

Child Advocacy Program (CAP)

2018 Annual Report



www.capjustice.org

CAP'S MISSION IS TO END CHILD ABUSE IN CHAUTAUQUA COUNTY.

When abuse occurs, CAP coordinates a community response to bring healing, hope and justice to these children and families.

Why is the Child Advocacy Program so Important?

The Child Advocacy Program is one of 40 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs). These are child-focused centers that coordinate the investigation, prosecution, and treatment of child abuse while helping abused children heal. They emphasize the coordination of investigation and intervention services by bringing together professionals and agencies as a multidisciplinary team to create a child-focused approach to child abuse cases. A supportive, child-focused approach facility is fundamental to a CAC.

CACs provide intervention services. But they also share the goal of stopping abuse before it even starts. Coordinated investigations are more efficient and more effective; CACs make this a reality.

All CACs have multidisciplinary teams (MDT) that meet regularly to plan cooperative protocols and review cases that are being investigated. MDTs are more successful in reducing duplication, ensuring cases do not fall through the cracks, and resolving more cases successfully. Collaborative approaches to investigation bring wider viewpoints into making decisions, help identify more resources for children, and provide a smoother experience for children and families.

Child victims of sexual abuse who receive services at CACs are twice as likely to receive specialized medical exams. Advocates work with each family at the center to provide information, referrals and support. Recorded forensic interviews are more accurate than notes taken by interviewers. Children's disclosures provide a powerful incentive for suspects to confess and recorded disclosures provide direct, reliable and often the only evidence to corroborate the allegations and prosecute crimes.

Evidence based practices (EBT) therapies have been proven to reduce trauma symptoms. Seventy five percent of children who had PTSD when they started treatment no longer had PTSD at their last follow-up. (NCTSN Core Data Set Report on Evidence Based Treatment, February 2018)

CACs promote best practice. CAP is an accredited program. This means it aligns itself with 10 national standards and must meet all of the requirements underneath each standard.

Research demonstrates that caregivers that have worked with Child Advocacy Centers are more satisfied with the investigation than those from non-Child Advocacy Center comparison sites. 97% of caregivers would tell others to seek help at a CAC.



Dear friends,

In 2018, a new funding opportunity enabled CAP to hire two new staff to provide Forensic Interviews. CAP's first bilingual staff was hired as a Part time Forensic Interviewer. 161 Forensic interviews were conducted throughout the county in 2018. Forensic Interviews are structured conversations with children intended to elicit detailed information about possible events the children may have experienced or witnessed.

A new Executive Director Beth Oakes joined the CAP team in March. She has almost twenty years of experience in nonprofit management and working with youth and their families.

Another successful Diamond Dinner was held at Chautauqua Suites in April.

In May, CAP welcomed three new members to the Board of Directors- Laura Geraci, Carrie Fitzgerald and Laurel Brown and said farewell to long term Board member Edwin Rodriguez.

CAP participated in their first #GiveBigCHO fundraising campaign in June, raising monies to help fund therapy sessions for children in their community.

An Open House was also held so community members could see the Jamestown CAP office basement renovations.

In September, the fifth annual Step Up for Kids 5 K at Cassadaga Beach was successful with almost 100 runners registered.

CAP Clinicians Sean Lennon and Tammy Simmons were honored to be presenters at the Child Trauma Conference in Charleston in October of 2018. The title of their session was: Dispelling the Myths of Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior.

CAP continued their prevention efforts by training community members through the Stewards of Children and Less Is More trainings. CAP staff attended several tabling events throughout the community, especially during Child Abuse Prevention month. Over 300 community members were trained in 2018.

CAP would like to thank all of their funders, community partners, MDT and Steering Committee members, CAP volunteers and Board members for their tireless efforts in helping children who have witnessed or experienced abuse.

Beth Oakes
Executive Director



CAP provides education and awareness in order to prevent, recognize and react responsibly to child sexual abuse through Stewards of Children training and Less Is More curriculum. Contact CAP for the dates and times of upcoming workshops

Operating since 2008, CAP has offices in both Jamestown and Fredonia.

Highlights

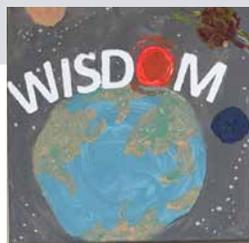
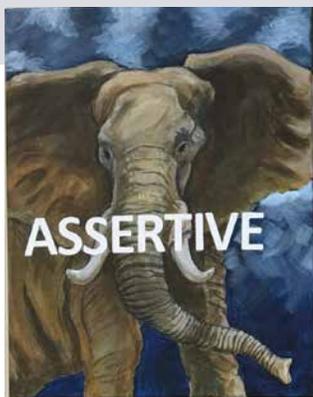


8th Annual Diamond Dinner

Almost 300 people attended the Diamond Dinner April 28th. Local businesses were generous in donating 100 prizes. CAP is thankful to their 35 sponsors, volunteers, as well as Board and staff members for helping to make this a successful event. The counseling auction is always a highlight of the evening. This year, people generously donated 215 counseling sessions. This event brings together members of the community and the Chautauqua County Multidisciplinary Team (MDT). The MDT plays a vital role in bringing cases to justice and in providing the child and family with a full array of services designed to facilitate the healing process.

2018 Step Up For Kids 5K/Run/Walk September 29, 2018

CAP had another successful run at Cassadaga Beach. Almost 100 runners/walkers participated. This annual event, organized by the CAP Board of Directors, is an awareness event as well as a fundraiser. CAP thanks the Village of Cassadaga and the Cassadaga Fire Police for providing support for this event.



Infinity Art Project

Through a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation, CAP partnered with Infinity Visual and performing Arts to have students at Infinity paint artwork for the center. Jamestown artist Debra Eck created collages throughout the CAP building to showcase their art..



Window Project

In 2017, CAP was awarded a grant from the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation to begin their window project. In 2018, CAP completed their project with the help of Cummins. The new graphics on the windows allow staff and visitors to see out, but do not let people see in. This gives the children and families' privacy and confidentiality as they go through the investigative and healing process.

OneScreen Hype

CAP invested in the OneScreen Hype, a Web-based audio and video conferencing solution that helps CAP train, present, brainstorm and hold virtual meetings. The OneScreen features:

Presentation Tools
Screen Sharing
Mobile Access
Private Chat
Two-Way Audio & Video

Real-Time Chat
Video Conferencing
Presentation Streaming
Record & Playback Ability

CAP utilizes the OneScreen for:

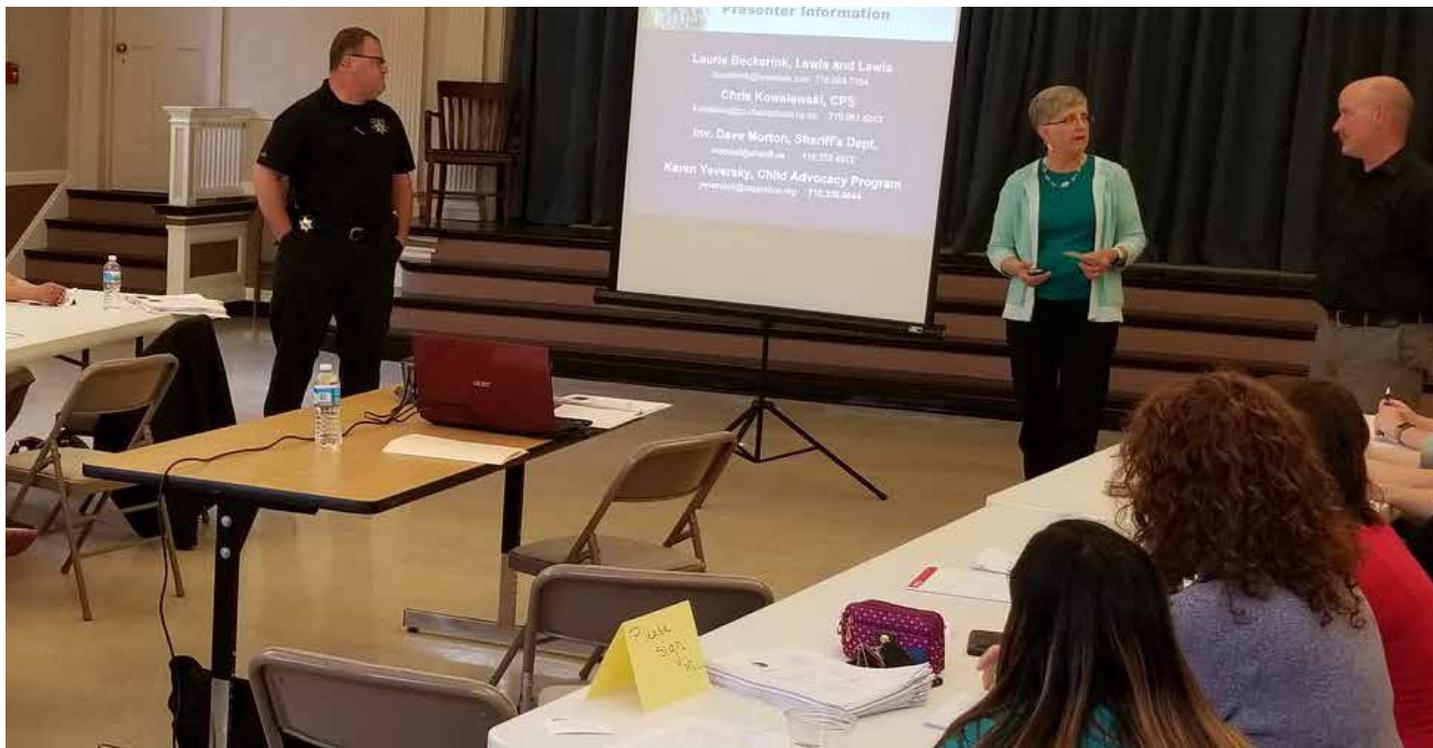
- **Protective Parenting** and **Stewards of Children** trainings
- Peer reviews for Advocates and Forensic Interviewers
- Staff and Board of Director meetings
- Provide Webinars and Presentations to groups



Prevention

Less is More

A Trauma Informed Response for Professionals Mandated to Report Suspicions of Child Abuse



Child abuse is disturbing, complex and extremely difficult to investigate. How professionals react and respond to a suspected child abuse allegation will have a direct impact on the child's recovery from the traumatic act and on the integrity of the subsequent investigation. This training is designed to give school and childcare personnel, along with medical, mental health and other mandated reporters, the tools needed to optimally respond when a child discloses or indicates that he or she may be a victim of abuse. As a result, more children will receive the help they need, in a timely and sensitive manner.

Goal of Training: Ensure best practice response in child abuse cases.

Summary:

- Recommended for all Mandated Reporters.
- Provide skills, knowledge and tools to respond appropriately to disclosures or discoveries of child abuse, such as:
 - Get minimal information to call in a report
 - Minimize discussion with the child and caregivers
 - Preserve the integrity of law enforcement and CPS investigations

Format:

- 1.5 hour PowerPoint training
- Can be presented to large groups
 - Facilitated by Law Enforcement, CPS, District Attorney's Office and CAP staff
- No cost for the training

Contact Karen Yeversky, CAP Training Coordinator, at 716-338-9844 or yeverskyk@capjustice.org for more information or to register

Ongoing education

In October 2018, CAP Clinicians Tammy Simmons and Sean Lennon presented at the Child Trauma Conference in Charleston, SC. The title of their session was: Dispelling the Myths of Youth with Problematic Sexual Behavior. The seminar covered the following topics over approximately 90 minutes:

- Defining problematic and illegal sexual behavior in youth
- Discussing adult sex offender typologies and the differences between youth who engage in PSB vs. adults who engage in illegal sexual behavior
- Motivational, behavioral, and developmental factors of youth who engage in PSB
- Treatment of youth who engage in PSB and illegal sexual behavior
- Treatment outcomes
- Current policies and ineffective, harmful terminology that is used to describe youth with PSB



Spanish translation project

CAP staff identified providing the center's materials in Spanish as a priority. Through the generosity of the Chautauqua Region Community Foundation funding was provided for the Spanish translation of CAP brochures and materials.

Our Staff



Kelly Ziegler
(Family Advocate)

Back Row:

Tori Jordan(Family Advocate), **Tammy Simmons**(Mental Health Coordinator), **Stephanie Gruber**(Forensic Interviewer), **Kayleah Feser**(Safe Harbour Coordinator), **Sheryl Waterman**(Program Manager), **Carey Lee**(Advocacy Coordinator), **Stacey Asel**(Counselor), **Jillian Bloomquist**(Program Assistant).

Front Row:

Amanda Weaver(Forensic Interviewer), **Beth Oakes**(Executive Director), **Karen Yeversky**(Family Advocate/Training Coordinator)

New Staff



Beth Oakes joined the CAP team in March of 2018. She graduated from Houghton College where she met her late husband Kevin, and has lived in western New York ever since. Beth has a passion for bettering the lives of families and youth in the community, as evidenced by her work history. Prior to her eighteen years serving as Executive Director for the Jamestown YWCA, she worked at the District Attorney's office and was on a multi-disciplinary team that talked about bringing a Child Advocacy Program to Jamestown. She said the fact that she is now going to work with the local Child Advocacy Program that was conceived during her time with the DA's office has brought her career full-circle. She enjoys reading, and spending time with her three children and five grandchildren (all under 6!)



Stephanie Gruber is a trained Child Forensic Interview Specialist. She has been trained in several nationally recognized forensic interview protocols; including CornerHouse, National Children's Advocacy Center and ChildFirst. Stephanie has worked in the field of child welfare since 2004 and began conducting forensic interviews in 2005. As a child protective services caseworker, Stephanie was a part of Child Sexual Abuse investigative teams in both Warren County, PA and Chautauqua County, NY. Since January, 2018, Stephanie has worked full-time for the Child Advocacy Program (CAP) as the lead forensic interviewer and routinely conducts developmentally sensitive, legally sound investigative interviews with children to gather factual information for law enforcement and CPS regarding allegations of abuse/neglect.



Amanda Weaver is a Child Forensic Interview Specialist. She has been trained in the nationally recognized ChildFirst forensic interview protocol. She graduated from Alfred University in May of 2018 with a Bachelor's Degree in Spanish. Prior to completing her degree, Amanda spent a semester abroad immersed in the language and culture of Ecuador. Since December of 2018, Amanda has worked part time for the Child Advocacy Program (CAP) as a bilingual forensic interviewer, as well as utilizing her skills as an interpreter for both the North and South County offices.

Multidisciplinary Team



Seated left-right Marilyn Fiore-Lehman(DA office), **Carey Lee**(CAP), **Karen Yeversky**(CAP), **Stacey Asel**(CAP)

Standing left-right Tori Jordan(CAP), Amanda Weavern(CAP), Tom Rankin (County Attorney Office), Katie Schrantz (CPS), Robin Ross(CPS), Holly Dziubinski(CPS), Lori Eaton(Probation), **Briana Snyder**(Seneca Nation), **Katryn Beck**(Seneca Nation), **Jessica McKeever**(Safe Harbour), **Matt Kachermeyer**(JPD), **Jake Stahley**(Chautauqua County Sheriff's Office)

Brooks Memorial Hospital

Catholic Charities

Chaut. Co. Department of Mental Hygiene

Chaut. Co. Department of Health and Human Services

Chaut. Co. District Attorney

Chaut. Co. Law Department

Chaut. Co. Office of Probation

Chaut. Co. Safe Harbour

Chaut. Co. Sheriff's Office

Chautauqua Tapestry

Court Appointed Special Advocates

Dunkirk Police Department

Family Service of the Chautauqua Region

Fredonia Police Department

Jamestown Pediatrics

Jamestown Police Department

Lakewood/Busti Police Department

Lane Women's Health Group

New York State Police

Seneca Nation

Southern Tier Pediatrics

The Resource Center

The Salvation Army ANEW Center

Town of Carroll Police Department

Town of Ellicott Police Department

UPMC

Westfield Family Physicians

Westfield Family Police Department

THANK YOU
to our Volunteers

Jamestown Volunteers:

Kathy Ballard
Mike Danielson
Lois Kibler
Pam Sali

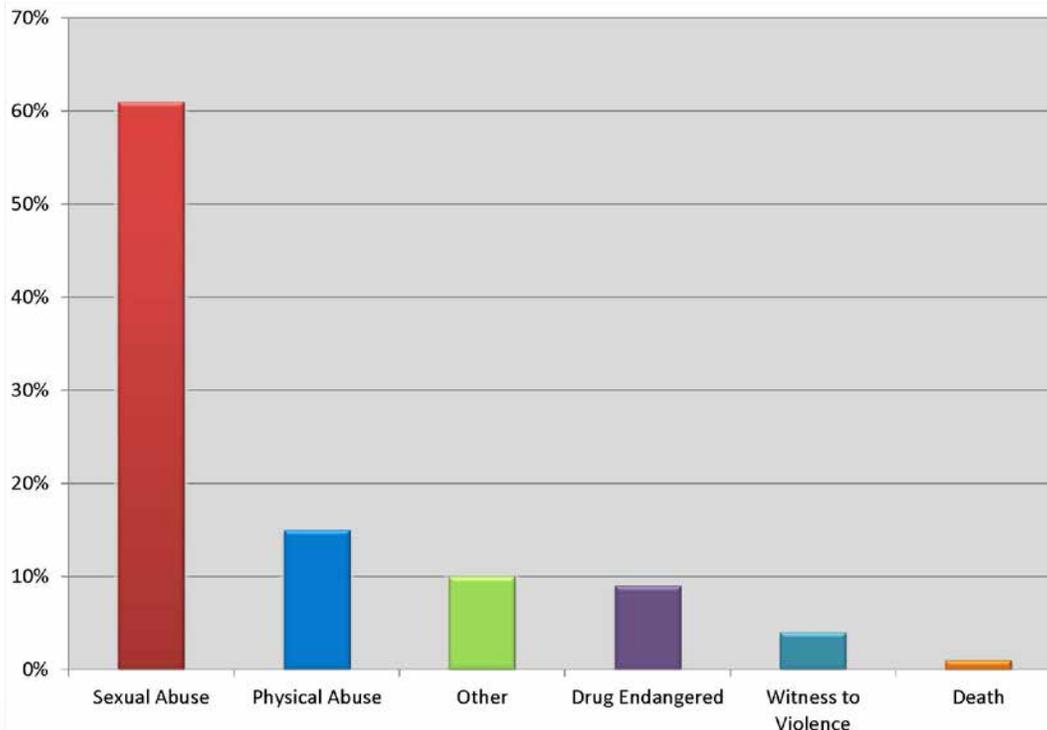
Fredonia Volunteers:

Laurel Brown
Wendy Black

Board of Directors

Betsy Goldman - *President*
Karen Dolce - *Vice President*
John Felton - *Treasurer*
Mary Maisto - *Secretary*
Regina Brackman
Scott Franzen
Angelica Peck
Lewis Meckley
Edwin Rodriguez, Jr
Tim Smeal

Types of abuse



The MDT and CAP Staff provided:

161 Forensic Interviews

442 Advocacy Cases with **4,183** Services

101 Children with **617** Trauma Focused
Counselling Sessions

23 Children with Medical Evaluations

62% of the Children Served were
under the age of 12 years

37% were Male

63% were Female

2018 Financials

Statement of Financial Position, December 31, 2018

Assets:.....	\$401,645
Liabilities & Refundable Advances:	\$22,420
Net Assets:	\$379,225

Statement of Change in Net Assets 2018

Revenue:	\$775,443
Expenses:	\$740,215
Change in Net Assets:	\$35,228
Net Assets as of 12/31/16:	\$343,997
Net Assets as of 12/31/17:	\$379,225



THANK YOU

to our financial donors

AXA Advisors, LLC
 Busti Church of God
 Cafilisch Wood Pallet and
 Wood Services
 Casey & Jackie Cannon
 Chautauqua Region
 Community Foundation
 Christ First United
 Methodist Women
 Contract Interior Solutions,
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Cummins, Inc - Jamestown
 Engine Plant
 DFT Communications
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 FSC Systems LLC
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 Jamestown Pediatric
 Associates
 Jamestown Teachers
 Association
 Jamestown's Rental
 Properties

Jim & Roxanne Sheehy
 Labyrinth Press Company
 Lake Shore Paving Inc
 Lewis and Lewis, P.C.
 Louis Mazzie
 Lutheran Social Services
 Mandy Stoltenberg
 Michael Goldman
 Northern Chautauqua
 Community Foundation
 Randy & Diana Ordines
 Rebecca Mazzie

Sandy Hopkins
 Saxton, Kocur and Associates,
 LLP
 Shults Auto Group
 Silver Creek Central School
 SKF Aeroengine
 Slone Melhuish
 Southern Chautauqua FCU
 Southern Tier Pediatrics
 The Legend Group
 Truck Lite
 Zonta Club of Jamestown, NY



The Child Advocacy Program provides a compassionate and effective way to bring services to children and families affected by abuse. Our collaboration with multidisciplinary team members significantly reduces the trauma associated with child abuse and improves case outcomes. We help coordinate care and investigation from first report to conviction and beyond, while keeping the child at the center of everything the team does.

Thank you to all of the volunteers, donors, and friends who support CAP's mission. Community support is vital to the work that the Child Advocacy Program and Multi-Disciplinary Team do.

How can YOU get involved?

- Call 338-9844 or 672-2031 to tour one of the CAP offices
- Become a volunteer, committee or Board member
- Take one of our trainings
- Be part of our Fundraising efforts- Diamond Dinner and the Run/Walk
- Donate healthy snacks and drinks for the children
- Be informed about how you can recognize signs of abuse
- Follow CAP's Facebook page and tell others about the work CAP does



Community Partner

CAP is a United Way agency



www.capjustice.org