

Ms. Ann S. Visalli
Director
Office of Management and Budget
Haslet Armory-D57E
122 William Penn Street
Dover, De. 19901

November 1, 2010

Re: FY 2012 Budget Request

Dear Ms. Visalli,

I am pleased to submit on behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware our FY 2012 Budget Request.

The Children's Advocacy Center respectfully requests \$1,041,250.00 in State funding for FY 2012. This constitutes a \$141,250.00 increase in funding over our FY 2011 State appropriation of \$900,000.00.

The basis for our request is as follows:

Door Opener

\$117,255.00

To offset the June 30, 2011 expiration of our VOCA Recovery Act Grant of \$234,510.00 (two year grant) received in FY 2010 to help Offset the 23% reduction in State funding to the CAC as a result of the FY 2009 and 2010 State Budgets. Our state funding decreased by a total of \$221,600.00 over these two fiscal years. The VOCA Recovery Act Grant funds have been used to partially fund salaries and OEC for 5 positions within the CAC and contractual medical services.

Volume and Inflation

Personnel Costs

\$17,811.00 2% salary increase. Salaries have been frozen during FY 2010 & FY 2011.

Health Care Insurance

\$2,035.00 Increase in health care insurance premiums.

Contractual Services

\$3,149.00 Increase in audit fees, building leases and printing and copying.

Supplies and Materials

\$1,000.00 Increase in office supply costs.

\$23,995.00 Total Volume and Inflation

Our annual State appropriation constitutes 65.3% of the CAC's operating budget; with grants, contributions and interest making up the remaining 34.7 %. 100% of the our FY 2012 State budget request will be used to fund essential operating costs such as personnel, contractual, supplies and materials.

Continued State funding is critical and necessary in order for the Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware to be able to continue to provide much needed services to child victims of sexual and physical abuse; the victim 's families; as well as our partner Multidisciplinary Team agencies. (The Department of Justice, The Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families, Law Enforcement, Mental Health and Medical).

The Board of Directors and staff of the Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware and I thank you for your efforts in conjunction with the Joint finance committee in writing Senate Bill 310 which established the CAC as a pass-through organization within the Department of Services for Children, Youth and Their Families; enhances the accountability, evaluation and reporting requirements for pass-through organizations; and provides funding for the CAC through an allocation from the Victims Compensation Fund.

We believe that it is in the best interest of the State of Delaware and most importantly the child victims of abuse and neglect and their families that the Children's Advocacy Center continue to be funded as a pass through organization in the State's Operating Budget and that the CAC continue to be funded through the Victim's Compensation Fund. It is imperative that we maintain a consistent and stable source of funding so that we can continue to provide much needed services to our most vulnerable citizens, our children.

On behalf of the Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware, I thank you for your consideration of our FY 2012 Budget Request and for your on-going support of our organization. I am available at your convenience for further discussion of our request should you so desire.

Yours truly,

Randall E. Williams
Executive Director



Mission / Vision

The mission of The Children's Advocacy Center (CAC) is to reduce the devastating long-term effects that child abuse has on children, their families and society through immediate, coordinated, child focused services, education, and advocacy.

Our vision is a world without child abuse.

Services

The CAC provides the following services in a child friendly setting in order to expedite the investigation, assessment and decision making process in child abuse cases while ensuring the victims receive immediate, effective and sensitive support.

- Forensic Interviews of child victims and witnesses
- Forensic Interviews of adults and children with disabilities
- Extended Forensic Evaluations
- Mental Health evaluation, crisis intervention and referral
- Medical exams and evaluations provided by expert Pediatricians and Pediatric Nurse Practitioners
- Case review and tracking
- Facilitation and coordination of multidisciplinary team activities, meetings and interviews
- Expert court testimony
- Technical assistance and training
- Community Outreach
- Victim Advocacy
- Prevention

Background & History

► The Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware (CAC) was founded in 1996 as a result of the efforts of a multidisciplinary task force comprised of leaders from the Attorney General's office, the Division of Family Services, State, County and Municipal law enforcement agencies, the Criminal Justice Council, A.I.duPont Hospital for Children, the Family Court, the corporate sector, the private bar and members of the public child advocacy and protection community.

► The task force was convened to consider the role that a multidisciplinary center, such as a Children's Advocacy Center (CAC), could play in the State's efforts to develop a more timely, collaborative, coordinated and effective response to allegations of child abuse. The task force concluded that the State should establish a CAC to help facilitate Delaware's collaborative response to allegations of child abuse.

► The Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware was established as a 501 (C) (3) non-profit organization in order to ensure that the center was able to operate from a position of neutrality, free from any disproportionate influence from any one branch of government or agency involved in Delaware's response to allegations of child abuse.

► The first CAC opened its' doors in 1996 at the A.I.duPont Hospital for Children in Wilmington. Today, in addition to the Wilmington Center, we operate fully equipped and staffed Centers in Dover and Georgetown, and provide services to child victims and their families on a statewide basis. All three Centers employ nationally recognized best practices and are fully accredited by the National Children's Alliance.

► For the past fourteen years the Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware has provided the services that the Governor, the Legislature and our Justice and child Protection System partner agencies have mandated in order to provide a collaborative, comprehensive and coordinated response to allegations of child abuse and neglect in Delaware. We are minimizing the trauma that child victims and witnesses must endure during the investigative process.

National Child Abuse Facts

- In 2006 1,530 children died of abuse or neglect. This is *over 4 children every day*. 75% of those children were under 4 years of age.
- *3 million* reports of child abuse are made *each year*. Actual incidents are estimated to be 3 times greater. For every 1 incident of child abuse reported 2 others go unreported.
- In 2006 children were abused at a rate of 12.1 incidents per 1000 children, resulting in *over 905,000* child victims.
- *One in three girls* and *one in five boys* are sexually abused by an adult during childhood.
- Sexual abusers are predominantly someone in the child's family or someone the child knows.
- Children who have been abused are 2.5 times more likely to abuse alcohol, 3.8 times more likely to become addicted to drugs and 1/3 of those child victims will abuse their own children, continuing the cycle of child abuse
- 36% of all women in prison and 14.4% of all men in prison were abused as children.

CAC of Delaware Caseload - FY 2010

During FY 2010 The CAC of Delaware:

- Received 1,672 referrals statewide from the Division of Family Services, Law Enforcement, and the Attorney General's Office.
- Conducted 1,480 Forensic Interviews
- Conducted 3,986 Case Reviews
- Provided 129 Medical Exams of child victims.
- Provided initial mental health services to 1,391 children.
- Referred 456 children for more in depth mental health services.
- The average age of the children we saw this year was 8.75 years of age.
- 1,372 or 91% of the 1,480 child abuse cases we saw involve allegations of sexual and or physical abuse. Of those 1,372 cases; 1,204 (87.8%) were sexual, 139 (10.1%) were physical, and 29 (2.1%) were both physical and sexual.

Why cases are referred to the CAC

When cases involving the sexual or physical abuse of a child are referred to the Children's Advocacy Center we ensure that:

- The forensic interview is conducted in a timely manner,
- The child victim is interviewed one time; in a neutral, child friendly setting by a specially trained and experienced forensic interviewer,
- Only the RATAC¹ forensic interview protocol is used, as this protocol represents nationally recognized best practices and is legally defensible in Court,
- The interview is simultaneously recorded (audio and video) and observed by the multidisciplinary team comprised of the Attorney General's office, Law Enforcement, child protection workers, and child mental health and medical professionals,
- The mental health needs of the child and his/her family are addressed in a timely manner,
- Medical exams / evaluations of children are provided on site and in a timely manner,
- All cases are tracked from inception through final disposition so that no child falls through the cracks,
- Cases are handled in the most cost-effective manner practicable. A recent national study has shown that traditional investigations of allegations of child abuse are 36% more expensive than those handled through a Children's Advocacy Center. The average cost of a CAC based multidisciplinary team investigation is \$2,902.00 compared with \$3,949.00 for a non-CAC based investigation; generating a cost savings of more than \$1,000.00 per case. Applying a cost savings of \$1,000.00 per case to the 1,480 cases handled by the CAC of Delaware in FY 2010 yields a savings to the State of Delaware of \$1,480,000.00.
- The response to allegations of physical and/or sexual abuse of a child are timely, collaborative, coordinated and effective so that the child is not further victimized and/or traumatized by the intervention systems designed to protect them.

¹ RATAC represents the five phases of the forensic interview: **R**apport Building; **A**natomy Identification; **I**nquiry; **A**buse Scenario and **C**losure.

The Children's Advocacy Center of Delaware
 Summary Case Load Statistics
 FY 2009 FY 2010

	FY 2009	FY 2010	Note
Cases Referred to the CAC	1,319	1,672	27% Increase
Forensic Interviews Conducted	1,159	1,480	28% Increase
Mental Health Services Provided	1,118	1,391	24% Increase
Case Reviews Conducted	3,663	3,986	9% Increase
Average Age of Child	8.89 yrs	8.75 yrs	
Medical Exams Provided	151	129	15% Decrease