

Child Protection Team

&

Children's Advocacy Centers



Florida Statute Chapter 39

1971 - 827.07, F.S., mandated reporting of suspected child abuse and neglect resulting in a large increase in abuse reports to be investigated by the state.

The statute required that child abuse investigators “*include a determination of harm or threatened harm to each child, the nature and extent of present or prior injuries, abuse or neglect and evidence thereof.*”

The Department of Health and Rehabilitative Services (HRS) recognized the need for a specialized medical resource and made a commitment to provide this under the auspices of the Department of Health Child Protection Team Program

FS ss. 39.701-39.704

1978 – The legislature appropriated funding to pilot a project using a medically led multidisciplinary team approach to child abuse investigations.

The First Child Protection Team

Dr. Jay Whitworth

1978 state appropriation of funding

CPT pilot established in Jacksonville

1979 additional CPT's

1983 pediatric medical direction was added

Child Protection Teams

“To promote the safety and well-being of Florida’s children by providing medically led multidisciplinary assessment services for children suspected of being abused or neglected.”



Collaboration

Collaboration is defined as "***the action of working with someone to produce or create something.***" Collaboration occurs when two or more entities or organization with shared interests, work together to achieve a similar goal. It is essential to build skills for effective collaboration.

These skills include understanding a variety of perspectives, managing priorities from everyone in the group and meeting expectations as a reliable member of the team.

History of the Children's Advocacy Centers

Mission: The NCAC models, promotes, and delivers excellence in child abuse response and prevention through service, education, and leadership.



www.nationalcac.org



Underlying Principals for CAC Coordination

**Minimize potential
stress**

Child centered

**Minimize number of
interviews**

Legally sound process

**Future testimony
considerations**

**Use well trained
interviewers**

**Accommodate
developmental
differences**

**Avoid improper
influence on memory
and reports**

**Recognized interview
process with the CPT**

Law enforcement

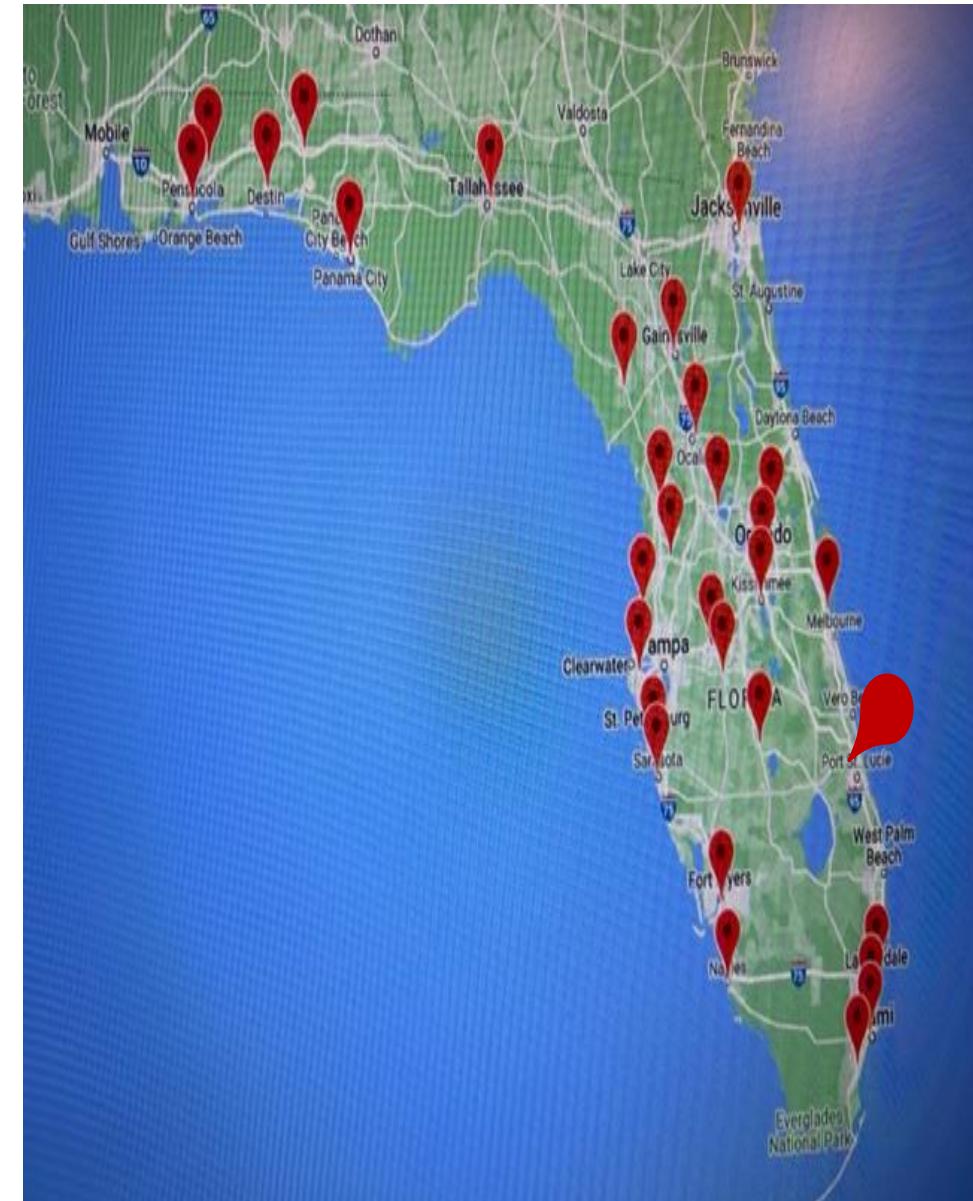
**SAO / Criminal
Prosecution**

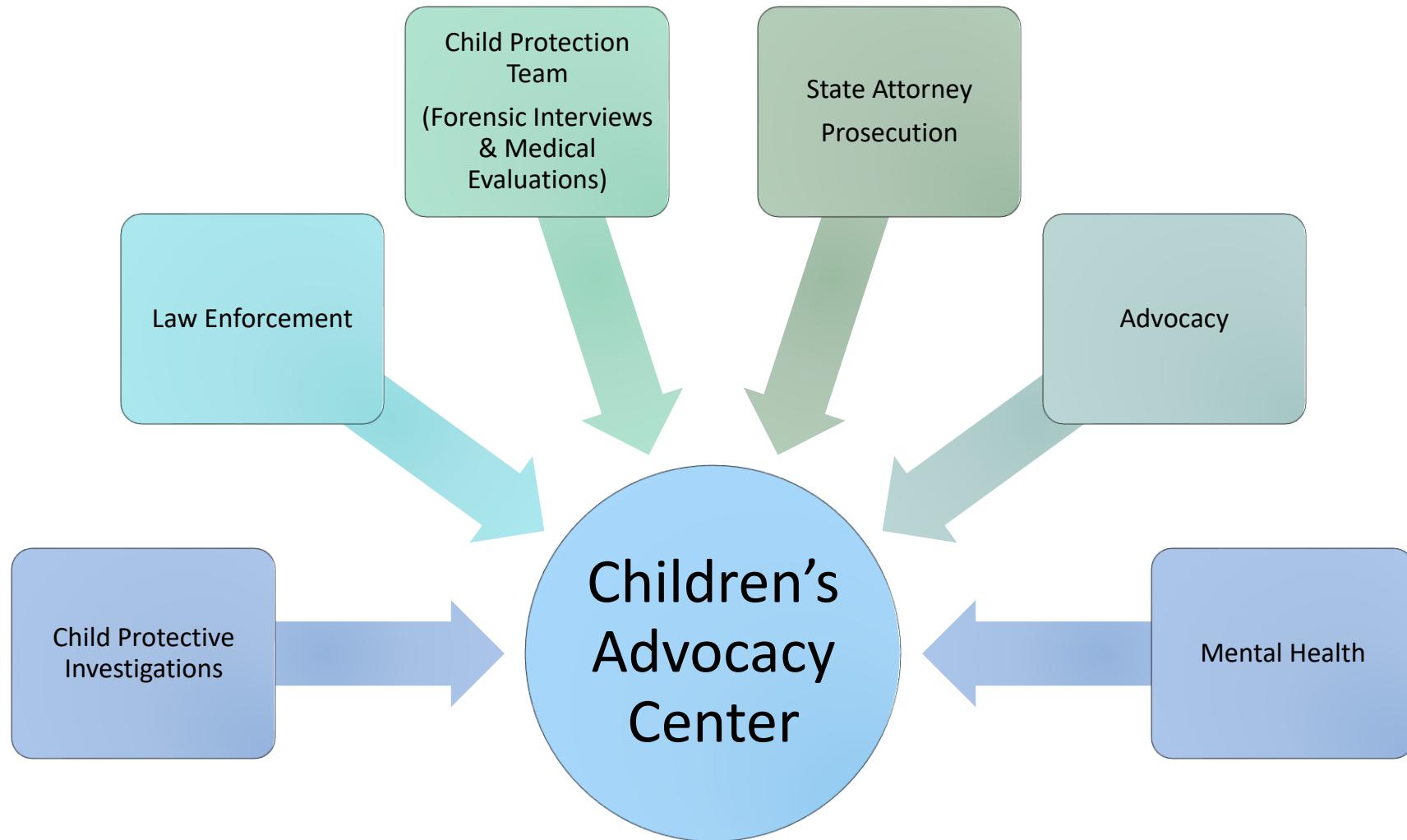
**Therapeutic Treatment
– referrals to CIP / SATP
/ other mental health
services specific to
child/family needs**

Florida CAC locations

While each multidisciplinary team will be structured somewhat differently, several key objectives will underlie their operation. These objectives are designed to meet the two primary goals of strengthening victim protection and intervention, and a maximization of accountability of the system.

Although the agencies represented within this team have divergent missions and procedures, these goals represent a common vision and interest shared by all members.

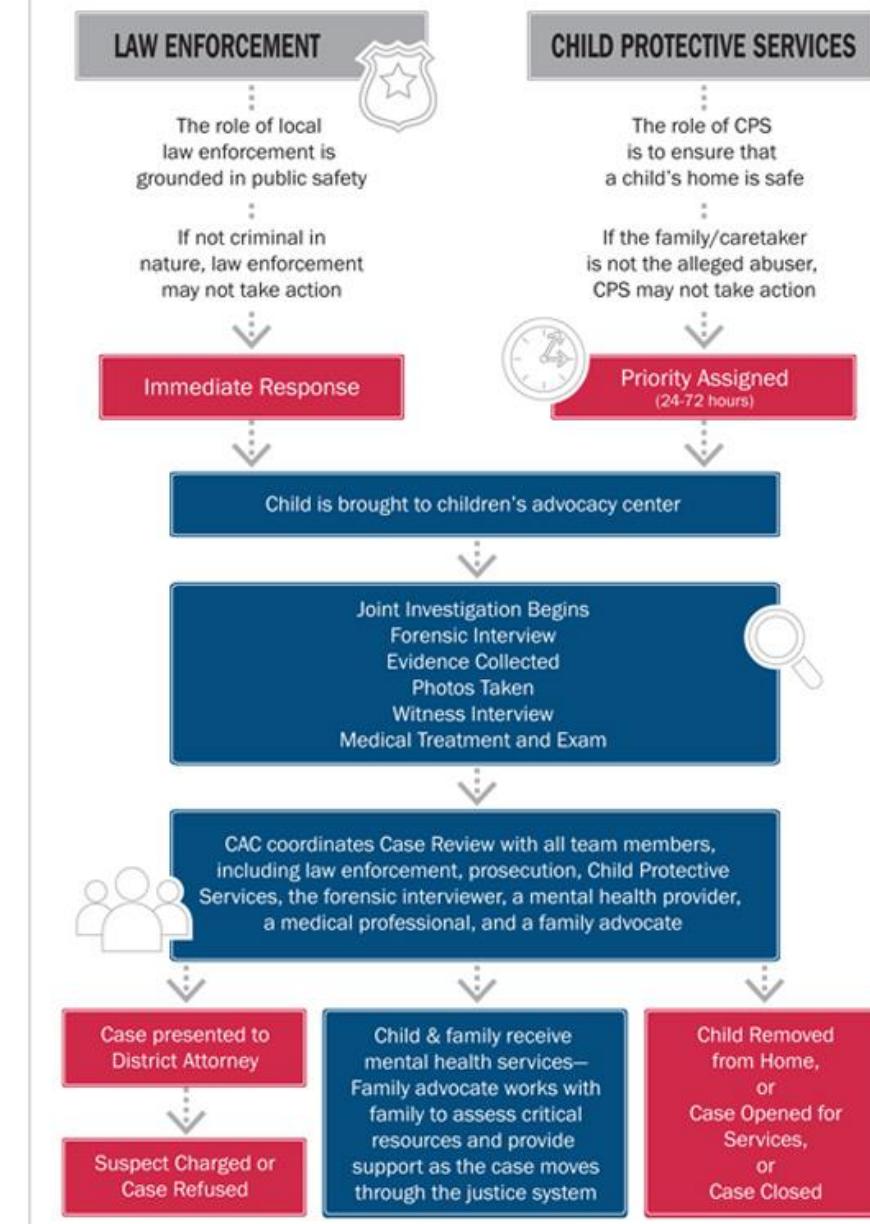




HOW DOES THE CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER MODEL WORK?

Core Function of CAC

Function Provided by a Team Member





NATIONAL
CHILDREN'S
ALLIANCE®

National Children's Alliance

Standards for Accreditation



- | | |
|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none">1. Multidisciplinary Team (MDT)2. Diversity, Equity and Access3. Forensic Interviews4. Victim Support and Advocacy5. Medical Evaluation | <ul style="list-style-type: none">6. Mental Health7. Case Review and Coordination8. Case Tracking9. Organizational Capacity10. Child Safety and Protection |
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Added 2023:

11. Physical Abuse

12. Prevention

13. Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children (CSEC)



Accredited State Chapter of the National Children's Alliance

Primary functions:

Educate and support CAC's through specialized training and technical support

Advocate for children's advocacy centers at the state and national levels,

Manage and distribute funds to Florida's CAC's.



Thank you!

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