The
VICTIM'S INFORMER
TEXAS CRIME VICTIM CLEARINGHOUSE VOL. 18, NO. 4 – DECEMBER 2013 / JANUARY 2014

Passing the Torch of Victim Assistance Leadership from One Generation to the Next

Angie McCown, Director of Victim Services Division

This Informer debuts a new column, *Passing the Torch*, that will feature articles written by seasoned victim assistance professionals that are retiring from the field and beginning a new chapter in their life. Texas has a rich history in the victims' rights movement led by many of these seasoned victim assistance professionals—or 'Old Buffaloes,' as we so fondly refer to them—and we want to give them an opportunity to impart some of their vast knowledge to the new generation of victim assistance professionals.

Sharing the knowledge allows these Old Buffaloes to preserve the history of the movement and contribute to its future. Many of the victim assistance professionals reaching retirement age came from the baby boomer's generation, growing up in a time of dramatic social change. They grew up in the midst of the civil rights movement, the environmental movement, and the women's movement, and fighting for human rights causes. Thus it is no surprise that many became passionate about fighting for the rights of crime victims. Many of them were free spirited, idealistic, and determined advocates who were struggling with a very structured criminal justice system that appeared to see the victim merely as another piece of evidence in the case. These seasoned victim assistance professionals worked tirelessly to change that perception and to give victims a voice in the process by working on states victims' rights and victim related legislation, and by helping to inform the criminal justice system about how violent crime impacts victims, their families, and the community.

Their techniques, their battles, and their triumphs provide unique insight and lessons learned to new victim assistance professionals facing their own challenges in the field. It is my hope, that in their stories you will find gems of wisdom to help lead you into the future of victim assistance. On this 50th anniversary of the death of President Kennedy, a significant marker in the history of most Old Buffaloes, I leave you with

this quote, which eloquently and succinctly addresses the importance of *passing the torch*:

> ***"For time and the world do not stand still. Change is the law of life. And those who look only to the past, or the present, are certain to miss the future."***
>
> *John F. Kennedy*
> *June 25, 1963*

The
VICTIM'S INFORMER

The Texas Department of Criminal Justice Victim Services Division is proud to provide you with an email notification service. Email notifications may be retrieved directly from your computer, mobile device, or wherever internet access is available. Email notifications are time sensitive and notify you of changes in an offender's status. Being a current Victim Notification System registrant will not automatically register you for this email service. To register, contact the Victim Services Division at 800-848-4284 or visit our website at www. tdcj.texas.gov and complete the victim email notification form. You continue to have the option to receive notifications by letter, email, or both. We would like to encourage all victim service providers who utilize the Victim Notification System to elect to receive email notifications only whenever possible.

PASSING THE TORCH

In future issues, the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse (TxCVC) will publish a series of articles from seasoned victim services professionals who are retiring—or realigning, as Karen Kalergis would say—to share their insight with those that are new or still working in victim services.

by Karen Kalergis

I was honored to be asked to write an article for *The Victim's Informer*. I started my career in victim services at the Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse when it was in Governor Ann Richards' Office, so I feel a strong connection with this program. Little did I know, when I took that job 22 years ago it would be the start of such a personally and professionally fulfilling career.

As I retire, I am not seeing myself so much as passing the torch, but passing a baton. A baton is something you can hold and march along in step with others. You can also twirl it, throw it in the air, catch it, and do amazing tricks with it. You can also easily pass it to another person, who can hold it, twirl it, and pass it on as well. So much of what I did in victim services was accomplished because of what colleagues and mentors passed on to me. So my first thought to you is: pass it on!

Knowledge and Information

When I first started at the Clearinghouse back in 1991, "the field" in Texas was in its early stages. We had Crime Victims' Compensation, Crime Victims' Rights, enacted in 1985, and a Constitutional Amendment passed by voters in 1989.

What we did not have was an infrastructure to ensure that victims received those rights, or that victim service providers were properly trained in how to assist victims. We relied on a strong network of first generation victim service providers who led the way, putting the first programs in place, establishing protocols and policies, learning from each other and the growing field nationwide, to set best practices for Texas.

One of the Clearinghouse's tasks was to identify model programs around the state and provide information to other communities on how they could replicate them. So a big part of what I did in the Governor's Office was learn who was doing what and how it was working. Trail blazers from all over the state passed on what they knew to me, and I passed that collective information on to others in the state.

Young leaders reading this will find it hard to believe that we did not

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Conclusion of the 2013 Victim Impact Statement Revision Committee Review of Guidelines and Legislation

by Lynn Hyde, Program Specialist
Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse facilitates, as required by Article 56.03(h), Texas Code of Criminal Procedure, the process of revising the Victim Impact Statement (VIS) for the next biennium. We are happy to announce that the 2013 Victim Impact Statement Revisions have been finalized and are now available on our website. The revised VIS was made possible by a committee comprised of 15 victim assistance coordinators representing counties from across the state, criminal justice professionals from many state and county agencies including the Office of the Attorney General, the Texas Department of Criminal Justice Community Justice Assistance Division, the Texas Juvenile Justice Department, the Texas Department of Public Safety, the Texas Board of Pardons and Paroles and a victim advocate.

Thanks to the committee's hard work and dedication, the Victim Impact Statement and supporting documents have been updated to continue to meet the needs of crime victims and to reflect new legislative updates. We believe the process produced a more effective VIS that will serve victims, victim advocates, and criminal justice professionals alike.

The new VIS places an emphasis on the victim's option to complete the confidential information sheet only. A notice to victims about the purpose of the confidential information sheet was placed at the top of the page to inform users that the information will be used for notification purposes.

The revised VIS consolidated the section on future anticipated costs into one question for the victim to indicate whether future costs are expected. The VIS also includes the new crime victims rights added during the 83rd Legislative Session.

Article 56.03 also requires the Victim Services Division to develop recommendations to ensure that completed VISs are submitted to the Texas Department of Criminal Justice. These procedures outline mandates from the Texas Code of Criminal Procedure and provide helpful suggestions on incorporating them in the operations of the district or county attorney's office. Recommended procedures can be implemented in whole or in part by a county depending on their needs. The recommendations chart the process of the VIS and detail the responsibilities of the criminal justice system throughout the trial and conviction phases.

The revised VIS and supporting documents are available on our website at tdcj.texas.gov/publications/pubs_victim_impact_statement.html. The VIS packet and supporting documents include:

- Victim Impact Statement packet (available in English, Spanish and bilingual versions)
- VIS Recommended Processing Procedures
- "It's Your Voice" Victim Impact Statement brochure, and
- FY14 Quarterly VIS Activity Report Form and Instruction Page

The Texas Crime Victims Clearinghouse will provide comprehensive statewide training on the new VIS including recommended processes on its use, distribution, and collection of statistics beginning in January. Trainings will be offered via webinar, customized trainings in your local community and round table discussions between criminal justice system participants. For more information, including how to attend or host a training session, please contact Lynn Hyde at 512-406-5916 or lynn.hyde@tdcj.texas.gov.

Texas Victim Assistance Training Online

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CALENDAR

The Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse wishes to remind our readers that a calendar feature has been added for the Texas Victim Assistance Training (TVAT) Online.

Criminal justice and victim services professionals can view, search, and submit victim-related trainings and events on the TVAT Calendar webpage. www.tdcj.texas.gov/php/vscalendar/index.php.

have "the cloud" in 1991. We had the "world wide web," and, yes, we really called it that! To this day I credit Janice and Joe Sager for their help in getting a not-so-tech-savvy person such as myself a quick education on getting messages out to the Clearinghouse mailing list so we could pass on information we were gathering!

The knowledge base for victim assistance in Texas grew as we worked hard to capture those early models, so others could use the wheel we were inventing. We institutionalized that knowledge in projects like the eight hour course on victims' rights and victimology for the TCLEOSE basic peace officer course and the minimum service guidelines developed by the Crime Victims' Institute which served as a basis for the first foundation-level curriculum developed for the Texas Victim Assistance Academy. We created the Texas Victim Services Association (TVSA), a professional association of victim service providers, to formalize the mentoring and networking taking place, and held training conferences to promote a high level of victim services education.

That challenge of how to "pass it on" lies before you today. What policies and best practices fuel your victim services program? What are you doing to "pass them on" and thus ensure continuous delivery of quality services when you decide to retire?

Best Practices

We are at an important stage in the victim services field. In two years, we'll be celebrating the 30th year of victim rights in Texas. Many of the trailblazers and first generation victim service workers are moving on, and the victim services field in Texas will be led by a new generation of victim advocates, practitioners, and other allied professionals.

From left to right, Karen Kalergis, Governor Ann Richards and Bernie Rodriguez, then Associate Director of the TCVC (1994).

Is what we want to pass on readily available to them – so they can pick it up as easily as, say, a baton? One change I see today is that what we are passing on has a stronger rationale for why it should be replicated. I started my career in a time where we relied primarily on practice wisdom to back up our recommendations on how to do this thing called victim services. I ended my career at the Institute on Domestic Violence & Sexual Assault at UT-Austin, a place where we used research and practice wisdom to form our recommendations for what should be passed on.

As each of you look at what it takes to continue your program's services and operations, embrace the tools we have today for evaluation, so what you pass on to your successor is something that you know works for victims, leverages funds and human resources, and represents best practices for our field.

Not to push the analogy too far, but another consideration when "passing it on" is to be aware of the hot end of the stick – a flaming baton! – and to pay attention to what we choose not to pass on.

One of those things is the idea that if this work affects you, it means you are just not tough enough and you probably should be doing something else. When I started, that hardiness measure ruled our work. What we need to do is look at what the research and practice wisdom tells us about the impact of working with traumatized people and see how we can apply those lessons to sustain ourselves. That way we have two things to pass on – a plan to sustain our programs and a plan to sustain ourselves.

Resiliency

Finding out what we can do to sustain ourselves in this work has been a constant in my career. I remember in my first year at the Clearinghouse, Texas experienced a series of crimes that brought many of us to our knees.

First, the Luby's cafeteria shootings, the death of four young girls at an Austin yogurt shop, and the kidnapping and murder of a young woman whose killer would later be identified as a former death row

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Raise awareness about the consequences of driving under the influence of alcohol and drugs

DECEMBER IS NATIONAL IMPAIRED DRIVING PREVENTION MONTH

Pflugerville Police Department

Austin Police Department

Texas Parks and Wildlife Department

Mothers Against Drunk Driving Recognizes Local Law Enforcement

by Shalandra Rogers, State Program Manager, MADD Texas Sate Office

On September 20, 2013, Mothers Against Drunk Driving Texas State Office recognized local law enforcement officers and agencies at its 3rd Annual Law Enforcement Award Ceremony at Green Pastures Restaurant in Austin, Texas. The event was well attended. KVUE's Tyler Sieswerda served as emcee for the awards ceremony.

Twenty-seven officers from several police departments across Central Texas, including the Travis County Sheriff's Office, Austin Police Department, Pflugerville Police Department and the Department of Public Safety were honored.

Pflugerville Police Department's own Sergeant Chet Vronka took home the highest honor, the Jaime Padron Memorial Award, for his superior commitment to DWI enforcement which was given by Austin Police Chief Art Acevedo. Seven additional volunteers were recognized for donating their time and effort to Mothers Against Drunk Driving and its mission.

One of the volunteers recognized was DWI crash survivor Stacey Heizer. She has made it her mission to speak to others about the grave dangers and consequences of drinking and driving.

Noelle Newton with the Fox 7 News program was awarded the Outstanding Journalism Award, and Bill Swaim with Travis County Attorney's Office took home the Top Prosecutor Service Award.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving also awarded five law enforcement agencies for their efforts in keeping our roads safe. These departments include Austin Police Department, Travis County Sheriff's Office, Texas Department of Parks and Wildlife, Pflugerville Police Department, and Williamson County Constable Office Precinct One.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving is thankful for all the law enforcement officers and agencies as well as every individual that dedicates their time to help us prevent drunk driving. It takes a community to stop a drunk driver.

Mothers Against Drunk Driving sponsors the Travis County Law Enforcement Awards Ceremony through a grant from the Texas Department of Transportation's Take the Wheel Campaign. The Take the Wheel Campaign is funded by the Texas Department of Transportation and is designed to raise awareness of the community commitment needed to stop drunk driving. Through this campaign, MADD aims to enlist the support of city officials, law enforcement, schools, businesses and other community members to work collaboratively to eliminate drunk driving in Texas.

STALKING: KNOW IT. NAME IT. STOP IT.

NATIONAL STALKING AWARENESS MONTH
JANUARY 2014

The Stalking Resource Center, National Center for Victims of Crime, and the Office on Violence Against Women, U.S. Department of Justice, launched National Stalking Awareness Month in 2004. Every January since then, communities across the country have focused on stalking – holding events, sharing information, and building awareness about the crime.

STALKING FACT SHEET

STALKING VICTIMIZATION

• 6.6 million people are stalked each year in the United States.
• 1 in 6 women and 1 in 19 men have experienced stalking victimization at some point during their lifetime in which they felt very fearful or believed that they or someone close to them would be harmed or killed.

Using a less conservative definition of stalking, which considers any amount of fear (i.e., a little fearful, somewhat fearful, or very fearful), 1 in 4 women and 1 in 13 men reported being a victim of stalking in their lifetime.
• The majority of stalking victims are stalked by someone they know. 66% of female victims and 41% of male victims of stalking are stalked by a current or former intimate partner.
• More than half of female victims and more than 1/3 of male victims of stalking indicate being stalked before the age of 25.
• About 1 in 5 female victims and 1 in 14 male victims experienced stalking between the ages of 11 and 17.
[Michele C. Black et al., "The National Intimate Partner and Sexual Violence Survey: 2010 Summary Report," (Atlanta, GA: National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, 2011).]
• 46% of stalking victims experience at least one unwanted contact per week.
• 11% of stalking victims have been stalked for 5 years or more.
[Katrina Baum et al., "Stalking Victimization in the United States," (Washington, DC: Bureau of Justice Statistics, 2009).]

STALKING AND INTIMATE PARTNER FEMICIDE

• 67% had been physically abused by their intimate partner.
• 89% of femicide victims who had been physically assaulted had also been stalked in the 12 months before their murder.
• 79% of abused femicide victims reported being stalked during the same period that they were abused.
• 54% of femicide victims reported stalking to police before they were killed by their stalkers.
[Judith McFarlane et al., "Stalking and Intimate Partner Femicide," Homicide Studies 3, no. 4 (1999).]

RECON STUDY OF STALKERS

• 2/3 of stalkers pursue their victims at least once per week, many daily, using more than one method.
• 78% of stalkers use more than one means of approach.
• 20% of cases involve use of weapons to harm or threaten.
• Almost 1/3 of stalkers have stalked before.
• Intimate partner stalkers frequently approach their targets, and their behaviors escalate quickly.
[Kris Mohandie et al.,"The RECON Typology of Stalking: Reliability and Validity Based upon a Large Sample of North American Stalkers," Journal of Forensic Sciences, 51, no. 1 (2006).]

IMPACT OF STALKING ON VICTIMS

• 46% of victims fear not knowing what will happen next.
• 29% of stalking victims fear the stalking will never stop.
• 1 in 8 employed stalking victims lose time from work as a result of their victimization, more than half lose 5 days or more.
• 1 in 7 stalking victims move as a result of their victimization.
[Baum et al.]
• The prevalence of anxiety, insomnia, social dysfunction, and severe depression is much higher among stalking victims than the general population, especially when involving being followed or destruction of property.
[Eric Blauuw et al., "The Toll of Stalking," Journal of Interpersonal Violence, 17, no. 1 (2002):50-63.]

STALKING LAWS

• Stalking is a crime under the laws of 50 states, the District of Columbia, the U.S. Territories, and the Federal government.
• Less than 1/3 of states classify stalking as a felony upon first offense, but more than 1/2 of states classify stalking as a felony upon second or subsequent offense or when the crime involves aggravating factors.
• Aggravating factors may include: possession of a deadly weapon, violation of a court order or condition of probation/parole, victim under 16 years, or same victim as prior occasions.

The mission of the Stalking Resource Center is to enhance the ability of professionals, organizations, and systems to effectively respond to stalking. The Stalking Resource Center envisions a future in which the criminal justice system and its many allied community partners will effectively collaborate and respond to stalking, improve victim safety and well-being, and hold offenders accountable. For more information visit the Stalking Resource Center at www.victimsofcrime.org/src, call (202) 467-8700, or write to src@ncvc.org. For a compilation of state, tribal, and federal laws visit www.victimsofcrime.org/src.

This document developed through a grant from the Office on Violence Against Women (OVW) of the U.S. Department of Justice. For more information on the U.S. Department of Justice Office on Violence Against Women visit http://www.ovw.usdoj.gov.

Passing it on (cont.)

inmate. I had a hard time grappling with how the families in these cases dealt with such horror and loss, but also how the people who assisted those victims were able to come back and work another day.

My last project at IDVSA was the Resiliency Project where my job was to gather information from trailblazers in resiliency research and organizational practice on what it is that makes people resilient. Part of what we learned was passed on by Texas trail blazer Janice Harris Lord who collaborated with national victim advocate Kevin O'Brien on a resiliency curriculum based on the five core elements and characteristics common to resilient people.

I would like to pass on the following helpful and essential strategies:

- Acknowledge that this work will have an impact on you BUT also that you can do something about it.
- Take a break and breathe. Research shows deep breathing is one of the most effective stress relievers, whether after a difficult conversation with a survivor or to clear your head before testifying as a forensic interviewer. Take fifteen minutes and just breathe.
- Laughter is, as we know, the best medicine. Fortunately, if your office does not have a resident comedian, humor is readily available online at sites such as friedsocialworker.com, laughterremedy.com, and another favorite, calmingmanatee.com

Pay attention to how this work is affecting you in mind, body and spirit. Yes, I am going to tell you to get plenty of sleep, eat well, and exercise. Doing regular physical exercise is a must for people in high stress jobs (and, no, I haven't been to the gym yet this week, but I am going tomorrow–really!) I am not suggesting you do this just to stay in the field. I am saying it so you can stay healthy and enjoy all that life has to offer.

Karen Kalergis and other members of the Crisis Response Team (1993).

Another strategy in the art of being able to do that is going easy on yourself. Kristen Neff from the University of Texas has a great book about self-compassion, and how we don't practice it enough. We are ever ready to extend passion and compassion to others, and yet we are so hard on ourselves. We are only human, after all, and doing hard work. It's OK to acknowledge when we hurt, when we make a mistake, or when we need a break.

One final thing that helps people with resilience is an organizational culture that supports us in our work.

Pat Vivian and Shana Hormann wrote a book, *Organizational Trauma and Healing,* that talks about how organizations that work with traumatized clients can become traumatized themselves. A sign of organizational trauma includes conflict that does not get resolved, so relationships that should be supporting us are instead causing stress. Another sign is what IDVSA found in a 2009 study of Texas victim service providers: negativity. Austin life coach, Renee Trudeau talks about the 'transformative power of self-care.' What if we each committed to take care of our own stress, so we are not so-called 'Debbie Downers' at work? What if we agreed to be positive in talking to coworkers when we have an issue, to work to resolve issues rather than let them cause harm?

My favorite bit of wisdom from Ann Richards is, "If you talk the talk, you have to walk the walk." For those of us in victim services, we say that we are here to help people who have been harmed by violence. But if our own interactions cause harm to others–hurting them with words, actions, or the lack of words or actions–then we are not walking the walk.

Having a personal credo of how you will approach negativity when you see it, how you will address a wrong

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to you or others, even how you will disagree on what should be passed on is all part of walking the walk. It will not only help you build strong relationships and a work setting that will sustain you and others, it will also help sustain best practice for all of the victim services field. After all, if our goal is for victims to be treated with dignity and respect, shouldn't we do that with each other? Let's pass on a way of doing things that helps us all grow and evolve.

I have been lucky in my victim services career to have worked for agencies and people who I have learned from and with. Finding a match between my skills and what the agency needed at the time gave me what research says not only makes people resilient, but happy, and that's a sense of belonging to something bigger than yourself. Though I may be retiring from state service, I plan to continue to be involved in victim services in some way. As I enter my re-alignment years, I have my baton tucked under my arm, happy to continue to march alongside each of you, looking for the chance to twirl it again, and find my place in the Texas victim services field.

AGENCY PROFILE

Children's Advocacy Centers of Texas

Kelly Wilson teaches CAC therapists in TF-CBT class.

by Catherine Bass, Program Services Director, CACTX

The mission of Children's Advocacy Centers™ of Texas (CACTX) is to restore the lives of abused children by supporting children's advocacy centers in Texas in partnership with communities and agencies investigating and prosecuting child abuse. The largest association of children's advocacy centers (CACs) in the nation, CACTX was founded in 1994 with a charter membership of 13 centers. Since then the number of Texas CACs has grown to 68 centers located throughout the state.

Almost 40,000 children under the age of 18 (77% ages 12 or younger) received services at a CAC in their community last year. The official service area of CACs in Texas encompasses 172 of the state's 254 counties where 95% of the population resides. CACs must meet minimum standards, which were established and secured through enabling legislation now found in Chapter 264 of the Texas Family Code. The CACTX currently employs a staff of 15 that provide training, technical assistance, and support for CAC staff, multidisciplinary team members, and volunteers statewide.

The CACTX responds to approximately 5,200 requests for technical assistance and trains over 1,000 individuals annually. It also provides funding oversight and management assistance to established and developing CACs and works to expand access to services for child victims by providing outreach and technical assistance to communities in underserved and un-served areas exploring the development of a CAC.

Local CACs provide a safe, friendly environment where law enforcement, Child Protective Services (CPS), prosecution, family advocates, and medical and mental health professionals can share information and coordinate individualized strategies in response to allegations of child abuse. Although each CAC must meet core services and standards, as prescribed by the Texas Family Code, these services are customized to reflect the unique needs and culture of each community. A broad array of child-focused services are coordinated and provided through CACs, including specialized forensic interviewing, medical and mental health assessments and treatment, multidisciplinary team case review, and comprehensive advocacy services.

In the 83rd Legislative Session, CACTX revised its standards for Texas CACs and codified language in Texas Family Code Chapter 264. The goal was to strengthen infrastructure and emphasize key components for a quality system that will ensure a more in-depth coordination of services to children. One of these components is the new mental health standard that defines

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WE WANT TO HEAR FROM YOU !

OUR GOAL IS TO PRINT NEWS OF INTEREST FOR VICTIMS AND VICTIM ADVOCATES

The Victim's Informer newsletter is published quarterly. Articles, meeting notices, and other submissions should be sent to TDCJ Victim Services Division, Texas Crime Victim Clearinghouse, 8712 Shoal Creek Blvd, Suite 265, Austin, Texas 78757-6899; faxed to 512-452-0825; or e-mailed to tdcj.clearinghouse@tdcj.texas.gov. For questions or comments, please call us at 800-848-4284 or 512-406-5931.

Please Note:

You may access the publication at the TDCJ VSD Internet website. If you wish, we will notify you via e-mail each time *The Victim's Informer* becomes available on the TDCJ VSD Internet website and provide an electronic link to *The Victim's Informer*. Send your e-mail address to:
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how services are to be delivered to child victims and their non-offending caregivers. More specifically, CAC clinical services are now required to be evidence-based and trauma-informed, a critical factor in ensuring quality treatment.

In the past two years, CACTX has focused resources on expanding its mental health program offerings to comprehensively assist centers in successfully reaching this higher standard. CACTX is very happy to announce the hire of its first full-time Mental Health Specialist to help lead programming efforts to support local CACs in strengthening their mental health components to meet the new standard. Of the 40,000 children served for first time services last year at CACs, 75% were alleged victims of sexual abuse. In recognition of the unique needs of these children and their caregivers, CACTX has provided training and clinical consultation in Trauma-Focused Cognitive Behavioral Therapy (TF-CBT) to over 100 clinicians and is currently piloting a project to expand the use of standardized assessments in treatment planning and implementation. These initiatives are critical to providing clinicians the training and skills needed to achieve positive outcomes with their clients. As part of CACTX's strategic plan to expand mental health services in the CACs, additional training opportunities in evidence-based, trauma-focused assessments and treatments will be conducted over the next two years.

Over the years, CACs have become the primary provider for specialized mental health services for the vast majority of child sexual abuse victims. In total, there are over 200 mental health practitioners in the CAC network who either work at a center or serve these clients through referrals/linkage agreements.

It is imperative that CAC clinicians are trained and supported in their efforts to provide trauma-focused, evidence-based care to these children, as this level of specialized care is unavailable elsewhere. An overwhelming percentage (81%) of CPS cases with confirmed allegations of sexual abuse are closed after investigation. They are not provided services by the state and do not have their services coordinated by state systems. Without CACs, these children and families would have difficulty determining where to obtain care and if a provider is qualified to treat sexual abuse trauma.

In addition to expanding its training and technical assistance capacities, CACTX will also work with stakeholders at the local and state levels to facilitate policy changes to improve mental health treatment for the state's population of children impacted by sexual abuse. By working with policy makers to build systems that support the delivery of trauma-informed care, the state can ensure access to important recovery services. CACTX recognizes that there is much work to be done to enhance the quality of care for the state's population of sexually abused children and is ready to meet that challenge.

For additional information on CACTX or program services they provide, please visit their website at www.cactx.org or contact us directly at (512) 258-9920.