Monthly Mission Moment with The Children's Assessment Center



February 2024

A Message from our MDT Services Manager

Black History Month is an opportunity to understand Black history beyond traumatic stories of slavery, the Civil Rights Movement, and racism. It is a time to acknowledge Black achievements and contributions as well as an occasion to conceptualize what prospects lie ahead for the Black community. In order to take advantage of this time, we must first recognize that despite how far we have come as a people, we still have a very long way to go. Black History Month is an excellent time to make certain that The CAC is creating a culturally competent Multi-Disciplinary Team that recognizes family practices and their individual cultural components.

One area where there is a need for significant change is in child advocacy. Cases of child sexual abuse or severe physical abuse rely greatly on the decision-making of child welfare workers, law enforcement personnel, judges, and attorneys. Black children are three times more likely to be the subject of a child abuse hotline report and three to six times more likely to be removed from their home.

Simply put, there is no easy way to fix the flaws within social systems, but The CAC's goal is to evaluate our systems in order to identify where and how disparities are occurring and to ensure that our practices are conducted with a trauma-informed and anti-racist approach.

Warmly,

Lala Elepano, PhD(c), LPC, NCC, CCTP Multidisciplinary Team (MDT) Services Manager at The CAC Pronouns: She/Her/Hers

* Statistics from the Texas Department of Family and Protective Services





We are less than two months away from our annual 2024 Spirit of Spring Gala. If you haven't purchased your table yet, there is still time!

Friday, April 12, 2024 The Houstonian Hotel Registration 6:30pm | Gala 7:30pm

Visit our Event Website

Buy Your Table or Sponsorship

Can't attend the gala, but still want to support our event? Help us stock our Wine Pull by donating a bottle of wine from our <u>Houston Wines wish list</u>.



If you have any questions about the event or would like to join our host committee, please email our Special Events Supervisor, Kat Doveno, at <u>kathleen.doveno@cac.hctx.net</u>.

Upcoming Trainings Hosted by The CAC

March 5th	Darkness to Light: Talking with Children about Safety from Sexual Abuse
March 11th	Healthy Body, Healthy You-th: Effects of E-cigarettes on The Body Sexual Exploitation of Children
March 12th	Darkness to Light: Commercial Sexual Exploitation of Children
March 20th	Darkness to Light: Stewards of Children
March 25th	Healthy Body, Healthy You-th: Effects of Cannabis on the Body

At The CAC, we believe that prevention happens through education.

Visit our Events Calendar to sign up for a training and to learn more about the virtual trainings we offer at The CAC. Check out all of our trainings <u>here</u>.



Lisa Bourgoyne, Director of Programs at The CAC, and Jennifer Hill, Assistant Executive Director at The CAC, joined other Program Directors from urban advocacy centers from across the nation in Dallas. They also met with DCAC Executive Director, Iris Burch, and Senator John Cornyn on the importance of modernizing the Project Safe Childhood Act.



The CAC is honored to be a part of the 2024 Texas Children's Houston Open Birdies for Charity presented by the Halliburton program. Birdies for Charity is a fundraising program designed to give local charities and schools the opportunity to generate contributions through the Texas Children's Houston Open. **100% of your donation comes back to The CAC!**

Make your donation here!

One lucky supporter of the Texas Children's Houston Open Birdies for Charity program who guesses the correct number of birdies at the 2024 Houston Open will win an Astros Suite Night at Minute Maid Park.

For more information email Special Events Supervisor, Kat Doveno, atkathleen.doveno@cac.hctx.net



Our Lighting the Path Giving Society stands as a beacon of hope, uniting champions and heroes dedicated to combating child sexual abuse. A special shout out to our esteemed Lighting the Path Giving Society members, EOG Resources, Debbie and Jack Moore, The Nagel Family, Callon Petroleum Company, and Vessel Blenders. Our Giving Society embodies a collective commitment to a three-year investment, ensuring consistent and flexible funding for protective and healing services. With the Lighting the Path Giving Society, we not only illuminate the path towards healing for victims and their families, but also actively engage in outreach, partnership with law enforcement, and individualized care to create a safer community for all. Join us in this transformative journey, and together, let's make a lasting impact on the lives of those affected by child sexual abuse.

Learn more about Lighting the Path

Learn more about how their donations have supported our mission by visiting <u>our</u> <u>Community Connections page</u>.

If you would like to learn more about joining our Lighting the Path Giving Society, please email our Donor Relations Specialist, Chelsea Sallans, at <u>chelsea.sallans@cac.hctx.net</u>.

Celeste



Multidisciplinary Coordinator 1 Year at The CAC

What is your motivation for the work that you do at The CAC?

My motivation for my work at The CAC is having the unique opportunity to assist in service delivery

to the children and families we serve. By encouraging collaboration among MDT Partners, we work together to solve complex problems while empowering each other along the way. I derive a lot of pride and satisfaction working for an organization that aims to make a difference in the world. Our work is a challenge, but there is no growth in comfortability.

CAC

Staff

Highlight

The mission of The CAC is to provide a professional, compassionate and coordinated approach to the treatment of sexually abused children and their families and to serve as an advocate for all children in our community.



The Children's Assessment Center | 2500 Bolsover St., Houston, TX 77005

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