


The History and Future of CACs

The Child Advocacy Center Model



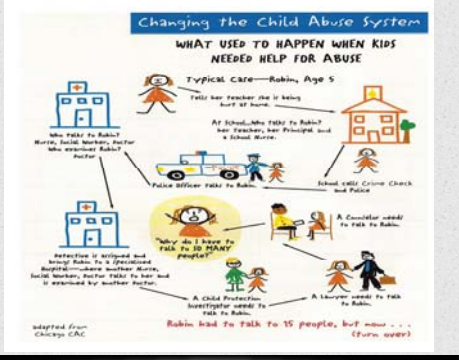
Idaho Network of Children's Advocacy Centers

INCAC was established in 2001. Our mission is to improve the child abuse response in Idaho communities by promoting and assisting with the development, growth, and continuation of Children's Advocacy Centers.



INCAC Chapter Responsibilities

- ❖ **Promote development** and sustainability of Idaho's Child Advocacy Centers
- ❖ **Facilitate & coordinate** training opportunities for member CACs and MDTs
- ❖ **Manage** a State Chapter grant through the National Children's Alliance
- ❖ **Maintain national standards** for Chapter accreditation
- ❖ **Identify** and address underserved areas
- ❖ **Build public awareness** and create policy/legislative changes




Changing the Child Abuse System
WHAT USED TO HAPPEN WHEN KIDS NEEDED HELP FOR ABUSE

Typical Case—Rabkin, Age 5
 Tells her teacher she is being hurt at home.
 At school, she talks to Rabkin her Teacher, her Principal, and a School Nurse.
 Police Officer talks to Rabkin.
 School calls Crime Check and Police.
 Rabkin had to talk to 15 people, but none... (from over)

Robert E. "Bud" Cramer,

District Attorney, Madison, County, AL
 Former U.S. Representative

- o The System before Bud Cramer
 - o No collaboration
 - o Added emotional stress to children
 - o Segmented
 - o Repetitious
- o There had to be a better way!



The change began to create a better system...

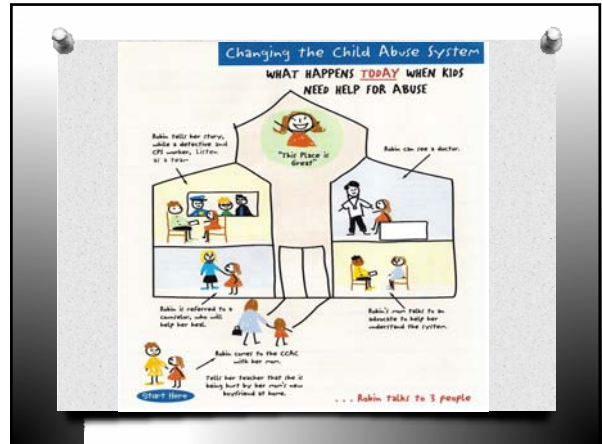
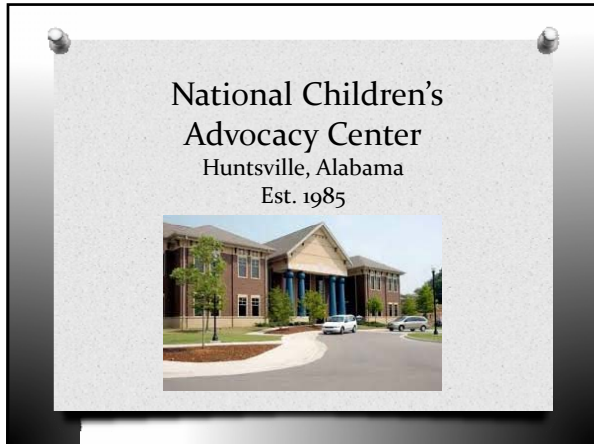
Without CACs



With CACs




The child advocacy center model developed to pull together law enforcement, criminal justice, child protective service, medical and mental health workers into one coordinated team.






This innovative idea grew...

- This idea caught on in other communities and began to spread throughout the country.
- In 1988, the National Network of Children's Advocacy Centers was formed to provide some direction and training for the field of emerging programs.



- Between 1988 and 1993, the Network became incorporated, established by-laws and set forth a mechanism for future growth of the Network into a national membership organization.
- In 1993, the Network received an initial operations grant from the Department of Justice, Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention to be used to build the organization's infrastructure.

- In 1998, in an effort to reflect the national composition and focus of the organization, the Network became the National Children's Alliance.
- The National Children's Alliance is now the national leader on training, technical assistance, research, support and education for children's advocacy centers and for child abuse professionals and communities seeking to enhance and improve the response system for intervention, investigation, treatment and management of cases involving child abuse.

And grew...

children's advocacy center FOR DENTON COUNTY

Children's Advocacy Center OF SOUTHWEST FLORIDA

Oncaida County Child Advocacy Center

Safe Harbor CHILD ADVOCACY CENTER

chicago Children's Advocacy center Battling Abuse. Restoring Lives.

So what does it look like now?

- **881 Children's Advocacy Centers in the country**
- 771 Accredited
- 78 Associate/Developing
- 72 Affiliate
- 20 Satellite

**CAC's served
367,731 children
in 2018!**



CAC Coverage



50 State Chapters



4 Regional Child Advocacy Centers providing training and technical assistance to the states in their region

(Idaho is part of the Western Regional CAC)

Goals of a Child Advocacy Center:



- To **minimize trauma** to children
- To **enhance** interagency coordination, communication, and cooperation