Montana Children’s Advocacy Centers

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

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.

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
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**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Training</th>
<th># Trained</th>
<th>Counties Represented</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Child Forensic Interview Training -- April -- Helena</td>
<td>35</td>
<td>14 - 2 Reservations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Child Forensic Interview Training -- October -- Billings</td>
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<td>8 Counties - 1 Reservations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide Forensic Interview Peer Review</td>
<td>24</td>
<td>14 - 1 Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>TF-CBT 2-Day Training</td>
<td>49</td>
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<tr>
<td>TF-CBT Consultation Calls to Achieve TF-CBT</td>
<td>39</td>
<td>14 - 1 Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Certification</td>
<td></td>
<td>8 Counties - 1 Reservations</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAC Directors/Coordinators Training</td>
<td>20</td>
<td>14 - 1 Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCA Leadership Conference</td>
<td>5</td>
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<tr>
<td>Advanced Medical Training</td>
<td>42</td>
<td>11 - 3 Reservations</td>
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<tr>
<td>Justice for Children – Investigation and Prosecution of Child Abuse in Indian Country</td>
<td>103</td>
<td>17 - 2 Reservations</td>
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<tr>
<td>NCA Chapter Summit</td>
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<td>12 Counties -- 10 Reservations</td>
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Training Registration and Travel Scholarships

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<th>Training</th>
<th># Trained</th>
<th>Counties Represented</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PSANE Training - Billings</td>
<td>3</td>
<td>2 - 1 Reservation</td>
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<tr>
<td>Statewide Peer Review -- Billings</td>
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<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>Interviewing Children with Disabilities 1</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TF-CBT Consultation Calls for Certification</td>
<td>1</td>
<td>1</td>
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<tr>
<td>San Diego International Conference</td>
<td>4</td>
<td>2</td>
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**TOTAL** 364

**Technical Assistance Activities** 52

**Webinars/Meetings/Collaborative Work Groups** 45
**Children and Caregiver Satisfaction:**

*My child’s questions were answered to our satisfaction.*

- Strongly Agree: 59.1%
- Somewhat Agree: 19.1%
- Somewhat Disagree: 8.5%
- Strongly Disagree: 2.1%
- I don’t know: 1.1%

*My child was referred to services*

- Yes, 58.4%
- No, 21.9%
- I don’t know, 19.7%

**The Forensic Interview Process was clearly explained to my child**

- Strongly Agree: 74.6%
- Somewhat Agree: 20.1%
- Somewhat Disagree: 4.4%
- Strongly Disagree: .7%
- I don’t know: .4%

**My Child was satisfied with the Medical Evaluations Process**

- Not Applicable: 40.40%
- Don’t Know: 19.10%
- Very Satisfied: 21.30%
- Somewhat Satisfied: 8.50%
- Somewhat Dissatisfied: 10%
- Very Dissatisfied: 3.50%

**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.

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.
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 witnessed 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
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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 Henry, 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/

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Phone: 406-672-2136
Email: Director@childrensalliancemt.org

The Children’s Alliance of Montana is an Accredited Chapter of the National Children’s Alliance.
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”

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”

100% of MDT members agreed:

Children & Families benefit from the collaborative MDT approach.
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) 268-3765

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) 668-4103

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 the 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