Davis County CJC

Mission Statement

To provide a safe, comfortable, neutral and child-friendly atmosphere for children to receive coordinated services during the child abuse investigation process.

2019 Inputs/Outputs

FTE (2019): 2

Part Time Employees: 2 (@ 19 hours per week)

In 2019 the CJC served 455 child victims and 1,748 adults. Onsite medical services were provided to 156 child victims.

The Friend's fundraising board paid the registration costs for 30 MDT members, and the hotel costs for 12 MDT members for the annual CJC Symposium.

VOCA funding was used to send one FT employees to an international child abuse conference and two other in state conferences which included the crime victim conference in Midway, and the annual CJC symposium at Snowbird.

Core Functions & Services

- **Function 1:** The Children's Justice Center (CJC) provides a comfortable, neutral, child friendly environment for children to be interviewed in regarding child abuse allegations. The CJC also provides a sensitive setting where children can receive medical services by Primary Children's Safe and Healthy Family highly skilled nurse practitioners. CJC staff provide crisis intervention, information and referral, assistance with crime victim reparations and other resources to caregivers of the children who visit the Center. The CJC recently hired an experienced onsite forensic interviewer (Jill Bell) who now conducts the majority of the CJC interviews. She is an expert in her field and team members highly respect her expertise.
- **Function 2**: The Davis County CJC provides comprehensive case coordination, and facilitates a multidisciplinary team (MDT) approach for professionals that are involved in the investigation, and prosecution of child abuse cases. Without Children's Justice Centers professionals from allied agencies would not work together as effectively, share information and collaborate together during the investigative process.
- **Function 3:** CJC staff ensure that training opportunities are made available to all Davis County professionals on the MDT at no cost or low cost. CJC staff also attend a variety of trainings to stay current with the latest research and trends, in order to best serve children and families in Davis County who are experiencing abuse. CJC staff also make various types of public awareness presentations to community partners, as well as civic and church groups.

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2021 Projected Outcomes

The state allocation for the 2019/2020 fiscal year was 201,591. Unfortunately we received a 5,793 cut in funding for FY 20/21. The new allocation amount is for 195,798. I notified UOVC of the reduction in state funds and proposed a budget increase for the victim's services position to offset this cut. The VOCA grant administrator approved additional funds in the amount of 5,783.54. We have been awarded 36,167.29 in VOCA funds for 20/21. The breakdown for the VOCA funds are as follows: 16,755.88 is allocated for a portion of the Victim's Services Coordinator salary, and 9,383.29 covers a portion of the coordinator's fringe benefits. 2,500 pays for parent packet supplies and DVDs. 7,528 is allocated for the full costs associated with attending conferences and training. We received 7,000 from the National Children's Alliance which in previous years funded time the coordinator spent providing training, attending training, case coordination for the MDT, and direct services provided to child victims and their caregivers. In 2021 the 7,000 sub award funds will be used for other services that are still to be decided. The Friend's Fund raising board covered over 21,000 in other costs. This included some counseling costs for child victims, food and paper supplies for MDT meetings and Advisory board meetings, snacks and drinks for families that visit the center, and monthly aquarium maintenance costs. The Friend's board also approved funds in the amount of 3,750 to help pay for new computers for the center that we do not have the ability to pay for, and possibly 3,000 for the cost to be re-accredited next year with The National Children's Alliance. The Friends Board members continue to be committed to assisting the CJC with similar requests in the future. Due to COVID 19 the Friends' board was forced to cancel the golf tournament and the Autumn Gala but they did raise over 10,000 at the bike sale and they also put together a clothing drive. It should also be noted that the AGs office covered the cost of new recording equipment for the Center with one time funds in the amount of 22,000.

2021 Budget Initiatives

The Children's Justice Center does not charge the public for any services rendered at the Center. Families are eligible for crime victim reparations to assist with the costs of counseling and for some medical exams performed at the CJC. Intermountain health care and the AG's office have a linkage agreement in place so that the CJC/county does not have to pay the salaries and benefits for the three members of the Primary Children's Medical staff who provide medical services to children onsite at the CJC. This will continue to be the case in 2021 and beyond. In 2017 a linkage agreement was put in place with Grandview Family Counseling to provide low cost treatment to eligible families. This will continue in 2021 as well. The CJC Friend's fundraising board has also approved funds to assist families with mental health treatment costs when other options are not available to them. They are committed to continue this funding in 2021. VOCA grants and NCA grants are applied for and have been awarded each year to help offset the costs of personnel salaries and benefits. VOCA anticipates that they will be cutting funding in the future and we have been given notice by the National Children's Alliance that 2021 is the last year that they will be awarding the 7,000 sub award grants to Utah CJCs.

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2021 Budget Requests & Planned Projects

The Children's Justice Center will be going through the re-accreditation process in 2021. The cost for re-accreditation is 3,000. I will make a request to the Friend's board to pay for this expense as I do not have funds to cover this charge. There are currently no planned projects on the horizon for 2021. Due to increased costs I was forced to reduce the amount of funds that the state can contribute to the county maintenance allocation. Currently 26,578 is budgeted for the maintenance allocation which is a deficit of 36,254. Information Systems has informed us that we are due for new computer equipment in 2021 that will total 5,200. I do not have enough state funds to cover the cost of equipment. I will request that the Friend's board cover 3,750 of the cost, but I am not certain this expense will be approved by the board.

I want to thank the budget committee for approving the forensic interviewer position. We hired Jill Bell who previously worked as a child protective services worker for the Division of Child and Families. Jill came to us with 15 years of previous experience interviewing children about abuse allegations. Jill has garnered the respect of the CJC MDT (multi-disciplinary team) and her expertise is invaluable to the children, families and professionals who visit the Center. Jill has conducted approximately 150 interviews with child victims and witnesses since her start date on May 4th 2020.