



****About***

Where small voices will be heard...

The Sanilac County Child Advocacy Center was established in November of 2013 as a community based, child-focused and child-friendly facility where representatives from many disciplines meet to discuss and make decisions about investigation, treatment and prosecution of child abuse cases. The primary goal of all CACs is to ensure that children are not further victimized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

Since 2013 we have grown by leaps and bounds! At the end of 2015 we became accredited through the National Children's Alliance which is a professional membership organization dedicated to helping local communities respond to allegations of child abuse in ways that are effective and efficient - and put the needs of child victims first.

****Services We Provide***

****Forensic Interviews***

The CAC interviews child victims of sexual or severe physical abuse and witnesses to violent crimes as well as adults and children with cognitive disabilities. The victim is interviewed one time in a neutral, safe, and child-friendly setting by a specifically trained and experienced forensic interviewer. The interview is observed by a multidisciplinary team (MDT) comprised of prosecutors, law enforcement officers, child protection service workers and child mental health and medical professionals.

****Family/Victim Advocacy***

An advocate will speak with the family/victim to address any social, medical and/or mental health needs through appropriate referrals. Advocate will also provide advocacy support services and case updates throughout the criminal justice process.

****Counseling***

Provide face-to-face counseling and/or crisis intervention for child victims of sexual/severe physical abuse and their non-offending caregiver(s). Counseling services are free of charge and offered on site, schools, homes workplaces, and telehealth for the victim and non-offending caregiver(s). Location of services is determined by the counselor and/or the treatment plan.

****Life Skills/Case Management***

Provide supportive intervention to victims and/or non-offending caregiver(s) such as but not limited to: conflict resolution, career planning, education, anger management, communication skills, child appropriate expectations, hygiene, goal setting and parenting plans.

Assess treatment needs, assist the victim/non-offending caregiver(s) in developing a treatment plan and implement necessary services. Case manager will monitor/evaluate progress throughout the intervention. Life Skills and Case Management are free of charge and offered to all victims and/or non-offending caregiver(s).

****Forensic Medical Examinations***

When there is concern of sexual abuse, it is often helpful for a child to see a health professional. At the Center, we have on-site Sexual Assault Nurse Examiners (SANE) specially trained in the area of pediatrics, adolescents as well as adults to conduct forensically sound medical examinations. Medical services are provided (free) in our child-friendly examination room, fully-equipped and designed with children in mind. Medical exams are not painful or invasive, and they are available to all children that come through the CAC.

****Referral Process***

Policy of the Sanilac County Child Advocacy Center is to accept reports of an alleged victim of severe physical abuse or sexual abuse from local law enforcement and or the Department of Health and Human Services. These are the only two entities that will be acknowledged as authorized referral sources.

****Meet our Team***

Bryant Wilke- Executive Director

Shane Welch - Finance Director

Jeff Buffington - IT Director

Stephanie MacMillan- Intake & Program Coordinator

Vacancy - Victim Advocate/Forensic Interviewer/Life Skills/Educator

Sara Schoenberg, MA, LPC, NCC, CCTP- Counselor/Forensic Interviewer

Dr. Matthew Gormley, MD - Medical Director

Michelle McDonald, RN - SANE-A / SANE-P

Tina Matthews, RN - SANE-A

Kimberley James, BSN, RN- SANE-A

Karleigh Knox, - Forensic Interviewer

Melissa Laming - Forensic Interviewer

****To learn more about the CAC please visit our website www.savepartnership.org***



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