



NEW YORK STATE CHILDREN'S ALLIANCE, INC.

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www.nyschildrensalliance.org

In 2013 more than 18,000 children and their families received immediate care and assistance at the 40 Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) located throughout New York State. These children were from every area of our State, from every type of family, community and background and they all still need your help.

On behalf of the membership and Board of Directors of the New York State Children's Alliance, Inc. (NYSCA), I respectfully request that the New York State legislature restore \$1.9 million for Child Advocacy Centers in the State budget for SFY 2014-2015. This restoration will offset significant funding cuts dating back to 2007, and will allow Child Advocacy Centers to respond more robustly to child abuse cases in the year ahead.

In each of the last two years, the legislature has made a partial restoration of \$750,000, which has helped CACs from Buffalo to Albany to Brooklyn provide critical services to children and their families. Unfortunately, the Governor's Executive Budget proposal for 2014-2015 does not include this funding and we are once again faced with the reduction in greatly needed services throughout our State. While we are cognizant of the fiscal climate in our State, we must take this opportunity to help you understand the importance of our mission and the need to restore this funding.

CACs are involved in the investigation of many forms of child abuse from severe physical abuse and sexual abuse to fatalities and human trafficking. While we like to think of children as happy and healthy with few cares and less fear, that is not the case for many.

The impact of abuse on children is well documented. It affects school attendance, academic performance, and graduation rates. It affects children's ability to make and sustain friendships and trust adults. More importantly, without proper interventions and support, childhood abuse affects their physical and emotional health and well-being both in the short and long-term. The good news is with effective intervention and support children can and do heal from their abuse and go on to live happy, healthy lives. CACs provide the opportunity for children to be heard and heal.

Child Advocacy Centers work to reduce trauma to child victims of abuse following a disclosure of abuse or neglect, while ensuring their offenders are held accountable. Using a multidisciplinary team approach, law enforcement, child protective services, prosecution, medical providers, therapists and child advocates work together to collect evidence, investigate allegations, and provide immediate and meaningful treatment to child victims and their families. We work to build strong cases so children are not forced to testify in court in front of their abusers, who all too often are close family members, friends or someone they know and trust.



While funding has been reduced by nearly 25 percent, the need for Child Advocacy Centers continues to increase. In 2013 New York's CACs handled over 18,000 cases of abuse and neglect, up from 2007 when less than 11,000 cases were seen in CACs. This represents more than a 70 percent increase in volume across our State. CACs are doing their best to respond to this growing need despite the loss of state resources. We fear that without additional funding, our Centers will not be able to adequately investigate cases of child abuse, and will not be able to provide the care and safety our child victims so desperately need and deserve.

We know that CAC responses are not only more effective for children and their families, but they also are less expensive than traditional investigations. For example, while only 21% of children in non-CAC communities are referred for Mental Health services, 66% of children in a CAC community receive these needed referrals. In addition, the collaborative efforts supported by the CAC result in law enforcement involvement in 81% of Child Protective Service investigations handled at CACs, as compared to law enforcement involvement in only 52% of cases in non-CAC communities.

Child Advocacy Centers enable service providers to investigate, evaluate and treat child sex abuse cases more efficiently than ever, while saving taxpayers nearly \$1,000 per child as compared to a non-CAC investigation. A recent study conducted by the University of New Hampshire found that on a per-case basis, traditional investigations are 36% more expensive than CAC investigations. The average per-case cost of a CAC investigation is \$2,902.00 compared to \$3,949.00 for a non-CAC facilitated investigation. CACs make financial sense for New York.

In October 2006, the New York State Legislature recognized that Child Advocacy Centers are integral to the State's response to child abuse and codified the use of CACs as best practice for investigating, evaluating and treating child abuse cases. New York State now has long recognized the need for a collaborative, coordinated response to child abuse investigations. Today we ask for your continued support as Child Advocacy Centers work to provide every child in New York State with the best possible care in each and every abuse investigation.

The reinstatement of CAC funding to the 2007 levels will allow us to ensure that every child receives the care and treatment they deserve, that offenders are held accountable and that families of victims throughout New York are given the support necessary to heal. We welcome and encourage you and your colleagues to visit your local Child Advocacy Centers to learn more about the important work that they are doing everyday.

Thank you for your ongoing support of Child Advocacy Centers and for your time and consideration today.

Sincerely,

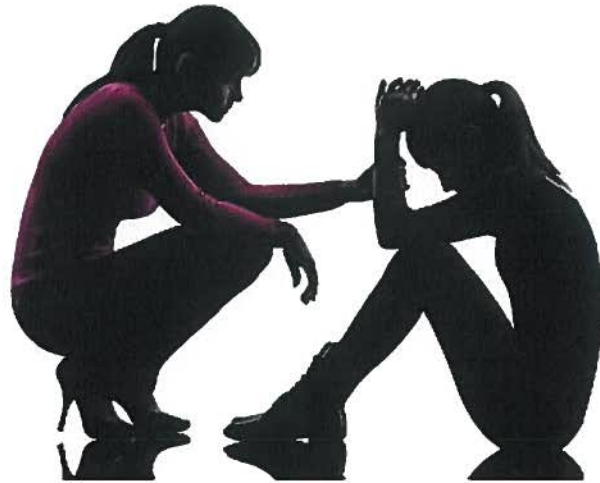
Stacy Osborn, NYSCA Chair
on behalf of the NYSCA Board of Directors and NYSCA Membership



The Problem: Child Abuse in New York State

The numbers:

- In 2012, **275 children died in NYS** of abuse and neglect. *NYS Office of Children and Family Services*
- In 2010, Child Protective Services investigated reports of child abuse and neglect involving 72,625 children in New York State. 7,991 children were alleged to have experienced physical abuse. *Child Maltreatment 2011*
- 47 % of child abuse victims are under the age of 6, making this the largest victimization group. *Child Maltreatment 2011*
- 1 in 4 girls and 1 in 6 boys will be sexually abused before their 18th birthday. *Centers for Disease Control and Prevention. (2005). Adverse Childhood Experiences Study: Data and Statistics. Atlanta, GA: Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control*
- In 2012 in New York State, there were 10,763 children involved in CPS reports with allegations of child sexual abuse. *NYS Office of Children and Family Services*
- Nearly 70% of all reported sexual assaults occur to children ages 17 and under. *Snyder, H. N. (2000). Sexual assault of young children as reported to law enforcement: Victim, incident, and offender characteristics. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics. Retrieved January 12, 2009 from <http://www.ojp.usdoj.gov/bjs/pub/pdf/saycrlc.pdf> and National Crime Victimization Survey, Statistic calculated by staff at Crimes against Children Research Center 2002*
- 90% of children who are victims of sexual abuse know their abuser. The younger the victim, the more likely it is that the abuser is a family member. *Finkelhor, D. (2012) Characteristics of crimes against juveniles. Durham, NH: Crimes against Children Research Center and Whealin, J. (2007-05-22). "Child Sexual Abuse". National Center for Post-Traumatic Stress Disorder, US Department of Veterans Affairs and Snyder, H. N. (2000). Sexual assault of young children as reported to law enforcement: Victim, incident, and offender characteristics. Washington, DC: U.S. Department of Justice, Office of Justice Programs, Bureau of Justice Statistics*
- Only 38% of child victims disclose the fact that they have been sexually abused. *London, K., Bruck, M., Ceci, S., & Shuman, D. (2003) Disclosure of child sexual abuse: What does the research tell us about the ways that children tell? Psychology, Public Policy, and Law, 11(1), 194-226, Ullman, S. E. (2007). Relationship to perpetrator, disclosure, social reactions, and PTSD symptoms in child sexual abuse survivors. Journal of Child Sexual Abuse, 16(1), 19-365*





Part of the Solution:

Child Advocacy Centers in New York State

“If we don’t stand up for children, then we don’t stand for much.”
 -Marion Wright Edelman, founder
 Children’s Defense Fund

- In October 2006, Child Advocacy Centers (CACs) were written into NYS law to provide child victims in every region of the state with “a coordinated and cooperative” system response to child sexual abuse and serious physical abuse “in an expert and timely manner” that “minimizes trauma to children and non-offending family members.” *NYS Social Services Law Section 423-a*
- Centers use a multi-disciplinary team approach to investigate, prosecute and provide treatment to children who are victims of abuse and their non-offending family members. These centers bring together specially-trained law enforcement, child protective, legal, medical, mental health and family advocacy services in a single, child-friendly location to respond to child abuse reports and the needs of child victims and their families.
- Increased usage of CACs and multidisciplinary teams has resulted in increased successful prosecutions of child abuse perpetrators. One study shows an average 94% conviction rate for CAC cases carried forward. *Cross, T.P.; Jones, L.M., Walsh, W.A., Simone, M., & Kolko, D.J.(2007). Child forensic interviewing on children’s advocacy centers: Empirical data on a practice model. Child Abuse and Neglect, 31, 1031-1052 and Walsh, W.A., Lippert, T., Cross, T.E., Maurice, D.M., & Davison K.S. (2008). How long to prosecute child sexual abuse for a community using a children’s advocacy center and two comparison communities? Child Maltreatment, 13 (1), 3-13*
- CACs are often the first step that child victims take toward recovery from abuse. **96% of non-offending caregivers who received services for their child through a CAC would recommend the CAC to someone else in their situation.** *New York State Children’s Alliance 2012 OMS Report*
- Growth of CACs in New York State:
 - In 1994, the first NYS CACs were established in Dutchess and Erie Counties. *Office of Children and Family Services*
 - Today, **NYS has 40 CACs**, serving 43 counties. *NYSARCC*
 - In 2012, **17,762** children were served by these 40 CACs. *2012 NYSARCC Data Collection*
 - From 2007 to 2013, the number of children being served statewide by our CACs increased by **59%**.



The Challenge: Funding for CACs

Studies have shown that CAC/MDT investigations save as much as \$1000 per case when compared with the cost of traditional investigations. *Source: Formby, J., Shadoin, A.L., Shao, L, Magnuson, S.N., & Overman, L.B. (2006). Cost-benefit analysis of community responses to child maltreatment: a comparison of communities with and without child advocacy centers*

NYS Funding History

- In 2007, NYS had 32 CACs (16 Tier I, 13 Tier II and 3 Tier III) that shared \$7.808 million in state funding, including a \$1,500,000 legislative add-on.
- Between 2008 and 2011, the number of Tier 1 CACs steadily increased from 16 to 35, while state aid decreased by \$2 million, to a low of \$5.229 million in 2011 - a **25.6% loss** from the 2007 funding level.
- In 2012, the NYS Legislature restored \$750,000 of the \$2 million in lost state funding.
- In 2013, when the 2012 legislative add-on for CACs was not included in the Governor's budget, CACs worked with the NYS Legislature to restore the same \$750,000.
- **What this means to the children of our state:** Child victims of abuse are not getting the system response that they need. At the exact time that CACs are serving more children and growing their programs in response to this increase, state aid has shrunk.

Year	CAC Funding in Original State Budget	Legislative Add-On	Total State Funding Available to CACs	Number of Children Served	Number of Tier I CACs
2007	\$6,308,000	\$1,500,000	\$7,808,000	10,763	16
2008	\$6,181,840	\$0	\$6,181,840	11,643	16
2009	\$5,811,000	\$0	\$5,811,000	13,744	22
2010	\$5,229,900	\$0	\$5,229,900	15,851	24
2011	\$5,229,900	\$0	\$5,229,900	17,154	35
2012	\$5,229,900	\$750,000	\$5,979,900	17,762	40
2013	\$5,229,900	\$750,000	\$5,979,900	18,500*	40

Source: NYS Office of Children and Family Services

*Projected Total based on statistics from the first half of the year



2012 Outcome Measurement System Report

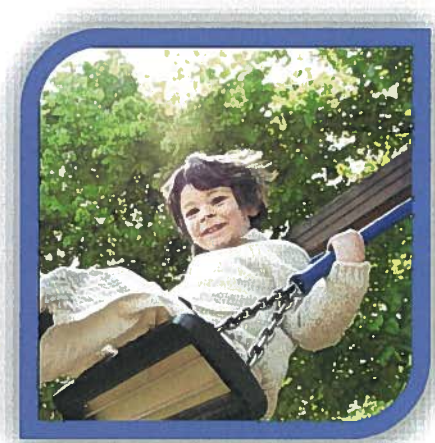


NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

CHAPTER

Overview

In 2012, The New York State Children's Alliance was one of 17 State Chapters accepted by the National Children's Alliance (NCA) to participate in the pilot project implementation of the Outcome Measurements System (OMS) with children's advocacy centers (CACs). The OMS was first developed and implemented by Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas, an NCA Chapter that continues to utilize the system with its CACs. The New York State Children's Alliance implemented the OMS project with the participation of 16 CACs.



The purpose of the OMS project is to help local centers evaluate their programs in order to increase the quality of services provided to children and families and to elevate the collaborative efforts of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT).

The system also allows local centers to report on two measurable outcomes:

- The CAC facilitates healing for the child and the caregivers.
- The MDT approach results in more collaborative and efficient case investigations.

Two caregiver surveys are utilized to measure the first outcome and one MDT survey is utilized to measure the second outcome. In 2012, the 16 participating centers in New York collected approximately 1580 completed surveys from caregivers and MDT members.

2012 Results

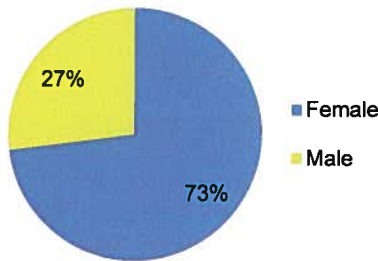
96% of caregivers would refer a friend or someone in a similar situation to the CAC

96% of MDT members felt that their work is improved through resources from the CAC

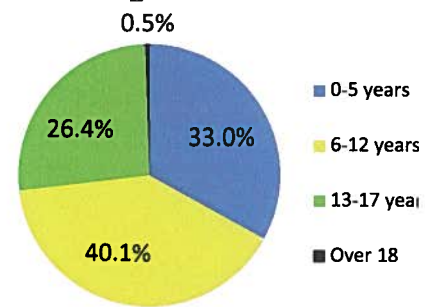


Initial Caregiver Survey Results

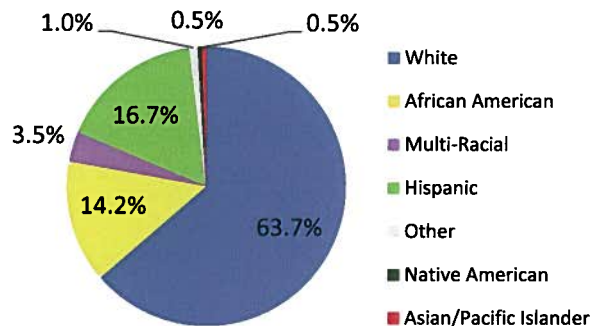
Gender



Age



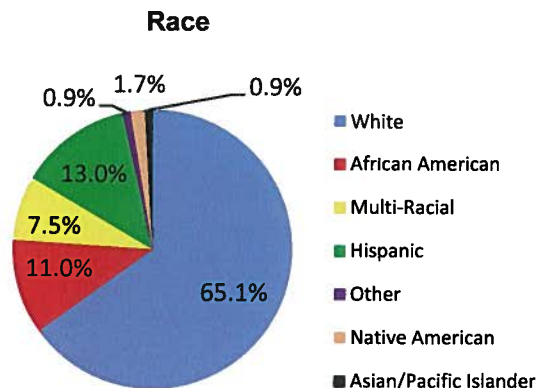
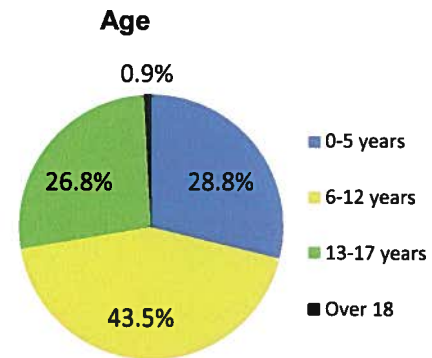
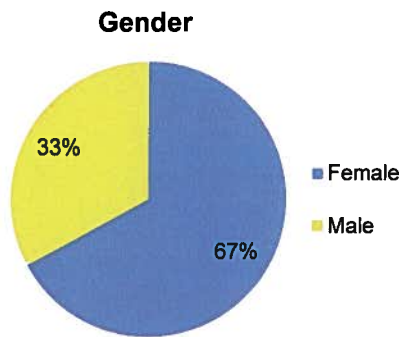
Race



- 96%** Believed their child felt safe at the center.
- 89%** Felt their child's questions were answered to satisfaction.
- 92%** Felt their child was referred to services and/or programs that will meet his or her needs.
- 99%** Felt the center staff made sure caregivers understood the reason for their visit to the center.
- 99%** Felt when they came to the center, they were greeted and received attention in a timely manner.
- 97%** Felt they were given information about the various services and programs provided by the center.
- 98%** Felt their questions were answered to satisfaction.
- 98%** Felt the process for the interview of their child at the center was clearly explained.
- 87%** Felt they were given information about possible behaviors they might expect from their child after they left the center and in the days and weeks ahead.
- 92%** Felt they were referred to services and/or programs that will help support their child and meet his or her needs in the days and weeks ahead.
- 99%** Felt that overall, the staff and/or volunteers at the center were friendly and pleasant.
- 94%** Felt that after their visit at the center, they know what to expect with the situation facing their family.



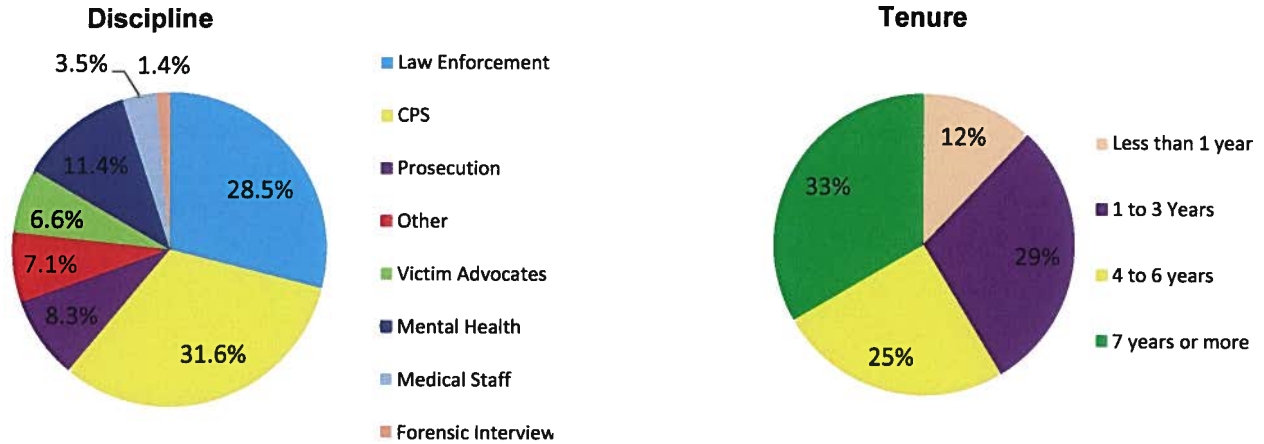
Follow-up Caregiver Survey Results



- 96%** Believed their child felt safe at the center.
- 88%** Felt their child's questions were answered to satisfaction.
- 81%** Felt their child received services that have helped him or her since their first visit.
- 99%** Felt the center staff and volunteers at the center were friendly and pleasant.
- 87%** Felt they knew what to expect in the days and weeks that followed the initial visit.
- 96%** Felt their questions were answered to satisfaction.
- 77%** Felt they had been referred to services and/or programs that have helped them as the caregiver deal with their child's situation.
- 92%** Felt that overall the services received from the center thus far have been helpful to their family.
- 89%** Felt they received information that has helped them understand how to best keep their child safe in the future.
- 95%** Felt the center has done everything it could to assist their family.
- 96%** Felt that if they knew anyone else who was dealing with a similar situation, they would tell that person about the center.



MDT Survey Results



- 97%** Felt team members willingly share information relevant to their cases.
- 96%** Felt they had the opportunity to provide input into the forensic interview process, thereby securing the level of information needed to fulfill their area of responsibility.
- 95%** Felt members of the MDT demonstrate respect for the perspectives and informational needs of other team members throughout the process.
- 98%** Felt the CAC model fosters collaboration.
- 89%** Felt that team meetings were a productive use of time.
- 91%** Felt that case review team meetings are useful in development of cases.
- 91%** Felt that other team members demonstrate a clear understanding of their specific agency-related role and turn to them for information, expertise and direction as appropriate.
- 98%** Believe the clients served through the center benefit from the collaborative approach of the MDT.
- 98%** Felt their supervisor/agency is supportive of the CAC concept and the work of the MDT.
- 93%** Felt all members of the MDT, as defined by the needs of specific cases, are actively involved.
- 96%** Felt the center provides resources that help them work on these cases better.
- 96%** Felt the center provides an environment where they feel safe expressing their concerns or making suggestions about the functioning of the MDT.

The New York State Children's Alliance would like to thank the following Children's Advocacy Centers for participating in the Outcome Measurement System Project:

Bivona Child Advocacy Center

CAC at the Westchester Institute for Human Development

Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County

Child Advocacy Foundation, Inc.

Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County

Child Advocacy Program of Northern New York

Child at Risk Response Team of Schoharie County (CARRT)

Coalition Against Child Abuse and Neglect

Dr. Stephen & Suzanne Menkes Child Advocacy Program

Harriet M. West Child Advocacy Center

Justice for Children Center

Lee Gross Anthonie Child Advocacy Center, a Program of CATS

Southern Tier Children's Advocacy Center

START Children's Center

Suffolk County Child Advocacy Center

Warren/Washington CARE Center



New York State Child Advocacy Centers

Albany

Albany County Children's Center

260 South Pearl Street
Albany, NY 12202
Phone: 518 447 2525
Christine Zappone-Lenaghan, Coordinator
Email: christine.lenaghan@albanycounty.com

Allegany and Cattaraugus

Southern Tier Children's Advocacy Center

772 Main Street
Olean, NY 14760
Phone: 716 372 8532
Karen Hill, Director
Email: khill@sthcs.org
Website: www.sthcs.org

Bronx

Butler Child Advocacy Center of the Children's Hospital at Montefiore

3314 Steuben Avenue
Bronx, NY 10467
Phone: 718 920 5833 or 718 618 8920
Lynn Hamberg, Acting Director
Email: lyhamber@montefiore.org
Website: www.montefiore.org

Broome

Broome County Child Advocacy Center

377 Robinson Street
Binghamton, NY 13904
Phone: 607 723 3200
Diane Olmstead, Coordinator
Email: diane@cvac.us
Website: www.cvac.us

Cayuga

Child Advocacy Center of Cayuga County

17 East Genesee Street
Auburn, NY 13021
Phone: 315 253 9795
Rhonda Stanford-Zahn, Director
Email: rhondasz@cayugacounseling.org
Website: www.cacofcayugacounty.org

Chautauqua

Child Advocacy Program of Chautauqua County

405 West Third Street
Jamestown, NY 14701
Phone: 716 338 9844
Jana McDermott, Director
Email: mcdermottj@capjustice.org

Chemung

Chemung County Child Advocacy Center

304 Hoffman Street
Elmira, NY 14905
Phone: 607 737 8449
Blaine Moorehouse, Coordinator
Email: bmorehouse@co.chemung.ny.us
Website: www.chemungcounty.com

Chenango

Catholic Charities of Chenango County

3 O'Hara Drive
Norwich, NY 13815
Phone: 607 334 8244
Mike Middaugh, CAC Supervisor
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Clinton

Community Team Responding and Advocating for Kids (CTRAK)

46 Arizona Avenue
Plattsburgh, NY 12901
Phone: 518 324 6959
Richelle Beach, Director
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Columbia and Greene

Dr. Stephen & Suzanne Menkes Child Advocacy Center

2A Milo Street
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Cortland

Cortland County Child Advocacy Program

60 Central Avenue, Room B9
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Dutchess

The Center for the Prevention of Child Abuse

249 Hooker Avenue
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Email: kmurphy@thecpca.com
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Herkimer
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Ontario**Child Advocacy Program of the Finger Lakes**

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Otsego**Otsego County Child Advocacy Center**

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Putnam**Child Advocacy Center of Putnam County**

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Queens**Queens Child Advocacy Center**

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Website: www.safehorizon.org

Rensselaer**START Children's Center**131 6th Avenue

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Renee Roman, Executive Director

Email: rroman@startcac.com

Website: www.startchildrenscenter.com

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Phone: 718 556 4052

Nancy Arnow, Vice President/ Acting CAC Director

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Rockland**Spirit of Rockland Special Victims Center**

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New City, NY 10956

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Det. Lt. Mary Murphy, Director

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Saratoga**Harriet M. West Child Advocacy Center**

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Jennifer Wormley, CAC Coordinator

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Schenectady**Schenectady County Multidisciplinary Team**

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Schoharie**Child at Risk Response Team of Schoharie County**

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Website: www.wihd.org