



2019 ANNUAL REPORT

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES
PROVIDING SUPPORT
RESTORING HOPE





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NYSCA MESSAGES



**KRISTEN
BEARD**
NYSCA
Board Chair



JOHN KELLY
Retired NYSCA
Board Chair

Dear NYSCA Members,

I hope this letter finds you, your personal family and professional family healthy and safe. As past chair of NYSCA I would like to reflect on the amazing work all of you do within each of your communities without a lot of fanfare each and every day. The children and families we serve are so fortunate to have a team of professionals, who, at any given moment of the day know exactly what to do when a child makes a disclosure to someone they trust. It puts into motion a series of pre-determined actions that assembles the best professionals who will use their specialized training to ensure the child and their family receives the best response possible. We would like to think that the NYSCA team plays a role in that response in helping support CACs and their MDTs throughout New York State. As past board chair I can say without hesitation it has been an honor to serve on the board and be surrounded by individuals who come to the table with expertise in many fields. It is with that diversity the best decisions are made to help support not just NYSCA staff but also the many CACs across the state. Linda and the NYSCA staff have always been approachable and quick to respond to requests and concerns.

I have complete confidence that the NYSCA Board of Directors will continue its mission to help support NYSCA programming as well as support the staff as they carry out the work that is so important to each and every one of our CACs. I look forward to working with all of you as the MDT Enhancement Coordinator for NYSCA over the next two plus years.

Thank you for shining a light into the darkest corners. A retiring police officer once told me as he was retiring...
"I don't know how you come to work each day and deal with child abuse and hear children say the saddest things, but if it's not YOU doing this work....then WHO?"

Warm Regards,

NYSCA Board Chair (retired September 2019)

Dear NYSCA Friends,

When I took over as Board Chair in October, 2019, I had already seen the hard work put forth by the NYSCA staff to ensure that NYSCA remains the leader in NYS when it comes to responding to child abuse and best practices for our MDT's. In this same month, the NYSCA staff provided a **SOLD OUT Leadership Conference** where Erin Merryn and Margaret Hoelzer shared their stories of survival and highlighted the importance of CAC's and their roles in prevention and healing. The informative workshops led by experienced professionals, the emotional stories told by victims, and the hard work put in by the NYSCA staff produced a tremendously successful conference!!

The growth in 2018 definitely spilled over into 2019 with the development of a new tracking database, public policy initiatives, additional staffing and board members, increased training opportunities, ongoing technical assistance, and an overall mission-driven focus that has provided CACs with the oversight needed to operate successful Centers in accordance with the standards put in place by the National Children's Alliance as well as the New York State Office of Children & Family Services, both of whom have a wonderful working relationship with our NYSCA team.

As we move forward, please know that NYSCA is here to support you and your team. They have a vast amount of knowledge and are ready to help in any way. NYSCA is dedicated to helping CACs in NYS provide the most effective services to child victims and their families. Please join me in congratulating NYSCA on another successful year in the books!

Sincerely,

NYSCA Board Chair (October 2019 to present)



LINDA CLEARY
NYSCA
Executive Director

Dear Friends,

I remember, as a child, adults always saying that the older you get, the faster time flies. As a child, I didn't understand that, but as I get older, I now understand what that means. Time truly does seem to fly by. So I sat down and took some time to look back at 2019 and the amazing work done by our members, 41 CACs strong, as well as the work done by the Chapter. Our member CACs provided services to over 23,000 children in 2019. That's a staggering number, but these MDTs worked tirelessly to help that child, and their family, heal from their trauma. NYSCA worked tirelessly, as well, in 2019 to support our members. Just a few of those accomplishments included the One Too Many marketing campaign, the Less is More mandated reporter curriculum, Mandated Reporter Reference Guides, official Public Policy Protocols, a "Welcome to the CAC" video, and trainings to over 800 MDT members during the year.

The staff of NYSCA will continue to provide CACs with resources, training, technical assistance and most importantly, networking opportunities across the state. We are committed to supporting you and your teams as you continue the amazing work you do each and every day.

Sincerely,

NYSCA Executive Director

NYSCA WHO WE ARE

OUR MEMBERSHIP SERVES THE COUNTIES OF:

Allegany
 Bronx
 Broome
 Cattaraugus
 Cayuga
 Chautauqua
 Chemung
 Chenango
 Clinton
 Columbia
 Cortland
 Dutchess
 Erie
 Essex
 Franklin
 Fulton
 Genesee
 Greene
 Hamilton
 Herkimer
 Jefferson
 Kings
 Lewis
 Madison
 Monroe
 Montgomery
 Nassau
 New York
 Niagara
 Oneida
 Onondaga
 Ontario
 Orleans
 Oswego
 Otsego
 Putnam
 Queens
 Rensselaer
 Richmond
 Rockland
 Saratoga
 Schenectady
 Schoharie
 Schuyler
 Seneca
 Steuben
 St. Lawrence
 Suffolk
 Tioga
 Tompkins
 Ulster
 Warren
 Washington
 Westchester
 Wyoming
 Yates

The New York State Children's Alliance is a 41-member organization. We are committed to improving the community response to children and families impacted by abuse.

OUR MISSION

The mission of the New York State Children's Alliance, Inc. (NYSCA) is to promote the development, growth and continuation of Multidisciplinary Teams (MDTs) and Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) throughout New York State in order to provide healing and justice to abused and neglected children and their families.

OUR VALUES

We will work tirelessly to realize our vision by drawing on our values.

- Children deserve to be safe from abuse
- Communities are where our work will, and should, have the greatest impact
- Respect for all is paramount in everything that we do
- Leadership builds change that lasts, and lasts through change

NYSCA serves as a unified voice advocating in the best interest of our membership at the local, state and national levels on matters related to child abuse and childhood trauma.

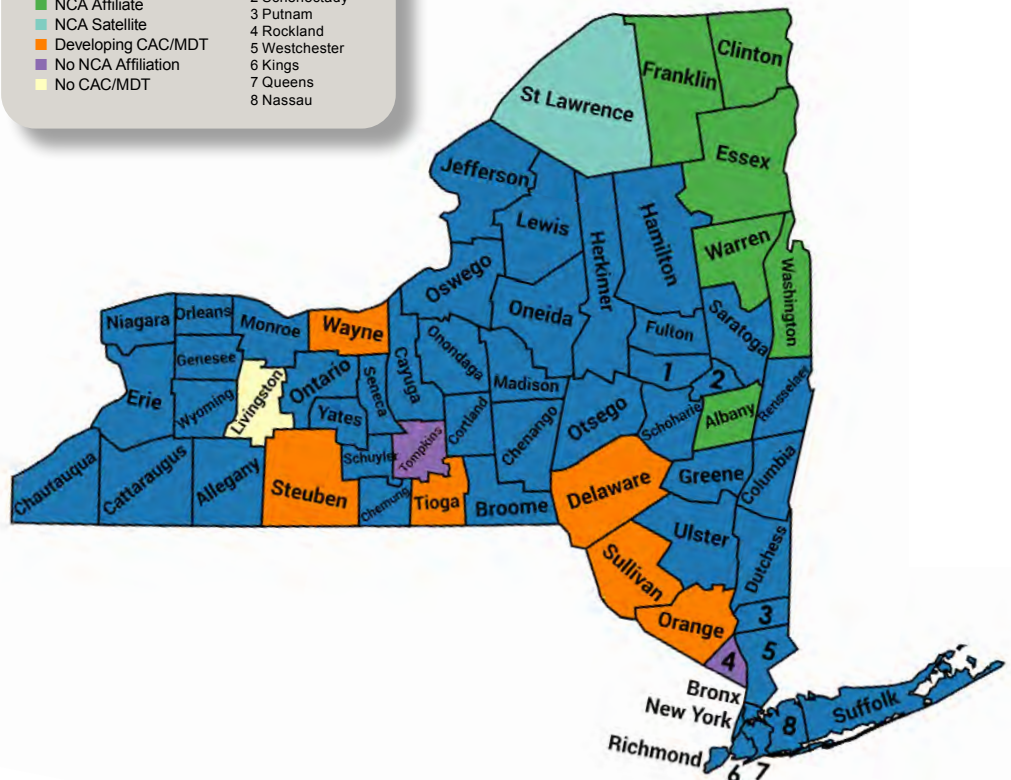
2019 CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS

CAC/MDT STATUS

- NCA Accredited
- NCA Affiliate
- NCA Satellite
- Developing CAC/MDT
- No NCA Affiliation
- No CAC/MDT

COUNTIES

- 1 Montgomery
- 2 Schenectady
- 3 Putnam
- 4 Rockland
- 5 Westchester
- 6 Kings
- 7 Queens
- 8 Nassau



NYSCA OUR TEAM

NYSCA STAFF



Linda Cleary
Executive Director



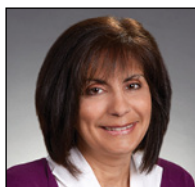
Clare Robinson-Henrie
Dir. of Statewide Programming



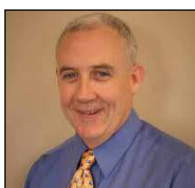
William Starliper
Director of Finance



Jami Bolton
Education & Training Coordinator



Patricia Maio Mullin
Communications & Marketing Coordinator



John Kelly
MDT Enhancement Coordinator

BOARD OF DIRECTORS

John Kelly
Board Chair (retired 09/19)
Harriet M. West Child Advocacy Center

Kristen Beard
Board Chair (10/19 to present)
Cortland County Child Advocacy Center

Stephen P. Forrester, Esq.
Secretary
*NY Society for the Prevention of
Cruelty to Children*

Karrie Damm
Treasurer
CAC Foundation, Inc.

Nancy Arnow
Safe Horizon

Kathy Colgan
Colgan Consulting, Inc.

Joshua Hanson
The Safe Cener, LI, Inc.

Richard Neal
Merrill Lynch-The Neal Group

Deb Rosen
Bivona Child Advocacy Center

Ann Marie Tucker
Child Advocacy Center of Niagara

EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES

PROVIDING SUPPORT

RESTORING HOPE



NYS OUR SERVICES

IMPACT OF OUR WORK:

41 CHILD ADVOCACY
CENTERS SERVING
56 COUNTIES &
3 TRIBAL NATIONS

OVER 800
CAC and MDT
PROFESSIONALS
RECEIVED TRAINING

FROM OUR MEMBERSHIP TEAMS IN 2019:

23,443
CHILDREN
WERE SERVED

2,387
MEDICAL EXAMS
WERE PROVIDED

4,660
RECEIVED
ON-SITE THERAPY

With each new case of abuse referred to a Child Advocacy Center, a comprehensive investigation is initiated. With the safety and protection of the child as its highest priority, a highly skilled team including forensic interviewers, law enforcement, child protective services, prosecutors, advocates, medical and mental health professionals assess each case with sensitivity and care.

15,043



Forensic Interviews

Specially trained Forensic Interviewers work with the MDT to ensure victims are not interviewed unnecessarily and allow them to do so in a safe, legally sound and neutral setting.

4,660



Mental Health Care

Each child and their family are offered specialized evidence-based, trauma-focused, mental health services, proven to be effective in coping with the trauma of sexual and physical abuse.

2,387



Medical Exams

A medical exam, similar to a pediatrician's check-up, may be offered to a child to determine the nature and extent of the abuse. These exams provide the team with valuable information to prosecute the offender and help the child heal.

19,743



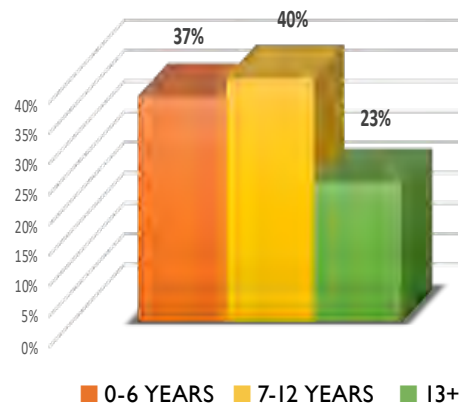
Victim Advocacy

CACs stand in the gap for the healing of child abuse victims, focusing on reduced trauma for the child. Victim Advocates provide resources, support and training with a compassionate, listening ear, so that each child gets the care they deserve.

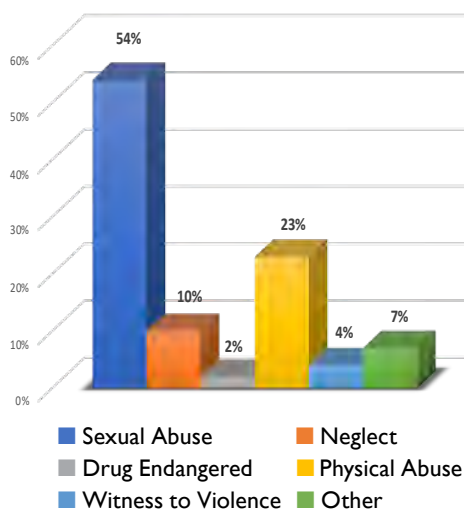
One in every 10 children in New York state will be a victim of sexual abuse by their 18th birthday. The New York State Children's Alliance exists to change the numbers listed below and lead the fight against the cycle of child abuse through a stronger, more approachable model.



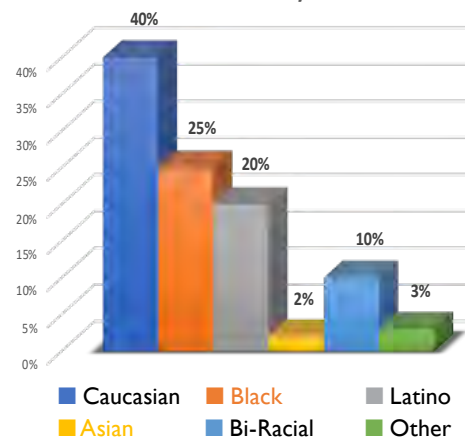
Age



Types of Abuse

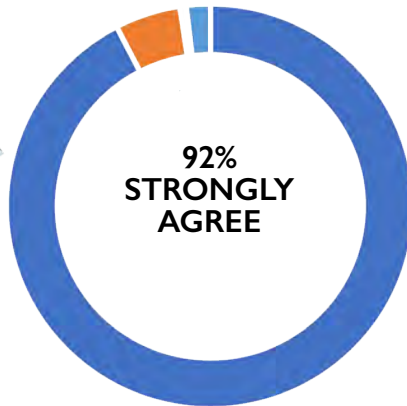


Ethnicity



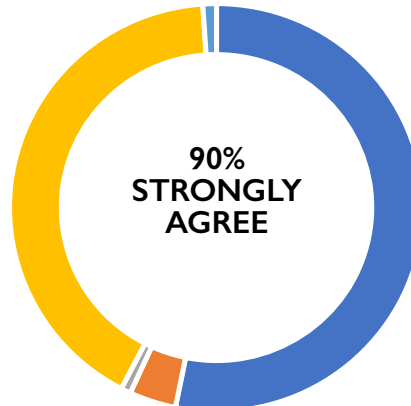
NYSCA OUR IMPACT

I believe my child felt safe at the CAC.



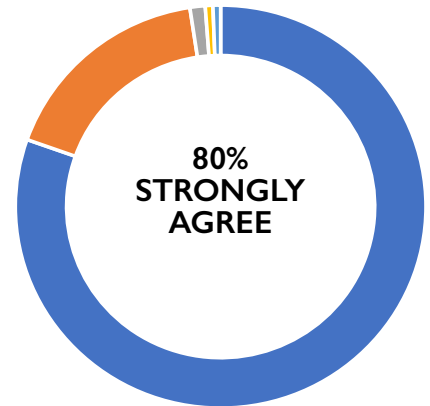
Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

The CAC staff provided resources to support my child.



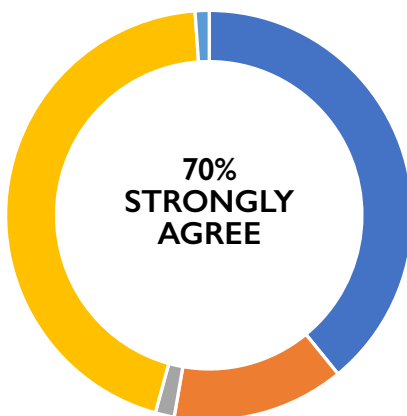
Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

MDT members feel clients benefit from the collaborative approach.



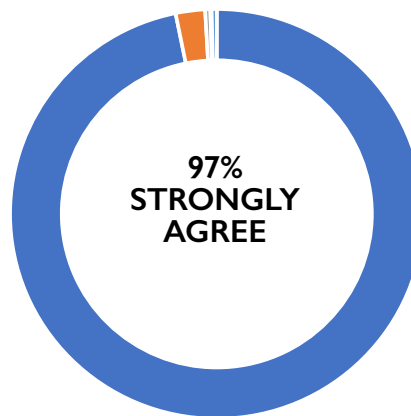
Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

The CAC provides resources that build better cases.



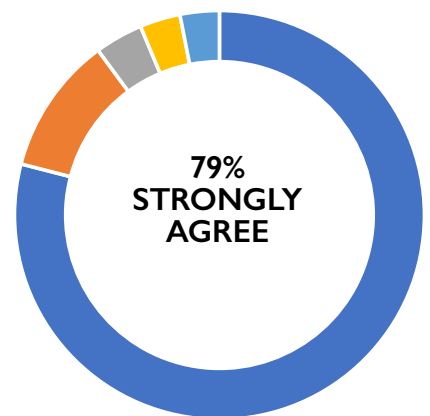
Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

When I came to the CAC, my child & I were greeted and received attention in a timely manner.



Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

I was given information about possible behaviors I might expect from my child in the days and weeks ahead.



Strongly Agree Somewhat Agree
Somewhat Disagree Strongly Disagree
Not Applicable

HOW YOU CAN HELP

REPORT: Learn about the signs of child abuse and report it immediately. This could mean the difference between life and death for the most vulnerable in our community. If you suspect a child is being abused or neglected, or is at risk for abuse or neglect, **call the New York State Child Abuse Hotline at 1-800-342-3720.** If you see something, say something.

ADVOCATE: Tell your legislators why you think Child Advocacy Centers are an important part of the community response to child abuse. NYSCA receives state and federal funds to support CACs in New York. Your voice matters! Find your legislators [here](#).

VOLUNTEER: Contact your local child advocacy center in NY state [here](#) and find out how you can share your talents to help end child abuse.

DONATE: Contribute to make a difference in a child's life. Click to DONATE [here](#).

SHOP FOR A CAUSE: Now you can support NYSCA every time you shop at Amazon.com. Just follow these easy steps and you will be on your way to financially supporting NYSCA with every Amazon purchase you make!

1. Go to smile.amazon.com
2. Log in with your Amazon account.
3. Search for NYSCA in the charity search near the top of the page.
4. Shop!

CONSIDER A LEGACY GIFT: Please call 585-402-8086 if you would like more information on how to support NYSCA with a legacy gift.

2019 FINANCIAL STATEMENT

REVENUE:

Government Grants	820,519.16
Membership Dues	10,125.00
Donations and Fundraising	<u>21,187.61</u>
TOTAL REVENUE	851,831.77

EXPENSES:

Administrative	49,527.03
Program Services	<u>804,535.24</u>
TOTAL EXPENSE	854,062.27



ONE TOO MANY

#OneTooManyNY

ONE TOO MANY

In April 2019, NYSCA unveiled One Too Many, a statewide awareness initiative addressing the reality that one child abused is “One Too Many.” This on-going, information campaign provides an opportunity to begin a conversation about child sexual abuse, often an uncomfortable topic, and to learn about the unique role Child Advocacy Centers play in providing comprehensive, coordinated and compassionate services to child victims of abuse and neglect.

The One Too Many initiative included the creation of a powerful 45-second video ([here](#)) that highlights the startling statistic that one in ten children will be sexually abused by their 18th birthday. The video was shared with all of NYSCA’s members to use. Supplemental materials were produced to support the initiative and are available on the [NYSCA website](#). A social media campaign was launched, as well, to raise awareness for the alarming statistics surrounding child abuse.

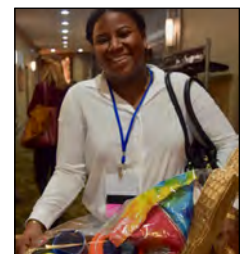


New York State Children's Alliance Leadership Conference

The 2019 conference was sold-out!

Attendees from across the state participated in workshops, forums, and networking opportunities discerning important information on a variety of topics from local and national experts.

We were thrilled to have our keynote delivered by Erin Merryn, especially following the recent passage of Erin's Law in New York State. Our plenary speaker, Margaret Hoelzer, Olympic medalist, engaged the audience as she shared her story of overcoming childhood sexual abuse while highlighting the importance of the CAC's role in her healing process.



"I think it was all around a wonderful two days with so much knowledge provided and shared."



NYSCA STATEWIDE

NYSCA HOSTED 9 REGIONAL MEETINGS FOR OUR CAC MEMBERS IN 2019

Regional meetings were held both online and in-person for over 41 member child advocacy centers representing at least 41 counties.

Many members report that the networking and general discussion portions of regional meetings have some of the most value.

This past year, members discussed challenges, successes, the switch to Collaborate, reaccreditation, criminal justice reforms and strategies to address inequality in the NYS child maltreatment field.

Members also had fun!

Meetings also included presentations from the Canine Companions for Independence and the Strong Museum of Play in Rochester, NY.



ANNUAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING-MAY 2019

The New York State Children's Alliance presented its first annual membership meeting on May 15th, 2019 in Syracuse, NY. Twenty-five Child Advocacy Centers were represented at the meeting, along with several members of the NYSCA board of directors.

The meeting began with our 2018 Annual Report that featured our accomplishments as an organization, but also a look at the amazing work of our 41 member CACs in New York State, who collectively served more than 23,000 children last year alone. We thank you for your work in helping children who have been abused heal from the trauma they have endured.

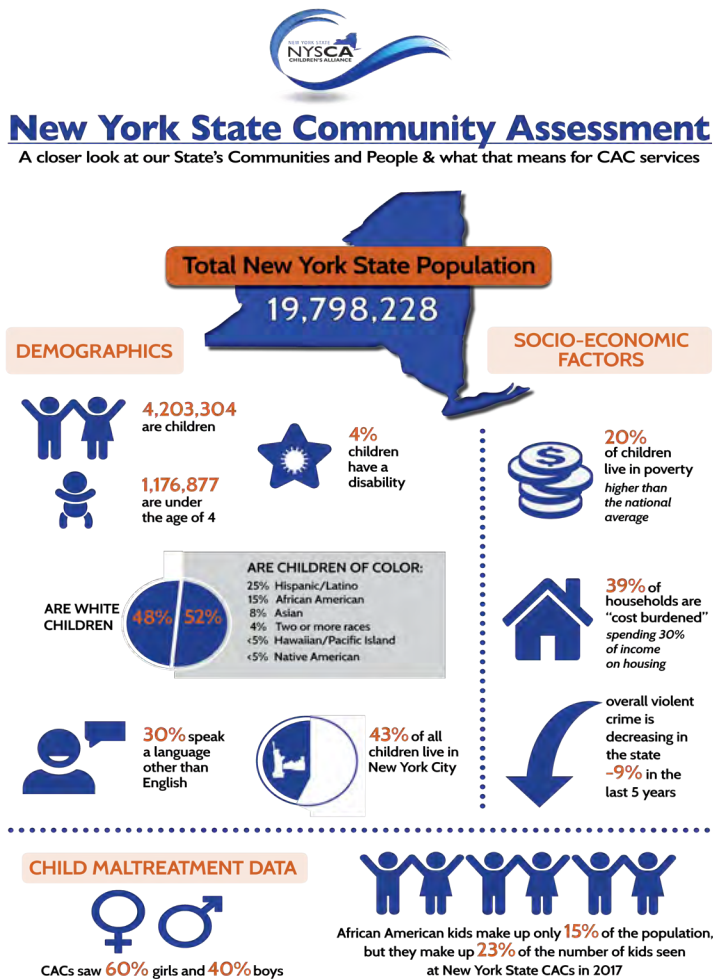


Following the annual report, a very engaging and interactive presentation was given by Kit Miller, Director of the M.K. Gandhi Institute for Nonviolence in Rochester, on "Conflict without Contempt." Members learned some effective communication techniques for dealing with a variety of MDT personalities and conflicts.

During the Q&A and sharing time, the new Public Policy Protocols were presented to the membership, allowing time for discussion. The Protocols were then voted on by member CACs and passed. The meeting concluded with an engaging "Emotion into Art" presentation by Tom Varano.

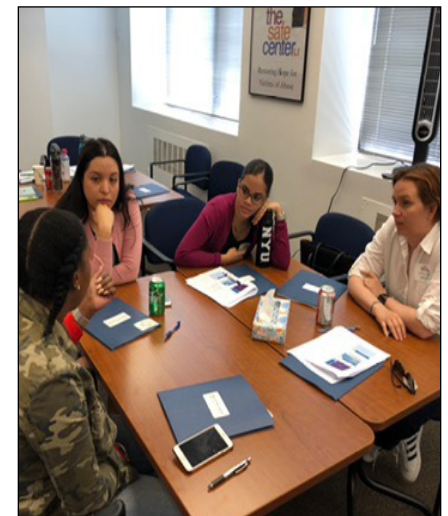


COMMUNITY ASSESSMENT 2019



MDT ENHANCEMENT INITIATIVE

In 2019, the New York State Children's Alliance received a grant award from the NYS Office of Victim Services for an MDT Enhancement Initiative, in recognition that the CAC model was born out of a need to facilitate a coordinated approach to child abuse investigations. The MDT Enhancement Initiative is intended to support Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) in designing and implementing overarching strategies and specific procedures that will strengthen the coordination of joint investigations, improve communication among team members, and enhance the overall collaborative approach to the investigation, assessment, intervention and prosecution of the child abuse cases worked through the CAC and its MDT. Three pilot sites will be identified to participate in the initiative for a 3-year period.



Maintaining an accurate, current, and comprehensive assessment of the extent to which all children across the state have access to the full array of CAC services, the Chapter is poised to implement a strategic approach to ongoing growth and development and to provide a solid basis for any related resource solicitation efforts. By including current demographic data in a statewide assessment, the Chapter can better ensure that efforts to establish, expand, or enhance the full array of CAC services throughout the state represent a reasonably sustainable investment of resources. In 2019, NYSCA completed a statewide assessment to review and evaluate the landscape of New York state.

NYSCA TRAININGS

14

statewide trainings were offered throughout the year by NYSCA

462

MDT members received training utilizing Chapter support funds

54

Mental Health Clinicians were trained in the Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavior Therapy (TF-CBT) model

195

MDT members attended the NYSCA Leadership Conference

110

professionals attended the Dove's Nest Amish and Old Order Mennonites training

21

CACs participated in Forensic Interview and Medical Peer Review meetings

24

medical professionals received the Pediatric/Adolescent SANE training/certification through NYSCA funds

18

MDT members participated in a Community Interpreter training

STATEWIDE TRAINING

NYSCA provided training to over 800 CAC staff and MDT members across the state. Team members also created a new training—LESS IS MORE.

This training highlights the integral role a Mandated Reporter has in a child abuse investigation process by understanding what is needed to make a call to the State Central Registry (SCR), and what happens after the call is made.

LESS IS MORE

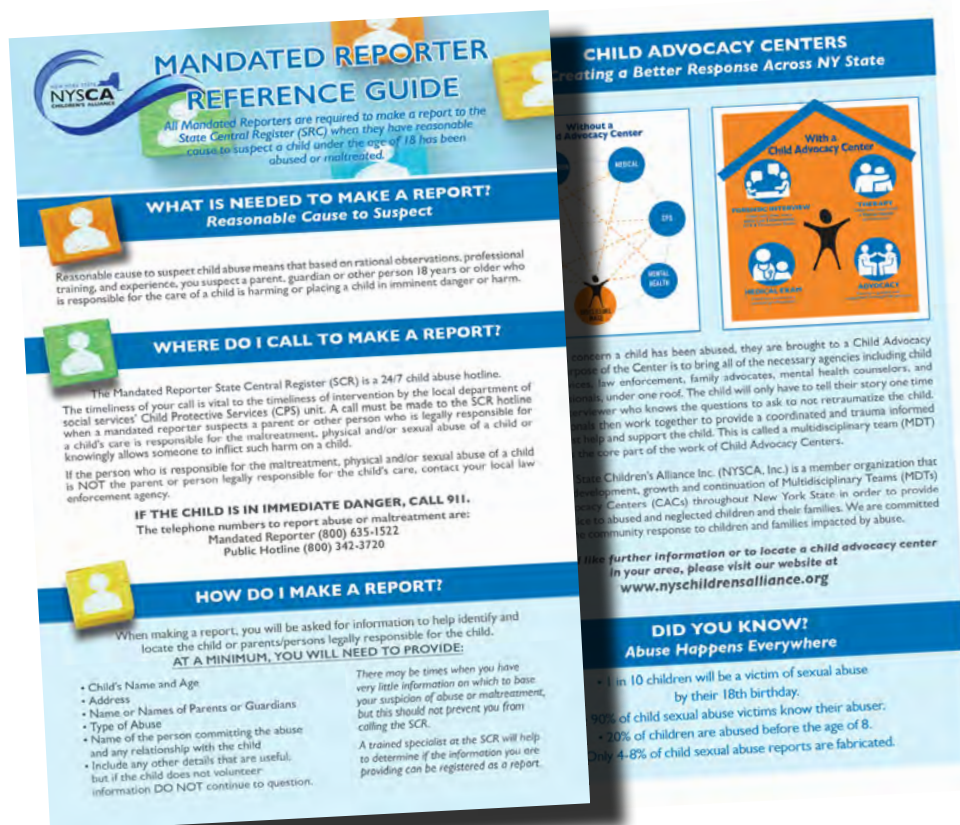
Your first response

The focus of LESS IS MORE is to present the importance and impact of Child Advocacy Centers in New York State. By defining what a Child

Advocacy Center (CAC) and a Multi-Disciplinary Team (MDT) is, our goal is to help Mandated Reporters feel confident about what to do when they suspect child abuse, and reassure them of the importance of their role when it comes to protecting children.

Training Objectives:

- Know what is needed to make a call to the SCR
- How to gather necessary information without questioning the child
- Importance of the role of a Mandated Reporter
- What a CAC is and how it works
- Why some cases do not move forward



2019 started off right when the Child Victims Act (CVA) was passed by the NYS Legislature on January 28th and the Governor signed it into law on February 14th during an emotional ceremony! Survivors, advocates, including the bill's champions Senator Hoylman and Assemblywoman Rosenthal, and the public (including NYSCA staff) were there to witness it.

The CVA reformed New York's antiquated statute of limitations on child sexual abuse by increasing the period of time that child abuse survivors may file criminal charges against their abusers. They now have until they turn 28 (up from age 23). Additionally, civil charges may be filed up until the survivor's 55th birthday against individual abusers and the institutions which might have enabled them. Lastly, the CVA opened up a one-year window to allow all victims to seek civil action regardless of how long ago the abuse occurred. The one-year window opened on August 14th, 2019 and has been extended into January 2021, due to COVID-19's impact on the NYS court system.

At the Annual Membership Meeting in May 2019, NYSCA members passed the first-ever Public Policy Protocols. These Protocols allow NYSCA to more confidently pursue our own public policy priorities as well as support the efforts of partner organizations.

In June 2019, NYSCA had a record-breaking crowd join us for our Hill Day visits as part of the NCA Leadership Conference. NYSCA staff and CAC members from across the

state met with the offices of both NYS Senators and eight Congress Members representing numerous counties across New York in just three hours. The group let our representatives know about the vital work of CACs/MDTs and encouraged them to protect our Federal funding streams as well as support policy initiatives that impact the lives of the children and families we serve.

Again in June, **Erin's Law** was passed by both chambers of the NYS Legislature. The law mandates that all public schools implement a prevention-oriented child sexual abuse program that includes:

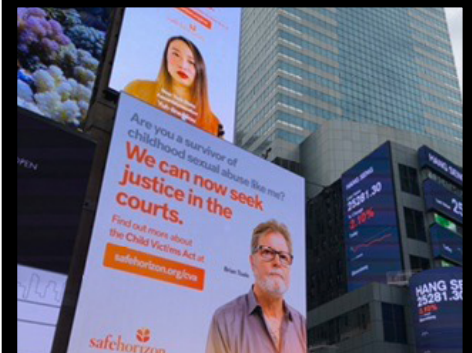
- Students in grades pre K–12th grade learn age-appropriate techniques to recognize child sexual abuse and are instructed to tell a trusted adult.
- School personnel learn all about child sexual abuse.
- Parents & guardians learn the warning signs of child sexual abuse, plus needed assistance, referrals or resource information to support sexually abused children and their families.

Lastly, in the Fall of 2019, NYSCA staff, with the assistance of our Public Policy Committee, created the first-ever Public Policy Priorities. These priorities include getting CACs access to SCR background checks for potential employees as well as immunity from civil liability for CAC employees. The work on these priorities is on-going.

HISTORY MADE!



New York passes the **CHILD VICTIMS ACT**, allowing survivors of child sexual assault the chance to seek justice



"Everyone was so kind and caring, making a tremendously horrible situation easier to navigate."



NYSCA 2019 Trainings:

I had the ability to network...and choose from a selection of trainings that I may not otherwise have access to."



"Our trainer was absolutely wonderful. Her knowledge and experience provided insight, & her ability to keep us on target was superb."





Creating a Better Response Across New York State

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