

Children's Advocacy Center

Group #4

➤ Population Served

- Lubbock County and surrounding 14 counties
- Children of abuse and trauma
- Anyone referred from Department of Family Protective Services or law enforcement

➤ Services Provided

- Intervention and investigation
 - Review reports and involve necessary agencies
- Forensic interviewing
- Community education

➤ Clients' Health Needs

- Victims of physical, sexual, and/or emotional abuse
- Witnesses to homicide, suicide, and/or domestic abuse
- Surviving children in homicide cases
- During COVID-19, children are spending more time with their abusers

➤ Clients' Health Information Needs

- CAC has very limited resources
 - They receive hundreds of reports monthly and are responsible for investigating
- Public lack of awareness about services they provide

➤ Advice for Physicians

- If working with kids, reiterating CAC education is encouraged (example: when people you know/love ask you to keep secrets that is not okay)
- ALWAYS believe the child. From what the CAC has observed, the child is likely not making it up. Children are true victims- they didn't ask to be in their environment or live with who they are
- Is the explanation plausible for the injury presented?
- Physicians are mandated reporters- they are not affiliated with DOFS or law enforcement, they should just have the clients' best interest at mind
- Collaboration among all disciplines (law enforcement, DOFS, social workers, counselors) required to investigate cases. All want the best possible outcome for families involved, and CAC coordinates the cases between agencies.
- The incident has already occurred- take your time, gather the facts and evidence as best you can before the legal case begins.
- Heresy law does not apply in child abuse cases- the first person (18+ years old) notified by the child of abuse can legally testify
- Take good/thorough notes

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- CAC accepts donations of:
- Individually wrapped snacks
 - Bottled water
 - Blankets/ stuffed animals
 - Toys

Group Members:

1. Cat Anding
2. Tanner Ashcraft
3. Jordan Curl
4. Shivani Dalal
5. Cindy Hu
6. Taha Jilani
7. Esere Nesiana
8. Allee Nix
9. Ashley Rook
10. Ellie Ward

