

City of Lawrence Outside Agency Annual Report For Calendar Year 2021

Reports on activity should be submitted electronically to Danielle Buschkoetter, at dbuschkoetter@lawrenceks.org by 5:00pm on Tuesday, February 15, 2022. To answer the following questions please refer to your [2021 application/agreement for funding](#).

Reporting Period: Calendar Year 2021

Agency Name: Children's Advocacy Center of Douglas County

1. Refer to the program in which your agency received funding; provide a participant success story that helps demonstrate the accomplishments of the program.

During a forensic interview administered by a Lawrence Police Department detective, a 15-year-old female disclosed sexual abuse by her older brother. The family advocate at the Children's Advocacy Center of Douglas County(CACDC) met with the mother and caregiver of this teen. At the time, the mother had described several concerning behaviors that her daughter had been displaying and voiced her own struggles with mental health. The family advocate was able to note the needs and concerns of the family and work on finding therapy openings for their mental health needs.

Soon after the first advocacy session with this family, the family advocate had found support groups for the mother to attend and availability with a therapist that fit the teen's needs. The CACDC is financially providing the therapy costs for the teen. When following up with the mother, we have learned that the teens behaviors have improved, she enjoys going to therapy, and feels like her provider is helping her heal.

Recently, the mother had left a voicemail with the CACDC where she said "she is so grateful for the advocacy center because her daughter really likes her new therapist and he doesn't take our insurance, so we wouldn't have been able to pay for this if it weren't for you guys. That's really made a big difference and she's really turned a corner and she's been doing really well the last couple weeks so I really appreciate it. Thanks so much for checking in and so I just wanted to let you guys know that we are eternally grateful for you guys."

This teen will be testifying in court next month and has expressed her frustrations with having to do this. The family has requested that the family advocate at the CACDC be present for her court room tour, meeting with the prosecutor, and first court appearance. The CACDC provides family and court advocacy free of charge for all children and families in our community. By alleviating access and financial barriers to advocacy and therapy, children and families can prioritize their attention to their healing journey.

2. Refer to your 2021 agreement for funding; provide a brief narrative of the activities funded with City funds.

The CACDC opened its doors on February 1st, 2021 with the hiring of the Executive Director. The second full time staff, a Family Advocate/Forensic Interviewer was hired on June 1, 2021. These last 12 months have been a continued effort to build relationships with our Multidisciplinary team, which includes the District Attorney's Office, DCF, Lawrence, Douglas County, Eudora and Baldwin City Police Departments, victim services, mental and medical service providers. Family Advocacy and Forensic Interviewing are both programs that are fully up and running for the children and families in our community that need us following a disclosure of child abuse. Our staff provides mental health and medical referrals, court advocacy and support during the full process of investigations. We coordinate monthly case reviews with the Multidisciplinary Team partners to discuss cases and advocate as a team on behalf of the child. Case Review started in June and during the last 6 months of 2021, we have discussed and worked together on 69 cases.

Our location is fully equipped for onsite forensic interviews that can be provided by our DCF or Lawrence Police Department investigators. For those law enforcement departments without their own interviewers we can provide forensic interview services. One of the most important things we provide is a neutral, safe and comforting environment for the interview and family advocacy meetings, this helps to reduce further trauma to the child at an already difficult time.

The Board of Directors has approved the 2022 Strategic Plan, which is focused on the areas of Organizational Capacity, Financial Sustainability and Community Outreach. Our application has been submitted for Associate Membership Status with the National Children’s Alliance, the first “official” step to gaining National Accreditation as a Children’s Advocacy Center.

Services provided at the conclusion of 2021; *first family served April 2021*

- Cases Reviewed: 69
- Direct Advocacy Contact: 183
- Number of Forensic Interviews attended: 33
- Families Served: 39
- Children Served: 61
- Children Served for Therapy (CAC funded): 2 children, 26 sessions

3. Refer to your 2021 agreement for funding; report what progress was made toward your proposed outcomes and comment as necessary.

| Outcomes | List 2021 outcomes from agreement | Comment as necessary |
|-------------------|---|--|
| Outcome #1 | Utilize the Multidisciplinary Team in providing services to 100% of referrals received. | 100% of referrals received by the CAC utilized the Multidisciplinary Team to provide services to the child and family/caregiver. |
| Outcome #2 | Provide resources and referrals to at least 95% of child victims and families served. | 98% of child victims and families served were provided resources and referrals. The one family that was not provided these services was due to the fact that the child was interviewed while in protective custody, without a caregiver present. |
| Outcome #3 | Provide Court Advocacy to 100% child victims and non-offending caregivers. | 100% of child victims and non-offending caregivers were provided court advocacy. |

4. Refer to the line-item budget provided in your 2021 application for funding; is this accurate to how your allocation was actually spent? If no, what changed and why?

| Budget Categories | Requested Amount | Actual Amount | Comment as necessary |
|----------------------------|-------------------------|----------------------|---|
| Personnel | \$40,000 | \$40,000 | 100% of funding was spent on personnel costs for the 2021 year. |
| Fees & Services | | | |
| Estimates/Bids | | | |
| Travel | | | |
| Marketing | | | |
| Cost of Materials | | | |
| Operating Expenses | | | |
| Other | | | |
| Grand Total | \$40,000 | \$40,000 | |

