

REPORT 2020 April Cycle

GENERAL INFORMATION

Organization Information

Legal Name: Children's Advocacy Center of Comal County, Inc.		Federal Tax ID#: 20-1100412	
Address: 1168 Pride Drive	City: New Braunfels	State: TX	Zip Code: 78133
Website: www.comalcac.org		Fax: (830) 837-3338	

Head Of Organization

Name: Trendy Sharp	Title: Executive Director
E-Mail Address: tsharp@comalcac.org	Phone: (803) 626-2543

Application Contact

Name: Trendy Sharp	Title: Executive Director	E-Mail Address: tsharp@comalcac.org	Phone: (803) 626-2543
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REPORT INFORMATION

Report Funding Cycle: 2020 April Cycle	Report Date: 03/30/2021 12:00 am
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1: Please include in your report the dollar amount of the funds that were awarded, the date they were funded and what the funds supported.

Awarded Amount: 30,000	Date: 05/20/2021
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2: Were the objectives cited in your original proposal met? Please address each started objective and how it was met.

Objectives and Status:

1. Forensically Interview and record abused and at risk children at the center and document the number of children internally in the Collaborate Case Tracking System (CTS) and discuss each case at monthly MDT meetings. Perform at least 440 forensic interviews in the FY. 331 children were interviewed in FY 2020. However, the pandemic had an effect upon those numbers. Please see below in #3 for a discussion.
2. Review results of Family Survey to monitor the CACCC's effectiveness in providing a child-friendly environment where families can feel comfortable and get assistance in referrals for services. Increase satisfaction rating of family's initial impression of CACCC by 10% and of staff treatment by 2% or maintain overall satisfaction rating at over 90%. Satisfaction ratings for FY 2020 remained at over 95%.
3. Provide counseling services to children with a clear treatment goal. Measure negative symptoms child is experiencing at outset of counseling then again after treatment goals are with an overall reduction in negative symptoms by at least 50% of the children using the Child Symptom Assessment Form. (Trauma Symptom Checklist for Children TSCC.) In FY 2020 58% of the children showed over 10% decrease in symptoms, 100% of the children showed over a 5% decrease in symptoms.

3: Please explain any changes from the original proposal and the circumstances that lead to the modification of the objective.

The goal of FY 2020 was to provide interviews for 440 children but 331 children were provided interviews. 2020 was a very singular year and the CACCC faced many challenges regarding the pandemic. The CACCC had to shut down for sanitization twice during the FY. During that time however, counseling direct service hours increased and the number of Statewide Abuse Reports increased from 1667 in FY 2017, to 1853 in FY 2018 to 1891 in FY 2019. In FY 2020 that number rose to 2008. Thus, the CACCC has been processing more abuse cases than ever, trying to provide interviews and services to those children but finds itself beset with challenges and difficulties.

In February 2021, the CACCC experienced frozen water sprinkler pipes and the entire facility flooded. The building has to be gutted and repaired.

Currently, the CACCC has a temporary center up and running in New Braunfels. All of the challenges in the past year have been difficult for the CACCC, but all of the CACCC's difficulties have driven home the almost insurmountable challenges abused children face in addition to abuse in the home. COVID created (necessary) shelter in place orders which sometimes end up being more dangerous for children. That abuse causes long-lasting harm.

4: What needs were addressed?

Emotionally, abused children frequently suffer from low self-esteem, aggressive behavior, acting out, suicidal tendencies, running away, school and social adjustment problems. Advocacy centers help to lessen the emotional impact on a child after an allegation is made by giving the child a comfortable, non-intimidating environment for the interviewing process. A study performed by the Crimes Against Children Research Center in 1996 found that parents and caregivers who went to a CAC after an allegation were more satisfied with the investigation than parents were in jurisdictions without advocacy centers. Children were less likely to describe themselves as feeling scared during an interview than were children who were questioned elsewhere.

Results from Family Surveys indicate that 95% of children and families have an overall satisfaction rate. Further, results from trauma checklists indicate that 100% of the children coming to counseling have experienced a reduction in the symptoms listed above.

5: What method of evaluation did you use to monitor and measure the project's outcome and what are the result?

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6: Do you plan to continue this project, and if so, how do you plan to sustain it?

This year has been difficult and challenging for the CACCC. 5 Fundraising events were cancelled due to safety concerns. There were shut downs and health issues. And during the winter storm last month the CACCC was flooded and then gutted for repairs. Currently the goal is to build back our fundraising events and continue providing services as we always have to children who have been abused.

7: Please provide any other comments of information relevant to this grant.

All of the challenges in the past year have been difficult for the CACCC, but all of the CACCC's difficulties have driven home the almost insurmountable challenges abused children face in addition to abuse in the home. Everyday CACCC learns a lesson of resilience from the kids that come to the center: Keep going.

8: Please provide an updated detailed projected budget with expenses for the received grant. Also include the totals for the budgeted and actual amount. Explain any discrepancies between the budgeted and the actual expenses for the project.

Line Item Description	Total Project Funds Allocation	Najim Requested Funds	Project Funds Actual	Najim Funds Allocation
Forensic Interviewing	\$288,278	\$20,000	\$288278	\$20000
Medical Examinations	\$43,093	\$5,000	\$5000	\$0
Counseling	\$216,449	\$15,000	\$138000	\$8000
MDT Enhancement Program/Case Coordination	\$179,778	\$7,000	\$307231	\$2000
Prevention	\$75,000	\$3,000	\$2677	\$0
TOTAL:	\$802,598	\$50,000	\$741,186	\$30,000

Signature

Trendy Sharp, Executive Director