

About the Children's Advocacy Centers (CACs)

- Programs of the CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region.
- Accredited by the National Children's Alliance by adhering to nationally established standards.
- Provide services to an average of 650 children a year.
- Members of the Michigan Chapter of the National Children's Alliance, a statewide coalition of CACs.
- The Nathan Weidner Center, which joined CAN Council Great Lakes Bay Region in 2011, was named in memory of Nathan Weidner, son of Jack and Ann Weidner.



Together we CAN stop child abuse and neglect.

The CAN Council is a non-profit organization that depends on the financial gifts of caring people in our community. Your tax-deductible gift will let us provide a safe, caring place for children to be expertly interviewed and examined, lessening the trauma and providing the best opportunity for their safety in the future. Some services at the Children's Advocacy Centers and the production of this brochure are provided through a grant from the Michigan Crime Victims Services Commission (VOCA).**

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Learn

The CAN Council helps prevent child abuse and neglect through education, awareness, intervention and advocacy programs.

Donate

Make a contribution to help support the CAN Council and its programs.

Volunteer

As a CAN Council volunteer, you can help prevent child abuse.

Speak Up

Report child abuse to Children's Protective Services:
(855) 444-3911



Bay County

715 N. Euclid Avenue
Bay City, MI 48706
(989) 671-1345 • Fax: (989) 671-2365

Saginaw County

1311 N. Michigan Avenue
Saginaw, MI 48602
(989) 752-7226 • Fax (989) 752-2777

cancouncil.org



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A BETTER WAY IN THE GREAT LAKES BAY REGION

Children's Advocacy Centers

Using teamwork to make a difference in the lives of abused children



Facts About Child Sexual Abuse*

- One in four girls and one in six boys are sexually abused before they turn 18.
- About 90 percent of abused children know their abusers.
- Nearly 70 percent of all reported sexual assaults occur to children under 18.
- There are close to 39 million childhood sexual abuse survivors in America.

The Way It Used to Be

- Medical exams and child interviews happened in threatening and scary settings (e.g., police stations, police cars and hospitals).
- The child was asked to tell what happened over and over again. As many as five agencies became part of the investigation.
- Sadly, the child's needs became lost in the investigation.

A Better Way in the Great Lakes Bay

The Children's Advocacy Centers provide a safe, supportive atmosphere for children who have been physically or sexually abused or have witnessed a violent act. Professionals work as a team to share information to avoid multiple interviews, minimize trauma and coordinate a response.

CHILDREN'S ADVOCACY CENTER SERVICES

- Provide a safe, supportive environment for children who may have been physically or sexually abused or have witnessed a violent act.
- Specially trained forensic interviewer talks to the child about what happened while a multi-disciplinary team, including law enforcement and Children's Protective Services, observes the interview on a closed-circuit television or through a one-way mirror.
- Child can be examined by a specially trained nurse or doctor in a child-friendly environment, as opposed to the emergency room.
- Child abuse professionals work as a team to share information and coordinate a response that best meets the needs of the child and family.
- Family assistance for counseling, support services and follow-up throughout the process.
- Law Enforcement Resource Guide to equip first responders with interagency information while in the field. Eight human service agencies and 19 law enforcement agencies contributed to this tool.

"Our multidisciplinary team works together to provide critical services for children and families who have gone through a traumatic experience. As a team, we CAN make a difference, one child at a time."

Cynthia Morley,
CAC Program Director



*Statistics from darkness2light.org