
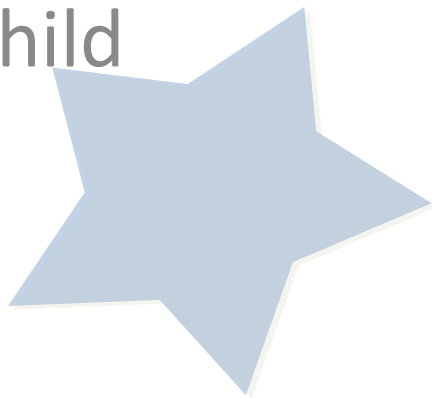




Beyond Sexual Abuse


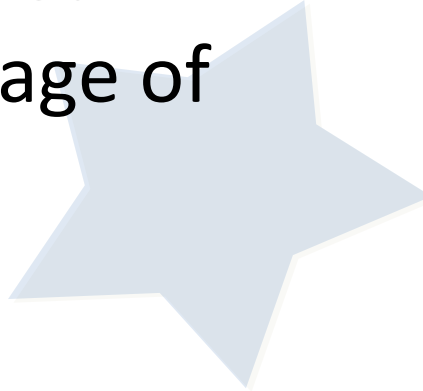


Applying a Collaborative Problem-
Solving Model to All Forms of Child
Maltreatment



Emerging Child Welfare Needs



- Overall decline in child maltreatment
 - Almost 1/3 of all child victims experienced 4 or more victimizations in 1 year
 - Type of victimization varies according to developmental stage of child
 - Varied social/system responses needed according to type of victimization & age of child
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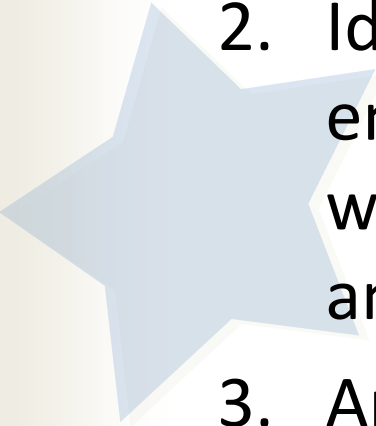
Why Expand CAC Services?

- Children among most highly victimized segments of population
- Victimization has enormous consequences for children
- CPS and LE need assistance in responding to maltreatment other than sexual abuse
- The collaborative problem-solving CAC model is ideal for emerging child welfare needs.

Learning Objectives



- Participants will be able to:
 1. Describe one benefit of expanding the CAC to address all forms of child maltreatment;
 2. Identify two strategies that will engage law enforcement and child protective services in working collaboratively on child abuse cases; and
 3. Articulate one idea you can implement at home.



Level of Collaboration



LE, CPS, and CAC

- Share similar goals
 - All seek to learn the truth about allegations
 - All are concerned with protecting children
- With different responsibilities

Response to Child Abuse Reports

Law Enforcement	Child Protective Services	Child Advocacy Center
Accepts reports	Accepts reports	
Investigates crime	Assesses child safety and parental capacity to protect	Interviews child and conducts medical exam
Arrests/charges perpetrator	Develops safety plan/ Contracts ongoing services	Provides support and follow-up to family
Testifies in criminal court	Testifies in juvenile court	Monitors case via Multi-Disciplinary Teams

MDT Protocols

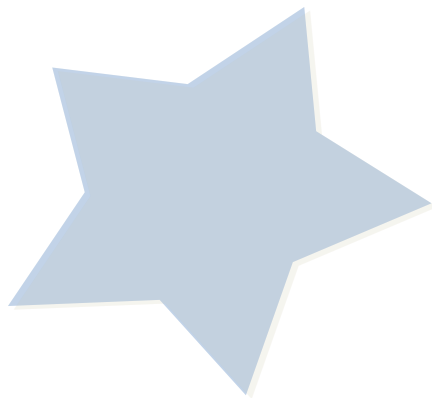
- Provide multi-disciplinary guidelines for CA/N investigations, dispositions, and treatment
- Purpose of protocols
 - Improve coordination
 - Clarify duties/responsibilities of individuals and agencies
 - Increase effectiveness of adjudications and prosecutions
 - Minimize negative impact on children



Dunham Family Case



Phillip Kelley, age 39
Cecilia Kelley, age 33
Sally Ann Dunham, age 9
David Dunham, age 5
Sabrina Kelley, age 14 months

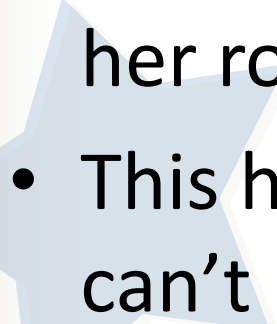
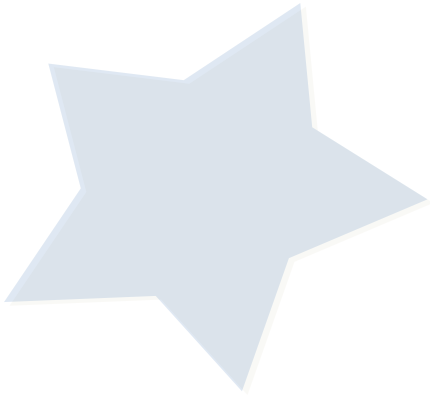


Intake Information

- Sally Ann tells teacher that her step-dad Phillip is “messing with her.”
- Teacher calls police and they go to school.
- Sally Ann and David come to school dirty, smell like urine, and seldom have food or lunch money.
- Parents have not applied for free or reduced lunch even though asked to.

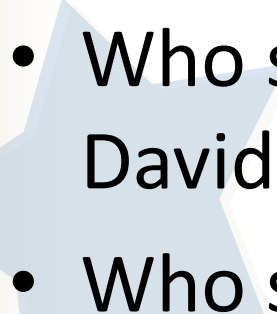
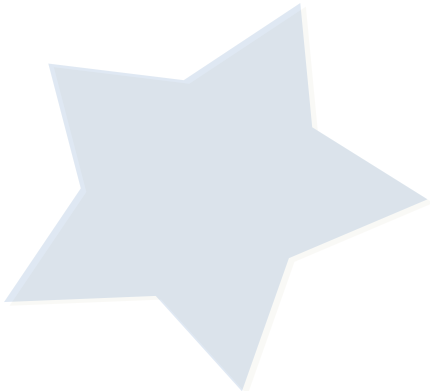
More Family Information



- Cecilia stays home with Sabrina.
 - Phillip is an over-the-road truck driver.
 - Sally Ann tells police officer Phillip comes to her room at night to “have sex with her.”
 - This has happened a “few times,” but she can’t recall how many.
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Questions to Consider



- Are there indications of abuse or neglect here?
 - Should it be investigated or assessed?
 - Who should interview Sally Ann? What about David? Does he need an interview?
 - Who should talk to Cecilia?
- 
- 

Law Enforcement will:

- Conduct a minimal facts interview with the child
- Contact supervisor for directions on handling call
- Take children into protective custody
- Make decisions:
 - Are the children safe?
 - Is there evidence of a crime?
 - Who should be contacted?

Child Protective Services will:

- Hotline will decide:
 - Should we accept this case for assessment?
 - If no, should it be referred to a community agency?
 - If yes, how quickly do we need to respond?
- Assessment will decide:
 - Are the children safe?
 - Are the parents capable of protecting the children?
 - What kind of safety plan is needed?
 - Who should be contacted?



What type(s) of interview and who should do it?



Minimal Facts

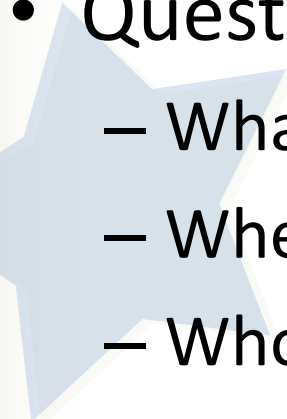
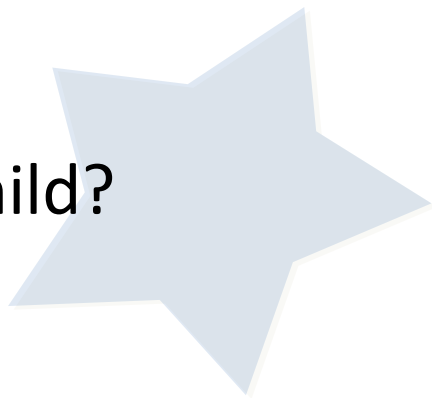
Field

Forensic



Minimal Facts



- Conducted by first professional responder
 - Designed to gather basic facts about abuse or neglect
 - Questions include:
 - What happened?
 - When did it happen?
 - Who did it?
 - Does the suspect have access to the child?
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Field Interview

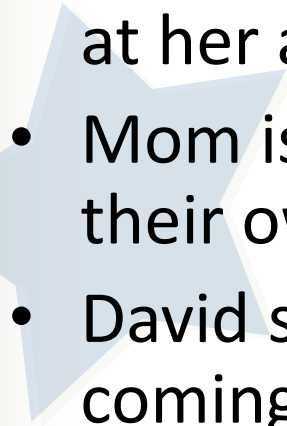

- Conducted in cases of physical abuse or neglect *not designated for forensic interview*
- Purpose: Gather info and evidence about alleged abuse/neglect
- CPS focus: assess child safety/family function
- LE focus: assess whether crime occurred/gather evidence

Forensic Interview

- Fact-finding interview
- Purpose: Gather details that either corroborate or refute allegations
- Hypothesis testing rather than hypothesis confirming approach
- Must occur in child advocacy centers by specially trained staff and must be recorded
- Conducted in cases where felony charges could be filed


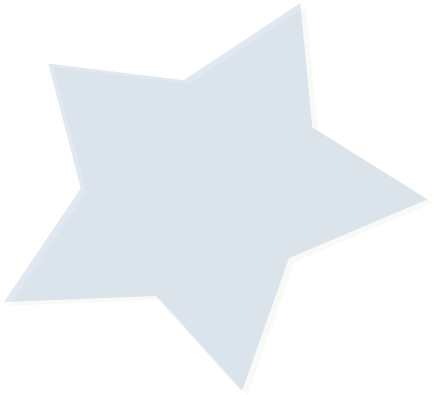
Forensic Interview



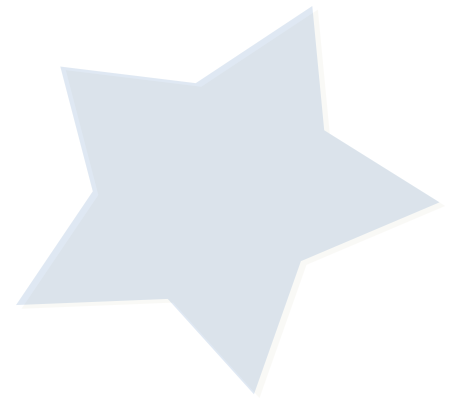
- Sally Ann discloses that her step-father touches her “privates with his fingers” at night after “mom is asleep.”
 - Says, “Mom gets mad when Sabrina cries so she yells at her and sometimes shakes her.”
 - Mom is sleeping when they go to school so they fix their own breakfast and don’t have money for lunch.
 - David says no one has hurt him and he saw Phillip coming out of Sally Ann’s room more than once.
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Questions to Consider



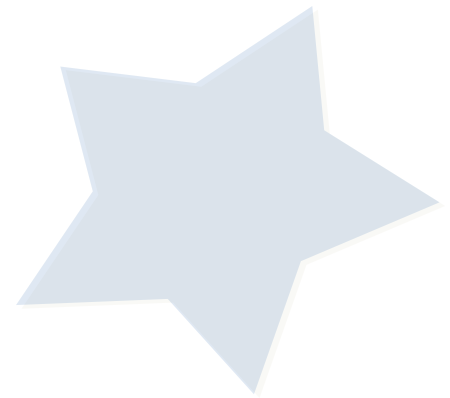
- Who should observe these interviews?
 - Does Sally Ann need a medical?
 - Does David?
 - Who gives consent?
- 
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Medical Exam



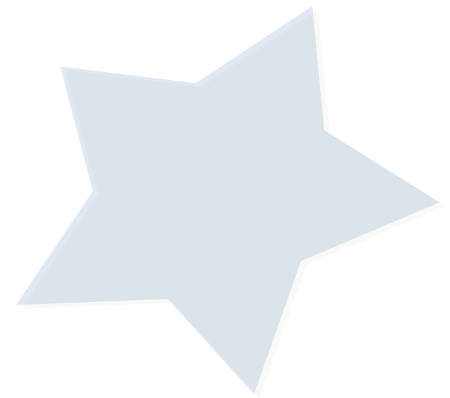
Sexual Abuse Exams

- Complete head-to-toe exam
- Genital exam
 - Colposcope
 - Camera used to magnify the genital area
 - Swabs for laboratory testing
 - Speculum exam only for females who have reached puberty



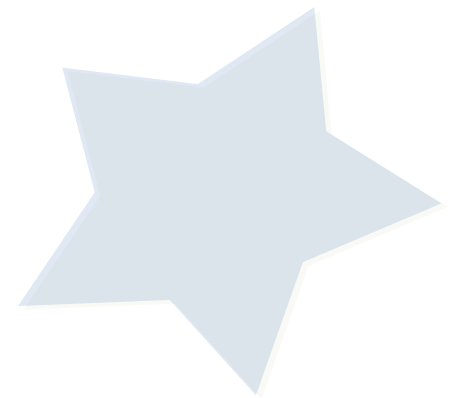
Physical Abuse Exam

- Complete head-to-toe exam
- Assessment for
 - Injuries
 - Bruising
 - Malnourishment




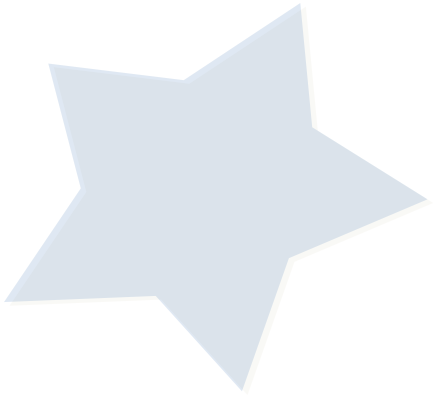
Medical Exam of Dunham Children

- No physical evidence of sexual abuse.
- Both children are slightly underweight.

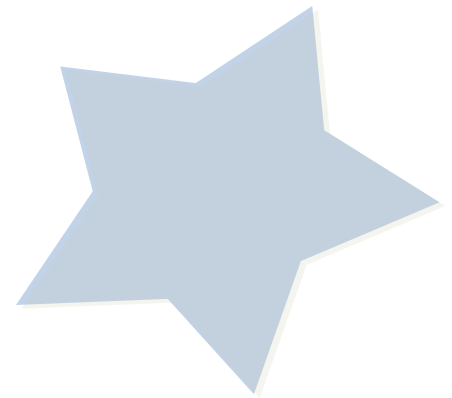


Questions to Consider



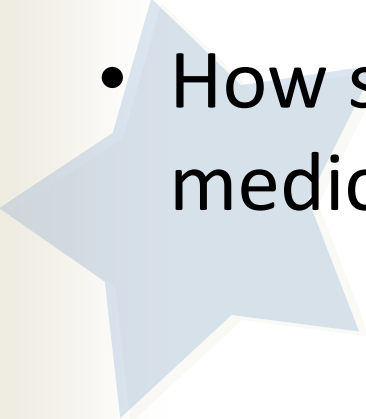
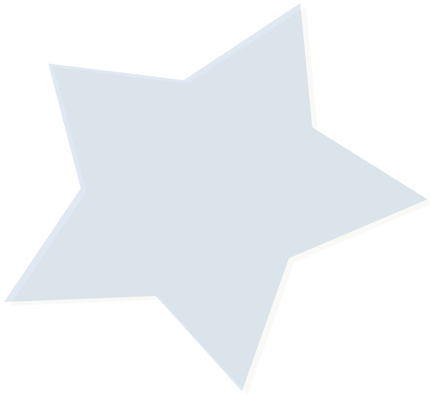
- What happens to Sally Ann and David now?
 - Who should talk to Mom?
 - Contact Step-Dad?
 - Who else in the family might we contact?
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- 

Dunham Family



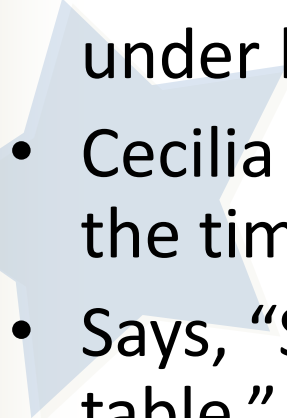

Questions to Consider



- Who should interview Cecilia?
 - Who should assess Sabrina?
 - What are you trying to determine?
 - How should the children's interview and medical findings be shared with Cecilia?
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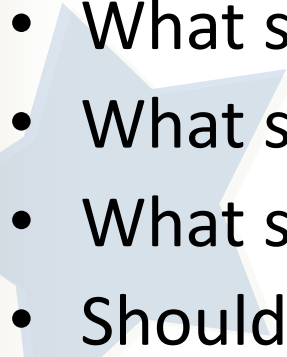
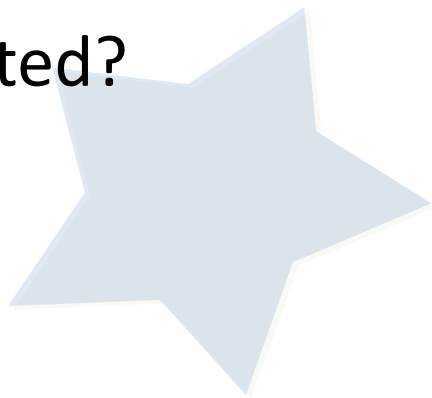
Observation/Interview with Cecilia



- Cecilia is wearing old torn sweats.
 - Sabrina is wearing sleeper pajamas that are too small.
 - Sabrina has a bruise on her left cheek and a small cut under her left eye.
 - Cecilia says she is tired of taking care of the kids all the time. Says, “Phillip is out of town.”
 - Says, “Sabrina fell off the couch and hit the coffee table.”
- 
- 

Questions to Consider



- Should the children be placed in protective custody?
 - Should Sabrina receive a medical?
 - Who is responsible for securing and monitoring placement?
 - What should happen to Cecilia?
 - What should happen to Phillip?
 - What should happen at school?
 - Should juvenile or criminal CAs be contacted?
- 
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Triage Center



- **Purpose**

- Provides a secure, child friendly facility for children removed from their home for possible child abuse
- Allows professionals responsible for placement decisions to come together and evaluate the extent of the abuse allegation

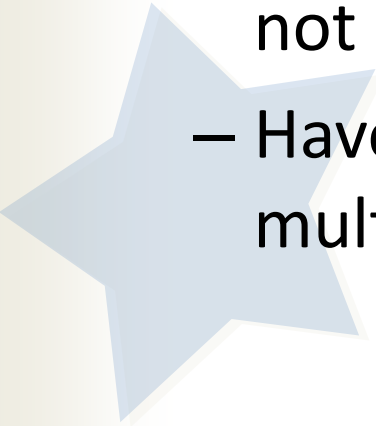
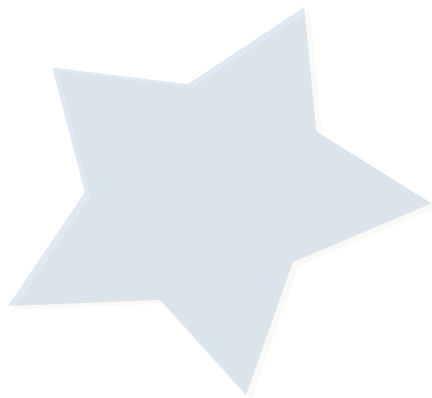
- **Goals**

- Meet child's immediate needs (medical, food, etc.)
- Minimize additional stress on child
- Increase number of youth placed with relatives



Child Advocacy Centers and 1184 Teams



- Do they make a difference?
 - Does a forensic interview increase disclosures?
 - How do families feel about CACs as compared to not using a CAC?
 - Have prosecutions increased by using CACs or multidisciplinary teams?
- 
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Strategies

- Expansion of Medical Clinic
 - Sexual abuse/assaults, physical abuse, neglect, foster care, hair testing, hospital privileges
- Short-Term Triage Center
 - Pauses the investigation while the child's placement needs are assessed
- MDT Examines System Issues
 - Investigation procedures, child deaths, truancy, etc.
- Training and Research
 - Training can provide the gateway to collaboration.

Training and Education



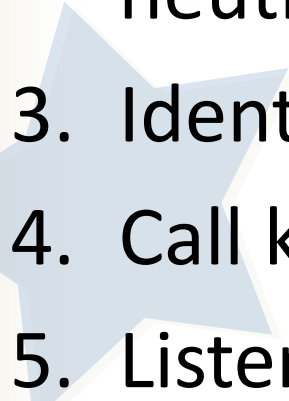

- Continuing education credits available
- Types of training include:
 - CA/N 101: Reporting and Responding to CA/N
 - CA/N 201: Collaborative Approach to CA/N Investigations
 - Courthouse Lunch & Learn Sessions
 - Customized training (ICWA, sexual abuse therapy, testifying, child death investigations)

Thinking Toward the Future

- Can we expand beyond child sexual abuse without overwhelming our staff and MDT?
- Should the CAC/MDT facilitate the appropriate social/system responses needed?
 - Law Enforcement, CPS, Courts, Treatment Interventions
- What is the role of the CAC/MDT in childhood interpersonal violence?
 - Peer-to-peer assaults, bullying, internet victimization, warfare/ethnic violence, date rape, child-on-child sexual abuse

How to Expand Beyond Sexual Abuse



1. Know your child welfare system – strengths and gaps
 2. Respect each agency's mission but remain neutral
 3. Identify “quick wins” – how the CAC can help
 4. Call key players together to strategize/plan
 5. Listen first; respond together
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Resources

- Austin, J.E. (). The collaborative challenge: How nonprofits and businesses succeed through strategic alliances.
- Finkelhor, D., & Jones, L. (2006). Why have child maltreatment and child victimization declined? *Journal of Social Issues*, 62(4): 685-716.
- Finkelhor, D. (2007). Developmental victimology: The comprehensive study of childhood victimizations. In Davis, R. C., Luirigio, A.J., & Herman, S. (Eds.), *Victims of Crime* (3rd ed) pgs. 9-34, Thousand Oaks, CA: Sage Publications.
- National Children's Alliance (2009). *Project Access Assessment*. Washington, DC.
- Newman, B. S., Dannenfelser, P. L., & Pendleton, D. (2005). Child abuse investigations: Reasons for using child advocacy centers and suggestions for improvement. *Child and Adolescent Social Work Journal* 22(2), pp. 165-181.
- Vieth, V. (2005). *Table Talk: A Conversation about the Future of Children's Advocacy Centers in the United States*. Winona, MN: National Child Protection Training Center.

Thank you!

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