



# Child Advocacy Centers

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# What is a Child Advocacy Center?

- Child and Family Advocacy Centers (defined by ARS 8-466) (“CFACs”) are one-stop service locations for child victims who need help and support.
- CFAC’s use a co-located multidisciplinary model— they are places where victims are served, the crimes against them are investigated, and healing can begin through a partnership between healthcare, behavioral health, child-welfare, and law enforcement professionals.



# Child Advocacy Centers in Arizona

- Child and Family Advocacy Centers (defined by ARS 8-466).
- There are currently 19 CFACs in Arizona.
- There are 3 models: nonprofit (e.g. Childhelp and Amberly's Place); municipal police department (e.g. Mesa, Scottsdale, & Glendale); hospital (Northern Arizona Healthcare's Safe Child).
- The Statewide Association of CFAC's is the Arizona Child and Family Advocacy Network ("ACFAN") –



# Child Abuse Investigation in Arizona

- Each County has it's own child abuse investigation protocol. ARS sec. 8-817.
- Here are the [Maricopa](#) and [Pima](#) Protocols.
- Arizona has a mandatory reporting statute. ARS sec. 13-3620.



## Funding Sources

- Victims of Crime Act
  - Clinical Services
  - Advocacy Services
- Office for Victims of Crime
  - Program for children victimized by Parental/Caregiver Substance Abuse
- State Medicaid / CMDP (only therapy, not family services)
- Contracts with MCAO and Victim's Compensation



# CHILDHELP CHILDREN'S CENTER OF ARIZONA

All who enter will find love...



# Co-location with Partners



- Phoenix Police Department
- Phoenix Children's Hospital
- Office of Child Welfare Investigations
- County Attorney
- City of Phoenix Family Advocacy Center
- Multi-Disciplinary Team Meetings
- Partner Meetings and Interactions

# Lobby: Through the eyes of a child...



- Safe place
- Child friendly and welcoming
- The first thing they see is the playroom
- Name tags

# Playroom



- Safe and welcoming
- Free play
- Age appropriate
- Sensory corner
- Snacks/meals provided if needed
- Child advocates
- Assessment begins

# Medical Suite



- Child friendly décor
- State of the art equipment
- Least invasive
- Support animals
- Medical and hygiene needs addressed
- Co-location: no need to go somewhere else; one stop

# Forensic Interview Room



- Trained Dedicated Forensic Interviewers
- Developmentally and culturally appropriate
- Non-leading, non-guided questions
- Non-distracting room (microphones, video hidden)
- Therapy Dogs as needed

# Observation Room



- Monitor without being in the interview
- Note Taking
- Guide interview and questions
- Recorded
- Goal is one interview to reduce trauma and changes to the story

# Therapeutic Services



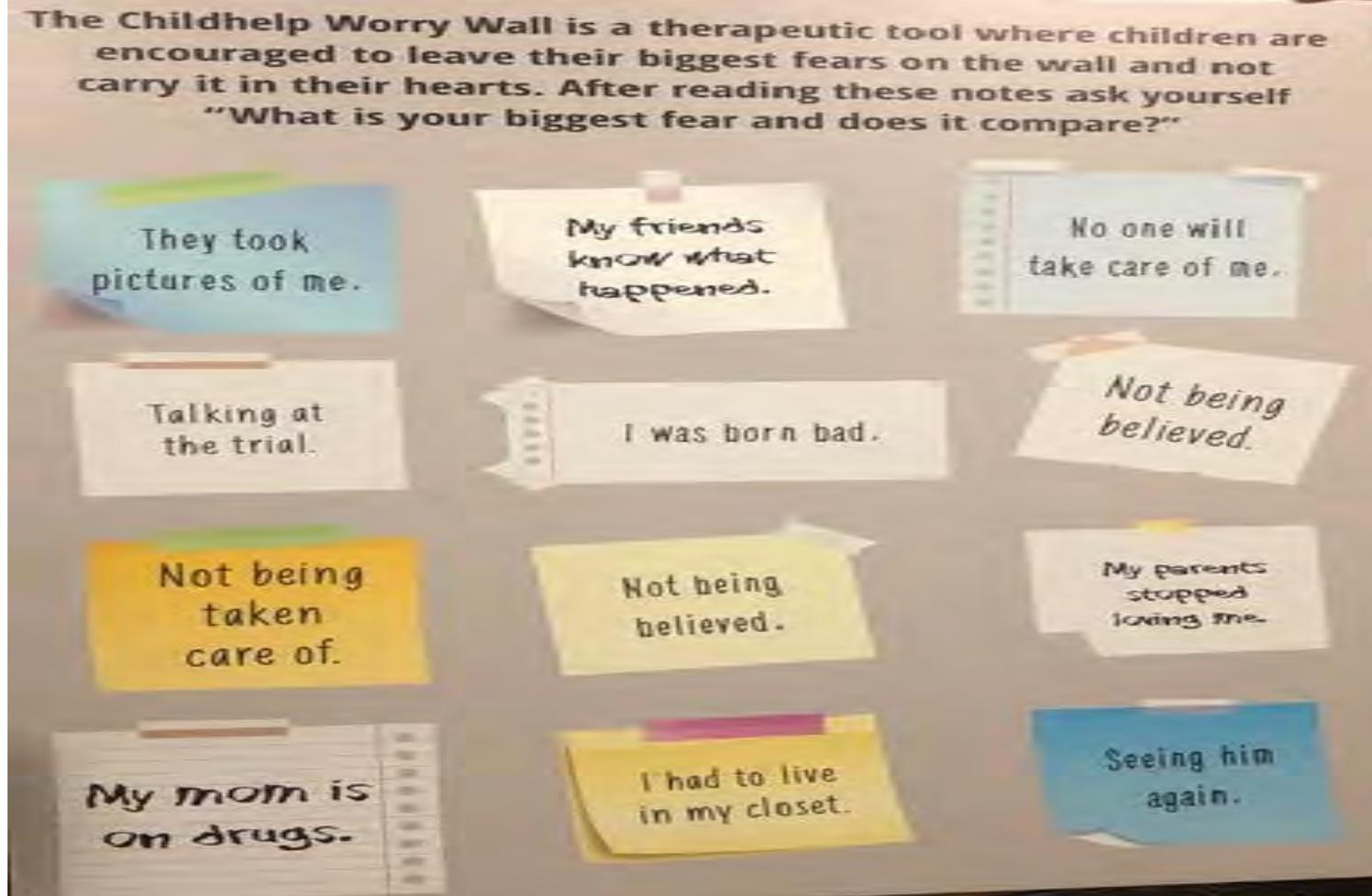
- Best practices:
  - Trauma informed
  - Evidence based
  - Clinical Supervision
  - Ongoing Professional Development

# Occupational Therapy



- Trauma is a sensory experience
- Therapeutic tool
- Express feelings of trauma
- Occupational Therapist

# Worry Wall



- Eliminates secrets
- Helps children express their worries and feel heard
- Therapeutic activity
- Validates others

# Clothing Closet



- New clothes/supplies
  - 2 sets of PJs
  - 2 outfits
  - Shoes
  - Hygiene items
- To replace evidence or if a child is being removed from the home
- Helps children feel clean and comfortable

# Toy Closet



- New toy for all first time children (including siblings)
- Fosters ownership and something to call their own
- At the end – positive memory

# Victim Advocacy Services



- All families – non-offending parent
- Education
  - Investigation and Court Process
  - Their legal rights
- Support
- Referrals
  - Food, Housing
  - Therapy
  - Other

# Meditation Room



- Private place to think, pray, and process
- Private place for talking with parents about difficult issues
- Available to anyone at the center: clients, staff, partners

# Thank you...

- Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has. ~Margaret Mead