



CHILD ADVOCACY CENTERS IN ALASKA THRIVE 2023

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WISH

ACA - STATE CHAPTER OF NATIONAL CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE WHICH:

- **Sets minimum standards for CACs**
- **Sets minimum standards for State Chapters**
- **Provides**
 - **Support, Training and Technical Assistance**
 - **National recognition**
 - **Accreditation**



CHILD SEXUAL ABUSE:
ADULT EXPECTATIONS VS. CHILD
INFORMATION

Children seldom tell directly with words, but they may show us with signs (behaviors, hints)

It is our job to understand what those signs are and what the child is saying.

It is our job to believe & support the child

WHAT HAPPENS AT CACS



Greeting



Tour



Playtime



Paperwork



Snacks



Meeting with MDT



Interview



Coming soon: Medical exam (if needed)

CONNECTING
CHILDREN &
FAMILIES TO
SERVICES



Plan



Referrals



Next steps



Educational and support materials



Goodbye



Follow-up



WHY A MULTIDISCIPLINARY
RESPONSE?

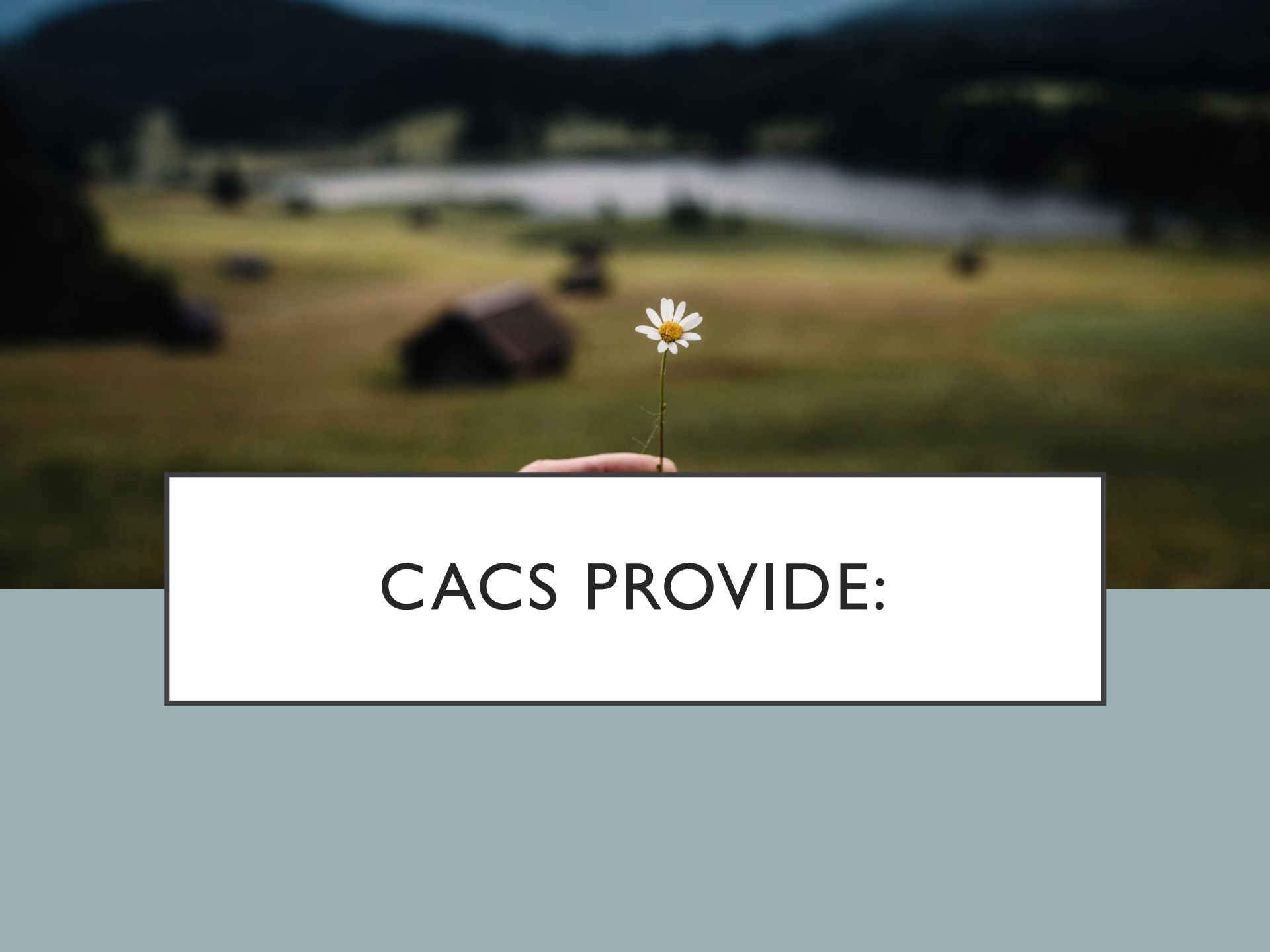
IMPORTANCE OF
THE MDT PROCESS
IN INVESTIGATING
& ASSESSING ABUSE

- **To the Child Victim:**
 - Reduces trauma to children and families
 - Reduces duplication of efforts
 - More accurate assessment of risk
 - More adequate intervention
 - Less fragmented service delivery
 - Improves quality of services delivered

IMPORTANCE OF
THE MDT
PROCESS IN
INVESTIGATING &
ASSESSING ABUSE

- **To the Team:**
 - **Reduces duplication of efforts**
 - **Preserves the rights and obligations of each agency to do their part**
 - **Broader perspectives increases likelihood of successful case resolutions**
 - **Strengthens investigations and prosecutions**

**Improves
outcomes**



CACS PROVIDE:

MULTIDISCIPLINARY
RESPONSE

**Multidisciplinary response/investigation
reduces duplicative interviews**



MDT "Watching
Room"

The best part was:

~"Telling what my dad did to us."

~"Talking to people I trust and that care for me."

FORENSIC INTERVIEWS



“They said I’m not in trouble and I did do the right thing on telling someone what my uncle was doing.”

VICTIM SUPPORT AND ADVOCACY



Victim support and advocacy are made available to all CAC clients and their non-offending family members as part of the Multidisciplinary Team response.

“Everything was well explained-you guys are doing a great job. Thank you.”

“I am happy there is such a place as the CAC, for me as a child I did not have anyone or anywhere to go for my experience.”

SPECIALIZED MEDICAL EVALUATION

“My favorite part (of being at the CAC) was finding out my body is OK”





LET'S CHECK THOSE EYES AND
SEE HOW MUCH YOU WEIGH!

MENTAL HEALTH



Collaboration with mental health services for earlier response to referrals



Identification of risks and assessment of needs of child and family and referrals to address those issues

“(The CAC) added to our healing. They didn’t add to our hurt.”

CASE REVIEW



- **to ensure the well-being of the children and family**
- **to monitor and assess the effectiveness of the MDT**

CASE TRACKING



- **CACs in Alaska use a uniform data collection system, NCATrak**
- **Provides essential demographics, case information & investigation outcomes**
- **Useful for program evaluation**

“All the caring personalities was very comforting. Everyone kept us apprised of what was happening and were giving us very helpful information. It was nice to be treated so respectfully and I think everyone here helped my daughter find a little peace in this terrible situation.”



CHILD FOCUSED SETTING

A child and family friendly environment for coordination of investigative process in child abuse cases, specifically child sexual abuse

DID YOU KNOW?

- **History of child sexual abuse is linked with increased risk for:**
 - alcoholism and alcohol abuse
 - suicide attempts
 - intimate partner violence
 - chronic obstructive pulmonary disease
 - depression
 - fetal death
 - illicit drug use
 - heart disease
 - liver disease
 - multiple sexual partners
 - sexually transmitted diseases
 - smoking
 - unintended pregnancies

FROM THE MOUTHS
OF CHILDREN:



- *“This is SO much better than last time” (referring to the CAC)*
- *“Somehow make my Dad nice.”*
- *“I feel safe to talk here”*
- *“The people helped me calm down”*
- *“It was all better the first time I walked in the door”*
- *The best part was: “I got to tell my feelings”*
- *The best part was: “Telling what my dad did to us.”*
- *“At the CAC today I feel: happy/safe”*
- *“The people are really nice and its really comfortable.”*

----AND THEIR
CAREGIVERS:

- *“I give thanks to center for this great opportunity. We were here with my daughter, I know its helped a lot for myself and my family for any problems we have at home. I would have been lost without you being there!”*
- *“My daughter was able to talk to someone about her situation, someone who understood”*
- *“It was positive and beneficial”*
- *“(The CAC) added to our healing. They didn’t add to our hurt.”*
- *“Thank you so much for your help in the start of our long battle.”*
- *“Coming here with my child was my worst nightmare-but it turned out to be helpful and good.”*



QUESTIONS?