was satisfied with the forensic interview process"

## NCA Accredited CACs:



**Butte Child Evaluation Center**  
A program of Southwest Montana  
Community Health Center  
Serving Silver Bow County  
(406) 490-9350

**Lewis and Clark County CAC**  
A program of AWARE Inc.  
Serving Lewis and Clark County  
(406) 449-3120

**First STEP Resource Center**  
A program of Saint Patrick Hospital  
Serving Missoula County  
(406) 329-5776

**Flathead County CAC**  
A program of the Flathead County Sheriff's Office  
Serving Flathead County  
(406) 758-5593

**Emma's House CAC**  
Serving Ravalli County  
(406) 363-7216

**Yellowstone Valley CAC**  
A program of the Center for Children and Families  
Serving Yellowstone County  
(406) 294-5090

**Cascade County CAC**  
A program of the Department of Health and  
Human Services  
Serving Cascade County  
(406) 268-3756

**Satellite CACs of the Butte  
Child Evaluation Center:**  
**Anaconda Child Evaluation Center**  
Serving Deer Lodge County  
(406) 490-9350

**Dillon Child Evaluation Center**  
Serving Beaverhead County  
(406) 490-9350

## Developing Child Advocacy Centers

**Big Horn Valley Health  
Center CAC**  
Serving Big Horn County  
(406) 665-4103

**Custer County CAC**  
Serving Custer County  
(406) 234-1385

**Dawson County CAC**  
Serving Dawson County  
(406) 377-2532

**Fergus County CAC**  
Serving Fergus County  
(406) 366-2448

**Gallatin County CAC**  
Serving Gallatin County  
(406) 587-7511

**Hill County CAC**  
Serving Hill and Blaine Counties  
(406) 355-4481

**Park County CAC**  
Serving Park County  
(406) 222-7402

**Richland County CAC**  
Serving Richland County  
(406) 433-1903

**Stillwater County CAC**  
Serving the Tri-County area of Stillwater,  
Carbon and Sweet grass  
(406) 322-8003

**Valley County CAC**  
A program of the Glasgow City  
Police Department  
Serving Valley County  
(406) 228-4333

**Toole County CAC**  
Serving Toole County  
(406) 434-5585

## Tribal Developing Child Advocacy Centers, Child Interview Rooms and MDTs

**CARE Center**  
Serving the Crow Tribe

**Northern Cheyenne CARE Center**  
Serving the Northern Cheyenne Tribes

**Blackfeet CAC**  
Serving the Blackfeet Tribe

**Ft. Peck CAC**  
Serving the Assiniboine & Sioux Tribal Members

**Ft. Belknap MDT**  
Serving Gros Ventre and Assiniboine Tribes

**Rocky Boy MDT**  
Serving the Chippewa Cree Tribe

**MCSART Program**  
**Montana Child Abuse Response  
Teams**  
**Montana Department of Justice**  
**406-444-1525**

**Children's Alliance of Montana**  
**406-672-2136**

