

# HOW DOES THE CAC MODEL WORK?

■ Core Function of CAC

■ Function Provided by a Team Member

CALL 911 to REPORT CHILD ABUSE

CALL 1-800-252-5400, Child Abuse Hotline

## LAW ENFORCEMENT

## CHILD PROTECTIVE SERVICES

### CRIMINAL

### CIVIL

The role of local law enforcement is grounded in public safety

If not criminal in nature, law enforcement might not take action

The role of CPS is to ensure that a child is safe

If the family/caretaker is not the alleged abuser, CPS might not take action

IMMEDIATE RESPONSE

PRIORITY ASSIGNED  
(24-72 hours)

## CHILD IS BROUGHT TO CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER



Joint Investigation Begins  
Forensic Interview  
Evidence Collected  
Photos Taken  
Witness Interview  
Medical Treatment and Exam



CAC coordinates Case Reviews with all team members, including:  
law enforcement • prosecution • Child Protective Services  
the forensic interviewer • a mental health provider  
a medical professional • a family advocate



Case presented to District Attorney

Suspect Charged or Case Refused



Family advocate works with family to assess areas of need and provide support as the case moves through the justice systems

Of Confirmed Child Sexual Abuse Cases:  
**7%** Child Removed from Home

**12%** Case Opened for Services

**81%** Case Closed; no recovery services provided by the state

## MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES PROVIDED BY CACs

### Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT)

TF-CBT is an empirically-supported treatment for children who have experienced traumatic events. Therapy reduces negative emotional and behavioral responses following traumatic events and typically involves both the primary caregiver and child.

### Parent Child Interaction Therapy (PCIT)

PCIT is an empirically-supported treatment for children with overt behavioral issues. Therapy focuses on building parental skills and increasing positive interactions between the primary caregiver and child after a traumatic event.

### Additional Trauma-Focused Therapeutic Services

Therapy to address the emotional impact of the traumatic event, reduce or eliminate the risk of future abuse, and address issues which the traumatic event may trigger.