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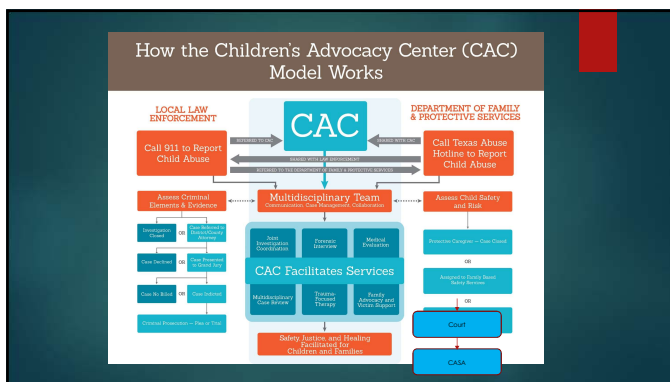
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**CAC INTERAGENCY  
WORKING PROTOCOL**

- Signed by all MDT agencies that utilize CAC services
- Reviewed every 3 years
- Outlines how services are provided & how the CAC operates
- Included CACTX Standards

EVERY CHILD EVERY SERVICE EVERY MOMENT

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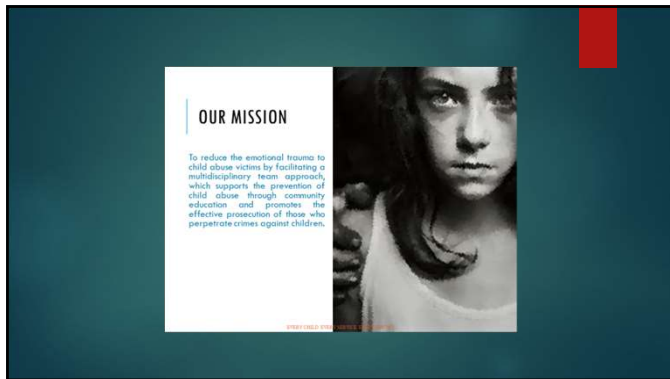
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**OUR MISSION**

To reduce the emotional trauma to child abuse victims by facilitating a multidisciplinary team approach which supports the prevention of child abuse through community education and promotes the effective prosecution of those who perpetrate crimes against children.

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**BENEFITS OF CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER**

- Provides a safe haven with a child-friendly, non-institutional environment where young victims are not afraid to tell their story.
- Minimizes re-victimization of child victims by using a multidisciplinary team approach with child abuse investigations.

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**CAC of Hidalgo and Starr Counties Services**

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## MDT Enhancement Program

- ▶ Reporter
- ▶ Call received by SWI and report
- ▶ DFPS Statewide Intake
- ▶ SWI assigns/prioritizes and forwards to LE as of Jan 2015 to the CAC's
- ▶ CAC reviews Intakes and follows up with LE and CPS

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## Family Advocate Program

- ▶ Provide a comfortable setting
- ▶ Conducts Family Assessment (CFA)
- ▶ Conducts Child Development Assessment/Intro
- ▶ Identify need for Crisis Intervention
- ▶ Provides Information & Referral
- ▶ Provides information regarding criminal justice system to –non offending family members

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## Forensic Interviews

- ▶ Developmentally sensitive and legally sound method of gathering factual information regarding allegations of abuse and/or exposure to violence using a semi structure narrative process.
- ▶ Conducted by a competently training, neutral professional utilizing research and practice informed techniques as part of a larger investigative process.




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## Forensic Interviewing Process



Use of Semi Structured Narrative Process	Fact finding is nature non leading
Objective	Non-interpretive
Video Recorded	Interview child victim's of sexual, physical, or risk of sexual abuse, and child witnesses

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## Types of Interviewing

- ▶ **Therapeutic**
  - ▶ Assume child is telling truth
  - ▶ General description
  - ▶ Focus is child's emotional well being & reaction to abuse
  - ▶ Question format **not** critical
- ▶ **Interrogative**
  - ▶ Accusatory
  - ▶ Interviewer typically dominates conversation
- ▶ **Forensic**
  - ▶ Goal is fact finding
  - ▶ Interviewer is neutral
  - ▶ Details imperative
  - ▶ Question Format **is** critical

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## Stages of the semi-structured narrative process




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## Guidelines for Age-Appropriate Interview Questions

AGE	WHO	WHAT	WHERE	WHEN	HOW	TIMES	CHRONOLOGICAL NARRATIVE
2-3							
4							
5-6							
7-9							
10+							

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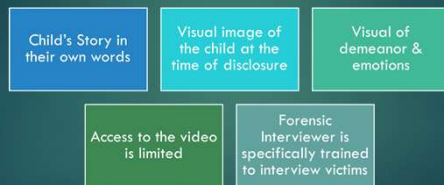
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## Why the forensic interview?




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## Medical Evaluations

- ▶ A Sexual Assault Nurse Examiner (SANE), Physicians, Nurse Practitioners, Physician's Assistant, who has met the training standards, has pediatric experience, and child abuse expertise will conduct a comprehensive medical exam to sexual/physical and neglect abuse patients to include photo and written documentation of injuries/and or other physical findings and collect evidence.
- ▶ The CACHSC has two SANE Nurses and Medical Advocates

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## Acute Medical Exams

- ▶ Acute SANE exams (less than 120 hours since the sexual assault occurred) will be performed at the nearest sexual assault forensic exam ready medical facility (SAFE) to ensure evidence is collected, the need for emergency contraception, and post-exposure prophylaxis for sexually transmitted infections (STI'S), pain management, and document evidence or complaint of anogenital bleeding or injury; and/or the need for a mental health evaluation.

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## Chronic Sane Exams

- ▶ Chronic SANE exams (more than 120 hours since the sexual assault occurred) will be performed through a scheduled appointment at the CACHC or satellite offices by a CACHC SANE Nurse and/or referred to the closest SAFE ready medical facility. The medical sexual assault examination will consist of history/narrative of the alleged incident, a full body and a detailed anogenital exam, collection of photographic evidence, and/or the need for a mental health evaluation.

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### WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A SANE EXAM?

Every child that has made an outcry should get a forensic (or SANE) exam.	A forensic exam assesses the child's emotional and physical health and may possibly provide forensic findings relevant to the investigation.
The purpose of the exam is to assess and obtain a nursing diagnosis on a case by case basis.	An exam can help determine how safe the child feels and their well-being.

— WISCONSIN CHILD ABUSE INVESTIGATION TRAINING COURSE —

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### WHAT IS NEEDED FOR A SANE EXAM? CONT'D

In order to perform a forensic exam on a child, law enforcement needs to approve the examination.

After law enforcement approves the examination the substitute or forensic nurse will guide the family and child to the waiting room to wait to be examined.

Patient's examination will be done privately prior to the physical assessment.

Mother/Guardian is allowed in if patient's wishes to do so for physical assessment.

EVERY CHILD. EVERY SERVICE. EVERY EFFORT.

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EVERY CHILD. EVERY SERVICE. EVERY EFFORT.

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EVERY CHILD. EVERY SERVICE. EVERY EFFORT.

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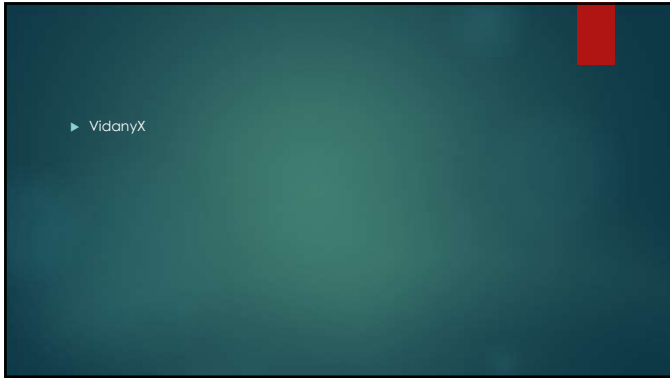
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