

CAC Needs Assessment

From: Developing a Children's Advocacy Center: A 4-Step Methodology, NRCAC, 2000

Undertaking a needs assessment is the first step necessary in establishing a CAC. The goal of the needs assessment is to learn whether the need is sufficient to justify further investigation.

Quantitative

Document the number of child abuse cases handled in the current system. These statistics should include statistics from previous years and possibly neighboring counties if possible. Identify systemic problems, if any.

Qualitative

This process also reviews the strengths and weaknesses of the current system. What is the ability of the current system to respond to allegations of abuse? What is the typical child's experience from disclosure to final case disposition?

Analysis of Needs Assessment Data

CACNC will help in analyzing results as needed.



CAC Needs Assessment Inventory

Name: _____

Phone/Fax: _____

Agency: _____

Address: _____

Email: _____

Target Communities to be served:

Type of Communities to be served:

Urban ____ Suburban ____ Town ____ Rural ____

Other ____ Describe: _____

Estimated Population: _____

Racial/Ethnic make-up of communities:

Black ____ White ____ Hispanic ____ Asian ____

Native American ____ Other ____ Describe _____

STATISTICS

Data should include statistics from previous years. Distinguish between physical and sexual abuse in your statistics, if possible. Use additional pages as needed. Neighboring counties may be included on separate sheets.

	Year/Number	Year/Number
Child Abuse Reports to CPS	_____	_____
Child Validated to CPS	_____	_____
Out of Home Placements <i>Due to abuse allegations</i>	_____	_____
Child Abuse Reports to LE	_____	_____
Arrests <i>On child abuse related charges</i>	_____	_____
Prosecutions	_____	_____
No. of Cases Involving Civil Court	_____	_____
<i>Dependency</i>	_____	_____
<i>Custody Actions</i>	_____	_____
<i>Protection from Abuse (RO)</i>	_____	_____
Number of Trials	_____	_____
Number of Pleas	_____	_____
Number of Convictions	_____	_____
Number of DV complaints to LE	_____	_____
No. of DV complaints w/kids	_____	_____

Additional statistics that may be relevant (i.e. # of children and families referred to therapy, case loads of agencies offering services to child victims, their families or offenders):

NARRATIVE

What organizations are involved in child abuse reporting, investigation, prosecution and treatment?

DA ____ CAC ____ DV Agency ____ CPS ____ Hospital ____

Victim/Witness ____ Law Enforcement ____ Mental Health ____

Other _____

How many different interviews is one child likely to experience? By whom?

Where do these interviews occur? Please also describe the setting?

Is there a mechanism in place for children and caretakers to be screened for domestic violence concerns? e.g. Safety Assessment or Risk Factor Matrix.

Is there any agency currently responsible for coordinating all aspects of the case? (DSS, LE, Medical, DV, Mental Health, Prosecution)

Do the agencies involved share information? Formally? Informally? Please describe.

Do the agencies participate in join case planning and review? Please describe.

Do any interagency agreements or protocols exist at present?

Describe the medical resources available for abused and neglected children and their families. Describe the services and referral process.

Describe the mental health resources available for abused and neglected children and their families. Describe the services and referral process.

Describe a child's typical experience from disclosure through final case disposition.

Describe efforts that have been made in the community to provide services/interventions that are culturally relevant with respect to the population served.
