

Happy Holidays

The Advocacy News

Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County

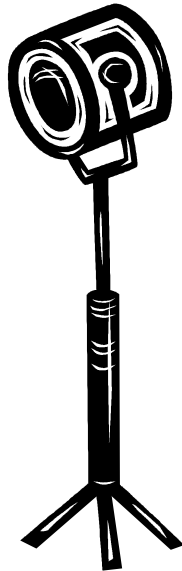
The mission of the Child Advocacy Center of McHenry County is to reduce secondary trauma to child victims through coordinating a timely, comprehensive, and multidisciplinary response in reported cases of child sexual abuse and severe physical abuse.

MDT SPOTLIGHT: After Hours MDT Members

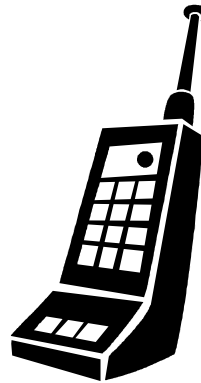
The Child Advocacy Center would like to take a moment and commend a few MDT members for their hard work and dedication. Woodstock's Det.

Kopolus, DCFS's Analia Cobrda and Assistant State's Attorney Robert Windon, were all involved in a holiday weekend investigation that took some of us into the early morning hours.

The MDT worked together seamlessly in an effort to protect all involved children. Without this whole team effort the children's safety would still be at risk today. Thank you and job well done by all.



Remember these dinosaurs? Remember when they were the newest and coolest device? Teenagers these days wouldn't know what to do with the original cellphone; "You mean they only make phone calls? Well how do I talk to my friends?". Ever feel like you're the dinosaur when talking with teens? We all encounter teens in some capacity or another. Teenagers may not always be the easiest population to deal with, and certainly not always viewed as the "ideal" victim. However here at the CAC we are working and striving to continue to serve the teenage population the best we can. We'd like to highlight a few notes on communicating with teens... Nowadays teens text, online message and twitter their friends; very seldom do they converse via telephone and even more seldom, in person. Have you ever seen 3 teens sitting on a bench? All 3 will have their phones out texting, you know who they're texting? Each other! So when talking with teens as part of an investigation or in interviews or in testimony, try to keep in mind that eye to eye contact is not apart of their daily life and may feel unnatural to them. In fact, many teens will communicate solely messaging with the alleged offender. The upside to all the new technology is that there may be a lot of collaborative evidence stored on these gadgets i.e., phones, laptops, tablets. Something to explore throughout the investigation process, especially the forensic interview.



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"Alone we can do so little, together we can do so much."

~ Helen Keller



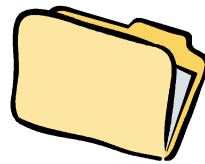


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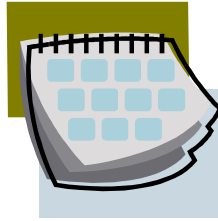
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Mark your calendars

Case Reviews

We continue to host the monthly case reviews on site at the Child Advocacy Center in Woodstock. This important meeting takes place at noon on the last Friday of every month. We provide MDT members in attendance with lunch and beverages. Please contact Anna Krause if there is a particular case you would like added to the monthly schedule.



Future case review dates are set for:

December 16

January 27

February 24

Holiday Schedule

The Child Advocacy Center functions on the McHenry County Court system schedule. The CAC will be closed the following days; November 8th and 11th; as well as November 24th and 25th for Thanksgiving. For the month of December the CAC will be closed the 23rd and 26th. Have a happy holiday season.



From the Director's Desk:

Jim Wiegand, Director

As another year winds down, and at the risk of this being a typical "year end" column, once again I would like to say thank you to all of those who support the CAC and the mission to reduce trauma to alleged victims of child abuse. I think of all the people in McHenry County involved with me in this work including volunteer board members (the CAC governing board and the Child Advocacy Advisory Board), police, DCFS, the States Attorney's Office (attorneys and victim witness coordinators), therapists, medical personnel, and especially the CAC staff.

I am very aware that our program is only as good as the people that do the work and I am fortunate to have a staff that has grown and matured in the positions they hold at the CAC. Julie was hired in early June of 2008 as the Child/Family Advocate and Anna joined us a couple of weeks later as Case Manager and currently, Forensic Interviewer. Lindsay has remained part-time as Forensic Interviewer/Project Manager. I am also fortunate for their willingness to do whatever is necessary (I never hear "that's not my job!"....well, almost never!) to serve the clientele of the CAC. They truly enjoy their CAC work including their interaction and involvement with multidisciplinary team members. So, thank you to the CAC staff for their commitment to the CAC and please, no more maternity leaves!

Jim Wiegand

Director, CAC of McHenry County

