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About the Children's Assessment Center...

Prior to the opening of the Children's Assessment Center (CAC), abused children who were referred to Child Protective Services often had to endure a number of interviews performed by the multiple agencies involved in the investigation of the case. Many times, victimized children suffered unnecessary trauma in this process.

In an effort to minimize that trauma, the Children's Network Policy Council established a task force in 1992 to explore the possibility of creating a quality comprehensive program to provide forensic interviews and evidentiary medical exams in one child-friendly location for sexually abused children in San Bernardino County. The task force consisted of representatives from Child and Family Services (CFS), County Medical Center, Public Health, Department of Behavioral Health (DBH), District Attorney's office, Sheriff's office, Juvenile Court, Family Law Court, County Counsel, Children's Network, Children's Fund and Loma Linda University Medical Center.

In January 1994, the CAC opened in partnership between the County of San Bernardino and Loma Linda University Children's Hospital. In 1998, these services were extended to victims of physical abuse as well.

The CAC's needs have increased dramatically and was relocated in 2014 to a larger, state-of-the-art facility located in San Bernardino. The CAC is on track to treat 1600 physically and/or sexually abused children this year.

Services at the CAC include forensic interviews by Social Service Practitioners who have received specialized training to interview children. Forensic Nurse Practitioners and Forensic Pediatricians perform evidentiary medical exams. Written reports are provided regarding the outcomes of the interviews and medical appointments. Crisis intervention and short-term therapy are provided onsite by DBH staff. Referrals for counseling are provided to family members by Victim Advocates from the District Attorney's office assigned to the CAC as well as DBH staff to ensure that children and families receive trauma-focused therapy services for the effects of trauma.

Child victims of alleged abuse ages 0-17 are referred to the CAC for services from either a law enforcement agency, Family Law Court or the Child and Family Services. Parents receive crisis intervention services as well as referral services.



Department of Behavioral Health, Children and Family Services, Children's Fund, Children's Network, County Counsel, District Attorney, Family Court Services, Juvenile Court, Loma Linda University Children's Hospital, Public Health, San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department

