



The Children's Assessment Center

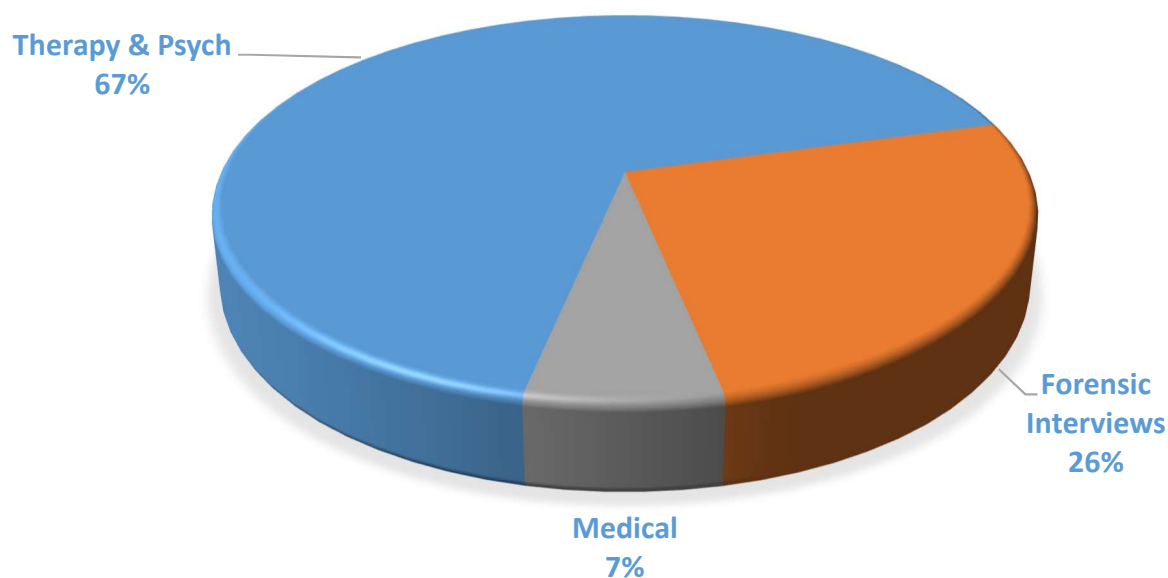
FY 2021 Program Accomplishments

1. Program Services for Children and Families

The following figures are based on total numbers of children and adults served, as well as services provided from March 1, 2020 to November 30, 2020, which have been projected to the fiscal year end on February 28, 2021.

CLIENT SERVICES BY DEPARTMENT

***NOTE: MANY CLIENTS RECEIVE SERVICES FROM MULTIPLE DEPARTMENTS**



Therapy and Psychological Services: 9,252

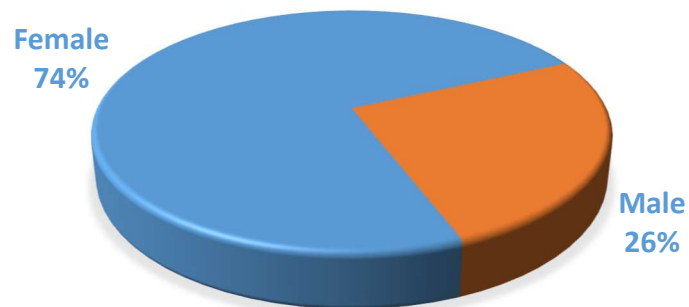
Forensic Interview Services: 3,582

Medical Services: 905

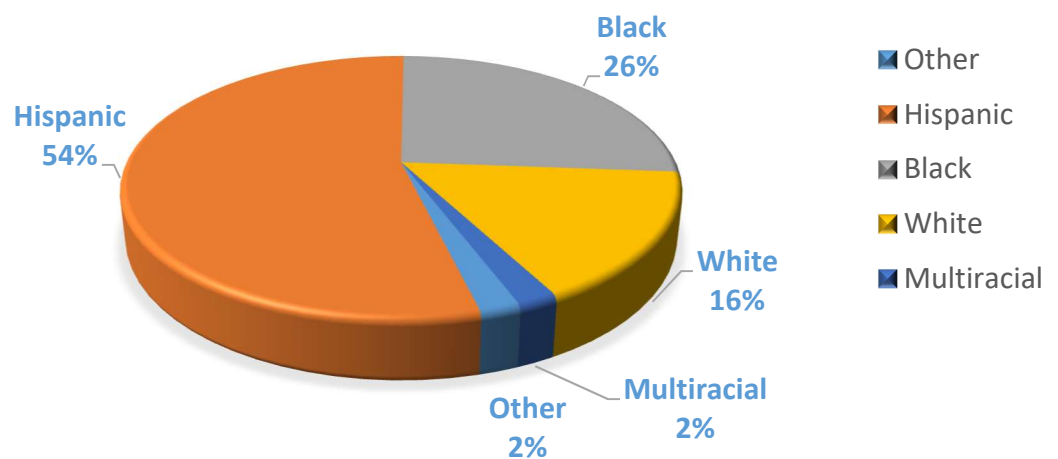
Statewide Intakes Reviewed: 12,277

Demographic Breakdown

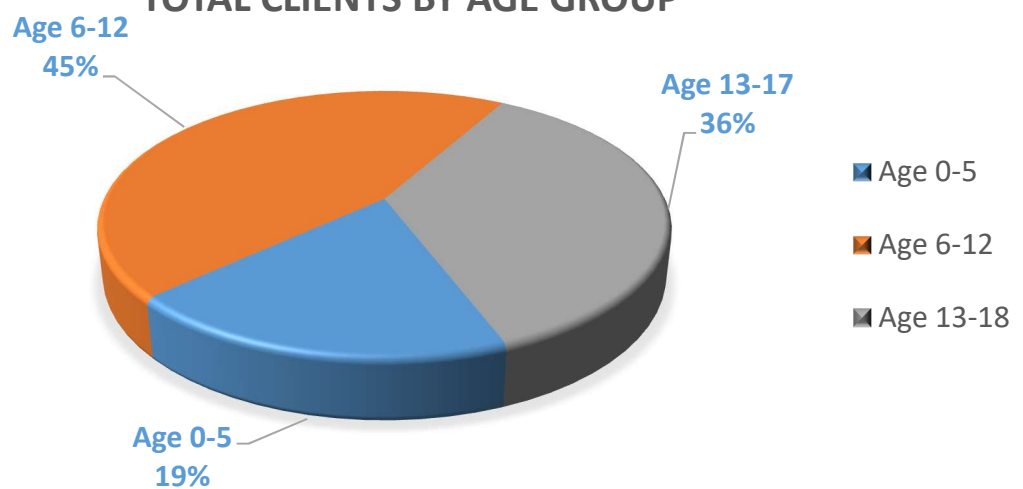
TOTAL CLIENTS BY GENDER



TOTAL CLIENTS BY ETHNICITY



TOTAL CLIENTS BY AGE GROUP



Total Number of Children Served

Number of children who received forensic interviews: 3,290

Number of children who received medical services: 892

Number of psychological/therapy services provided to children: 2,242

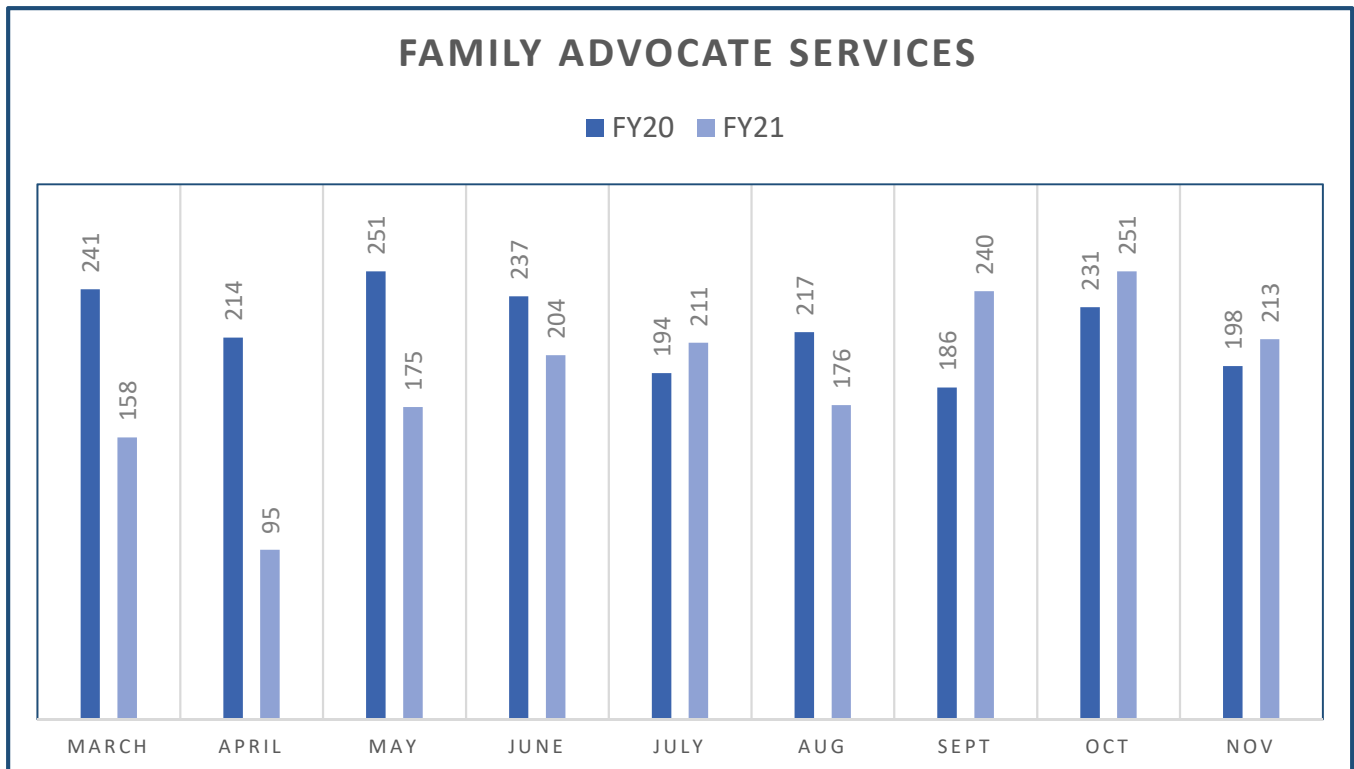
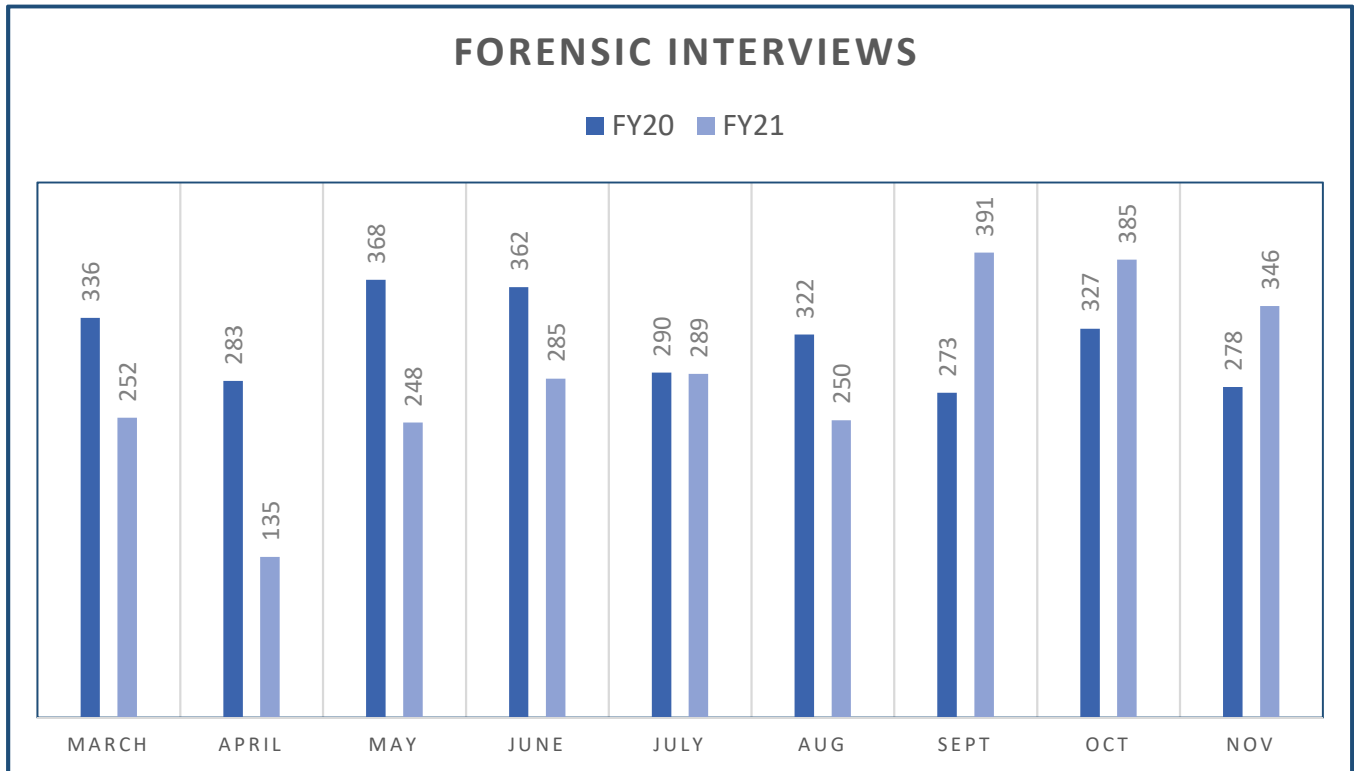
Number of psychological/therapy services provided to adults: 964

Training and Education

Number of attendees (CAC staff, law enforcement, community, etc.): 18,500+

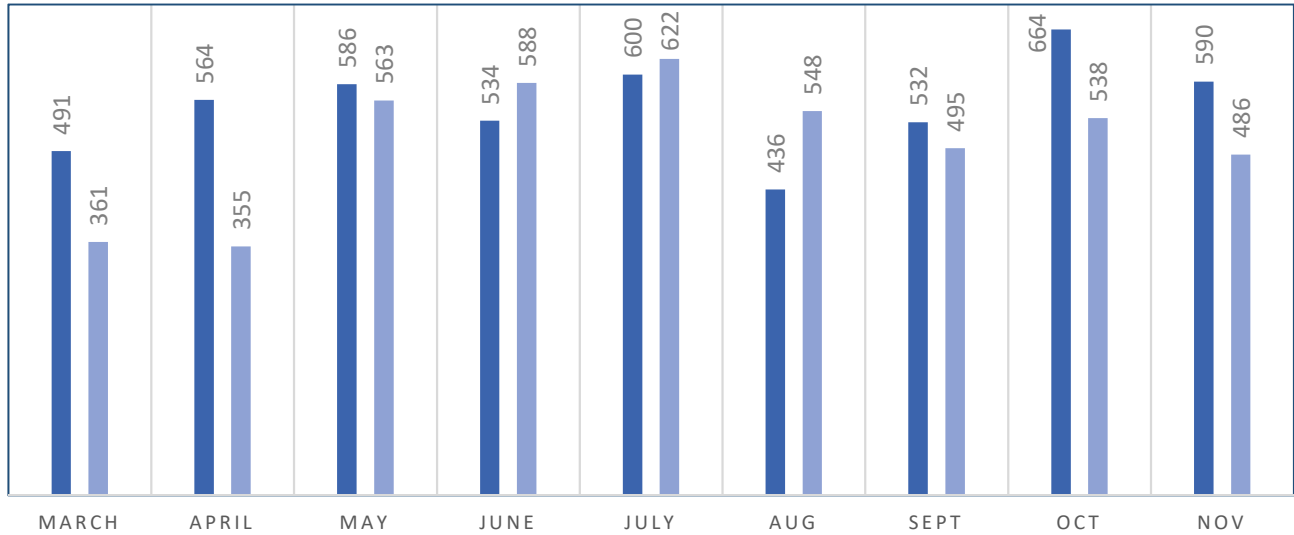
Number of trainings: 401

2. Comparison of Services Between FY20 and FY21



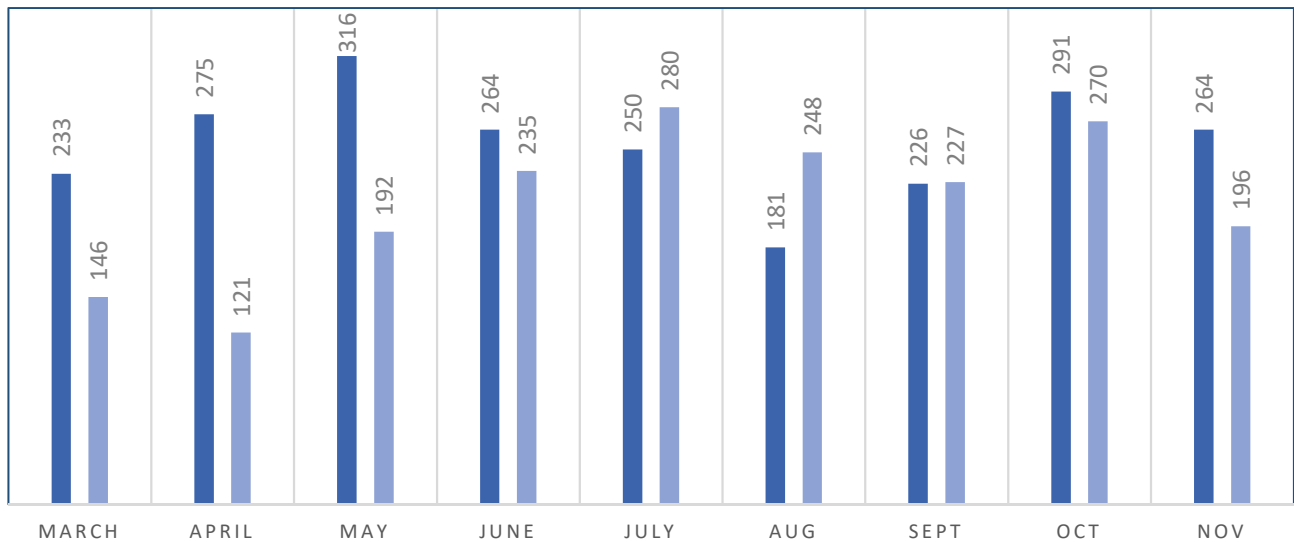
THERAPY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES TO *CHILDREN*

■ FY20 ■ FY21



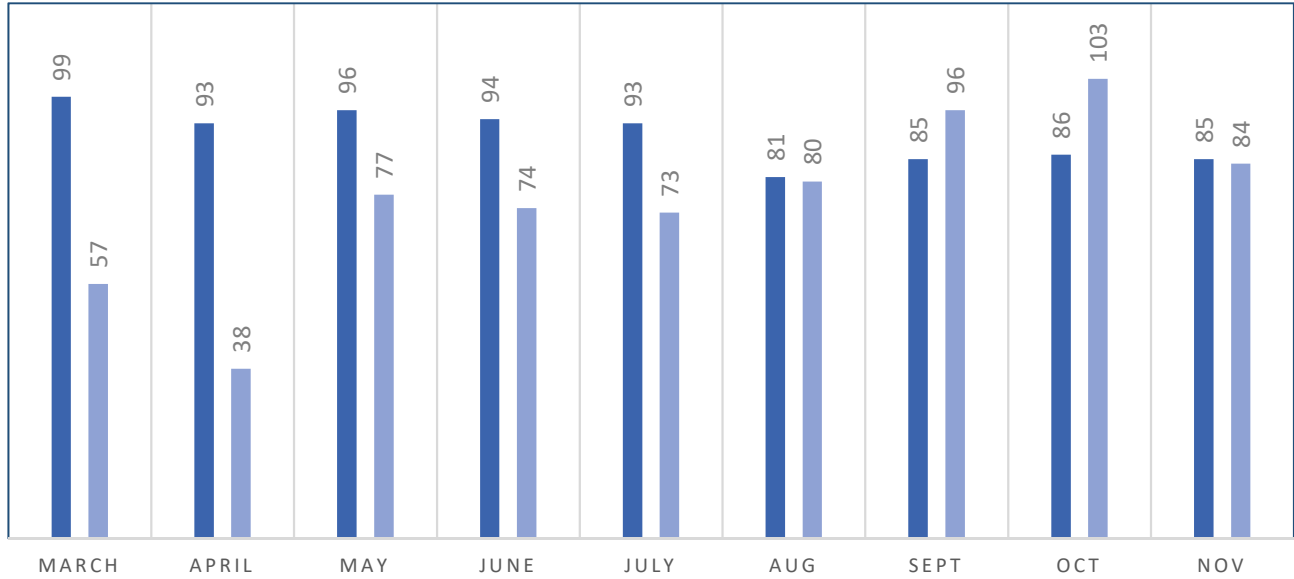
THERAPY AND PSYCHOLOGICAL SERVICES TO *ADULTS*

■ FY20 ■ FY21



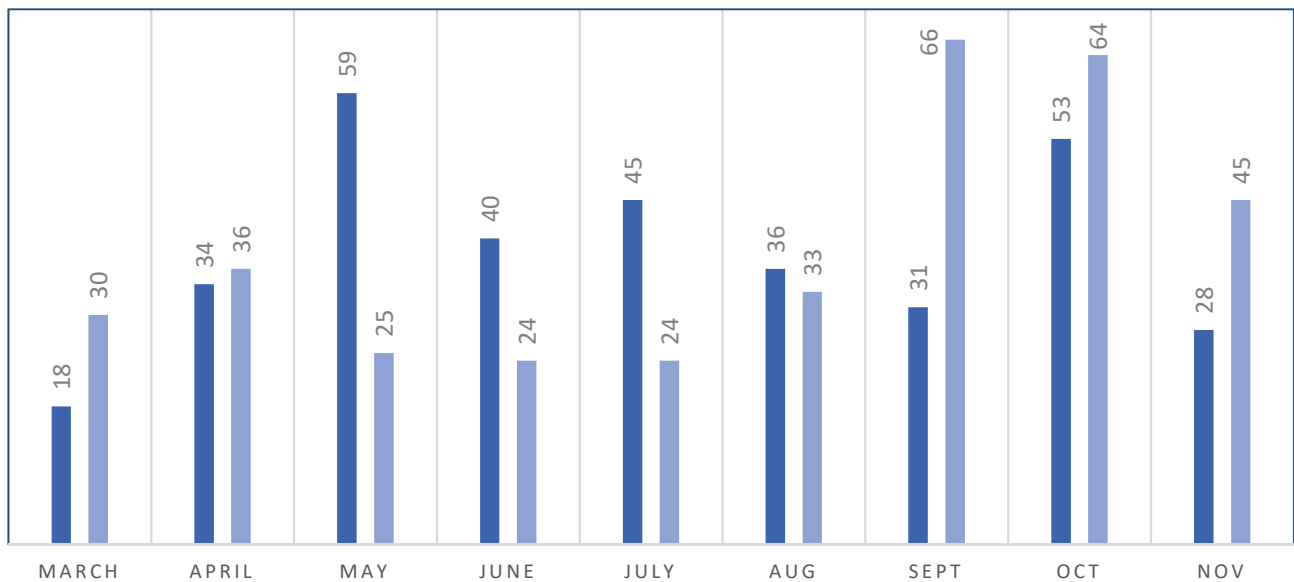
MEDICAL SERVICES

■ FY20 ■ FY21



NUMBER OF TRAININGS

■ FY20 ■ FY21



3. Multidisciplinary Enhancement Initiative (MEI) Implemented an After-Hours Protocol

To ensure that we meet the needs of the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services (DFPS) and our Law Enforcement Partners concerning emergency requests related to child abuse, The CAC's MEI Team developed and implemented an after-hours protocol. This allows The CAC and our partners to respond to trauma victims outside of business hours. The CAC has designated staff on-call by phone, from 6 p.m. -9 p.m., Monday through Friday.

4. Researched, Evaluated, and Implemented a Telehealth Platform for our Children and Families

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, our Therapy and Psychological Team shifted protocol to include telehealth services to provide services without putting children at risk. The CAC has fully onboarded a virtual platform for its mental health services, which provides easy, convenient access to our services. Teletherapy has provided us the ability to continue to address clients' trauma symptoms since mental health is an ongoing concern. Since the beginning of the pandemic, more than 50% of our services have been conducted via synchronous virtual sessions. Our mental health providers have continued to prioritize clients based on the acuity of cases; therefore, high acuity cases are seen in person.

5. Enhancing our Cultural Competency Committee and Providing Trainings to CAC Staff

The CAC Cultural Competency Committee members presented information to their departments monthly to raise awareness and educate staff members. The committee provided a trauma-informed response after George Floyd's death. The Committee came together to provide the following trainings for CAC staff members:

- July 8th and 15th: **A Time for Critical Reflection & Change: Understanding and Appreciating Cultural Diversity** (2 Session) and 6 Breakout Sessions by Sandra Lopez.
- August 18th: **Cultural Considerations when Working with the Chinese American Community & Challenges under COVID-19** by Chinese Community Center.
- August 26th - **Strategies for Discussing Race, Racial Discrimination, & Racial Trauma with Youth in 2020** by Dr. Busby.

The Cultural Competency Committee has also added a comment box in The CAC's staff break room to allow for anonymous comments or suggestions. Our Training Center information monitor displays cultural competency information for staff, partner agency staff, and community visitors.

6. The CAC became a TEA Approved Provider for Training

In 2019, House Bill 111 and 403 required the training of public school employees and Board of Trustees to receive trainings addressing the prevention of sexual abuse, sex trafficking, and other maltreatment of children. This year, Texas Education Agency (TEA) mandated that all School Board Trustees (TEC 11.159) and Superintendents (TEC 21.054) must “complete continuing education on identifying and reporting potential victims of sexual abuse, human trafficking, and other maltreatment of children” (TEC 11.159(c)(2)). TEA approved The CAC as a provider of the state-mandated training. On December 1, 2020, the TEA Region 4 Superintendents received the approved training entitled, “Identifying and Reporting Potential Victims of Sexual Abuse, Human Trafficking, and Other Maltreatment.”

7. The CAC Forensic Services Division Served Over 3,500 Children and Their Families

The CAC provides services that are critical to children’s health, safety, and well-being. Balancing the need for pandemic safety against the critical needs of children and families was a significant accomplishment of this division. Our Forensic Services increased within the last quarter substantially and demonstrated an increase compared to the same quarter in 2019.

A Forensic Interviewer was on call the first few weeks of COVID closures. She was juggling school closures, home schooling prep and working from home with kids in the background when she received a request for an emergency interview of a 7-year-old girl; she was sexually assaulted and in route to The CAC from the hospital. The process seemed chaotic as we adjusted to our new normal protocols, but she shared afterwards that once she was in the interview room with this child, something shifted. She recognized how essential she was to this child’s healing and to every child who followed. She expressed overwhelming humility after the interview when she received this note from the child: “Dear XX, good seeing you. You [were] very nice to me. Thank you for being [patient] with me, and thank you for letting me talk slow. No one talked like that to me. You want to be friends ... Love, XX”

2,450
Families Served



3,650
Children Served



**The following figures include the total number of child and adult services from March through November 2020 with projections, which continue through the fiscal year end of February 28, 2021.*

8. Houston Regional Child Sex Trafficking (CST) Advisory Council, Facilitated through The CAC's Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Collaborative

In 2016, The Governor's Office established a large (45 member) multidisciplinary Human Trafficking team to address this crisis in our community. Harris County was one of the first established. After three years of collaboration, a comprehensive continuum of care and case review process was implemented. Signed working protocols by all 45 team members were coordinated by The CAC as an addendum to The CAC Multidisciplinary Team Working Protocols. This allowed the large multidisciplinary team to fold into a smaller oversight-working group – the Human Trafficking Advisory Council, led by the Governor's Office Regional Director of Human Trafficking.

In August of 2020, The Governor's office asked The CAC to begin facilitating these quarterly Advisory Council meetings. The Vision of the Houston Area Child Sex Trafficking Advisory Council: *Through enhanced collaboration and transparency, eliminate the additional victimization caused by detention in the criminal justice system, and ensure that every Houston-area child sex trafficking victim receives the most coordinated, effective, and trauma-informed response possible.* The CAC continues to be the facilitator for these meetings addressing the needs of trafficking victims in Harris County.

9. The Building Appropriate Sexual Education (BASE) Program

The BASE Program is conducted at The CAC in partnership with the Harris County DA's office. This program provides an alternative to prosecution for youth that are sexually acting out. After successfully completing the program, charges are filed, and youth are given a second opportunity at a meaningful life. What happens if they complete the program - is their case dismissed, therefore saving them a criminal record that could affect them the rest of their lives? This is the second year of this program, and we have expanded to a second therapist to address the needs of juveniles. Sixty families have benefited from this diversion program.

10. Professional Trainings Conducted by CAC Training

By the end of November 2020, The CAC logged 547 trainings, compared to 641 in 2019. In total, these trainings had 7,920 attendees. This year will end with fewer trainings than last year, due to the effects of the pandemic.

Prevention of child sexual abuse is a major goal for The CAC in the Harris County community. From March to the end of November 2020, The CAC has provided prevention training to:

- 667 adults
- 498 children
- 94 Prevention training completed and 59 cancelled due to COVID pandemic

CAC Training Center Usage FY 2020	
Meetings (Face to face and virtual)	2,155
Trainings (Face to face and virtual)	401
Other	132
Attendees	18,615
AV Needed	385
No shows	12
Cancelled (COVID and Non-COVID)	361

The CAC also has temporarily repurposed some rooms that normally are used for in-person trainings to be used as therapy rooms to allow for social distancing. The CAC Training Center remains open for use to partner agencies and community partners and follows county guidelines regarding COVID-19 protocols. Prior to and during the pandemic, the following agencies have utilized our training rooms:

- 1) Harris County District Attorney's Office
- 2) Harris County Attorney's Office
- 3) Harris County's Sherriff's Office
- 4) Houston Police Department
- 5) Harris County Youth Collective Dual Status
- 6) National Charity League
- 7) DFPS-CPS
- 8) Child Fatality Review Team
- 9) Harris County Retirement
- 10) Houston ISD Graduation Support Meeting
- 11) Texas Center for the Missing (TCM)
- 12) Office of the Texas Governor Child Sext Trafficking Team
- 13) Houston Metro Internet Crimes Against Children (ICAC)
- 14) FBI Citizen's Academy
- 15) Houston Independent School District
- 16) Love 146
- 17) TEACH Leadership Learning Labs
- 18) Attorney General of Texas
- 19) SE Texas Links
- 20) Integrated Healthcare Initiative at Mental Health America of Greater Houston

Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children Prevention Training – for Partners and Schools:

- Harris County Precinct 2 Constable Office staff received training on Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children training: 1/14, 1/24, 2/18, 3/6
- Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults- Community Youth Services staff received training on Darkness to Light's Stewards of Children training: 11/2, 11/6, 11/9, 11/10, 11/13, 11/16.

Harris County Child Sex Trafficking (CST) Response Workshops – Open to the Public:

- **August 25th** – Speakers: Harris County Protective Services (HCPS) Deputy Director, The CAC MDT Manager, The CAC Director of Forensic Services, and Texas Children's Hospital Child Abuse Pediatrics Nurse Manager
- **November 17th** – Harris County Protective Services (HCPS) TRIAD CST Supervisor, The CAC Interim Supervisor of Forensic Services, BCFS Health and Human Services Regional Director, The CAC MDT Manager, Texas Children's Hospital Child Abuse Pediatrics Nurse Manager

11. Children's Services Continues to Provide to the Children We Serve During Back to School and the Holidays

We have adjusted our Back to School and Holiday events for the children to comply with county health and safety guidelines.

Rainbow Room: Birthday / Therapy Graduation Gifts & Overnight Bags / Clothing

- 40+ Children Served

We have continued to provide Rainbow Room services, including over 40 birthday gifts, therapy gifts, and overnight bags/clothing requests.

In our Rainbow Room, we also fill duffle bags with clothing and toiletries have been provided to all children in need. The Activity Center staff is sure to include all of the essential items needed for a child to feel comforted and safe. Each bag is specifically tailored to fit the needs of the individual child.

Back to School Events

- 385 Backpacks filled with School Supplies
- 44 Laptops

While we were unable to hold our annual Children's Back to School Party, we were able to continue with our Back to School Drive, and we provided backpacks filled with school supplies to 385 children. With the anticipation of many children attending school virtually this fall, we also provided brand new laptops to 44 of those children for remote learning.

Holiday Toy Drive

During December, we plan to continue Holiday activities without an annual party in order to protect families and staff during the pandemic. Together with our partners and other donors from the community, we are on track to provide both pre-requested and general gifts for clients.

12. Partner Best Practices Collaboration

The CAC hosts a monthly presentation by a CAC Partner Agency presenting valuable information to members of the Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) on their roles and responsibilities in child sexual abuse cases in Harris County and provides information on what each organization needs from other MDT members and agencies. This allows our MDT members, partners, and staff to better serve the children and families in Harris County.

Partner Series Monthly courses:

February

Harris County Protective Services for Children and Adults (HCPS) – Difference between CPS and HCPS?

March

Texas Rangers Company A – Texas Rangers Company A's Role in Child Abuse Investigations

United States Postal Services - United States Postal Inspection Service's Role in Child Abuse and Child Exploitation Investigation

June

Katy Independent School District (ISD) Police Department - Protocols for Child Exploitation Cases

July

Crime Stoppers Houston Inc. - Past, Present, and a look at Child Abuse and Human Trafficking.

August

Harris County Institute of Forensic Sciences - The Role of Forensic Investigators and Anthropologists in Medico legal Investigations of Pediatric Deaths.

September

Harris County Precinct 5 - Crime Victims Assistance Unit

October

The Department of Homeland Securities - Efforts to Stop Child Sexual Abuse and Child Sexual Exploitation.

November

Communities in Schools (C.I.S.) Houston - An Approach to Helping Students Achieve In Life.

Community Engagement Training

The Children's Assessment Center continues to provide training for the Harris County Community through the Keeping Children Safe Series by presenting:

- Stewards of Children Child Sexual Abuse Prevention training through Darkness to Light to raise awareness of Child Sexual abuse and provide tools to adults to prevent, recognize, react responsibility to and report child sexual abuse. The CAC provided 23 workshops on site and in the community for adults.
- Netsmartz is an internet safety program for children and parents. To date, The CAC has provided 13 workshops for children
- Happy Bear 70 presentations for children
- Boundaries 6 presentations for children
- Prevention of child sexual abuse is a major goal for The CAC in the Harris County community. As of September 30, 2019, The CAC has provided prevention training to:
 - 1154 adults
 - 1748 children
 - 133 Prevention training

Child Abuse Prevention Month

On April 12, 2019, The Children's Assessment Center presented a community workshop entitled Hope in the Face of Adversity- Child Sexual Abuse Prevention workshop attended by 86 members of the community. The guest speakers addressed child sexual abuse prevention included Jenna Quinn, M.S., Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Advocate; Sgt. Joy Nelson, Harris County Sheriff's Office; Ashley Cureno, Ted Talk and local Child Sexual Abuse Prevention Advocate; Dr. Lawrence Thompson, Jr., Ph.D., Director of Therapy and Psychological Services at The Children's Assessment Center.