

2015 Annual Report
New Hope, Blount County Children's Advocacy Center

Summary of Services

Forensic Interviews – Forensic Interviewer has received specialized training enabling her to interview victims and obtain information in a non-threatening or leading manner while remaining true to the Forensic Interviewer Protocol adopted by the Blount County Child Protective Investigative Management Team.

Family Advocacy – Completes, at intake, an in-depth needs assessment with the child and their non-offending caregiver and links them to needed resources. Victim's compensation is also completed with the family. In addition, the family advocate coordinates a support group, our medical program, and oversees the volunteer program.

Therapy – specialized trauma services are provided by highly trained therapists to clients at no charge. Our therapists follow the TF-CBT therapy model while also incorporating techniques from play therapy, theraplay, ARC, and EMDR. Through collaboration with Harmony Family Center to obtain training, we have created the first Sensory Motor Arousal and Regulation Treatment (SMART) room in our area.

Medical Services- Forensic Medical Examinations are performed by two physicians who provide scheduled and on-call hours. Both have undergone specialized training for this type of evaluation.

Stewards of Children- Our prevention coordinator provides the Stewards of Children training throughout Blount County at no charge and supervises other trained facilitators. Our goal is to train at least 5% of the adult population in Blount County and to date we are #5 in the state with 60% of our goal met.

Safe Space- The CAC staff respond to after-hours needs of DCS to provide a space for children who have been removed from their home to have a child-friendly space to wait for placement. Grants have been written and obtained to offer these children needed supplies and clothing.

Office Administrator- Provides support to the Executive Director, staff and board of directors. This position assumes typical administrative duties, including maintaining the NCA database. This position also interacts with all clients as they become acquainted with the CAC.

Executive Director – The Executive Director is responsible for: day-to-day operations, fiscal management, quality assurance, seeking, securing and implementation of grants, grant reporting, community education, program changes that will expedite services and improve service delivery, ensuring annual training needs for our Child Protective Investigative Team members are met by providing trainings applicable to each team member's role and area of responsibility. The Executive Director reports to the board of directors and is a member of the Child Protective Investigative Team.

Number of Children Served -327

Forensic Interviews conducted: 175

Children receiving therapy: 70

Number of medicals conducted: 34

Number of adults trained through Stewards of Children: 579

Number of families served by Advocacy Program: 331

Number of safe space hours: 26

Child Protective Investigative Team Training

February 2015, was the fifth annual Everyday Heroes United Conference. Funded 100% by the East TN Foundation, it is developed and facilitated by the 13 upper east region CACs for their 27 county teams. All disciplines participated. Evaluations were completed by all attendees with feedback being utilized currently for 2015 conference planning. Twelve (12) members of the Blount County Child Protective Investigative Team attended the conference. This included four (4) LE, two (2) DAG, one (1) CPS and five (5) CAC staff members. It is our hope that all disciplines will once again participate in this excellent (and free) training opportunity next year.

Four (4) CPIT members attended the TBI academy. This includes three (3) CPS workers and one (1) law enforcement.

Seven (7) Blount County CPIT members attended the Connecting for Children's Justice Conference in November 2015. Scholarships were available to support most team members' attendance. The CAC covered hotel rooms for two (2) law enforcement representatives who attended and registration for our District Attorney General. In addition, three (3) CAC staff attended.

One of our forensic medical examiners also attended training in Huntsville Alabama.

Locally, two trainings have been provided by the CAC for the CPIT for 2015. A training was provided on de-escalation techniques for CAC staff and CPS and a team training on "How to be a Better Team" was provided by Chris Newlin, Executive Director for the National Children's Advocacy Center.

CPIT Management Group also met quarterly. This group is comprised of one administrative/supervisory person from each agency of CPIT – this person must be either the lead official of the agency or a staff person authorized to make decisions on behalf of that agency. The CPIT Protocol was updated and reauthorized in December 2015 – discussions were held with all CPIT members and copies provided to each member.

New Hope Staff

Tabitha Damron	Executive Director
Beth Lazar	Office Administrator
Diane Darby	Clinical Director
Becki Garland	Contract Therapist
Shannon Follett	Contract Therapist
Christina Copland	Forensic Interviewer
Raeann Reihl	Family Advocate/Volunteer Coordinator
Nicole Wicker	Prevention Coordinator
Marymer Perales	Contract Medical Director
Stephanie Shultz	Physician