

# CACJCTX NEWS

Children's Advocacy Center of Johnson County | July 2017



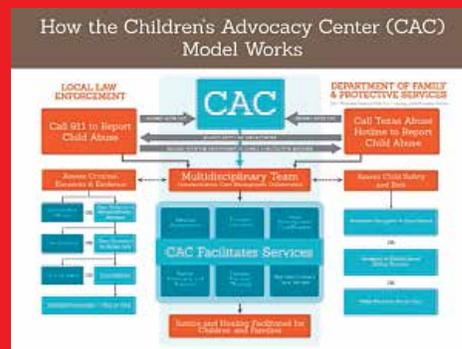
## UPDATE ON STATEWIDE INTAKE PROGRAM

2016 marked the beginning of many changes for Texas Children's Advocacy Centers. The new Statewide Intake Program was the largest initiative on the radar. The implementation of this program meant that centers across the state would now receive all the Child Abuse Hotline reports where an alleged crime against a child has occurred. This initiative has allowed centers to work even more closely with their agency partners on ensuring that children who need services reach the doors of local Children's Advocacy Centers. It has also allowed centers to conduct in-depth data collection that can reveal where children might still be falling through the cracks of the system. Our center has averaged about 200 statewide intake reports per month. After the new changes were implemented, the numbers from this quarter were pretty staggering. In March, we conducted 32 forensic interviews, in April we had 44, and in May we had 62. In this same quarter, our licensed clinical staff provided 789 individual therapy sessions, and 8 different group sessions that included Boys Group, Girls Group, Parent Support and Parent Education Groups..

When the new data numbers were presented to our local multi-disciplinary team regarding the areas where we might be losing kids, all the agencies rose to the challenge of addressing the gaps. The team has made significant changes to their protocols in order to catch children who might otherwise fall through the cracks. We still have a lot of work ahead of us, but we are

incredibly proud of our team's commitment to our children. Our multi-disciplinary team is made up of 17 different agencies. Sixteen of these agencies are involved in criminal justice. They are made up of Johnson County law enforcement, the County and District Attorney's Offices, Juvenile Services, Child Protective Services, Cook Children's Medical Center's CARE Team and the Children's Advocacy Center. In addition to our investigative agencies, Court Appointed Special Advocates (CASA) of Johnson County is also an agency partner. They get involved on the civil side of cases for children who are placed in foster care.

Each of the investigative agencies have staff members specifically assigned to work crimes against children. These individuals make up the Children's Advocacy Center's Multi-Disciplinary Team. This team handles cases that include child sexual abuse, severe physical abuse, child fatalities and cases where a child has witnessed a violent crime. They are an amazing team that deals with a lot of ugliness on a daily basis. We are so grateful that this team of dedicated professionals is advocating for our children every day-especially for children who have been caught up in the nightmare of abuse!



## CAC TRAUMA ASSESSMENTS AND FAMILY ADVOCACY

Our Children's Advocacy Center implemented another new service for child victims in 2016. We have just finished our first year of conducting trauma assessments on the children who come into services at our center. Centers across the State of Texas joined in this collaborative effort due to the concern of the rising level of trauma these children have suffered.

There are two types of screening forms used at our center. There is the TSCC (Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children) and the TSCYC (Trauma Symptom Checklist for Young Children). The TSCC allows you to measure post-traumatic stress and related psychological symptomatology in children ages 8-16 years who have experienced traumatic events, such as physical or sexual abuse, major loss, natural disasters, or who have witnessed violent acts of crime.

After one year of data collection the results delivered were staggering. The data showed that 34% of the children who reached the doors of a Children's Advocacy Center were having suicidal thoughts when they arrived. The good news is that through the services offered at our center, those same children are thriving. After a child's initial visit to our center when they have their forensic interview, they are then set up for counseling services. Our therapists use the evidence based model of Trauma Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TFCBT), along with several other modalities that are designed to help children heal.

Our Family Advocates also work vigilantly to stay on top of the needs of each family. If we have a case where the breadwinner of the family is the perpetrator, the non-offending caregiver may need to re-enter the work force. Our Family Advocates can help provide resource referrals and advocacy that will assist on many levels. They can help with a GED, finding a job, learning how to budget and providing parent education and support to assist in bettering family life. Helping families achieve independence and reach goals together is crucial to the family being able to move forward in a healthy way.

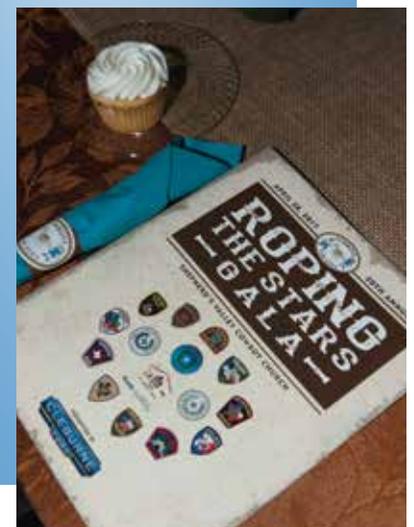
When our children successfully complete counseling, we have a graduation celebration for them at the center. Staff and team members line the hall as the child receives a certificate, and then the child leaves their handprint on our wall. Children understand that they will always have a place that belongs to them and a team that will continue to cheer them on as they pursue their dreams. Our team's greatest joy comes from watching our kids succeed!



## COWBOYS FOR KIDS 2017

A huge thank you goes out to all our 2017 sponsors and donors for the Center's annual Cowboys for Kids event held in April. This year we faced significant weather and technical challenges. Despite those challenges our amazing Board, Staff, Team and a host of community volunteers rallied their efforts to make sure the event continued. We are most appreciative of YOU... our community. We are grateful for the patience and incredible support you showed for the child victims we serve.

Funds raised at our events go directly toward providing vital services for our kids. These services include forensic interviews, trauma assessments, crisis interventions, individual-family-group therapy, court school, court accompaniment, work with Therapy Dogs and K-9 Advocates and assistance with Crime Victim's Compensation. The families we serve are so grateful to each of you for assisting in the vital delivery of healing services for their children. Thank you for supporting these amazing kids!



## CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER'S GOLF CLASSIC FORE KIDS-OCTOBER 16, 2017

Due to our increasing case load and expanded service needs for child victims, we need to continue to raise funds throughout the year to meet our increasing budget needs. After much consideration and discussion by our Board of Directors, a decision has been made to bring back our Annual Golf Benefit that we once held every October. Last year we had a special committee that hosted the "Birdies for Kids" benefit. This year we have opted to go back to a more traditional benefit. The Golf Benefit will be a scramble and will be held at Southern Oaks Golf Course on Monday, October 16, 2017. Registration will begin at 6:30 a.m. with tee time at 8:00 a.m. The cost will be \$125 per golfer or \$500 per team. For more information on the Golf Benefit, please call 817-558-1599. Entry forms and sponsorship information are also available on line at [www.cacjctx.org](http://www.cacjctx.org).



### CAPITAL CAMPAIGN: FEASIBILITY STUDY COMPLETE

My name is Tammy King and I am the Executive Director of the Children's Advocacy Center of Johnson County. I have had the distinct honor of serving in this position for about sixteen and a half years. My journey at the center has been amazing. There have been significant changes and growth over the years. In fact, I have worked at four different locations during my tenure and we have now outgrown this facility as well. On average, we have moved the center location every four years. Those moves and remodels have come at a considerable financial cost.

In reviewing the history of the center, we know that moving forward we truly need to have a long-term plan that would not have us continuing in this same pattern. We need a permanent location that allows for growth on that site. With this in mind, our Board began discussing potential locations. The center needs to stay in close proximity to the courthouse because of our cases. We also need outdoor space that allows us to incorporate our therapy dogs, K-9 Advocates, play therapy and a serenity garden area for counseling. In addition to these things, we also need to ensure the privacy of our clients. In reviewing our needs and our history of moving, we soon realized that our options were pretty limited unless a plot of land we could afford became available in the City of Cleburne.

God has been good to us. As we looked for a potential location for a new center, Cleburne Christian Academy was looking to sell 10 acres that they had acquired several years earlier. CCA only wanted to sell their land to an agency that served children. We were able to purchase the land at a really good price. This land will ensure that we can implement a 30-year plan for the center with no more moving every four years. In addition, the land is in a location that will allow us to ensure the privacy of child victims and their families arriving for services. Our current location is at a busy intersection that can be quite challenging for families who want and need privacy at a very difficult time.

The property we purchased has a 30,000 square foot slab already in place-another major benefit. As we look forward, the Board

is discussing developing the new location in phases. If we can simply enclose the space and develop the necessary work space for the center, we can expand and develop additional space over time. That is where we stand today.

We have completed a "Feasibility Study" with M. Gale & Associates. We are now working toward securing approximately \$3 million in funding from local sponsors, foundations and grants. Most campaign consultants want you to raise 6 or 7 six figure donors and go from there. We believe that Johnson County does not fit that demographic. We can raise many smaller gifts and can certainly apply to foundations that we already have good relationships with, but we would be hard pressed to get six figure donors. We know that Johnson County cares deeply about serving these vulnerable children. We have worked hard to show complete transparency in our financials, so that donors know when they give to the center the funds are going exactly where they have been designated to go.

Moving forward, we hope that you will consider making either a large gift or a pledge for a multi-year gift that would be above and beyond any donation you normally give to the center. It is an incredibly exciting time of program growth at the center, but we are significantly challenged due to a lack of space at our current location. On average, we have had to hire two additional staff members each year to deal with increasing case loads. We are out of office space for staff and interns. We are faced with tabling our intern programs until we get into a larger facility because we simply do not have office space for them. If you cannot help financially, we also need assistance in sharing our mission with everyone. Awareness of the important work done here will also assist us as we move forward with this campaign. The children we serve are amazing! It is such an incredible feeling to be a part of restoring their childhoods and watching them succeed. We hope that you will consider being a part of our program, and that you will come tour our center, review our financials, sit down with our staff, and see the miracles that unfold every day within our walls! Our center is a very special place and we want everyone to know the good work that takes place here.

## MULTI-DISCIPLINARY TEAM (MDT) SUPER HERO SPOTLIGHT- DETECTIVE CAMERON PILGRIM, BURLESON, PD

Our multi-disciplinary team is made up of some of the most amazing “Super Heroes” in Johnson County. Detective Cameron Pilgrim is one of those “Super Heroes”. He has been with the Burleson Police Department since 2007. He has served as a patrol officer, tactical officer, field training officer, and patrol supervisor. Detective Pilgrim has served as an auto theft investigator and a defensive tactics baton instructor. Detective Pilgrim holds an Intermediate TCOLE peace officer license and a basic police instructor certificate. Detective Pilgrim has been assigned to Criminal Investigations since October 2016 and has been investigating Crimes Against Children since February 2017.

Even though Detective Pilgrim is one of our newer team members, he is already making huge impacts in the lives of hurting children. He is passionate about the work he does on these cases and is committed to the team process that is used at the Children’s Advocacy Center.

The team working alongside Detective Pilgrim can always count on him to provide timely case updates, have his cases filed in an organized and timely manner with the appropriate prosecutors’ offices and to take time to visit with each child whose case has arrived on his desk. He is never too busy to take a few moments to help a child feel more comfortable, or to express to them that he is working on their behalf. Detectives like Cameron Pilgrim are making life changing differences in the lives of hurting children. The children of Burleson are fortunate to have him as their “Super Hero”!



## SECURING YOUR HOME ROUTER

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Securing your internet through your home router is often overlooked. The router allows devices such as computers and phones to access the internet. You can access your home router settings by typing in the routers default address. The most common default addresses used for routers are <http://192.168.0.1> or [192.168.1.1](http://192.168.1.1), however, if that doesn't work, you can search your router brand on the web to find the correct default address. After accessing your router there are several things you can do. First and foremost, you want to decide on a username and password. Your network can be drained causing your internet to slow down if you have an open network. You should always make your network password protected. When your network is password protected and has a unique username, neighbors and other people won't be able to access your internet.

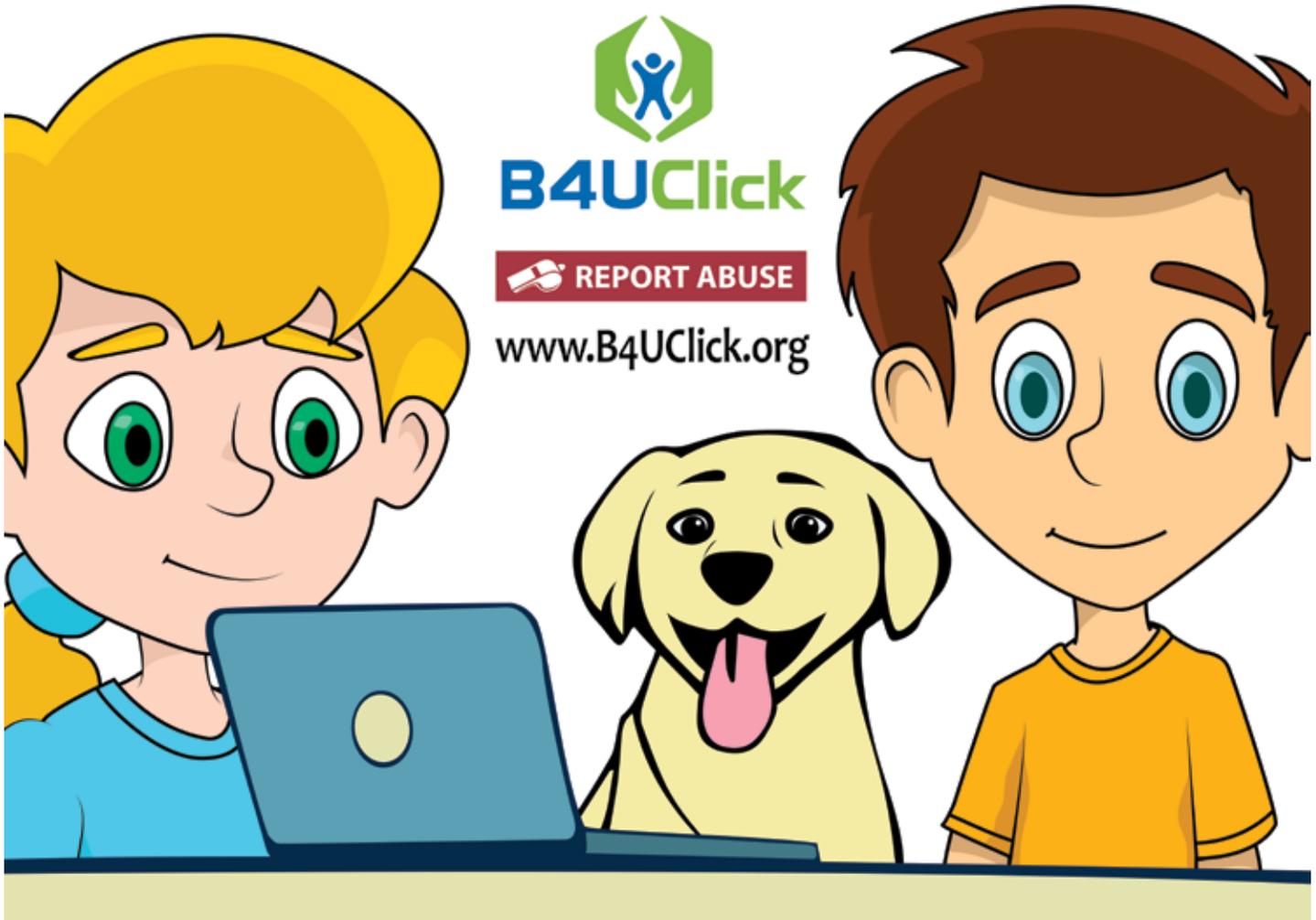
Parents, there are several things you can do with your network to provide additional security measures to protect your children. One feature is that you can block certain websites. This provides extra security for your children, because you, as parents, can choose what websites your children can access. Some routers even allow for you to create a specific password before you can access a certain website. With this specific feature, parents can check out the website before allowing their children admission

to a particular site. Another feature you have is internet cutoff times in place. For instance, during homework hours and bed time you can block out certain times so your child/children do not have access to the internet during those hours. You can also block sites that have certain keywords and topics that you chose to list. Routers will also keep logs of what your family is accessing at home. You can setup notifications for when your children are online or, if they are attempting to access something that is blocked.

Setting up safety features for your router is very important when it comes to your child's safety. Many parents aren't aware of all the security features they can access. As always, make sure to educate your child about staying safe on the internet, but following these few tips about securing your router can help tremendously. Viruses, sexual predators, and dangerous misinformation are just a few things that your child can come into contact with on social media. You, as parents, need to do whatever it takes to prevent that from happening.

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**FOR MORE INFORMATION AND TIPS HOW TO KEEP YOUR KIDS SAFE ONLINE, GO TO [WWW.B4UCLICK.ORG](http://WWW.B4UCLICK.ORG)**



# OUR PARTNERS ALL SIGNED NEW CASE PROTOCOLS ON JULY 12TH!



**Interim Chief Don Beeson-Keene PD, Chief Brad Anderson-Alvarado PD, Chief Rob Severance-Cleburne PD, Investigative Supervisor Daphne Dale-Child Protective Services, Chief Michael Boese-Venus PD, Alternative Response Supervisor Lisa Davis-Child Protective Services, Chief Tracy Aaron-Mansfield PD, Chief Billy Cordell-Burleson PD, County Attorney Bill Moore, Sheriff Adam King, District Attorney Dale Hanna**

## GOVERNING BOARD OF DIRECTORS



- Cherrie Green - *President*
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- Carolyn Smith - *Treasurer*
- Janelle Evans - *Executive Committee*
- Betty Hogan - *Executive Committee*
- Chief Brad Anderson
- Gwen Beeson
- Genny Brown
- Chief Billy Cordell
- Tiffany Fojtasek
- Ruth Ann Hill
- Emily Long
- Stormi Lloyd
- Katie Morgan
- Rebecca Roe
- Brent Huffman, *Assistant DA*
- Emily Long
- Bill Moore, *County Attorney*
- Jan Pitcock
- Mark Reinhardt, *Chief Deputy, JCSO*
- Chief Rob Severance
- Mandy White
- Stephanie Williams, *CPS Program Director*

## ADVISORY BOARD

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- Nancy Devaney
- Angie Erinakes
- David Johnson
- Nancy Johnson
- Sue Rebstock
- Cathy Campbell
- Letha Carmichall



## CAC STAFF

- Tammy King - *Executive Director*
- Drew Stallings - *Program Director*
- Kevin Sellers - *Development Director*
- Linda Starnes - *Office Manager*
- Brandon Morris - *Clinical Director*
- Mia Hudson - *Bilingual Therapist*
- Tom Macalik - *Therapist*
- Stacey Selby - *Therapist*
- Lindsey Orr - *Counseling Intern*
- Lisett Darnell - *Counseling Intern*
- Kacie Hand - *Direct Service Coordinator*
- Alex Vazquez - *Bilingual Family Advocate/Interviewer*
- Omi Huizzi - *Bilingual Family Advocate*
- Carolyn Carlson - *Family Greeter*
- Deidra Morgan - *Statewide Intake Coordinator*



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**CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER  
OF JOHNSON COUNTY**  
910 North Granbury Street  
Cleburne, Texas 76033

contactus@cacjctx.org • 817-558-1599  
**www.cacjctx.org**



### MY SAFE SPACE PROJECT UPDATE

The "My Safe Space Project" originated with the Dallas Children's Advocacy Center when they realized that child victims desperately needed a safe space that was all their own.

We are happy to report that we are in the process of completing two more rooms for children who are currently receiving services at our center. This room project is for two siblings and it is unique because one of the children is autistic. We are using funds donated by Mr. & Mrs. Bob Durham, along with "Women of Courage" grant funds to equip one of these rooms for this child. Autistic children struggle with many sensory issues, so this room will be equipped with a special sand box, yacker tracker stop light (monitors noise decibel), thera putty, prism light, weighted blanket and headphones and, of course, decorations that personalize the room for the child.

This Fall the Cleburne Christian Businessman's group will be sponsoring a room make-over for another child in need of having a safe space created for them. This project is truly one of the most rewarding things we have ever done. It answers a core need of any child, but for children who have suffered abuse, it is critically important that this need is met. Often times abuse acted out against a child has occurred in their own bedroom. This makes it hard for them to escape the memories of abuse and even harder to move forward with their lives. It is such a joy to makeover a space for a child and see their face when they walk into their new room. If you would like to learn more about "My Safe Space", please contact the Children's Advocacy Center.

### WISH LIST . . .

**Individually wrapped snacks** (chips, cookies, fruit chews, fruit cups, granola bars)

**Juice Boxes**

**Office Supplies** (copy paper, sticky notes, mechanical pencils, DVD-Rs)

**Bath and Body Items for Kids of all Ages** (shampoo, lotion, shower gel, shaving cream)

**Toys/Gifts for Children** (Barbie dolls, baby dolls, stuffed animals, toddler toys, footballs, soccer balls, coloring books/colors, craft sets)

**Shoes** (working on back to school items for kids-need new tennis shoes of all sizes)

### QUARTERLY STATISTICS (3RD QUARTER 2017)

|   |   |
|---|---|
| <b>Primary and Secondary Victims Served . . . . .</b>           | <b>414</b>                                      |
| <b>Forensic Interviews Conducted on New Cases . . . . .</b>     | <b>211</b>                                      |
| <b>Individual Therapy Sessions with Licensed Therapists . .</b> | <b>789</b>                                      |
| <b>Therapy/Support Groups . . . . .</b>                         | <b>8</b>  |
|   | <i>(# times met) (average 6 attendees each)</i> |
| <b>Statewide Intake Reports Processed . . . . .</b>             | <b>583</b>                                      |